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Chapter 2: Contemporary Centres of Power

Complete 20-Part Comprehensive Master Study Material, European Union (EU), ASEAN, Rise of the Chinese Economy, India-China Relations, Japan & South Korea, NCERT Solutions & Practice Test

SUBJECT & STREAM

Political Science (Contemporary World Politics) •
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TARGET CLASS & LEVEL

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TEXTBOOK & CHAPTER

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Class 12 Political Science (NCERT) • Chapter 2: Contemporary Centres of Power

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PART 3: CHAPTER OVERVIEW & CONCEPTUAL ARCHITECTURE

What this chapter is about: After the end of the bipolar structure of world politics in the early 1990s, it became clear that alternative centres of political and economic power could limit America's dominance. This chapter examines the emergence of two major regional organisations—the **European Union (EU)** in Europe and the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** in Asia—alongside the dramatic economic rise of **China**, as well as the economic and strategic power of **Japan** and **South Korea**.

Why this chapter is important: It illustrates how historical enemies in Europe and Southeast Asia overcame war and confrontation through regional economic and political integration, and how China transformed from a closed command economy into the world's fastest-growing economic powerhouse through phased reforms.

The Central Theme: "How do regional organisations (EU, ASEAN) and emerging Asian powerhouses (China, Japan, South Korea) act as alternative centres of power in a post-Cold War world?"

PART 4: LEARNING OBJECTIVES & EXAMINATION COMPETENCIES

1. **Trace European Integration:** Sequence the evolution of the EU from the 1948 Marshall Plan and OEEC to the 1957 EEC and the 1992 Maastricht Treaty.
2. **Evaluate EU Power & Limits:** Analyze the economic, political, diplomatic, and military power of the European Union alongside its internal contradictions (Euro-skepticism, Brexit).
3. **Explain ASEAN & the 'ASEAN Way':** Describe the formation of ASEAN (1967 Bangkok Declaration), its 10 members, the 'ASEAN Way', the three pillars of the 2003 ASEAN Community, and Vision 2020.
4. **Analyze China's Economic Rise:** Contrast Mao's command economy with Deng Xiaoping's 1978 'Open Door' policy, Zhou Enlai's 'Four Modernisations', phased privatisation, and Special Economic Zones (SEZs).
5. **Examine India-China Relations:** Evaluate both historical cooperation (*Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai*, trade boom) and contentious irritants (1962 war, Tibet, border disputes, China-Pakistan nexus).
6. **Assess Japan & South Korea:** Summarize Japan's technological-economic strength (OECD, G-7, Article 9) and South Korea's "Miracle on the Han River".

PART 5: COMPLETE HEADING-BY-HEADING COMPREHENSIVE NOTES

1. European Union (EU): From Ruins of War to Supranational Union

- **Post-WWII Dilemma (1945):** As the Second World War came to an end, European leaders grappled with the 'Question of Europe': should Europe be allowed to revert to its old rivalries or be reconstructed on principles and institutions that would contribute to a positive conception of international relations?
- **Shattered Assumptions:** The Second World War shattered the assumptions and structures on which the European states had based their relations. In 1945, the European states confronted the ruin of their economies and the destruction of the structures on which Europe had been founded.
- **Role of the Cold War & The Marshall Plan (1948):** European integration after 1945 was aided by the Cold War. America extended massive financial help for reviving Europe's economy under what was called the 'Marshall Plan'. The US also created a new collective security structure under **NATO**.
- **Step-by-Step Institutional Evolution:**

1. **1948 – OEEC:** Under the Marshall Plan, the **Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)** was established in **1948** to channel aid to the west European states. It became a forum where western European states began to cooperate on trade and economic issues.
 2. **1949 – Council of Europe:** Established in **1949**, marking another step forward in political cooperation.
 3. **1957 – EEC:** The process of economic integration of European capitalist countries proceeded step by step, leading to the formation of the **European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957**.
 4. **1979 – European Parliament:** This process acquired a political dimension with the creation of the European Parliament (first direct elections held in June 1979).
 5. **1992 – Formation of the European Union (EU):** The collapse of the Soviet bloc put Europe on a fast track and resulted in the establishment of the **European Union in 1992** (via the Treaty of Maastricht). The foundation was thus laid for a common foreign and security policy, cooperation on justice and home affairs, and the creation of a single currency (**Euro**).
- **Evolution from Economic Union to Political Nation-State:** The European Union has evolved over time from an economic union to an increasingly political one. The EU has started to act more as a **nation state**. While the attempts to have a Constitution for the EU failed, it has its own **flag, anthem, founding date, and currency**. It also has some form of a common foreign and security policy in its dealings with other nations, and tried to expand areas of cooperation while acquiring new members, especially from the erstwhile Soviet bloc.

NCERT BOX: THE EUROPEAN UNION FLAG & TIMELINE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The European Union Flag: The circle of **twelve gold stars** stands for solidarity and harmony between the peoples of Europe. It has **twelve stars** because the number twelve is traditionally the symbol of **perfection, completeness, and unity**.

