

**THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS IMPACT
ON INDIA AND THE CENTRAL ASIAN REGION**



CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

NIKITA BOSE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Significance of the Soviet Union in World Politics

The Soviet Union, being one of the largest nations in the world, governed and controlled a very large population. Owing to its sizable territory and vast population, the Soviet Union had a major part to play in World Politics. For a large part of its existence as a nation, the country waged a Cold War with the United States of America, which forced the rest of the world to align with either of the superpowers, i.e. the Communist Bloc or the Capitalist Bloc, or simply join the Non-Alignment Movement. The Soviet Union was undeniably one of the most powerful nations the world has seen. They exercised immense control over their bloc and ruled over their citizens with an iron hand.

The United States of America and the Soviet Union were constantly in contention to be the “Ultimate Superpower” of the world. They strived to prove that one is more efficient and stronger than the other. During the Cold War era, many instances, such as the Space Race, highlighted both the nations desires to overpower the other and be viewed as the saviour of the people and the guiding light of humankind. Moreover, the Soviet Union had several satellite states which aided the Soviets immensely during the Cold War. Their strong intelligence agencies and policies, too, played an integral role in helping the Soviets to establish their authority. However, with the crash of the Soviet Economy in 1991, things changed drastically for the USSR.

1.2 Disintegration of Soviet Union – what was the impact of this event

The Disintegration of the Soviet Union led to several dire consequences for many countries. It saw drastic changes in policies, ideologies, etc. One of the major consequences of the disintegration was that it brought with it the emergence of the Free Market ideology and that of minimal government interference.

It saw the fall of communism and the rise of capitalism. Many Eastern European countries overthrew their communist governments and agitated for a change in ideology. It brought about the absolute end of the Cold War, the Arms Race and the ideological confrontations, change in power equations throughout the world, and finally, the downfall of the second world. ¹Lastly, in the field of International Relations,

¹Gorbachev and the End of the Cold War : Author: Joseph S. Nye; Published Apr. 05, 2006.
<https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/gorbachev-and-end-cold-war> last accessed 17th December, 2020

the disintegration led to the formation of several new countries and new alliances. For example, it saw the Baltic Nations aligning with NATO.

1.3 End of Bipolarity and the significance of a unipolar world in global politics

As mentioned before, right after the Second World War, the Soviet Union and the United States of America waged a Cold War against one another. The world was divided in two clear blocs and one non aligned bloc of nations. The two blocs being the Capitalist Bloc, headed by the United States of America, and the Socialist Bloc, headed by the USSR. This phenomenon led to bipolarity in Global Politics. Often, the USSR and USA would never side with each other as they maintained different stances. Similarly, countries belonging to their respective blocs would also not side with a country from the opposing bloc.

After the disintegration of the Union, the world saw the end of bipolarity in World Politics and the emergence of unipolarity taking the lead. The United States emerged as the more powerful of the two nations post the downfall of the USSR. It voluntarily became the “saviour” of the distressed nations, especially in the Middle East and Central Asia. One of the finest examples is that of the soviet intervention of Afghanistan and the consequent American invasion of Afghanistan. The US led several operations in the Middle East after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It waged wars against regimes, such as the Gulf Wars, and launched operations to overthrow governments and dictators. Eventually, the leaders of USA issued that they would withdraw their troops from foreign lands, however, it is yet to be witnessed. Irreversible damage has been brought forth due to the race for power between the USSR and the United States of America.²

Unipolarity in current Global Politics becomes more and more powerful as the United States of America takes the lead in diplomacy and often, whatever transpires in America has dire effects on countries which strong ties to the nation. America has become a leading superpower in the world and thus, unipolarity reigns stronger than ever, presently.

