

Question: Discuss the process and consequences of decolonization to the Third World Countries.

Answer

With dawn of sixties a- new era of decolonization was started. The Afro Asian countries which had been admitted to the United Nations and had gained a new third voting majority in the General Assembly were eager to ensure emancipation of the reset colonies from the clutch of European powers. Consequently in 1960 the General Assembly adopted a declaration on the granting of independence to the colonial countries and the people by an overwhelming majority. The declaration has been described as a Charter of Independence for the independent people. The declaration laid the emphasis on the following points;

1. The subjection of the people to alien subjugation and exploitation constitutes a denial of the fundamental human rights, is contrary to the Charter of United Nations and is impediment to the promotion of the world peace and co-operation.
2. All people have a right of self-determination.
3. Inadequacy of political, social and educational preparedness should not be used as a pretext for delaying independence.
4. Immediate steps are being taken in all territories which have not yet gained independence to transfer all power to the people of those territories without any conditions or reservations.
5. All states shall faithfully and strictly observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and present declaration on the basis of equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of all states and respect the sovereign rights of all people and their territorial integrity.

Implementation of the above declaration

For the implementation of the above declaration the General Assembly set up the Special committee on situation with regard to the implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence to the colonial countries and people. This committee is popularly known as Committee of Twenty-Four.

But probably the most important accomplishment of the committee was the adoption of its proposals by the General Assembly in 1970 concerning the “Programme of Action for the full Implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to the colonial countries and people”.

By virtues of this resolution the General Assembly proposed that all the members’ states should render all moral and material assistance to the people of the colonial territories in their struggle for attainment of freedom. It also impressed on the Security Council to take needful action.

1. To widen the scope of sanctions against the illegal regime of South Rhodesia;
2. To consider proposals for imposing sanctions upon South Africa and Portugal;
3. To consider the imposition of an embargo on arms of all kinds to South Africa and Rhodesia and
4. To consider urgently the adoption of measures to prevent the supply of arms of all kinds to Portugal.
5. Security Council also adopted certain resolution on colonialism. It was decided that the problem of Zambia resolved by the big five by taking over its administration.
6. With regard to the Portuguese territories the Security Council decided that the U.N. should declare them as independent.

Consequent of de-colonization:

1. The colonial rule drew arbitrary natural boundaries dividing ethnic and linguistic groups and natural features, and laying the foundation for the creation of numerous states on the basis of geographic, linguistic, ethnic, or political affinity.
2. USA and European world started democratization of these countries. The Soviet Union deployed similar effort to encourage new nations to join the communist bloc. Some adopted capitalism (Malaysia, Indonesia) while others socialism (India, Egypt etc.)
3. After freedom the new states started to adopt independent foreign policy. Non-aligned movement started in 1955 to focus on internal development. India became active member of Non-aligned movement to refrain from the either blocs, USA and USSR.
4. Raise of Neocolonialism was started through the the practice of capitalism, globalization, and cultural forces to control new countries.
5. Most of the Third World countries are poor and backward. Resultantly. The dependency principle evolved. The claim was that post-colonial states have no choice but to accept Western conditions for loans, because they desperately need the money to support their own domestic policies.
6. Unlike the colonial time, now they are free and started to revive their old culture. Religious and ethnic movements.
7. Various films, music, fiction, autobiographies, and museum displays are developed to learn the lessons from the history of colonization and its impacts.
8. Population resettlements like relocation of Jews in Palestine and Sikhs and Muslims in border areas of India-Pakistan, creating permanent animosity between people.
9. Also few newly independent countries acquired stable governments almost. Others are ruled by dictators or military for decades.
10. Though democratic forms of government are setup in colonies, only few like India, Malaysia and Egypt were able to keep their democratic character. In Africa most of the countries like Angola, Nigeria, etc. suffered from civil wars based on ethnic lines and with a dictator governing the countries.

In summing up the role of the U.N. in the process of decolonization it can be said that it has played a significant role. Probably there is other field in which the U.N. has made as much progress as wit respect of decolonization. It has provided impetus cohesion and direction to the force of anti-colonialism. But, probably more important contribution of the U.N. in this regard has been that in most of the cases the transition from colonial status to independent has been peaceful. As a result the constant denunciation of colonialism the principle of self-determination has virtually become right. It was mainly due to the efforts of the U.N. that as against forty-five percent of the mankind which has under colonial rule in 1945, only three percent of the mankind is under rule now.