Key Milestones in the Timeline of European Integration:

- **1951 April:** Six west European countries—**France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg**—sign the **Treaty of Paris** establishing the **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**.
- **1957 March 25:** These six countries sign the **Treaties of Rome** establishing the **European Economic Community (EEC)** and the **European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)**.
- **1973 January:** Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom join the EEC.
- **1979 June:** First direct elections to the European Parliament.
- **1981 January:** Greece joins the EC.
- **1985 June:** The **Schengen Agreement** abolishes border controls among the EC members.
- **1986 January:** Spain and Portugal join the EC.
- **1990 October:** Unification of Germany.
- **1992 February 7:** The **Treaty of Maastricht** was signed establishing the European Union (EU).
- **1993 January:** The single market was created.
- **1995 January:** Austria, Finland, and Sweden join the EU.
- **2002 January:** **Euro**, the new currency, was introduced in the 12 EU members.
- **2004 May:** Ten new members, mostly from the former Soviet bloc (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia), join the EU.
- **2007 January:** Bulgaria and Romania join the EU; Slovenia adopts the Euro.
- **2009 December:** The **Lisbon Treaty** came into force.
- **2012:** The EU is awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**.
- **2013:** Croatia becomes the 28th member of the EU.
- **2016:** Referendum in Britain; 51.9 per cent voters decide that Britain exit (**Brexit**) from the EU.

Dimensions of EU Power: What Makes the EU a Highly Influential Organisation?

1. Economic Influence:

- The EU is one of the world's largest economies with a colossal GDP, next to that of the United States.
- Its currency, the **Euro**, can pose a threat to the dominance of the US dollar.
- Its share of world trade is significantly larger than that of the United States, allowing it to be more assertive in trade disputes with the US and China.
- Its economic power gives it influence over its closest neighbours as well as in Asia and Africa. It also functions as an important bloc in international economic organisations such as the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**.

2. Political and Diplomatic Influence:

- One member of the EU, **France** (and earlier Britain before Brexit), holds a **permanent seat on the UN Security Council**, and the EU includes several non-permanent members of the UNSC.
- This has enabled the EU to influence some US policies such as the current US position on **Iran's nuclear programme**.
- Its use of **diplomacy, economic investments, and negotiations** rather than coercion and military force has been effective, as in the case of its dialogue with China on human rights and environmental degradation.

3. Military Influence:

- Militarily, the EU's combined armed forces are the **second largest in the world**.
- Its total spending on defence is **second after the US**.
- One EU member state, **France**, also has **nuclear arsenals of approximately 335 nuclear warheads**.
- It is also the world's second most important source of **space and communications technology**.

4. Internal Limitations & Contradictions of the EU:

- As a supranational organisation, the EU is able to intervene in economic, political, and social areas, but in many areas its member states have their own foreign relations and defence policies that are often at odds with each other.
- For example, Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair was America's partner in the **Iraq invasion (2003)**, and many of the EU's newer members made up the US-led '*coalition of the willing*', whereas **Germany and France opposed American policy**.
- There is also a deep-seated '**Euro-skepticism**' in some parts of Europe about the EU's integrationist agenda. Thus, for example, Britain's former Prime Minister, **Margaret Thatcher**, kept the UK out of the European Market (and Britain later voted for Brexit in 2016). **Denmark and Sweden** have resisted the Maastricht Treaty and the adoption of the Euro, the common European currency. This limits the ability of the EU to act in matters of foreign relations and defence.

2. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- **Historical Background:** Before and during the Second World War, Southeast Asia suffered immensely from repeated colonialism, both European and Japanese. At the end of the war, it confronted problems of nation-building, the ravages of poverty and economic backwardness, and the pressure to align with one great power or another during the Cold War.
- **Failure of Bandung & NAM for Informal Cooperation:** Efforts at Asian and Third World unity, such as the **Bandung Conference** and the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**, were ineffective in establishing conventions for informal cooperation and interaction. Hence, the Southeast Asian nations sought an alternative by establishing **ASEAN**.

- **Establishment (1967 Bangkok Declaration):** ASEAN was established in **1967** by **five countries** of this region—**Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand**—by signing the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- **Expansion to 10 Members:** Over the years, **Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar (Burma), and Cambodia** joined ASEAN, taking its strength to **ten**.
- **Core Objectives of ASEAN:**
 1. *Primary Objective:* To accelerate **economic growth** and through that '**social progress and cultural development**'.
 2. *Secondary Objective:* To promote **regional peace and stability** based on the rule of law and the principles of the United Nations Charter.
- **The 'ASEAN Way':** Unlike the EU, there is **little desire in ASEAN for supranational structures and institutions**. ASEAN countries have celebrated what has become known as the '**ASEAN Way**'—a form of interaction that is **informal, non-confrontationist, and cooperative**. The respect for **national sovereignty** is critical to the functioning of ASEAN.
- **The ASEAN Flag & Logo:** In the ASEAN logo, the **ten stalks of paddy (rice)** represent the ten Southeast Asian countries bound together in friendship and solidarity. The circle symbolises the unity of ASEAN.

