

CHAPTER – 7

PEACE EFFORTS

The League of Nations

The First World War ended in 1918, but the problems created out of the destination of the war was full of challenges for the victorious nations as well as the whole world. After the war all leaders of the world wanted peace. There was not any institution in the Europe to make effective efforts to forested the war by solving the despitus through mutual dialogues. So, from the beginning of the war England, France, America and other countries emphasised on establishment of an international institution for maintaining peace and security in the world. But it was not possible in the tense atmosphere of war. After the end of World War, the league of Nations was formed in 1919 in Paris and its main credit goes to the then American president Woodrow Wilson, who underlined the necessity of formation of an international organisation in his fourteen point proposal. Finally, comprising many programmes, the league of nations came into existence on 10th June, 1920.

Objective of League of Nations

The objective of the League of Nations was to maintain international peace and peaceful solution to the problems created out of war. The organisation tried to persuade confidence towards internationalism and implement the treaties made before and after the war. To solve the social and economic problems, created by war, was among the priorities of the League of Nations.

Member countries of League of Nations

As the organisation was established after war so initially only victorious or Allied countries (France, England, Russia etc.) and few nations that remained neutral during war were members of the organisation. Number of the member countries was about 31. Later on the number increased to 60. To acquire membership of League of Nations, it was compulsory for a country to be independent and sovereign and two-third member of league of Nations agree to include it into the organisation.



10th meeting of League of Nations at Geneva

Organs of League of Nations

In the first section of league of Nations, there was a list of member nations and in the second section there was mention of its three main organs.

- The General Assembly
- The Council
- The Secretariat

In addition to this, International Court and International Labour organisation were the other essential wings. There were various

commissions such as Security Commission, Military Commission, etc. for successful disposal of different functions under the League of Nations.

Assembly:

It was assembly of the representation of the League of Nations in which the representatives of the member countries remained present. Each nation had right to cast one vote. The working language of Assembly was French and English. The function of the Assembly was to accord membership to the new nations, review and amendment of the rules of the league of nations, approval of the appointments of judges of International Court of Justice and the Secretary General, etc. The Assembly did not interfere with internal matters of a nation. But there was discussion and debate over international issues. All decisions were taken by passing a resolution through majority.

The Council

The role of the Council was like an Executive Council. It comprised two types of members; permanent and temporary. England, France, Japan and Italy were its founder as well as permanent members. Later on Germany and Russia also got its permanent membership. Nine small states formed its temporary members. The Assembly had right, like Executive Council, to discuss all subjects and take concrete decision under the aegis of the League of Nations. In this context its roles and functions were stronger than the Assembly. The administration of the minority dominated area of 'Saar' and 'Danzig' in Germany, to take decision on important issues related to war and peace. Passing orders for members and nominator of the Secretary General etc. were the important functions of the Assembly.

America was among its founder members, but did not admitted its membership, so initially there was only four permanent members, that was expanded later on.

The Secretariat

A secretariat was founded for administrative work of the League of Nations with its headquarter at Geneva. Under the secretariat there were 12

departments that worked on the economic, political and diplomatic problems of international level. It prepared regulation and protocol of all treaties selected to the countries of the League of Nation.

International Court

The objective of the section of the International Court was to resolve various international political and diplomatic disputes and controversies. The headquarter of the International Court was at Hague, a city in Holland (modern Netherlands). The court used to give opinion to the General Assembly on the important issues and explain various ruled. But its discussions were not obligatory.

International Labour Organisation

The period of the First World War (1914-1918) was a period of the development of socialist and labour movement in Europe. Because the need of surplus production during war increased the importance of industrial labourers. It got support from the Russian Revolution of 1917 (Bolshevik Revolution) and thus need for the betterment of the miserable economic and social condition of the labours of European countries was felt. So after the war the International Labour organisation was founded for the sake of labourers interest and improvement of their condition. Its headquarter was in Geneva.

The peace efforts of the League of Nations

The objective of the establishment of the League of Nations was international peace and mutual cooperation. Though these functions were primarily the part of political activities, yet its socio-economic aspects were not lesser either under political activities. Even if the League of Nations did not succeed in solving international disputes, disarmament and control over aggressive nations, but the League of Nations played a commendable job in removing the problems created due to war. The league of Nations did many important function in this regard. As the primary function of the League of Nations was to control the war like situation, so it remained successful in resolving the early minor disputes. In a very short period of 10-15 years the league examined about 40 little and big fights and gave its decision. They were adhered to conciliation, mediation and request by the League of Nations.