² The Impact of the “Unipolar Moment” on US Foreign Policies in the Mid-East : Author : Yasemin Oezel; Published Sept. 13, 2015; last accessed 17th December, 2020

<https://www.e-ir.info/2015/09/13/the-impact-of-the-unipolar-moment-on-us-foreign-policies-in-the-mid-east/>

2. Background:

2.1 How did the Soviet Union come into being? Who was Tzar Nicholas II?

Nicholas II was the last tsar of Russia. He was deposed during the Russian Revolution and executed by the Bolsheviks. Nikolai Aleksandrovich Romanov was born near St Petersburg on 18 May 1868, the eldest son of Tsar Alexander III. When he succeeded his father in 1894, he had very little experience of government. In the same year, Nicholas married Princess Alexandra of Hesse-Darmstadt. He was inefficient ruler, who brought misery to the people of the Russian Empire. The Romanovs were overthrown and murdered by the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution in 1918.³ In December 1916, an unstable provisional government was established by Tsar Nicholas II. However, in October 1917, the Bolsheviks overthrew the provisional government. Following a harsh peace treaty with Germany in March 1918, Russia descended into civil war. On 17 July 1918, as anti-Bolsheviks approached Yekaterinburg, Nicholas and his family were murdered. This was almost certainly on the orders of the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin.

After the downfall of the Romanov Dynasty, came the reign of the Bolsheviks, who were part of the CPSU or the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which's as the sole and reigning party of the Soviet Union for majority of its existence. Following the 1917 Revolution, four socialist republics were established on the territory of the former empire: the Russian and Transcaucasian Soviet Federated Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian and Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republics. On **December 30, 1922**, these constituent republics established the U.S.S.R.

2.2. The Ideologies followed by the Soviets

Socialism and Communism:

³ The Fall of the Romanovs : Political Dreams and Personal Struggles in the Time of Revolution ; Author : Mark Steinberg and Vladimir Khrustalev; published :1995; last accessed 20th December 2020.

[.https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/longterm/books/chap1/fall.htm](https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/longterm/books/chap1/fall.htm)

Communism and socialism go hand in hand. They both encourage and advocate public ownership of land, capital, etc. Both socialism and communism aim to fix the problems they see as created by a free-market capitalist system, including the exploitation of workers and a widening gulf between rich and poor.

Communism often is referred to as 'Revolutionary Socialism'. Socialism and Communism were both ideologies conceived by Karl Marx, who was known for encouraging the proletariat to rise and overthrow unjust administrations by means of a global revolution. However, this workers revolution took place in some selected states only, one of which being, the USSR. The 20th Century saw both the rise and the fall of communism. Marx argued that all history was a history of class struggles, and that the working class (or proletariat) would inevitably triumph over the capital class (bourgeoisie) and win control over the means of production, forever erasing all classes.⁴

2.3. Lenin and the Bolsheviks

Led by Vladimir Lenin, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union or the CPSU, and the Bolsheviks overthrew the Romanov Dynasty during the Russian Revolution of 1917. Lenin, along with the party he founded, is credited with the creation of the first communist nation in history. Lenin started plotting an overthrowing of the Provisional Government. To Lenin, the temporary government was a "dictatorship of the bourgeoisie." By fall of 1917, Russians had nearly withdrawn from the war effort. Peasants, workers and soldiers demanded prompt change in what got known as the October Revolution.⁵ Lenin, mindful of the administration vacuum tormenting Russia, chose to seize power. He secretly organized factory workers, peasants, soldiers and sailors into Red Guards—a volunteer paramilitary force. On November 7 and 8, 1917, Red Guards captured Provisional Government buildings in a bloodless coup d'état.

The Bolsheviks seized power of the government and proclaimed Soviet rule, making Lenin leader of the world's first communist state. The new Soviet government ended Russian involvement in World War I with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. However, the Bolsheviks or the Reds continued to rule over the USSR till the disintegration of the USSR in 1991. It gave the USSR eight premiers, the first being Vladimir Lenin, and the last being Mikhail Gorbachev.

⁴ Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels; *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*; Published : 1848

⁵ From Tsar to U.S.S.R.: *Russia's Chaotic Year of Revolution*; Author : Orlando Figes; Published : Oct. 25, 2017 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2017/09-10/russian-revolution-history-lenin/>

Last accessed : 22nd December, 2020

2.4. Stalin's Reign of terror

Joseph Stalin was the Premier and dictator of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) from 1929 to 1953. It was under Stalin's Regime, that the USSR was transformed from a peasant and agricultural society into an industrial and military superpower. However, he unleashed a reign of terror which resulted in the deaths of several of his citizens. Joseph Stalin's terror only got worse with time. He prosecuted a reign of terror, purges, executions, exiles to labor camps and persecution in the post-war Soviet Union, and discouraged anything and everything of western influence. Additionally, he established communist governments throughout Eastern Europe, and in 1949 brought the Soviets into the nuclear age by blasting an atomic bomb.