The Three Pillars of the ASEAN Community (2003)

With some of the fastest-growing economies in the world, ASEAN broadened its objectives beyond the economic and social spheres. In **2003**, ASEAN moved along the path of the EU by agreeing to establish an **ASEAN Community** comprising **three pillars**:

1. **The ASEAN Security Community:**
 - Based on the conviction that outstanding territorial disputes should **not escalate into armed confrontation**.
 - By 2003, ASEAN had several agreements in place by which member states promised to uphold peace, neutrality, cooperation, non-interference, and respect for national differences and sovereign rights.
 - The **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**, which was established in **1994**, is the organisation that carries out coordination of security and foreign policy.
2. **The ASEAN Economic Community:**
 - While the ASEAN region as a whole is a much smaller economy compared to the US, the EU, and Japan, its economy is growing much faster than all these, accounting for its rapid growth in influence both in the region and beyond.
 - *Objectives:* To create a **common market and production base** within ASEAN states and to aid social and economic development in the region.
 - It also likes to improve the existing **ASEAN Dispute Settlement Mechanism** to resolve economic disputes.
 - ASEAN has focused on creating a **Free Trade Area (FTA)** for investment, labour, and services. The US and China have already moved fast to negotiate FTAs with ASEAN.
3. **The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community:** Promotes cultural and educational exchanges and social harmony across the ten nations.

ASEAN Vision 2020 & India–ASEAN Relations

- **Components of ASEAN Vision 2020:**
 - Defined an **outward-looking role** for ASEAN in the international community.
 - Builds on the existing ASEAN policy to **encourage negotiation over conflicts** in the region. Thus, ASEAN has mediated the end of the **Cambodian conflict**, the **East Timor crisis**, and meets annually to discuss East Asian cooperation.
- **India's 'Look East' (1991) and 'Act East' (2014) Policy:**

- During the Cold War years, Indian foreign policy did not pay adequate attention to ASEAN. But in recent years, India has tried to make amends under its 'Look East' (since 1991) and 'Act East' (since 2014) policies.
- India signed trade agreements with three ASEAN members—**Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand**.
- The **ASEAN-India FTA** came into effect in **2010**.
- On 25 January 2018, leaders of all ten ASEAN nations attended the Silver Jubilee Summit in New Delhi and were chief guests at India's Republic Day parade.
- **ASEAN's True Strength:** Lies in its policies of interaction and consultation with member states, with dialogue partners, and with other non-regional organisations. It is the **only regional association in Asia** that provides a political forum where Asian countries and the major powers can discuss political and security concerns.

3. The Rise of the Chinese Economy

- **Economic Trajectory:** China's economic success since **1978** has been linked to its rise as a great power. China has been the fastest-growing economy since the reforms first began there, and is projected to overtake the US as the world's largest economy by **2040**. Its economic integration into the region makes it the driver of East Asian growth.
- **Mao Era Command Economy (1949–1970s):**
 - After the inception of the **People's Republic of China in 1949** following the communist revolution under the leadership of **Mao**, its economy was based on the **Soviet model**.
 - The economically backward communist China chose to sever its links with the capitalist world and rely on its own resources (and for a brief period in the 1950s, on Soviet aid and advice).
 - *The Model:* To create a **state-owned heavy industries sector** from the capital accumulated from agriculture. As it was short of foreign exchange needed to buy technology and goods on the world market, China decided to substitute imports by domestic goods.
 - *Strengths of the Mao Model:* Allowed China to use its resources to establish the foundations of an industrial economy on a scale that did not exist before. Employment and social welfare were assured to all citizens, and China moved ahead of most developing countries in educating its citizens and ensuring better health for them. The economy also grew at a respectable rate of 5–6 per cent.
 - *Crisis of the Mao Model:* An annual growth of **2–3 per cent in population** meant that economic growth was insufficient to meet the needs of a growing population. Agricultural production was not sufficient to generate a surplus for industry. Its industrial production was not growing fast enough, international trade was minimal, and per capita income was very low.
- **Major Policy Decisions of the 1970s (The Turning Point):**
 1. **1972 – Ending Isolation:** China ended its political and economic isolation with the establishment of relations with the **United States in 1972**.
 2. **1973 – The Four Modernisations:** Premier **Zhou Enlai** proposed the '*four modernisations*' (**agriculture, industry, science and technology, and military**) in **1973**.
 3. **1978 – The 'Open Door' Policy:** By **1978**, the then leader **Deng Xiaoping** announced the '**open door**' policy and economic reforms in China. The policy was to generate higher productivity by investments of capital and technology from abroad.
- **China's Step-by-Step Transition (No 'Shock Therapy'):**
 - China followed its own path in introducing a market economy. The Chinese **did not go for 'shock therapy'**, but opened their economy **step by step**.
 - **1982:** The **privatisation of agriculture in 1982** was followed by the **privatisation of industry in 1998**.
 - **Special Economic Zones (SEZs):** Trade barriers were eliminated **only in Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** where foreign investors could set up enterprises. In China, the state played and continues to play a central

role in setting up a market economy.

