

End of History

- **Francis Fukuyama article titled, “End of History” published in Summer 1989 issue of Washington based Magazine/Journal ‘The National Interest’
- **The term End of History became famous due to its content and its connections with contemporary political events in world politics

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Contemporary Events

** In 1988, Mikhail Gorbachev announced in a speech at the United Nations that Soviet Union would no longer intervene in the affairs of its Eastern European States, that were Soviet Union's satellite States, emerged during cold war after the second world war

** To remind, at at the end of II World War, the Russian forces were stationed in most of the parts in eastern Europe, later the Communist governments emerged in this region who had obviously proximity with Soviet Union

Soviet Fall

**The Soviet Union economy was stagnant during
80s

**Mr Mikhail Gorbachev introduced
Perestroika(Restructuring), a series of political
and economic reforms

** These reforms could not save or lessened
problems of Soviet Union, which collapsed in
1991, after growing instability, internal & external

Fukuyama arguments

- **Soviet Union policy of non intervention in affairs of Eastern European States and withdraw from Cold War in 1989 should be marked as “End of History, Francis Fukuyama claimed.
- **The moment refers the end of ideological struggle
- ** It opened era of liberal democracy in the world

**The Russian withdrawal meant that these East European States became free to choose democracy

**It was considered the end of cold war

**The Soviet communist model was only available alternative of liberalism which end left open ground to liberalism ideology in the world

- **Fascism ended in II world war, communism is going to end with the collapse of Soviet Union
- **In coming years, representative government, free markets and consumerist culture under liberalism will obviously emerged
- ** China, the only communist country, had already moved towards political & economic reforms and moving towards liberal order

**Fukuyama argued that history as a process reached at a world of liberal institutions and thus had reached its goal

**Hegel visioned a rational form of society under the State, the dream of Hegel had been fulfilled because after the collapse of communism, common marketisation will prevail in the whole world

**International relations will move on these lines, means major players/ powers will adopt single political and economic model

Fukuyama Article

**Fukuama was 36 years old at the time of the article was unknown

**The magazine 'The National Interest' in which his article "End of History" was published was also unknown

**But, the "End of History" claim was picked up in the mainstream Press after the Gorbachev declaration in the United Nations as mentioned earlier

** The article was well debated in the world and published in other languages

Background Events

** The Berlin Wall dismantled in November 1989

** Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia

** Soviet Union was experiencing internal
resistance

** Eastern European puppet regimes refused to
follow Soviet Union

** In such atmosphere, the article “End of History”
got attraction because the incidents were
happening on Fukuyama lines and cold war was
really ended

Fukuyama Arguments Twisted in End of Article

****In the article, “End of History” , Fukuyama said that cold war had ended and this history was over, and its destiny was liberal democracies but in the end of article he twisted his arguments**

****Fukuyama also said that in Liberal Democracies world, the world will face environment concerns and endless technological problems**

****In Liberal world, happiness of human beings will be questioned**

All was not well

** The Fukuyama anticipations later failed

** Many unprecedented incidents happened after
Fukuyama article

** China's People Liberation Army opened fire on
pro-democracy activists at Tiananmen Square,
commonly known June Fourth(1989) incident

** An Islamic revolution happened in Iran in 1989

** The Russian armed forces entered into
Afghanistan in 1989 to support the so called
communist regime

Gift of Worries by Liberalism

**The liberal democracies and its characteristics i.e. market capitalism, consumerism, unchecked utilisation of earth resources and resultantly threat to environment etc. have given more worries to the world

**The growing inequality in the world can be sensed in the emergence of many resentment/ movements like We are 99 Percent movement ; Blockupy Movement; Iranian Green Movement; Global Justice Movement; Black Lives Matters; Women in Black; Yellow Vest Movement etc

Conclusion

****The history after the Fukuyama article and its claim showed that everything did not happen in accordance of his claim**

****The ideological war still exist**

****The power rivalry over control of earth resources is resumed a part of International Politics**

****The present Coronavirus Pandemic is considered a result of deforestation, environment degradation and eating habits of wild animals**

****Unless these situation persist, the humanity may face further threats**

****Therefore, Fukuyama article can be still assessed on many grounds**