Role in resolving the international disputes

The efforts of the League of Nations in their work can be said successful. The League of nations remained successful in resolving the

dispute in 1920 over Aland Island, the Silesia dispute between Germany and Poland and the dispute over Vilna, the capital of Lithuania, between Poland and Lithuania.

In the Greek and Bulgaria war in 1925 the League of Nations presented the expansion of war in Balkan region by putting pressure over Greece. It was the biggest achievement of the League of Nations. Similarly, the right of Peru over the city of neighbouring state Columbia was declared unjust and Columbia got that region back. The policy of referendum and international pressure was adopted for resolving the above problems.

But due to ineffective role of the League of Nations, over many international problems, the pretentious countries got strength, as in 1931 China became prey to Japanese imperialist policy and inspite of the initiatives of the League of Nations Japan did not withdraw its troops from the Manchuria state of China. The imperialist ambition of the Italian dictator Mussolini got strength from the failure of Manchurian crisis and he attacked on African country Abyssinia and included it into his territory. The League of Nations imposed economic sanction over Italy at the protest of Abyssinia. But it did not make much impact and thereby the weaknesses of the League of Nations were exposed.

Consequently, small nations started to loose faith in the League of Nations. Being encouraged by the victory of Mussolini in Abyssinia, Hitler started defying treaty of Versailles. He annexed Czechoslovakia in 1938, and as soon as he attacked on Poland on 1st September, 1939, the Second World War began. The supporters of democracy were defeated in the Spanish Civil War in 1936 because of the intervention of Hitler and Mussolini. The League of Nations remained just a spectator of this intervention. It was a heavy blow on the ideals of democracy and a furor of war began under the leadership of autocrats. In addition to that, powerful nations, like England and France openly came into support of Italy in Greek-Italy conflict. The intervention of powerful nations on various international issues raised questions on the relevance of the League of Nations.

Though military rivalry between Germany and France was responsible for the failure of disarmament conference held in 1932. The League of Nations also did not take any effective measure to make it successful. Thus the League of Nations remained unsuccessful in solving other political and international problems. This failure finally gave birth to the circumstance of the Second World War.

Success of the League of Nations in other sectors

In spite of political failures the League of Nations played commendable role in other sectors. These tasks were mainly related to public welfare. The League of Nations played leading role in solving the problems of prisoners of wars and making them free from the torture-camps as well as rehabilitating the displaced and refugees after the war. The League of Nations got immense success in controlling epidemics and deathful infectious diseases. Various organisation of the League of Nations helped to improve the economic condition of many war affected nations of Europe. The League of Nations achieved tremendous success in solving social problems such as ending slavery system, stopping sale and purchase of women, reducing unreasonable trade of opium, protecting minorities, and establishing cooperation among political and social sectors on the basis of internationalism. The international labour organisation, founded under the aegis of the League of Nations, performed many commendable tasks. The organisation got managed different types of facilities for all the labourers of the world. The working hours and remuneration were fixed. The most significant achievement of the League of Nations was its contribution towards proper regulation and moderation of international law.

Causes of the failure of the League of Nations

The great effort of the League of Nations for international peace and mutual cooperation ended in a very short time, as the Second World War erupted in 1918, only after 21 years of the First World War. There were many reasons of that:

The practical success of the League of Nations in the then international politics depended on the big and powerful nations. But from the very beginning the League of Nations remained deprived of this support. The League of Nations was founded due to continuous effort of the then American president Woodrow Wilson. But later on America was not a member of this organisation itself. The separation of powerful nations from this international level organisation was also a cause of its failure. In the beginning Russia was kept out from its active membership but when the

European countries became stunned by the ambitious activities of Hitler, Russia was included in the League of Nations in order to maintain the balance of power. But till then League of Nations had become an ineffective organisation. Germany was included in the League of Nations through the treaty of Locarno in 1925. But its faithfulness was not to be trusted because the League of Nations was an integral part of the treaty of Versailles, for which Hitler had taken pledge to Annihilate. The policy of fascism of Mussolini, the autocrat ruler of Italy, had no faith in world peace at all. Mussolini believed that war was very important to the progress of human civilizations.