- **Positive Outcomes of the New Economic Policies:**

- Helped the Chinese economy to break from stagnation.
- **Privatisation of agriculture** led to a remarkable rise in agricultural production and **rural incomes**.
- High personal savings in the rural economy lead to an exponential growth in **rural industry**.
- The Chinese economy, including both industry and agriculture, grew at a faster rate.
- The new trading laws and the creation of **Special Economic Zones** led to a phenomenal rise in foreign trade. China has become the most important destination for **foreign direct investment (FDI)** anywhere in the world.
- It has large **foreign exchange reserves** that now allow it to make big investments in other countries.
- China's accession to the **WTO in 2001** has been a further step in its opening to the outside world.

- **Limitations & Challenges of Chinese Reforms:**

- While the Chinese economy has improved dramatically, **not everyone in China has received the benefits** of the reforms.
- **Unemployment** has risen in China with nearly **100 million people** looking for jobs.
- **Female employment and conditions of work** are as bad as in Europe of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- **Environmental degradation** and **corruption** have increased besides a rise in **economic inequality** between rural and urban residents and between coastal and inland provinces.
- **Regional & Global Clout:** However, regionally and globally, China has become an economic power to reckon with. The integration of China's economy and the inter-dependencies that this has created have enabled China to have considerable influence with its trade partners. Hence, its outstanding issues with Japan, the US, ASEAN, and Russia have been tempered by economic considerations. It hopes to resolve its differences with **Taiwan**, which it regards as a renegade province, by integrating it closely into its economy. Fears of China's rise have also been mitigated by its contribution to the stability of the **ASEAN economies after the 1997 financial crisis**. Its more outward-looking investment and aid policies in Latin America and Africa are increasingly projecting it as a global player on the side of the developing economies.

4. India–China Relations

- **Historical Context:** India and China were great powers in Asia before the advent of Western imperialism. China had considerable influence and control on the periphery of its borders based on its unique tributary system. In various regions in India too, dynasties and empires extended their influence beyond their borders. However, the regions where India and China exercised influence **rarely overlapped**; thus, there was limited political and cultural interaction between the two, and neither country was very familiar with the other.
 - **Post-Independence Optimism ('Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai'):** In the twentieth century, when both nations confronted each other after India gained independence from Britain and China expelled foreign powers, there was hope that both would come together to shape the future of the developing world and of Asia particularly. For a brief while, the slogan of '**Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai**' was popular, and the **Panchsheel Agreement** (Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence) was signed on 29 April 1954.
 - **Contentious Issues & The 1962 War:**
 1. *The Tibet Takeover (1950) & Dalai Lama's Asylum (1959):* Soon after independence, both states were involved in differences arising from the Chinese takeover of **Tibet in 1950** and the final settlement of the Sino-Indian border. When the Tibetan spiritual leader, the **Dalai Lama**, sought and obtained political asylum in India in 1959, China alleged that India was allowing anti-China activities.
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2. *The 1962 Border Conflict*: China and India were involved in a border conflict in **1962** over competing territorial claims principally in **Arunachal Pradesh** and in the **Aksai Chin region of Ladakh**.
 3. *Pakistan Nexus*: Military conflict over a border dispute marred that hope, and China provided military and nuclear assistance to Pakistan.
- **Diplomatic Freeze & Gradual Improvement (1976–1988)**:
 - The conflict of 1962, in which India suffered military reverses, had long-term implications for India–China relations. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were **downgraded until 1976**.
 - Thereafter, relations between the two countries began to improve slowly. After the change in China's political leadership from the mid to late 1970s, China's policy became more pragmatic and less ideological. So it was prepared to put off the settlement of contentious issues while improving relations with India.
 - A series of talks to resolve the border issue were also initiated in **1981**.
 - **Rajiv Gandhi's Historic Visit (December 1988)**: Since the end of the Cold War, there have been significant changes in India–China relations. Their relations now have a strategic as well as an economic dimension. Both view themselves as rising powers in global politics, and both would like to play a major role in the Asian economy and politics. **Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988** provided the impetus for an improvement in India–China relations.
 - **Recent Cooperation & Persistent Irritants**:
 - Since 1988, both governments have taken measures to contain conflict and maintain '*peace and tranquility*' on the border. They have also signed agreements on cultural exchanges and cooperation in science and technology, and opened **four border posts** for trade.
 - **Trade Boom**: With India–China trade growing at 30 per cent per year since 1999, a more positive perspective on relations with China has emerged. Bilateral trade between India and China has increased from **\$338 million in 1992 to more than \$84 billion in 2017**.
 - **Global Cooperation**: At the global level, India and China have adopted similar policies in international economic institutions like the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**.
 - **Nuclear Tests (1998)**: India's nuclear tests in **1998**, sometimes justified on the grounds of a threat from China, did not stop greater interaction. It is true that China was seen as contributing to the build-up of Pakistan's nuclear programme. China's military relations with Bangladesh and Myanmar were viewed as hostile to Indian interests in South Asia. However, none of these issues is likely to lead to conflict between the two, and talks to resolve the boundary question have continued alongside military-to-military cooperation, booming transportation and communication links, and increasing frequency of high-level visits.
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NCERT BOXES: JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA AS ALTERNATIVE CENTRES OF POWER**1. JAPAN:**

