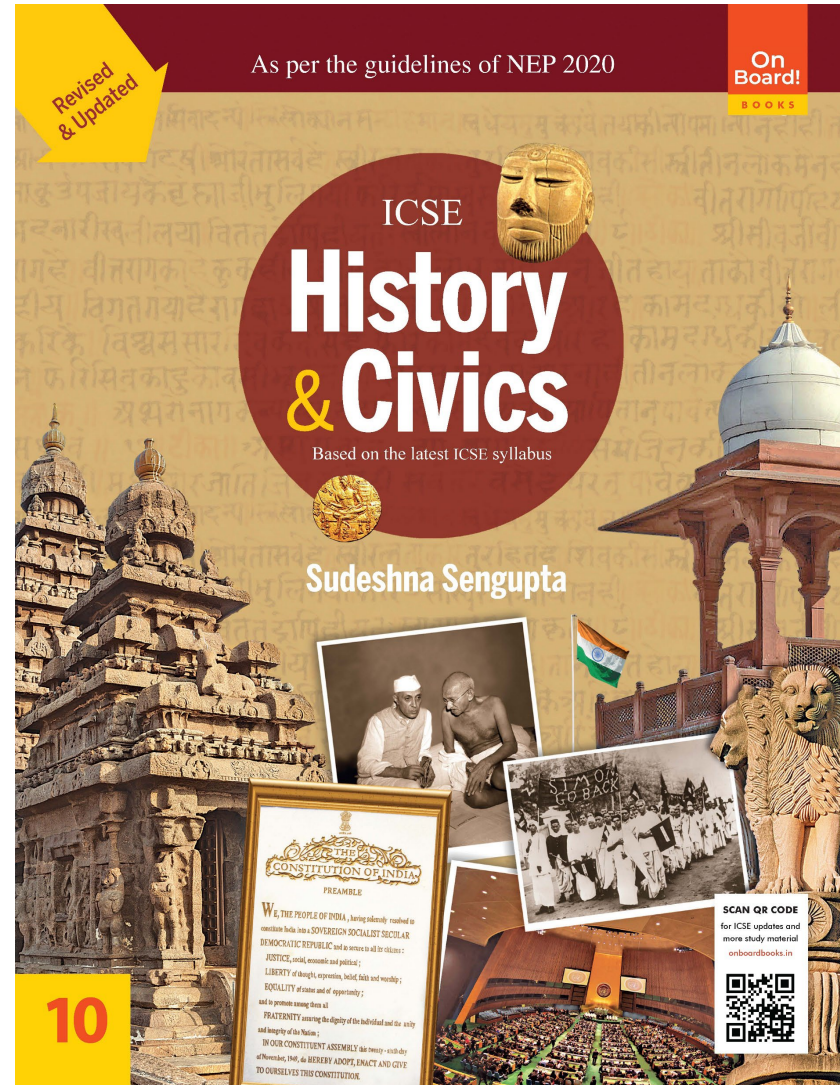


# On Board!

**B O O K S**

# ICSE History and Civics 10



# Section B: History

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# Chapter 14 The Non-Aligned Movement

## Post Second World War era

- Most countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, that had been under the imperialistic rule, gained their freedom.
- These countries were deeply interested in preserving their new-found identity.
- They wanted their rightful place among the nations and playing an independent role in shaping the future of the world.
- They were intent in speeding up the destruction of imperialism of which they had been a victim for a long time.
- The world was divided into two power blocs – the western democracy led by the United States and the eastern communism led by the Soviet Union.
- Their mutual relations were marked by tensions and conflicts termed as the Cold War.
- It was fuelled constantly by military alliances, unbridled arms race and proxy wars giving rise to a general sense of panic, which posed a threat to the independence and survival of the small nations.
- These new, independent states found the world economic order grossly unjust and ridden with inequalities.
- Exploitation was rampant and a fundamental change was required in every field of development.

It was in such a bipolar world that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) emerged and shaped itself into an organization intent on establishing a position of equidistance from the two power blocs and charting out an assertive and independent foreign policy.

## Formation and growth of NAM

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India while delivering his speech at a meet in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1954 coined the term 'non-alignment'. To follow non-alignment meant to distance oneself from the hegemony of the so-called superpowers that had emerged after the Second World War. But non-alignment in its positive connotation denotes those countries, which judge issues on merit and do not accept decisions as recommended by the superpowers.

## The Bandung Conference (1955)

The origin of the NAM can be traced to a conference hosted in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. The military alliances like NATO and the Warsaw Pact had ridden the world with ideological differences. The Cold War was being extended throughout the world leading to tensions and conflicts. In this context, India, along with China, enunciated the Panchsheel or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. The five principles or 'Panchsheel' were:

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity.
- Mutual non-aggression.
- Mutual non-interference in domestic affairs.
- Equality and mutual benefit.
- Peaceful co-existence.

'Panchsheel' formed the bedrock of relations between People's Republic of China and India in 1954. Many outstanding leaders had emerged in Asia and Africa during this period who wanted to weld the unity of Asian and African countries and distance themselves from colonialism and imperialism.

## The Belgrade Conference (1961)

It was at a UN Conference in December 1960 that the leaders of India, Indonesia, Egypt, Yugoslavia and Ghana took the historic decision of convening a conference of all non-aligned countries in the following year. The First Summit of Non-aligned nations was held at Belgrade, Yugoslavia from 1 to 6 September 1961. It was attended by twenty-five countries.

### Major objectives

- The NAM grants freedom to nations under imperialistic and colonial domination.
- The NAM condemned the arms race taking place in the developed world. It opposed nuclear proliferation and favoured disarmament.
- The NAM believed in equality of all men and condemned racial discrimination.
- The NAM wished to establish a New International Economic Order (NIEO) to reduce the gulf that existed between the haves and the have-nots.
- The NAM called for a global effort for environment protection, cultural and social unity and restructuring the information order that was available at the moment.

