

Class X - Social Science

**The Making of a Global World**

# CBSE NOTES

## **The Making of a Global World - Practice Worksheet**

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# Practice Questions

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

*Hint: Focus on the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures facilitated by the Silk Routes.*

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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 by merchants, pilgrims, monks, soldiers, nomads, and urban dwellers from China and India to the Mediterranean Sea during various periods of time. These routes were not only conduits for silk but also for many other goods like spices, textiles, and precious metals. They facilitated the spread of ideas, religions (like Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam), and technologies between different parts of the world. The Silk Routes are a prime example of how trade and cultural exchange went hand in hand in the pre-modern world, shaping the civilizations along these routes.

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

*Hint: Consider the nutritional value and adaptability of these crops to different climates.*

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**Solution:** The introduction of new crops such as potatoes and tomatoes from the Americas to Europe in the 16th century had a profound impact on European diets and economies. Potatoes, being highly nutritious and capable of growing in poor soils, became a staple food for the European poor, leading to population growth. Tomatoes enriched European cuisine, especially in Mediterranean countries. These crops diversified European agriculture, reduced dependence on traditional grains, and helped in mitigating famines. Economically, the cultivation of these crops supported the subsistence of the lower classes and contributed to the agricultural surplus that fueled the Industrial Revolution.

## 3. Describe the impact of the 'Great Depression' on the Indian economy.

*Hint: Focus on the differential impact on rural and urban economies.*

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**Solution:** The Great Depression (1929-1939) had a significant impact on the Indian economy, primarily affecting agricultural sectors. As global prices crashed, the prices of agricultural products in India also fell sharply, leading to a drastic reduction in the income of farmers. The colonial

government refused to reduce revenue demands, exacerbating the farmers' plight. The depression led to increased rural indebtedness, as farmers were forced to mortgage or sell their lands and assets. However, urban India experienced less hardship due to falling prices, which benefited those with fixed incomes. The crisis also spurred industrial growth in India as the government extended tariff protection to industries under nationalist pressure.

#### 4. What were the Bretton Woods Institutions, and what was their purpose?

*Hint: Think about the post-war economic challenges and the need for international cooperation.*

**Solution:** The Bretton Woods Institutions, namely the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, were established in 1944 to ensure economic stability and full employment in the industrial world post-World War II. The IMF was created to deal with external surpluses and deficits of its member nations, while the World Bank was set up to finance post-war reconstruction. These institutions aimed to stabilize exchange rates and provide financial assistance for rebuilding war-torn economies and developing countries. They played a pivotal role in shaping the global economic order by promoting international monetary cooperation and facilitating balanced growth of international trade.

#### 5. How did the discovery of America change the global economy?

*Hint: Consider both the positive exchanges and the negative consequences for indigenous populations.*

**Solution:** The discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492 marked a turning point in global economic history. It led to the Columbian Exchange, where crops, animals, and cultures were transferred between the Americas and the Old World. Precious metals like silver and gold from America enriched Europe and financed its trade with Asia. The introduction of new crops such as potatoes, maize, and tomatoes transformed diets and agricultural practices worldwide. However, it also led to the exploitation and decimation of indigenous populations through diseases, slavery, and conquest. The discovery integrated America into the global trade network, shifting the economic center of gravity towards the Atlantic and laying the foundations for modern capitalism.

#### 6. Explain the role of technology in shaping the 19th-century world economy.

*Hint: Focus on key inventions and their impact on trade and production.*

**Solution:** Technology played a crucial role in shaping the 19th-century world economy by revolutionizing transportation, communication, and production. The invention of the steam engine facilitated the development of railways and steamships, drastically reducing transportation costs and time, thereby expanding global trade. The telegraph enabled instant communication across continents, coordinating economic activities more efficiently. Innovations in agriculture and industry, such as the mechanical reaper and the assembly line, increased productivity and supported mass production. These technological advancements interconnected global markets, facilitated the movement of goods, capital, and labor, and laid the groundwork for the modern globalized economy.

## 7. What were the effects of the rinderpest epidemic in Africa in the 1890s?

*Hint: Consider the socio-economic and political consequences of the epidemic.*

**Solution:** The rinderpest epidemic in Africa during the 1890s had devastating effects on the continent's economy and society. The disease, which killed up to 90% of the cattle, destroyed the livelihoods of pastoral communities and disrupted traditional economies. The loss of cattle forced many Africans into wage labor on European plantations and mines, as they could no longer sustain themselves through pastoralism. This epidemic was exploited by colonial powers to consolidate their control over African labor and resources, further integrating Africa into the colonial economy. The rinderpest epidemic exemplifies how ecological disasters were manipulated to serve colonial interests, exacerbating the exploitation and impoverishment of African societies.

## 8. Discuss the significance of indentured labor migration from India in the 19th century.

*Hint: Focus on the push factors in India and the conditions in the host countries.*

**Solution:** Indentured labor migration from India in the 19th century was a system of bonded labor that replaced slavery in British colonies after its abolition. Millions of Indians were transported to plantations in the Caribbean, Mauritius, Fiji, and other parts of the world under contracts that promised return passage after five years of work. This migration was driven by poverty, unemployment, and oppressive land policies in India. While it provided labor for colonial economies, the conditions were often harsh and exploitative, resembling a new form of slavery. Despite the hardships, indentured laborers contributed to the cultural and demographic landscapes of their host countries, creating diasporic communities that maintain Indian traditions to this day.

## 9. How did the First World War transform the US from an international debtor to a creditor?

*Hint: Consider the economic activities of the US during the war and their long-term effects.*

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**Solution:** The First World War transformed the US from an international debtor to a creditor by disrupting the economic balance of power. Before the war, the US was a net debtor, borrowing capital from Europe for its development. During the war, the US supplied weapons, food, and other goods to the Allied powers, financed through loans. By the war's end, European nations owed the US substantial debts, making it the world's largest creditor. This shift marked the beginning of US economic dominance in the 20th century, as it became the primary source of capital for post-war reconstruction and development, influencing global economic policies and institutions.

## 10. What were the main objectives of the G-77, and why was it formed?

*Hint: Think about the challenges faced by developing countries in the post-war economic order.*

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**Solution:** The Group of 77 (G-77) was formed in 1964 by developing countries to promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on international economic issues within the United Nations. The main objectives of the G-77 were to demand a New International Economic Order (NIEO) that would ensure fair prices for raw materials, better access to developed countries' markets, increased development assistance, and greater control over their natural resources. The G-77 was a reaction to the perceived inequities of the Bretton Woods system, which was dominated by industrialized nations. It sought to reduce the economic disparity between the developed and developing world by advocating for more equitable global trade and financial systems.

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