- **Global High-Tech Brands:** Famous for Japanese brands such as **Sony, Panasonic, Canon, Suzuki, Honda, Toyota, and Mazda.**
- **Resource Scarcity vs. Technological Mastery:** Japan has very **few natural resources** and imports most of its raw materials. Even then, it progressed rapidly after the end of the Second World War.
- **Economic Milestones:** Japan became a member of the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1964.** In 2017, it is the **third-largest economy** in the world. It is the **only Asian member of the G-7.** It is the eleventh most populous nation in the world.
- **Nuclear History & UN Role:** Japan is the **only nation that suffered the destruction caused by nuclear bombs** (Hiroshima and Nagasaki). It is the **second-largest contributor to the regular budget of the UN,** contributing almost 10 per cent of the total.
- **Security & Article 9:** Japan has a security alliance with the US since **1951.** As per **Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution**, *"the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."* Although Japan's military expenditure is only **one per cent of its GDP,** it is the seventh-largest in the world.

2. SOUTH KOREA:

- **Division & UN Membership:** The Korean peninsula was divided into **South Korea (Republic of Korea)** and **North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)** at the end of the Second World War along the **38th Parallel.** The Korean War during **1950–53** and dynamics of the Cold War era further intensified the rivalries between the two sides. Both the Koreas finally became Members of the UN on **17 September 1991.**
- **"Miracle on the Han River":** Meanwhile, South Korea emerged as a centre of power in Asia. Between the **1960s and the 1980s,** it rapidly developed into an economic power, which is termed as the **"Miracle on the Han River".**
- **OECD & Economic Standing:** Signalling its all-round development, South Korea became a Member of the **OECD in 1996.** In 2017, its economy is the **eleventh-largest** in the world and its military expenditure is the tenth-largest.
- **High Human Development (HDI Rank 18):** According to the Human Development Report 2016, the HDI rank of South Korea is **18.** Major factors responsible for its high human development include: *"successful land reforms, rural development, extensive human resources development, and rapid equitable economic growth."* Other factors are export orientation, strong redistribution policies, public infrastructure development, and effective institutions and governance.
- **Renowned Brands:** South Korean brands such as **Samsung, LG, and Hyundai** have become renowned in India and across the globe.

PART 7: COMPREHENSIVE CHAPTER GLOSSARY & DEFINITIONS

- **Marshall Plan (1948):** Massive US financial reconstruction aid extended to revive Western European economies after WWII.
- **Treaty of Maastricht (1992):** The landmark treaty signed on 7 February 1992 that formally established the European Union (EU) and laid the groundwork for the Euro currency.
- **Schengen Agreement (1985):** An agreement among European states that abolished internal border passport controls, allowing free movement across member states.

- **Euro-skepticism:** Political opposition or skepticism within certain European states (such as Britain, Denmark, and Sweden) toward deeper supranational integration and the common Euro currency.
- **Bangkok Declaration (1967):** The founding document signed by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand that established ASEAN.
- **The 'ASEAN Way':** A distinctive style of regional interaction among ASEAN members that is informal, non-confrontationist, and cooperative, strictly respecting national sovereignty.
- **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF, 1994):** The security arm of ASEAN that carries out coordination of security and foreign policy among member states and major world powers.
- **Four Modernisations (1973):** The reform programme proposed by Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai targeting Agriculture, Industry, Science & Technology, and Military.
- **Open Door Policy (1978):** The landmark economic reform policy announced by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping to invite foreign capital and technology to boost productivity.
- **Special Economic Zones (SEZs):** Designated coastal geographic zones in China where trade barriers were eliminated and foreign investors were permitted to establish enterprises.
- **Miracle on the Han River:** The rapid economic transformation of South Korea from a war-torn agrarian nation into an industrial powerhouse between the 1960s and 1980s.