### ROLE OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

It was Jawaharlal Nehru's initiative that saw the birth of the NAM in a world of questionable intents and aspirations. He made a significant contribution to the evolution and growth of the NAM. It was through his sincere efforts that India became the founder-member of this movement. India's policy, according to Nehru, would always be to stand in the face of injustice, prejudice and wrong.

India, under the leadership of Nehru and all subsequent Prime Ministers, has followed a policy of friendship and cooperation with all nations. It has endorsed disarmament and condemned stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction. India signed an agreement for banning atomic tests in 1961. Thus India has:

- Opposed imperialistic and colonial domination.
- Called for the establishment of a new international economic order.
- Protested against racism and championed the cause of the basic rights of men.

The Harare Summit (1986) and the Belgrade Summit (1989) adopted a three-pronged strategy: greater south-south cooperation, greater north-south cooperation and individual and collective self-reliance. India played an important role in raising the issue of terrorism in all its forms, especially when aided and sponsored from across the borders or from abroad. Global terrorism was condemned and international cooperation was sought to tackle the situation.

## **ROLE OF NAM**

The NAM Summits are held every third year or whenever it is deemed convenient to meet to deal with global challenges. So far eighteen NAM Summits have been held, and the last one was held at Baku (Azerbaijan) in October 2019. As of 2019, the Non-aligned Movement has 120 member countries, 17 observer countries and 10 observer organizations. To understand the role of the NAM in the present decade, we need to have a bird's eye view of its achievements and failures so far.



## NAM in the 60s

- Condemned racial discrimination.
- The focus was on complete disarmament.
- Extension of the Test Ban Treaty to underground nuclear tests was demanded
- Appeal was also made to eschew the policy of confrontation.

## NAM in the 70s

- Economic disparity in the world was the focus of discussion.
- Neo-colonialism pursued by the developed countries through multinational cooperations (MNCs) ruining the economic self-reliance of the developing countries was opposed.
- There was a concerted effort being made to bridge the gulf between the rich and the poor nations.

## NAM in the 80s

- The issue of apartheid was taken up very seriously.
- A demand was made for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and Cambodia.
- Members of the NAM were called to support the people of Palestine, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle for freedom.
- The focus once again was on the establishment of a sound economic order based on mutual cooperation.
- The NAM reconfirmed its faith in its efforts to bring about world peace and eliminate war at all costs.

## NAM in the 90s

- The Gulf War was strongly condemned and a demand was made for the expansion of the Security Council to make it more democratic.
- The disparity between the rich and the poorer countries, so far as economic issues were concerned, still remained.
- With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the world was moving towards becoming unipolar yet peace was a distant dream as the gulf between the rich and the poor remained.
- A lot of discussion centred around international terrorism and environment protection.
- The NAM also emphasized the acceptance of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

## NAM 2000 onwards

- The War in Iraq and the crisis that followed was the most important issue at the turn of the century.
- The need was also felt to infuse some fresh life into the movement by strengthening relations in cultural, economic and scientific fields.
- The unfair control of the UN by some of the powerful nations was condemned by the NAM.

## FUTURE OF NAM

Though the NAM does not have collective resources at its command, it can still play a significant role if it maintains a clear stand on issues like global terrorism, human rights violation, economic disparities and better trade facilities for the developing and poor nations. The need to achieve universal peace and development is and will always be the key to the continuing relevance of the NAM. The position of the NAM to be a moral force to fight injustice, inequality and discrimination is still a relevant issue. The need to strengthen the UN is also felt, as we move towards a multipolar world where power and responsibilities are shared.

## To Remember

**Background of NAM** – The NAM emerged as a response to the threat of the Cold War looming large, it was a need of the developing world, Asian Relations Conference was the first step as Nehru talked about the freedom of the developing world.

**Formation and growth of NAM** – Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India coined the term 'non-alignment', The Bandung Conference: Panchsheel or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, which were, mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in domestic affairs, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful co-existence.

**Important leaders** – Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister, China's Prime Minister Chou En-lai, President Nasser of Egypt, Marshall Tito of Yugoslavia and Nkrumah of Ghana, Belgrade Conference: The first Summit was held in 1961 in Belgrade.

**Major objectives** – To grant freedom to nations under imperialistic rule, it condemned the arms race, believed in the equality of men, it wished to establish a new international economic order, a global effort for environment protection and cultural unity.

**India's role** – NAM was Jawaharlal Nehru's concept that became a reality, India not to accept any form of injustice, protested against the North Korean aggression on South Korea, the Anglo-French invasion of the Suez Canal was condemned, championed the cause for the founding of the AFRICA Fund, proposed the Planet Protection Fund under the Polluter Pays Principle, did not accept third-party mediation in bilateral issues, condemned terrorism in all forms.

**Role of NAM** – A bird's eye view of the NAM's achievements so far, NAM in 60s: Condemned racial discrimination, focus on complete disarmament, NAM in 70s: Economic disparity became the focus of discussion, NAM in 80s: Issue of apartheid taken up seriously, release of Nelson Mandela, NAM in the 90s: Gulf War was strongly condemned, emphasized the acceptance of CTBT, NAM in 2000: Need to infuse some fresh life into the movement.

**Future of the NAM** – The Accra Declaration accepts the relevance of the basic philosophy of the movement, protested against the US domination, challenged America's global policing, unipolar world not acceptable, world fast becoming multipolar, issues like global terrorism, economic disparity, violation of human rights need to be challenged.

**Thank You**