



Emergence of America as a World Power: A Historical Review

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ABSTRACT :

The main purpose of this study to evaluate the role of United States of America in the contemporary world . For better observation and result we will study the historical evolution of USA and analyse the various factors responsible for the success of USA as a world leader. Different historical incidents has been analysed and findings has been concluded with the help of research methodologies i.e. historical method and literature review on the given research.

Introduction :

United States of America or America is known as a World Power in contemporary World politics. It's believed that each and every global move related Economy, Polity, Medicine etc. has taken after the consent of United States of America consists 50 States and adopted federal structure of political system. America also known for adopting world's first Written Constitution with a preamble .it is world's oldest surviving federation.In this research we will trying to review all the historical incidents and struggling facts which helps America to survive and prove itself as a World Power .

Objective of the Study:

The main objective of this research is

1. To know about the historical evolution of USA from Colonial Status to Independent Country.
2. To know about the role of USA during the Cold War Era.
3. To identify the evolution of USA as a first "Nuclear Power"
4. To analyse the facts about present scenario of America in World Politics.

Methodology :

In this research project Historical Method is used for better results and secondary data has been collected from various published and unpublished sources.

Literature Review :

Emergence of the United States of America has described by so many authors in their publication and during the historical review of America it is important for to review the literature available on the above mentioned topic of research.

In his work "History of the United States of America" author N.Jayapalan described the various stages of US's historical period with every relevant incidents.

In Denial .J. Sargent's book "A Superpower Transformed: The Remaking of American Foreign Relations in the 1970's", the author tried to elaborate the relations of USA with other international nation States and fulfilment of it's National Interests. He also point out the strategies and alliances adopted by USA during the Cold war era also.

After reviewing the literature relevant to our topic of research it is found that all the major authors described and pointed out the historical incidents and but there is lack of information which gave us less information about the correct historical incidents for better results. In this research we are trying to collect all the relevant information which is missing in the most of literature sources.

Historical Background :

In the Context of the discovery of America, Spanish sailor Columbus sailed towards west in the vessel capable to carrying 87 people. After some weeks, there was no sign of land and other sailors were frightened and revolted against him. But he encouraged them and sailed to west. After the long voyage of ten weeks, he reached at Bahama Island on 12th Oct. 1492. He mistakenly took 'Bahama' as Eastern Island and called 'Red Indian' to people living there. In the truth, he reached at the shore of America and discovered the unknown world. In forthcoming years Columbus was the sailed the other part of other voyages. Italian trader Amerigo Vespucci made progress in Columbus's discoveries and in 1499 proved that the new world discovered by Columbus was not the part of Asia. Amerigo and his friend published in under the name of 'Cosmography Endroksha' in the year 1507 A.D.

- **America under Colonialism and American Revolution :** After the discovery of America, Europeans looted the treasures of gold and silver and they destroyed the old civilization Inka and Aztecs and made their rule over natives. Around 1500 to 1600 Spain gathered the 16,600 tons silver and 200 tons of Gold from the New World.

America's Revolution was very historic incident in the world's history and it was marked against the Colonialism of Europe, Because of this revolution American colonies got rid of slavery of England. When England put extra tax on colonies to compensate the expenses of seven years war. So there was revolution of 13 States coming from North and South. This was very important incident in the world's history. This is also named as Freedom Struggle or revolution of America. This is correct that Revolution of America occurred in George III's period because he and his companions had put a heavy burden of taxes on them, but the roots of this revolution were very deep. So the increase in the tax by George III and his Minister's was not only reason for the revolution. According to J.S Watson, the reasons for Revolution were more social than economic. Living on the both sides of Atlantic, there was Difference in the lifestyle and thinking of Americans and English. So there was wide gap between both sides in lifestyle and thinking, so these arose a situation of turmoil.

Because of the provoking policies of George III and his ministers, there was the start of American revolution. This revolution continued till 1783 and in the end America achieved its freedom and liberty.

- ❖ **Rise of America as a World Power :** America becomes free country in 1783. After the independence for many years America could not adopt concrete foreign policy. It was situated thousand miles away from Asia and Europe. In 1823, American President Munroe declared a very important declaration, ban was put on Europe to develop and nourish more colonies in America. In the period of 1861 to 1865, America faced civil war. The results of civil changed many things in America. The development of industry required the raw material and there was also the need of market to sell goods. These were major requirements of every developed country. Other nations had already initiated towards this end. America also started taking interest in these requirements though it was slow in coming these.

The first expansion of America occurred in 1867 when America obtained Alaska from Russia. In the same years, America successful to obtain mid way Island. Later in around 1878 there was a issue between Germany and America over to make Samoa a Navy's point. Both Armies were standing before each other but in the end Germany signed the treaty due to which the three powers America, Germany and Britain gave joint security to 'Samoa'.

After ten year America's land of Samoa was divided into three powers. This incident indicates that it inspired America for imperialist policies and America was ready to defend these policies. In 1875, through a pact America provided control over Italian Islands.

Both houses of congress passed a resolution that Hawaii island should be made part of America. The neutrality of the USA becomes a policy of living apart according to the Monroe doctrine and the open door policy.

- ❖ **End of USA's Alienation Policy and Cold War Era :** With the defeat of Spain in the Spain -America war, America's policy of isolation ends. America took control of Cuba and Philippine and after that Intervened in the affairs of other countries. By entering the war in 1945 America had completely stopped his Policy of isolation. The distrust and tension created between Russia and America in the second world war was named as Cold War. The modern cold war began after World War II. America and Russia fought Second World War together. Apart from these two countries the rest of the countries of Europe were in the bad condition from each side. Germany, Italy and Japan were the defeated countries, but the victories countries of France and England were also in bad condition. That's Why only two powers were left which were Russia and America. After the war, America and Russia were looking for booty and tension rose them. Both wanted to get as much of the enemy's territory as possible. Russia's influence on East Germany increased and west Germany was occupied by the army of England, France and America. In 1946 the rivalry or further tension of these powers increased significantly. All the communist countries started supporting Russia and the capitalist countries started taking side of America. In this way the cold war was started between the two factions of the World and cold divided the World into two great factions. One group was led by America and other was by Soviet Russia. In This way efforts were not made to solve problems of the world directly and solutions were made to the interest of both sides. Due to such stand the situation and conflict took a more serious form instead of being solved. Both sides got involved in Making destructive weapons to increase their power. In this way the threat of war with nuclear weapons in both the

powers started hovering over the world war.

Due to the impact of cold war instead of cooperating with each other for permanent to various problems during this period, military dubious and military alliances started forming. The alliances like NATO, SEATO and CENTO were formed in the heat of cold war. These Treaties and alliances fueled the cold war. Because of the treaties and alliances, every nation of the world was put into the threat of war. In 1992, many states of the Soviet union become independent that's assured the collapse of USSR and with the end of USSR and Cold War was ended automatically. And after that US become the only World Power.

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