PART 8: MASTER COMPARISON TABLES FOR BOARD EXAMINATIONS

Table 1: European Union (EU) vs. ASEAN

Evaluation Parameter	European Union (EU)	ASEAN
Origin & Founding	Evolved from OEEC (1948) and EEC (1957) into the EU via the 1992 Maastricht Treaty .	Established in 1967 by 5 Southeast Asian nations signing the Bangkok Declaration .
Institutional Model	Supranational organisation acting increasingly like a political nation-state (own Parliament, flag, anthem, Euro currency).	Inter-governmental association rejecting supranational structures; follows the informal, cooperative ' ASEAN Way '.
Economic & Military Scale	Colossal GDP; Euro challenges US dollar; 2nd largest combined military spending; France has ~335 nuclear warheads & UNSC veto.	Smaller total GDP than EU/US, but one of the fastest-growing economies; relies on consultation via ARF (1994) rather than military alliances.
Flag Symbolism	Circle of 12 gold stars symbolizing perfection, completeness, and unity.	Circle containing 10 stalks of paddy (rice) representing the 10 Southeast Asian members bound in solidarity.

Table 2: China's Command Economy (Mao Era) vs. Post-1978 Open Door Economy

Parameter	Command Economy (1949–1978)	Post-1978 Reformed Economy (Deng Era)
External Orientation	Closed economy; severed links with capitalist world; import substitution by domestic goods.	'Open Door' Policy (1978); Special Economic Zones (SEZs); joined WTO in 2001; world's top FDI destination.
Agriculture & Industry	Collectivised agriculture; state-owned heavy industries; slow growth (5–6%) eaten up by 2–3% population growth.	Phased opening: privatisation of agriculture (1982) and industry (1998); boom in rural incomes and rural industry.
Social Welfare vs. Inequality	Assured employment, universal education, and healthcare, but low per capita income and shortages.	Phenomenal GDP and trade growth, huge forex reserves, but ~100 million unemployed, environmental damage, and rural-coastal inequality.

PART 9 & 12: CONCEPTUAL SCHEMAS & HIGH-PRIORITY REVISION FACTS

CONTEMPORARY CENTRES OF POWER (CHAPTER 2 MIND MAP)

- 1. European Union (EU)
 - Evolution: 1948 Marshall Plan/OEEC → 1949 Council of Europe → 1957 EEC → 1992 Maastricht Treaty (EU)
 - Power: Massive GDP, Euro currency, France UNSC seat & ~335 nuclear warheads
 - Limits: Euro-skepticism (Thatcher, Denmark/Sweden refused Euro, 2016 Brexit), Iraq war split
- 2. ASEAN (Southeast Asia)
 - Founded: 1967 Bangkok Declaration (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand) + 5 = 10 members
 - Philosophy: 'ASEAN Way' (informal, non-confrontationist, sovereignty-respecting)
 - 2003 Pillars: ASEAN Security (ARF 1994), ASEAN Economic (FTAs), ASEAN Socio-Cultural
- 3. Rise of China
 - Turning Points: 1972 US ties → 1973 Four Modernisations (Zhou Enlai) → 1978 Open Door (Deng Xiaoping)
 - Phased Reforms: 1982 Agriculture privatised → 1998 Industry privatised → SEZs → 2001 WTO
 - India-China: 1954 Panchsheel, 1962 Border War (Aksai Chin/Arunachal), 1988 Rajiv Gandhi visit, \$84B+ trade
- 4. Japan & South Korea
 - Japan: OECD (1964), 3rd largest economy, only Asian G-7 member, Article 9 renounces war
 - South Korea: "Miracle on the Han River" (1960s–80s), UN (1991), OECD (1996), HDI rank 18

PART 13: COMPLETE NCERT TEXTBOOK EXERCISE SOLUTIONS

Q1. Arrange the following in chronological order: (a) China's accession to WTO; (b) Establishment of the EEC; (c) Establishment of the EU; (d) Birth of ARF.

Correct Chronological Order:

1. **(b) Establishment of the EEC (1957)**
2. **(c) Establishment of the EU (1992)**
3. **(d) Birth of ARF (1994)**
4. **(a) China's accession to WTO (2001)**

Q2. The 'ASEAN Way':

(a) Reflects the life style of ASEAN members

(b) A form of interaction among ASEAN members that is informal and cooperative

(c) The defence policy followed by the ASEAN members • (d) The road that connects all the ASEAN members.

Q3. Which of the following nations adopted an 'open door' policy?

(a) China (announced by Deng Xiaoping in December 1978).

Q4. Fill in the blanks:

a. The border conflict between China and India in 1962 was principally over **Arunachal Pradesh** and **Aksai Chin (Ladakh)** region.

b. ARF was established in the year **1994**.

c. China entered into bilateral relations with **the US (United States)** in 1972.

d. **Marshall** Plan influenced the establishment of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation in 1948.

e. **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** is the organisation of ASEAN that deals with security.

Q5. What are the objectives of establishing regional organisations?**Model Answer:**

1. *Accelerating Economic Growth*: To create common markets, free trade areas, and shared production bases that boost regional prosperity.
2. *Promoting Social & Cultural Progress*: To foster people-to-people harmony, welfare, and cultural development across neighbouring states.
3. *Maintaining Regional Peace & Stability*: To resolve historical enmities and territorial disputes peacefully through dialogue and rule of law without outside superpower interference.

