

Q "Nehru's policy of Non-Alignment came to symbolised the struggle of India & other newly independent nations to retain & strengthen their independence from colonialism". Critically evaluate.

When India got independence in 1947, the world was divided into two blocs, one was of United States & the other bloc was of the Soviet Union. It was an era of Cold War between the two power blocs. India did not want to risk its newly acquired freedom & sovereignty by joining any bloc & thus it decided to follow non-alignment.

Nehru's understanding was that newly independent poor countries of Asia & Africa would gain nothing by joining the military blocs of big powers. They would end up being used as a pawn. India needed peace to focus on its developmental works & by remaining non-aligned India could take help from both the blocs & could fight poverty, illiteracy, epidemics etc.

But being non-aligned did not mean "immoral neutrality." Non-alignment meant having the freedom to decide each issue on its merits. India was free to weigh right & wrong and then take a stand in favor of what was right. Non-alignment was also in line with India's objective of peaceful co-existence without war & any threat of nuclear



conflict.

India being the first to become independent, rightly gave the lead to other ex-colonies in this respect. The organisation was founded in Belgrade in 1961 & was largely conceived by India's Prime Minister Jai Jawaharlal Nehru, Indonesia's first President Sukarno, Egypt's Gamal Abdel Naseer, Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah & Yugoslavia's Josep Broz Tito. Collectively the nations under the Non-Aligned Movement meant a great deal. They played an important role in the UN & always tried to check the domination of the big powers. In a way, this movement provided a sense of self-confidence to these newly independent countries.

Hence, Nehru's policy of Non-Alignment came to symbolise the struggle of India & other newly independent nations to retain & strengthen their independence from colonialism.