

Class X - Social Science

The Making of a Global World

# CBSE NOTES

## The Making of a Global World - Mastery Worksheet

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# Mastery Questions

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## 1. Explain the significance of the Silk Routes in the pre-modern world with examples.

*Hint: Think about the goods traded and the cultural exchanges that occurred.*

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**Solution:** The Silk Routes were a network of trade and cultural transmission routes that were central to cultural interaction through regions of the Asian continent connecting the West and East. They are significant because they facilitated not only the trade of goods like silk, spices, and precious metals but also the exchange of ideas, religions, and technologies. For example, Buddhism spread from India to Central Asia and China via these routes. The Silk Routes also saw the exchange of Chinese pottery and Indian textiles for European gold and silver.

## 2. How did the introduction of new crops like potatoes and tomatoes transform European diets and economies?

*Hint: Consider the nutritional and economic impacts of these crops.*

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**Solution:** The introduction of new crops like potatoes and tomatoes from the Americas transformed European diets by diversifying food sources and improving nutrition. Potatoes, being high in calories and easy to grow, became a staple food, especially for the poor, leading to population growth. Economically, these crops allowed for more efficient use of land and supported urbanization by feeding growing city populations. However, dependence on potatoes also led to disasters like the Irish Potato Famine when the crop failed.

## 3. Compare the impact of European colonization on the Americas and Africa in terms of disease and economy.

*Hint: Focus on demographic changes and economic exploitation.*

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**Solution:** In the Americas, European colonization led to the decimation of indigenous populations due to diseases like smallpox, to which they had no immunity. Economically, the Americas became sources of precious metals and agricultural products for Europe. In Africa, colonization disrupted local economies and societies, especially through the slave trade, and introduced diseases like rinderpest, which devastated cattle populations and forced Africans into wage labor. Both continents saw their resources exploited for European benefit, but the demographic and economic impacts varied due to different pre-colonial conditions and colonial policies.

#### 4. Describe the role of technology in shaping the 19th-century world economy with examples.

*Hint: Think about transportation, communication, and food preservation technologies.*

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**Solution:** Technology played a pivotal role in the 19th-century world economy by facilitating faster and cheaper production and transportation. The invention of the steam engine revolutionized transportation with steamships and railways, enabling the mass movement of goods and people. The telegraph improved communication across long distances, crucial for trade and military coordination. Refrigerated ships allowed the global trade of perishable goods like meat, transforming diets and agricultural economies. These technological advancements underpinned the globalization of trade and the industrial revolution.

#### 5. Analyze the causes and consequences of the Great Depression on the global economy.

*Hint: Consider economic policies, trade, and social impacts.*

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**Solution:** The Great Depression was caused by a combination of overproduction, speculative investments, and unequal wealth distribution, leading to a stock market crash in 1929. Consequences included massive unemployment, bank failures, and a drastic fall in global trade. Countries imposed high tariffs, worsening the downturn. In India, the depression led to a collapse in agricultural prices, increasing rural indebtedness and unrest, which fueled the independence movement. The crisis underscored the need for government intervention in economies, leading to new economic policies worldwide.

#### 6. Explain how the Bretton Woods system aimed to stabilize the post-World War II global economy.

*Hint: Focus on the roles of the IMF and World Bank and the concept of fixed exchange rates.*

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**Solution:** The Bretton Woods system aimed to stabilize the post-World War II global economy by establishing fixed exchange rates pegged to the US dollar, which was convertible to gold. It created the IMF to monitor exchange rates and lend reserve currencies to nations with balance of payments deficits, and the World Bank to provide loans for reconstruction and development. This system facilitated international trade and investment by providing stability and predictability in exchange rates, fostering economic growth in the Western world and Japan during the 1950s and 1960s.

## 7. Discuss the effects of decolonization on the economies of newly independent nations.

*Hint: Consider both the opportunities and challenges faced by these nations.*

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**Solution:** Decolonization allowed newly independent nations to control their own economies and resources, but many faced challenges like poverty, lack of infrastructure, and dependence on former colonial powers for trade and investment. The Bretton Woods institutions often imposed conditions that favored Western interests, limiting policy flexibility. Many countries formed the G-77 to demand a New International Economic Order (NIEO) that would give them fairer terms of trade and more development assistance. Despite these challenges, some nations successfully industrialized and diversified their economies.

## 8. How did the relocation of production to Asian countries by MNCs in the late 20th century affect global economic geography?

*Hint: Think about the economic rise of Asia and its global implications.*

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**Solution:** The relocation of production to Asian countries by MNCs in the late 20th century transformed global economic geography by shifting manufacturing hubs to regions with lower labor costs, such as China and India. This led to rapid industrialization and economic growth in these countries, increasing their share in global trade. It also resulted in job losses in industrialized nations and sparked debates over labor standards and environmental regulations. The phenomenon accelerated globalization, creating more interconnected but also more competitive global markets.

## 9. Compare the economic policies of China and India in the late 20th century and their outcomes.

*Hint: Focus on the timing and nature of economic reforms.*

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**Solution:** In the late 20th century, China adopted market-oriented reforms under Deng Xiaoping, opening up to foreign investment and focusing on export-led growth, which led to rapid industrialization and GDP growth. India, meanwhile, initially followed a mixed economy model with significant state control, which resulted in slower growth. After economic liberalization in 1991, India also saw accelerated growth, especially in IT and services. Both countries reduced poverty, but China's growth was more manufacturing-driven, while India's was service-oriented, reflecting different policy choices and outcomes.

## 10. Evaluate the role of the G-77 in advocating for a New International Economic Order (NIEO).

*Hint: Consider the goals and achievements of the G-77.*

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**Solution:** The G-77 played a crucial role in advocating for a NIEO by uniting developing countries to demand fairer terms of trade, greater development assistance, and more control over their natural resources. They sought to reduce economic dependence on industrialized nations and address inequalities in the global economic system. While the NIEO's broad goals were not fully realized, the G-77's efforts led to increased awareness of development issues and some reforms in international economic institutions, fostering greater solidarity among developing nations in global negotiations.

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