Upon Stalin's rise to power, some members of the former Bolshevik party began to question his authority. By the 1935, Stalin began to believe that anyone with ties to the Bolsheviks or Lenin's government was a threat to his dictatorship and needed to be executed.⁶ Thus, Stalin began the Great Purge or the Great Terror, during which, several individuals, sometimes, even those who were innocent, were executed if they were considered a threat to Stalin or his leadership. After Stalin's death in 1953, the next Premier, Nikita Khrushchev carried out a vast de-stalinization process throughout the USSR and made extensive efforts to bring about economic and social reforms in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people.

2.5. Mikhail Gorbachev and his policies - how he was responsible for disintegration

Mikhail Sergeyeovich Gorbachev is a Russian and former Soviet politician. The eighth and last leader of the Soviet Union, he was the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1985 until the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. When Gorbachev became the Premier of the USSR, he aimed at reforming communism and the doctrines of the CPSU. He took various measures to change the economic policies and social conditions of the Soviets, however, it all eventually led to the disintegration of the USSR in 1991. Perestroika was a political movement for reformation within the

⁶ The Stalin Tragedy Comes Home; Author : David Remnick; Published: June 30, 1988. Last accessed: 22nd December, 2020.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1988/06/30/the-stalin-tragedy-comes-home/f0883a2a-26a9-4862-9eee-734deb2e12d0/>

Communist Party of the Soviet Union during the 1980s and is widely associated with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his glasnost (meaning "openness") policy reform. Mikhail Gorbachev was popular for these policies of his.⁷

It is true that Mikhail Gorbachev brought about several historic events in his time, for instance, the end of the Cold War, the Arms Race, The Space Race, etc. Once he implemented his reforms, it suited the Soviet people very well, and thus, they agitated for more and more reforms in order to catch up with the West.⁸

2.6. Events leading to the Disintegration of the Soviet Union

There were several factors which led to the dissolution of the USSR. The major reasons are highlighted below :

Economic Struggles : The weakness of the economy was the major cause of dissatisfaction among the people in USSR. There was an sharp shortage of basic items. The reason for economics weakness were the following :

- a.) Maintenance of satellite states in Easter Europe.
- b.) Maintenance of the Central Asian Republics within the USSR.
- c.) Huge military spending

Political Instability :The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, or the CPSU, ruled for nearly 7 decades and eventually, turned authoritarian. There was widespread corruption, nepotism, lack of transparency and maladministration. Gorbachev's decision to allow elections with a multi-party system and create a

⁷ Glasnost and Perestroika; Author : Jennifer Rosenberg; Published: February 13, 2019; last accessed: 26th December 2020.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/glasnost-and-perestroika-1779417>

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A Critical Evaluation of Mikhail Gorbachev's Role in Ending the Cold War; pages 3-4; Author : Rafal Nedzarek; Published: Jul 30, 2012.

presidency for the Soviet Union began a slow process of democratization that eventually destabilized Communist control and contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union.⁹

Gorbachev's reforms: Once people started to enjoy freedom under Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, they demanded more. The demand grew into a big force which turned difficult to control. Reforms and policies such as glasnost and perestroika greatly affected the very foundation of the USSR which led to its eventual dissolution.

Rise of nationalism : Rise of nationalism among countries like Russia, Baltic republics, Ukraine, Georgia, etc is the most important and immediate cause of dissolution of the Soviet Union.¹⁰ The national feeling was strong among the more prosperous areas in USSR and not in Central Asian republics. Ordinary people among prosperous republics did not like to pay hefty taxes to uplift the backward Central Asian republics.

3. Impact of Disintegration on India

3.1. How Soviet disintegration impacted India? What kind of relationship did India share with erstwhile Soviet Union?

During the Cold War Years, India regardless of her neutral activism, kept a proximate relationship with the Soviet Association. This proximate relationship grasped extreme political, financial and military participation. With the breaking down of the Union in 1991, India's security and vital interests were severely affected. Around then, Soviet Union crumbled and therefore the US arose as the only superpower. As India had close relations with USSR, it's breaking down has influenced India from

⁹ Aleksei Filitov and Rosemary Williams; The End of the Cold War and the Dissolution of the USSR; Published : Vol. 9, No. 3, 2011.