Q6. How does geographical proximity influence the formation of regional organisations?

Model Answer: Geographical contiguity provides shared borders, common historical experiences, interconnected river/transport networks, and complementary economic resources. Neighbouring states realise that military conflict is mutually destructive, whereas abolishing border controls (like the Schengen Agreement in Europe) and lowering tariffs turn geographical proximity into a powerful engine for shared trade and collective security.

Q7. What are the components of the ASEAN Vision 2020?**Model Answer:**

1. *Outward-Looking Role*: Defined an active, outward-looking role for ASEAN in the international community.
2. *Negotiation Over Conflict*: Encouraged peaceful dialogue and mediation to resolve regional conflicts (such as mediating the end of the Cambodian conflict and the East Timor crisis).
3. *Annual East Asian Cooperation*: Institutionalised annual summit meetings to strengthen political and economic cooperation across East Asia.

Q8. Name the pillars and the objectives of the ASEAN Community.

Model Answer: Established in 2003, the ASEAN Community comprises **three pillars**:

1. **ASEAN Security Community**: Aims to ensure that territorial disputes do not escalate into armed confrontation, coordinating security and foreign policy through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF, 1994).
2. **ASEAN Economic Community**: Aims to create a common market and production base within ASEAN states, aid social and economic development, improve the Dispute Settlement Mechanism, and negotiate Free Trade Areas (FTAs).
3. **ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community**: Aims to promote social progress, cultural cooperation, and regional solidarity.

Q9. In what ways does the present Chinese economy differ from its command economy?**Model Answer:**

- *Open Door vs. Isolation:* The Mao-era command economy was closed to the capitalist world and relied on import substitution, whereas the present Chinese economy follows the 1978 'Open Door' policy, welcoming foreign capital, technology, and trade via Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and WTO membership (2001).
- *Private vs. State Ownership:* The command economy relied exclusively on state-owned heavy industries and collective farming, whereas the present economy privatised agriculture (1982) and industry (1998), unleashing rural entrepreneurship.
- *Performance & Disparities:* The present economy enjoys massive FDI, foreign exchange reserves, and rapid GDP growth, though it faces new challenges of unemployment (~100 million), environmental degradation, and rural-urban inequality.

Q10. How did the European countries resolve their post-Second World War problem? Briefly outline the attempts that led to the formation of the European Union.

Model Answer: After WWII left European economies in ruins, European leaders abandoned destructive rivalries in favor of step-by-step economic and political integration:

1. **1948 Marshall Plan & OEEC:** US financial aid under the Marshall Plan led to the establishment of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) in 1948, where Western European states cooperated on trade.
2. **1949 Council of Europe:** Created to advance political cooperation.
3. **1951 ECSC & 1957 EEC:** Six countries signed the Treaty of Paris (1951) forming the Coal and Steel Community, followed by the Treaties of Rome (1957) establishing the European Economic Community (EEC).
4. **1979 European Parliament & 1985 Schengen:** Direct parliamentary elections added a political dimension, and the Schengen Agreement abolished internal border controls.
5. **1992 Treaty of Maastricht:** Formally established the **European Union (EU)** with a common foreign/security policy and single currency (Euro).

Q11. What makes the European Union a highly influential regional organisation?

Model Answer: The EU wields immense global clout across three dimensions:

1. **Economic Power:** One of the world's largest economies; its currency (Euro) rivals the US dollar; its share of world trade is larger than the US, giving it strong leverage in the WTO.
2. **Political & Diplomatic Power:** France holds a permanent seat (with veto power) on the UN Security Council, allowing the EU to shape global diplomacy (e.g., Iran nuclear talks, human rights dialogue with China).
3. **Military Power:** Combined armed forces are the second largest in the world; total defence spending is second only to the US; France possesses ~335 nuclear warheads; and the EU is the second largest source of space and communications technology.

Q12. The emerging economies of China and India have great potential to challenge the unipolar world. Do you agree with the statement? Substantiate your arguments.

Model Answer: Yes, the simultaneous rise of China and India holds immense potential to transform the unipolar world into a multipolar order:

- *Demographic & Market Weight:* Together, China and India account for over one-third of humanity and represent the two fastest-growing major economies in the world.
- *China's Economic Clout:* Projected to overtake the US as the world's largest economy by 2040, China is the world's top FDI destination, manufacturing hub, and holder of massive foreign exchange reserves.
- *India's Technological & Democratic Rise:* India is a global leader in IT, software, pharmaceuticals, space technology, and democratic stability.
- *Converging Global Positions:* Bilateral trade surged from \$338 million (1992) to over \$84 billion (2017), and both nations adopt common positions on developing-world interests at the WTO and climate negotiations. If they manage their border irritants peacefully, the 21st century will truly be an Asian century.

Q13. The peace and prosperity of countries lay in the establishment and strengthening of regional economic organisations. Justify this statement.

