

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

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Module Name: Warsaw Pact

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INTRODUCTION:

The Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO) -officially the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance was commonly known as the Warsaw Pact. It was a collective defense Treaty signed in Warsaw, Poland. Hence the name derived-the Warsaw Pact.

THE SIGNATORIES TO THE WARSAW PACT:

The Pact was signed between the Soviet Union and 7 Other Eastern Bloc Socialist Republics of Central and Eastern Europe in 1955. These countries were- the Soviet Union, Poland, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and the (GDR) German Democratic Republic. It was a formal alliance signed in 1955 after four days discussion 11th May to 14th May 1955 at Warsaw. It was decided to set up a joint command of armed forces of the signatory states with its headquarters in Moscow.

REASONS FOR THE WARSAW PACT:

1. The Warsaw Pact was a response of Soviet Union to the Western Powers who had set up military alliances/ security pacts as instruments to contain communism.
2. The Warsaw Pact was meant to meet the challenge/ or a response to American sponsored NATO, CEATO and SEATO.
3. If the Western Powers were able to set up military alliances against the Soviet Union and her camp followers, the latter could not be expected to lag behind.

4. It is contended that Warsaw pact was motivated by the Soviet desire to maintain control over the military forces in Central & Eastern Europe.

WARSAW PACT A COUNTERART OF THE NATO:

The Soviet Union was alarmed at the aggressive attitude of the Western Powers when the NATO was formed. For few years it could not set up a rival organization. She protested against the entry of Western Germany into the NATO. In real essence the Warsaw pact was the carbon copy of the NATO. Warsaw Pacts main object was to meet the challenge from the NATO Powers.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTER OF COLD WAR:

Another Centre of the Cold War was the Middle East. Some of the countries of this region were associated with the Soviet Union and some with the American Bloc. The Bagdad Pact was signed between Turkey and Iraq. Others joined in later. When Iraq withdrew it was renamed as Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) in 1959. The Bagdad Pact was an attempt of the Western Powers to form an anti- Soviet Bloc in the Middle East. It was an attempt to exclude the Soviet Union from that region. In Feb' 1955 the Bagdad Pact was signed and in May 1955 Warsaw Pact came into existence.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WARSAW PACT:

1. The members of the Pact agreed to resist jointly the attacks of the imperialist and the capitalist powers.
2. To establish peace and security by a united resistance to any foreign attack upon any of its member state.
3. They also agreed to participate in mutual economic and cultural collaboration.
4. It would establish peace and security by united resistance.
5. The treaty provided that the contacting parties should settle their international disputes by peaceful means.
6. It was agreed to consult each other mutually to solve all international problem.

7. It was accepted to reduce armaments and ban of atomic, hydrogen and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction.
8. The contracting parties were required to take immediate joint measures necessary to establish and preserve international peace and security.

TERMS OF THE PACT:

The contracting parties agreed that-

1. It would set up a united command of armed forces with Moscow as the headquarters.
2. In case of an armed attack on one or several members of the treaty, the other agreed to come to the assistance of state /s in accordance with the Charter.
3. They agreed and declared that they should maintain the spirit of friendship and cooperation for the development of economic and cultural fields.

The Structure of the Warsaw Organization:

The Warsaw Treaty's Organization was two fold:

1. The Political Consultative Committee-controlled the political matters.
2. Combined Command of Pact Armed forces-handled the assigned multi-national forces. Its headquarters was Warsaw-Poland.
 - The Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organization (which commanded and controlled all the military forces of the member countries) was the First Deputy Minister of Defense of USSR.

CONCLUSION

Thus the Warsaw Pact was established in 1955 by the Communist countries for Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.

After 36 years of its existence the Pact came to an end in 1991 as the Soviet Union itself was dissolved and this impacted the cold war to come to an end.

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