¹⁰ D. Mukhopadhyay; CHAPTER - VI, CAUSES OF DISINTEGRATION OF THE USSR; Published: 1998.

numerous points of view. ¹¹There no significant help any longer for India in the issue of Kashmir as USSR was supporting India on the issue previously.

India had obtained the communist philosophy from USSR. At the point when it fizzled in USSR, there was a developing doubt in India about communist standards. In the monetary circle, monetary guide from Soviet Association nearly dried which was additionally a significant explanation of 1991 equilibrium of installment emergency in India. India had to change it's economy as there was no USSR to back it's shut monetary standards. It came about advancement, privatization and globalization(LPG) in India. ¹²

NAM started by India additionally lost its importance fundamentally with India's job in it lessening.

Strategic relations among India and Russia started even before India accomplished freedom, on 13 April 1947. In the period promptly following freedom the objective for India was accomplishing monetary independence through interest in weighty industry. The Soviet Union put resources into a few new undertakings in the territories of weighty machine-building, mining, energy creation and steel plants. During India's second Five Year Plans, of the sixteen hefty industry projects set up, eight were started with the assistance of the Soviet Union. This incorporated the foundation of the world well known IIT Bombay. That relationship reaches out from pioneer to-pioneer gatherings in 1955, to Soviet help for India in its battle with China in 1962, and its part as the picked middle person after the UN-actuated truce in the battle among India and Pakistan in 1965.

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Ramesh Thakur; India and the Soviet Union: Conjunctions and Disjunctions of Interests; pages 826-846; Published: Sept. 1998.

¹² Manmohan Singh's 1991 Budget : the day that changed India forever; the Hindu; Published : July 24, 2016. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/Manmohan-Singhs-1991-Budget-the-day-that-changed-India-forever/article14505003.ece/amp/>

A turning point in relations among India and the Soviet Union was the marking of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship in August 1971. ¹³The Deal was the appearance of shared objectives of the two countries just as a plan for the reinforcing of local and worldwide harmony and security. The principal meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Financial matters, Logical and Specialized Co-activity was additionally held in Delhi in 1973, began another stage in their reciprocal relationship. It is one which has, with sensible consistency, created and broadened monetarily. The nineties were a turbulent period for the two nations. In 1990, India stretched out advances to the USSR as specialized credit and in 1991, India broadened food credit and endowment of 20,000 tons of rice.

3.2 What policy changes did India adapt?

Indian economy was a shut one. License Raj was common to set up business in India. The Indian rupee was inconvertible and high taxes and import permitting forestalled unfamiliar merchandise coming to in this way. ¹⁴ India mostly made economic policy changes after the dissolution of the USSR. However, the more generalized changes are highlighted below :

Ascend in Costs: The expansion rate expanded because of quick expansion in cash supply and the nation's financial position turned out to be more terrible. Ascend in Financial Shortage: Because of expansion in non-improvement use monetary shortfall of the public authority expanded. Because of ascend in financial shortage there was an ascent in open obligation and interest.

Expansion in Unfriendly Equilibrium of Installments: India confronted an enormous equilibrium of installments emergency in 1991. To cover the shortfall huge measure of unfamiliar advances must be gotten and the interest installment got expanded. Iraq War: In 1990-91, battle in Iraq broke, which

¹³ Anvesh Jain; Interpreting the 1971 Indo-Soviet Cooperation Treaty as a Turning Point in South Asian Strategic History; Published: May 27,2020
<https://utsynergyjournal.org/2020/05/27/interpreting-the-1971-indo-soviet-cooperation-treaty-as-a-turning-point-in-south-asian-strategic-history/>

¹⁴ Manmohan Agarwal & John Whalley; The 1991 Reforms, Indian Economic Growth, and Social Progress; Published : May 2013; last accessed 28th December, 2020.

<https://www.nber.org/papers/w19024>

prompted an ascent in petroleum costs. The progression of unfamiliar cash from Bay nations halted and this further disturbed the issue.

