

Class X - Social Science

The Making of a Global World

CBSE NOTES

The Making of a Global World - Challenge Worksheet

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Challenge Questions

1. Evaluate the role of the Silk Routes in shaping the pre-modern global economy and cultural exchanges.

Hint: Consider the types of goods traded and the cultural impacts beyond economics.

Solution: The Silk Routes were not just trade routes but also channels for cultural and technological exchanges. They connected Asia with Europe and Africa, facilitating the exchange of goods like silk, spices, and precious metals, as well as ideas, religions, and technologies. This interconnectedness laid the foundation for a global economy. Counterpoints include the limited reach of these routes to certain regions and the dominance of land routes before maritime advancements.

2. Analyze the impact of the introduction of new crops like potatoes and maize into Europe and Asia from the Americas.

Hint: Think about both the positive and negative consequences of agricultural exchanges.

Solution: The introduction of new crops significantly altered dietary habits and agricultural practices, leading to population growth in Europe due to improved nutrition. However, over-reliance on single crops like potatoes led to disasters such as the Irish Potato Famine. In Asia, these crops helped sustain larger populations but also led to ecological changes and shifts in agricultural patterns.

3. Discuss how the 'discovery' of the Americas by Columbus led to the Columbian Exchange and its global implications.

Hint: Consider the biological, cultural, and economic dimensions of the exchange.

Solution: The Columbian Exchange refers to the widespread transfer of plants, animals, culture, human populations, technology, and ideas between the Americas and the Old World. It led to significant demographic changes, including the decimation of indigenous populations due to diseases. Economically, it enriched Europe but also established systems of exploitation like the transatlantic slave trade.

4. Examine the consequences of the rinderpest epidemic in Africa in the 1890s on local economies and colonial policies.

Hint: Focus on the interplay between natural disasters and colonial exploitation.

Solution: The rinderpest epidemic devastated cattle populations, which were central to African livelihoods, leading to economic collapse and social disruption. Colonial powers exploited this crisis to force Africans into wage labor, further entrenching colonial control. This event highlights how ecological disasters can be manipulated for political and economic gain.

5. Assess the role of indentured labor migration from India in the 19th century global economy.

Hint: Compare and contrast indentured labor with slavery in terms of conditions and outcomes.

Solution: Indentured labor migration was a system that replaced slavery, providing cheap labor to colonies. It had profound effects on the demographics and cultures of regions like the Caribbean and Fiji. While it offered escape from poverty for some, it often involved exploitation and harsh conditions, resembling a new form of slavery.

6. Critically evaluate the Bretton Woods Agreement's role in shaping the post-World War II economic order.

Hint: Consider both the stabilizing effects and the criticisms of the Bretton Woods system.

Solution: The Bretton Woods Agreement established the IMF and World Bank to ensure economic stability and prevent another Great Depression. It promoted fixed exchange rates and free trade, leading to unprecedented growth in Western economies. However, it also entrenched the dominance of the US dollar and often marginalized developing countries.

7. How did the Great Depression affect India's economy and society, and what were the responses to it?

Hint: Link economic policies with social and political movements.

Solution: The Great Depression led to a collapse in agricultural prices, worsening rural poverty and indebtedness in India. The colonial government's refusal to reduce revenue demands exacerbated

the crisis. This period also saw increased nationalist agitation, as seen in Gandhi's civil disobedience movement, linking economic distress with political resistance.

8. Explore the significance of the G-77 in demanding a New International Economic Order (NIEO).

Hint: Focus on the goals of the G-77 and the obstacles they faced.

Solution: The G-77 emerged as a collective voice of developing countries seeking fairer terms of trade, control over natural resources, and greater development assistance. The NIEO aimed to reduce economic disparities but faced resistance from developed nations, highlighting the challenges of global economic reform.

9. Analyze the shift from fixed to floating exchange rates and its impact on global trade in the late 20th century.

Hint: Consider the advantages and disadvantages of floating exchange rates.

Solution: The shift allowed for more flexible responses to economic changes but also introduced volatility in currency values, affecting trade balances and investment flows. Developing countries, in particular, faced challenges in managing their economies under this system, leading to periodic financial crises.

10. Discuss the role of MNCs in the globalization of production and its effects on developing countries.

Hint: Balance the economic benefits with the social and environmental costs.

Solution: MNCs have driven globalization by relocating production to countries with lower labor costs, leading to industrial growth in places like China and India. However, this has also raised concerns about labor rights, environmental degradation, and economic dependency, illustrating the dual-edged nature of globalization.

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