UG PS S4-07 (DSC)

FOUR YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE COURSE

(CBCS in Accordance with NEP 2020)

SEMESTER - IV

CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Surya Kumar Bhuyan School of Social Sciences

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course of the UG Fourth Semester Programme (Fourth Semester) of KKHSOU is titled “Contemporary International Politics" . The course has fourteen units.

In the contemporary period, two of the most significant events that shaped the course of world politics were the First World War and the Second World War. The course “Contemporary International Politics” therefore starts with a discussion of the causes and consequences of the First World War and the Second World War. After the Second World War, the single most important development in the field of international politics was the emergence of two superpowers, namely, the United States and the erstwhile Soviet Union and the subsequent polarisation of the world into two rival power blocs, namely, the Western Capitalist Bloc headed by the United States and the Eastern Communist Bloc led by the erstwhile Soviet Union. Accordingly, the course “Contemporary International Politics" discusses the various aspects relating to the Cold War- the strained relations between the two power blocs which dominated the global scene for the greater part of the post-Second World War period.Two major issues of international relations of contemporary time are conflict and cooperation among nations at various levels. Accordingly the concept of conflict and cooperational that take place at the international level among various nations is covered in the course. In today’s world, and especially after the end of the Second World War, nations of the world are increasingly cooperating with one another for peace and development. This is reflected in the form of various international organisations operating at different levels. The course discusses the meaning, background and types of International Organisations. The course further goes on to discuss the United Nations as the custodian of international peace and security among nations in the post-Second World War period. It is the prime responsibility of the UN to ensure the prevalence of peace in the world. In the face of Cold War politics, a group of nations chose to be neutral and to maintain equidistance from bloc politics. Accordingly, the course includes a discussion on the Non-Aligned Movement. The non-aligned nations refused to join or be aligned with or against either of the two major power blocs, whether the Western Capitalist Bloc or the Eastern Communist Bloc. A discussion on three very important organizations for regional cooperation, namely the European Union (EU) , South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have also been incorporated in the course. For world peace to prevail , there is always a need for ensuring financial stability and fair trade practices in the world. Accordingly, the course discusses three main global financial institutions , namely, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The end of the Cold War marked the beginning of a new world order. The course therefore dwells on the emerging world order in the post-Cold War period. India, like any other sovereign nation, pursues a foreign policy of its own in order to conduct her relations with other

nations in a way that safeguards her national interests while at the same time contributing to world peace. Indian foreign policy is influenced and determined by a number of factors. The course therefore discusses the basic principles and objectives of India's foreign policy. The course finally ends with India's relations with a few countries, namely, USA, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

While going through the units of the course, you will find that each unit is further divided into certain sections and sub-sections, wherever necessary, for your better understanding. You will notice some alongside boxes while going through a unit , which have been included to help you know some of the difficult, unseen terms. Again, each unit carries certain activities after every section. These "ACTIVITIES" will provide you the opportunity to practically apply your own thoughts based on the knowledge gained from reading the text in a particular section. Besides, in order to give you additional information on certain relevant topics, you will find a category called "LET US KNOW" after the sections in each unit. Another category that has been included at the end of each section of a particular unit is "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS". The purpose of this category is to help you to asses for yourself as to how thoroughly you have understood a particular section. It will be better if you answer the questions put in these boxes immediately after you go through the sections of the units and then match your answers with "ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" given at the end of each unit. Furthermore, a set of sample questions has been included under the category called "model questions".