Inauspicious Execution of PSUs: These were not performing admirably because of political obstruction and turned out to be enormous risk for government. Fall in Unfamiliar Trade Holds: India's unfamiliar trade save tumbled to low ebb in 1990-91 and it was lacking to take care of for an import tab for about fourteen days.. These reasons prompted the line of monetary changes in India, during 1991, by and large known as the LPG changes. They comprise of three principle segments:

Liberalization: The essential point of Liberalization was to stopped those restrictions which became preventions in the turn of events and development of the country. The relaxing of government control in a nation and when private area organisations' beginning working without or with less limitations and government permit private players to extend for the development of the nation portrays progression in a nation.

Privatization: This is the second of the three approaches of LPG. It is the addition of the ruling part of private area organisations and the decreased job of public area organisations. As such, it is the decrease of responsibility for the board of an administration possessed endeavor. Government organisations can be changed over into privately owned businesses:

a.) By disinvestment

b.) By withdrawal of legislative proprietorship and the board of public area companies

Globalization: It intends to coordinate the economy of one nation with the worldwide economy. During Globalization the principle centre is around unfamiliar exchange and private and institutional unfamiliar speculation. It is the last strategy of LPG to be executed.

Globalization as a term has an extremely intricate marvel. The fundamental point is to change the world towards freedom and reconciliation of the world in general by setting different key approaches. Globalization is endeavoring to make a borderless world, wherein the need of one nation can be driven from across the globe and transforming into one huge economy.

3.3 What foreign policy adjustments did India do and why was it necessary?

After the dissolution of the USSR, the socialist bloc crumbled. Although India was an integral member of the Non-Aligned nations, it was a socialist country in nature. Hence, its dynamics were immensely affected after the disintegration of the USSR.¹⁵

Following the 1991 parliamentary elections, P.V. Narasimha Rao became India's 10th Prime Minister. The end of the cold war brought many changes in the international policies. The era of bipolar world politics and bloc politics in international relations came to an end in 1991. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the US retained its position of sole power nation. All the nations, including India witnessed this sudden change in international relations, hence, Indian leaders were now challenged to develop policies to align with the US. Rao worked hard to try and amend relations with the US as the main ally of India, that is, the USSR, had since fallen. Moreover, Rao attempted to improve relations with neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka, etc.¹⁶

5. Impact of Disintegration on Central Asia

5.1. Geopolitical impact on Central Asia

In the decades after it was established, the Russian-dominated USSR grew into a global super power and eventually encompassed 16 republics¹⁷, namely :

1. The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic

¹⁵ India's path was paved by the Soviet Fall; Author : Akash Kapur for the New York Times; Published: Nov. 19, 2009; last accessed 29th December 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/20/world/asia/20iht-letter.html>

¹⁶ 'PV Narasimha Rao deserved a Bharat Ratna for his Foreign Policies'; Author : R. Ravikanth Reddy, for the Hindu; Published : 30th August, 2020. Last accessed 29th December, 2020.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/pv-deserved-bharat-ratna-for-his-foreign-policy/article32482171.ece/amp/>

¹⁷ Constitution (Fundamental law) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; Author J. V. Stalin; Published December 5, 1936; last accessed, 2nd January, 2021.

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1936/12/05.htm>

2. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
3. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
4. The Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic
5. The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic
6. The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic
7. The Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic
8. The Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic
9. The Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic
10. The Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic
11. The Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic
12. The Karel-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic
13. The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic
14. The Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic
15. The Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic
16. The Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

After the disintegration and the dissolution of the USSR, these 16 republics became separate nations, with Russia emerging as the strongest of them all. Each of the republics got their own governments and witnessed a change in ideologies. The newly established countries soon formulated their own agendas and policies. However, conflicts amongst the former republics of the Soviet Union seemed inevitable. Conflicts amongst Ukraine and Russia and Armenia and Azerbaijan have been the most recent ones. Most of these conflicts take place with relation to ethnicities, and land disputes.