Now, in this situation, the effectiveness of the League of Nations depended only on the support of Britain and France but they were less interested in making the policies of the League of Nations successful they were rather more interested in fulfilling their interests of imperialism and capitalism, and so they misused the League of Nations to achieve their objectives.

The despotic and aggressive policy of powerful nations weakened the League of Nations. As all the nations opposed the Italian aggression on Abyssinia and demanded economic sanction on Italy. But the warning of Mussolini stopped England and France to act in this direction. This clearly exposed the weakness of the League of Nations. There was no opposition to the defying policy in the League of Nations. The sense of mutual non-cooperation among the members of League gave strength to the aggressive policy of Hitler. Actually, Hitler observed the reaction to each of his steps and having not seen any large scale opposition, he continued expansion of his empire.

The global economic depression of 1929-30 drew attention of all nations towards their economic interests. The economic nationalism created out of it proved irrelevant to the principles of the League of Nations, international peace and mutual non-cooperation. In addition to it, lack of its own military and polity constitution was not able to make its sanction effective. All these were responsible for the failure of the League of Nations.

If the evaluation of the success and failure of the League of Nations is done, barring its failure in some important political issues; its initiative of novel tradition of international cooperation and amity are a source of motivation for the present international politics. It showed a new path to the international politics by removing the demerits of hidden diplomacy. Later on, the establishment of the United Nations Organisation after the Second World War was consequence of experiment and experiences of acquired through it.

United Nations Organisation (UNO)

After the Second World War the need of maintaining peace was felt more than the First World War. The war proved more dreadful and baneful as atomic weapons were used. The Allied hopeful of victory, prior to the end of war, decided to establish an international organisation that would not be ineffective and faulty like the League of Nations rather thoroughly powerful, so that no menace emerge to the world peace. The establishment of the UNO after the Second World War was result of this development.



Just after the end of Second World War a poster of UNO in favour of international cooperation and support

- James Palace declaration 12th June, 1941.
- Atlantic Charter 14th August, 1941
- United Nations declaration 1st January, 1942
- Moscow declaration October, 1943
- Tehran declaration December, 1943
- Yalta Conference Feb. 1944 (U.S.S.R.)

These declaration paved the way for establishment of United Nations Organisation.



Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin in Yalta Conference; February, 1945

Background of establishment of United Nations Organisation and Sanfransisco Conference

In 1944 during a meeting Dams tan Oakes in Washington D. C. of the U.S.A. such an organisation was visualized that contained many elements of the League of Nations. But there was inclusion of some ideas that lesson could be taken from the shortcomings of the League of Nations. The representative members of the Allied Countries America, Great Britain and Russia assembled in the conference. The new charter was accepted at the conference that began on 25th April, 1945 in the city of Sanfransisco, in America. On 26th June, 1945 the representative of fifty countries, including India, signed the charter. On 24th October, 1945 all its conditions were accepted and on the same date the United Nations Organisation came into existence. The cognomination of the organisation was done by Franklin D. Roosevelt the then President of America.



The emblem of United Nations Organisation, the world map is surrounded by two olive branches

Aims and Objectives of United Nations Organisation (UNO)

The aims and objectives of UNO is mentioned in the articles of its charter, in which the following important objectives were inherent.

1. To maintain peace, to check aggression and solve international disputes peacefully
2. To make friendly relations among the world nations stronger on the basis of the principles of self-determination and equity.
3. To acquire international support to solve the economic, social and cultural problems of various nations and arouse the sense of respect and honour among nations towards human rights and freedom.
4. To make United Nations Organisation such a centre where harmony and balance could be established among the functioning to achieve the goals.

Principles of United Nations Organisation

To achieve the above mentioned goals and objectives few principles were prescribed in the charter. They are here under:

- The organisation will based on the principles of nations' equality.
- Every member nation will honour the charter of United Nations Organisation and will not violate it.
- All member nations will settle their quarrels and disputes peacefully.
- Member of the organisation will not destroy the freedom and territorial integrity of any other nation by aggression or any other ways.
- Any nation that violates the rules of charter will not get any support from any member nation.
- If any non-member country will try to disturb peace, the organisation will act against her.
- United Nations Organisation will not interfere in internal matters of any member nation.