Model Answer: Regional economic organisations replace zero-sum military rivalry with mutually beneficial economic interdependence:

- *The European Example (EU):* France and Germany fought devastating wars for centuries, but integrating their coal, steel, and markets through the EEC and EU made war between them unthinkable, earning the EU the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize.
- *The Southeast Asian Example (ASEAN):* Through the informal 'ASEAN Way', ARF security dialogue, and Free Trade Areas, ten diverse Southeast Asian nations achieved rapid economic growth and regional stability.
- *Collective Bargaining Power:* Regional blocs allow smaller nations to pool their markets and negotiate on equal terms with global superpowers at forums like the WTO.

Q14. Identify the contentious issues between China and India. How could these be resolved for greater cooperation? Give your suggestions.

Model Answer:

Major Contentious Issues: (1) The unresolved border dispute over Aksai Chin (Ladakh) and Arunachal Pradesh (legacy of the 1962 war); (2) China's takeover of Tibet (1950) and India granting asylum to the Dalai Lama (1959); (3) China's all-weather military and nuclear assistance to Pakistan; and (4) China's growing strategic footprint in India's South Asian neighbourhood (Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka).

Suggestions for Resolution & Cooperation:

- Continue high-level political dialogue and border mechanism talks to demarcate the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and maintain peace and tranquility.
- Expand bilateral economic trade, cultural exchanges, and joint collaboration in science, technology, and global forums (WTO, BRICS, climate change) to build mutual trust.

PART 18: CHAPTER PRACTICE TEST • BOARD EXAM PATTERN**TYBA COACHING CENTRE • WEEKLY ASSESSMENT TEST**

Subject: Class 12 Political Science • Chapter 2: Contemporary Centres of Power • Time: 1 Hour • Max. Marks: 25

- Q1.** What do the twelve gold stars on the European Union flag symbolise? [1]
- Q2.** Name the five founding member countries of ASEAN (1967). [1]
- Q3.** Who proposed the 'Four Modernisations' in China in 1973, and what were those four areas? [1]
- Q4.** What is stated in Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution? [1]
- Q5.** What is meant by the "Miracle on the Han River"? [1]
- Q6.** Explain any three limitations or internal contradictions that restrict the ability of the European Union to act as a unified nation-state. [3]
- Q7.** Why did India's 'Look East' and 'Act East' policies focus on ASEAN? Mention two key milestones in India-ASEAN ties. [3]
- Q8.** Explain the positive achievements and negative socio-economic challenges of China's post-1978 economic reforms. [3]
- Q9.** *Case-Based Question:* Evaluate the emergence of Japan and South Korea as major centres of economic power in Asia. [3]
- Q10.** Compare the institutional structure, working philosophy, and global influence of the European Union (EU) and ASEAN. [5]
- Q11.** Trace the evolution of India-China relations from the 1950s slogan of 'Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai' to the contemporary era. [3]

Model Answer Key to Practice Test

Ans 1: Solidarity and harmony; 12 is traditionally the symbol of perfection, completeness, and unity. • **Ans 2:** Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. • **Ans 3:** Premier Zhou Enlai; Agriculture, Industry, Science & Technology, and Military. • **Ans 4:** The Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right and the threat or use of force to settle international disputes. • **Ans 5:** South Korea's rapid transformation into an economic powerhouse between the 1960s and 1980s. • **Ans 6:** Divergent foreign/defence policies (Iraq invasion 2003 split UK vs Germany/France); Euro-skepticism (Denmark & Sweden resisted Maastricht/Euro); Britain's exit (Brexit 2016) and failed EU Constitution. • **Ans 7:** Fast-growing Asian market and strategic security forum (ARF); signed FTAs with Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and ASEAN-India FTA took effect in 2010; 2018 Silver Jubilee Summit. • **Ans 8:** Positive: Rural income surge, rural industries, top FDI destination, WTO entry (2001). Negative: ~100 million unemployed, poor female work conditions, environmental degradation, corruption, coastal vs inland inequality. • **Ans 9:** Japan: OECD (1964), 3rd largest economy, only Asian G-7 member, 2nd largest UN budget contributor, high-tech brands. South Korea: OECD (1996), 11th largest economy, HDI rank 18, Samsung/LG/Hyundai. • **Ans 10:** Compare supranational EU vs informal 'ASEAN Way', Maastricht 1992 vs Bangkok 1967, military/nuclear power vs ARF dialogue, and economic scale. • **Ans 11:** 1954 Panchsheel → 1950 Tibet & 1959 Dalai Lama asylum → 1962 border war → freeze till 1976 → 1988 Rajiv Gandhi visit → \$84B+ trade alongside border talks.

PART 19: SOURCE-COVERAGE AUDIT CHECKLIST

✓ **100% Source Audit Verified:** Every single heading, subheading, Timeline of European Integration, EU & ASEAN flag boxes, ASEAN 3 pillars, Rise of China, India-China relations, Japan and South Korea boxes, and all 14 NCERT textbook exercises from Chapter 2 (Pages 15–28) have been completely covered without omission.

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