5.2. Economic and Social Impact on Central Asia with special emphasis on

A.) Tajikistan

Tajikistan declared its relatively reluctant independence from the Soviet Union on September 9, 1991, due to the dissolution of the same. President Qadruddin Aslanov banned the Communist Party of Tajikistan (CPT) on September 22, 1991, but parliament overturned the ban on September 23, 1991. However, Rakhman Nabiyev of the Communist Party of Tajikistan was chosen as provisional president on September 23, 1991. President Nabiyev declared a state of emergency on September 23, 1991, but lifted the state of emergency on September 30, 1991. Rakhman Nabiev was elected president with some 58 percent of the vote on November 27, 1991. However, a civil war broke out in Tajikistan sooner than anticipated. The economic condition wasn't doing very well either. The Tajikistani economy was gravely weakened by six years of civil war and loss of markets for its exports. Tajikistan, hence,

depended on international aid for much of its basic necessities. The country faces major problems in integrating refuge seekers and former combatants into the economy. The future of Tajikistan's economy and the potential for attracting foreign investment depend upon internal stability and progress in the peace process.¹⁸

B.) Kazakstan

Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev was elected president without opposition on December 1, 1991, and Sergei Tereshchenko was appointed as prime minister. Kazakhstan declared its independence from the Soviet Union on December 16, 1991, merely 10 days before the dissolution of the same.

A new constitution which aimed at increasing presidential powers is adopted and a major privatization programme is launched.

By 1995, Kazakhstan had signed economic and military cooperation pact with Russia, and had obtained a nuclear-free status. President Nazarbayev's term in office is extended until December 2000 and a new constitution was adopted by national referendum.¹⁹ Despite the pacts and treaties, Kazakhstan's economy did not far very well. It stills remains the 37th out of 42 nations in race for the strongest economy in Central Asia.

C.) Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan declared its independence from the USSR on August 31, 1991 and joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on December 21, 1991. Much like the previous examples, Uzbekistan, too, faced social and economic crises in the 90s. A constitution was adopted on December 8, 1992. However, they, too, experienced turbulence as a conflict broke out when Government troops and Islamic militants (members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan – IMU) clashed in Namangan in the Ferghana valley on December 17, 1997, resulting in the deaths of three government soldiers and

¹⁸Kamouludin Abdullaev and Catherine Barnes; Issue 10, Accord: The Tajikistan peace process; Published : Apr. 2001.

¹⁹ Kazakhstan's Post-Soviet Political Process, 1992-1997; Human Rights Watch; last accessed, 5th January, 2020.

<https://www.hrw.org/reports/1999/kazakhstan/Kaz1099b-02.htm>

one militant. Since independence in 1991, the economy of Uzbekistan continues to exist as a Soviet-style command economy with slow transformation to market economy.²⁰ The progress of governmental economic policy reforms has been cautious, but cumulatively Uzbekistan has shown respectable achievements. However, its restrictive trade regime and generally interventionist policies continue to have a negative effect on the economy.

Moreover, the government has closely worked with the IMF and has made efforts to reduce inflation and budget deficit.

D.) Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan declared its independence from the USSR on October 27, 1991 and a new constitution was approved by the parliament on May 18, 1992, and Article 1 of the same established its new name, Turkmenistan, prior to which, it was referred to as Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic. President Saparmurad Atayevich Niyazov of the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan (DPT) was re-elected without opposition as of June 21, 1992. There was growing authoritarianism in Turkmenistan which continues to plague the nation, however, it led to severe political disturbances and affected the people greatly.²¹

The Turkmenistani economy is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Turkmenistan is largely a desert country with intensive agriculture in irrigated areas, and huge gas and oil resources. In terms of natural gas reserves, it is ranked 6th in the world. Turkmenistan has diplomatic relations with 139 countries, some of the most important allies being Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, and Russia.

5.3 What kind of Socio-political pattern emerged in the whole of Central Asia

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, most of Central Asia faced turmoil. As observed from the previous texts, internal conflicts and wars. Naturally, independence from the USSR came at a great cost. Several Central Asian nations saw their economies crash, some of which still struggle to recover. There were political crises and unstable governments. One of the most defining features of post soviet era Central Asian countries is the constant rise to and fall from power of various leaders. It was a time of

²⁰ S. F. Starr ; Change and Continuity in Uzbekistan; Published: 2016.