The feeling of world peace, security and co-existence is inherent in the above objective and principles of United Nations Organisation. It is certainly helpful in maintaining international fraternity and equity. The assembly of most of the nations of the world under its banner proves that even today the relevance of its principles and objects are same as it was at the time of establishment. Presently, there are 192 members of this organisation. Montenegro is its 192nd member that received its membership in 2006.

Organs of the United Nations Organisation

The headquarters of UNO is situated in New York, a city in the USA. There are six main organs of UNO, having duty to provide help on international level in the field of social, political, economic and others. The main organs are:

1. General Assembly

This is the most important organ of the United Nations Organisation. It consists of the representatives of all member nations and every member is entitled to cast a vote and participate in the debate. The Assembly meets once in a year. Usually, all important functions of UNO are carried out by the organs such as granting membership to nations and their expulsion, election of secretary general and decision on other economic issues are taken by the Assembly.

2. Security Council

The security council has primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security. In political matters, the security council is executive body of the UN. It consists of 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members.

The five permanent members of UNO are America, England, France, Russia and China.

3. The Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) studies matters related to social, cultural, educational and health at international level and gives information to the security council on its demand. It has separate groups for different fields in the world. As UNICEF, UNESCO, Human Right Commission, International Labour Organisation etc.

4. The Trusteeship Council

This body of the UN works as international trustee for the security of the interests of the inhabitants of the region where there is government with full autonomy. As four groups of island of Micronesia in the Pacific Ocean are under governance of the United States of America by the director of this organisation. Thus this organisation has four objectives:

- a. To increase international peace and security.
- b. To help the people in the development of self-government and independence.
- c. To increase faith towards human rights and freedom
- d. To exercise equality in the matters related to social economic and commerce.

5. International Court of Justice

This is a main legal institution of UN. It was founded in the aegis of the League of Nations and decided international disputes. But with the establishment of UN it was accorded status of an International Court with its headquarters at Hague (the Netherlands).

6. The Secretariat

Among the six bodies of UN the secretariat has its own importance. The Secretary General is the Chief Executive Officer of the organ. This is headquarter of UN where representatives of the member nations are called to work as employee. The six recognised language for UN are English, French, Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Spanish.

First Secretary General of UN was Trigveli. The Present one is Banki Moon of South Korea.



A Scene of the General Assembly of UN

Success and Failures of United Nations

The achievement of United Nations in both political and non-political sections have been great. The aspects of its success and failure can be discovered these achievements. The UN has played a very important role in turning off many war like situations. It may not be fully correct but it can be said that its role stopped the world to reach the threshold of the third world war. It played a very successful role in mitigating the ferocity of disputes and preparing a platform for mutual discussion. Various institutions of UN extended significant support in eradicating economic, social and health related problem in the undeveloped, backward and developing countries in the world. The role of UN has been outstanding in solving the problems, created out of natural catastrophe, such as rehabilitation work, checking epidemics and economic compensation.

As the world peace has been given the highest priority in the principles and objectives of UN so the organisation is making efforts in this direction. In this context the success of UN is noteworthy.

The role of UN has been satisfactory in reducing the international tensions among various countries in Asia. In 1946, UN compelled for the withdrawal of Russian forces living in Iran illegally. The UN succeeded in 1953 in ending the war continued between North and South Korea. In 1956 did a commendable job by deploying international Army over Suez issue. In 1959, UN sent its team to come over the Lebanon crisis. The situation in West Asia over Palestine-Israel issue had become grave but intervention of UN lesser it to a great extent and succeeded in diminishing tensions among Arab States. In 1988, the eight year long war between Iran and Iraq was ended and established peace in that region by the efforts of Pere de Culler, the Secretary General of UN. UN took very strong steps for a ceasefire in Indo-Pak war in 1965. Pakistan attacked on India in 1971 over the question of Bangladesh's freedom, the Security Council made successful effort towards freedom of war captives. Many disputes and problems arouse in granting independence in Africa continent due to European colonial policy.

Due to European colonial policy many disputes and problems arose in granting freedom in Africa continent and civil war erupted there; but UN played a very effective role here in solving the problem. Even in present time the role of UN peace force is very significant in preventing civil war in Nigeria, Angola, Sierra Leone and other countries. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990 was established illegal by UN and Kuwait was freed from Iraqi forces.