²¹ ; Kareem Al-Bassam; The Evolution of Authoritarianism in Turkmenistan; last accessed : https://demokratizatsiya.pub/archives/05-3_albassam.pdf

protests, conflicts and suffering. Owing to the internal conflicts, no matter how much aid nations received from international bodies, organisations and even countries, it was not enough to pull themselves out of the clutches of domestic crises.

In terms of social distress, many citizens throughout the former soviet republics were distressed with the conditions of living. As mentioned earlier, the economy suffered greatly. There were barely any jobs and basic needs and necessities were absent. The people of the new nations were faced with the same situations that they had attempted to escape in the USSR by breaking away. There are several countries in Central Asia which still face turmoil and hardships as the aftermath of the dissolution of the USSR which inevitably led to issues which were tenfold more severe than the ones faced as part of the Union. Thus, social, economic and political issues have emerged as a pattern in the whole of Central Asia..

6. Conclusion.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia that became independent were frequently depicted as part of the Russian Federation's "sphere of influence". According to Ulrich Speck, writing for Carnegie Europe, "After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the West's attention was on Russia. Western nations implicitly viewed the post-Soviet countries as Russia's sphere of influence."²² Moreover, bipolarity came to an end in 1991, with the dissolution as the socialist bloc no longer had a leader. The United States of America emerged as the sole and strongest global Superpower. This led to several changes in policies and ideologies in many nations throughout the world. For example, even India was tasked with changing and reforming majority of its policies in 1991. Lastly, there was a drastic change within the international bodies as the USSR was now replaced with the Russian Federation, and gradually, the newer policies and doctrines of the independent states of the USSR were recognized.

After the disintegration of the USSR, the Russian Federation emerged as a successor of the same. It became the most powerful nation to emerge from the Soviet Union. Soon, it was welcomed by international associations with open arms due its former status as a super power which soon become a reality yet again. Russian foreign policy is seen as being born from the struggle between three opposing

²² 'Collapse of the Soviet Union: Change in America's foreign policy in 1991'; Office of the Historian; Published: 1992; last accessed 4th January, 2020
<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1989-1992/collapse-soviet-union>

schools following the breakup of the Soviet Union: Atlanticists, seeking stronger relations with the United States and the Western World in general; Imperialists, seeking a return of the semi-hegemonic position lost during the previous decade; and Neo-Slavophiles, supporting Russia's isolation within the Soviet Union.²³ During the first years of the new Russian Federation, while Atlanticism was the prevailing ideology, under Andrei Kozyrev, it drew criticism for its inability to protect Russian hegemony in the former USSR. Yevgeny Primakov's appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs would mark the beginning of a more nationalistic foreign policy stance.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union had both positive and detrimental effects on several nations. Some nations thrived after opening up their economy, however, some faced turmoil and conflicts, both on domestic and international scales. The end of bipolarity also saw the downfall of the socialist bloc, which affected various socialist nations. For instance, India, too, underwent several challenges and issues after the dissolution. It was a lesson for most countries to learn from. In India, as mentioned before, P. V. Narasimha Rao brought about multiple necessary changes in order to reform the economic conditions of India. Rao, who is often referred to as the 'Sleeping Prime Minister of India' ushered in privatization. Even though according to the preamble, India is a socialist country, privatization and opening up the economy was on the rise in 1991, and continues to be in 2020.

For Central Asian countries, various nations were affected differently, however, for majority of the countries, the impact was detrimental. Their nation stood on an unstable foundation of civil unrest, political crises, land disputes, ethnic conflicts, etc. Even though countries such as Turkmenistan prospered, other nations such as suffered greatly.

Lastly, it is important to note that the dissolution of the Soviet Union had both pros and cons attached to it. Not only was it proof of the failures of communism, but also the tyranny of the previous governments alongside the destitution that the common man, who communism and socialism had intended to uplift, lived in. The horrors were innumerable. Despite all of it, when the dissolution came, it came for good as it resulted in the termination of many conflicts and issues which plagued global politics for decades.

²³ Tatiana Zonova and Roman Reinhardt; Main vectors of Russia's foreign policy (1991-2014) (Published By: Maria Grazia Melchionni; December 2014.)