UN's failure

Through UN got many achievements in maintaining world peace by its political role, yet it has been unsuccessful in solving many disputes. It has not yet got expected success in terms of disarmament. UN proved unsuccessful in solving the problems related to Arab-Israeli war (Palestine), Namibia issue, apartheid policy in South Africa and the problem of Iraq and Kashmir.

Causes of failure

Lack of Economic self reliance

All economic activities of UN are fulfilled by the economic contribution of the member nation. So the member having large contribution has its supremacy. As the headquarter of UN is in New York in America and America bears half of the expenditure of UN, so its intervention in the functioning of UN is obvious.

Factionalism

There has been influence of various groups in UN and so it has to face difficulties and to work on many issues. The effect of G-8, the group of developed nations and strategically powerful groups NATO, SEATO, WARSAW etc. has diminished the importance of UN and their political interventions have also increased its failure.

Regional Imbalance in the Security Council

Due to lack of representation of all continents in the security council problems arise. Among five permanent members of the security council three countries represent Europe. Actually more problems are related to Africa, South America and the Asian countries, and their representation as

permanent member in the security council (except China) is nil. It is worth noting that only the permanent members avail the right of Veto, the last means of intervention on any issue. It is almost misused for the fulfilment of the interests of the powerful nations.

Lack of permanent Army

There is a need of army to control any aggressive nation. Unfortunately, UN does not have its own army. After declaring a country assailant, by the security council, the aggression is controlled only after getting military from the member nations. Many a time it is felt that the member nation is reluctant to send its force. But India having full trust in the values of United Nation, has sent its forces on many occasions, under aegis of the United Nation Organisation.

Ambition of Industrial Countries

The character of imperialism is transforming. Now, the countries attack directly rather than fulfil their political objectives through economic pressure. Due to this the world is divided into groups of developed and developing countries. The ongoing disputes in World Trade Organisation, oil related politics and the outsourcing in the service sectors are few examples.

It can be said that the endeavour of this organisation towards world peace has not been ineffective. Though, it might be unsuccessful on some issues, that is discussable, but it has been successful in reducing international tension, to have check on aggressive nation and its non-political affairs. The success and failure of any organisation depends on the will and view points of the members. So, there is need to make the objectives and principles of the organisation successful. Only then the effort of the world peace can be successful.

EXERCISE

In each of the following questions there are four options a, b, c, d among which one is correct or the most suitable. To give answer to the question write the symbol, against question number, which is right or the most suitable one.

I. Objective questions

1. The headquarters of the secretariat of the League of Nations was:
a. in New York b. in Paris
c. in Genva d. in Berlin
2. Which was not a member of the League of Nations?
a. England b. the United States of America
c. France d. Germany
3. What was the main objective of formation of League of Nations?
a. to prepare background for the second world war
b. to prevent wars in future
c. to develop misunderstandings among nations
d. none of these
4. League of Nations was established in the year
a. 1945 b. 1925 c. 1920 d, 1895
5. Which among the following is the main organ of United Nations Organisation?
a. The Economic and Social Council
b. The International Court of Justice
c. The Security Council
d. International Labour Organisation
6. Where is the headquarters of the United Nations situated?
a. Geneva b. Washington D.C.
c. New York d. London
7. United Nations Organisation was outcome of which conference?
a. Dam Stan Oakes b. San Fransisco
c. Geneva d. Paris

8. What is the number of United Nations Organisation at present?
- | | |
|--------|--------|
| a. 111 | b. 192 |
| c. 190 | d. 290 |

II. Very short answer question:

1. How many permanent and non-permanent members are there in the Security Council?
2. Which is the main organ of League of Nations?
3. On which date was United Nations established?
4. Who is the Present Secretary General of UNO?
5. How many articles are there in the charter of UN?
6. What is the number of non-permanent members in the security council?
7. Who is the Chief Officer of UNO?

III. Short answer questions:

1. How was the League of Nations established?
2. Why did league of Nations not succeed in solving the question of disarmament?
3. What was the reason of failure of League of Nations? Write any four reasons.
4. Write the objectives and principles of UNO.
5. What are the non-political functions of United Nations Organisation?
6. Mention any four achievements of UNO.

IV. Long answer question?

1. Mention the circumstances of the establishment of League of Nations.
2. Explain the reasons of the failure of League of Nations.
3. Mention the relevance of the objectives and Principles of UNO.
4. Explain the role of main organs of UNO.
5. Write the importance of United Nations Organisation.

