

Words of Visionaries

Module: Speeches by Visionaries & Changing World Order

At Dreamers & Innovators, we have two ongoing modules. First, **Speeches by Visionaries**, for our junior Dreamers, strives to inspire them with the ideas, words and achievements of world-renowned figures such as Kalam, Martin Luther King Jr., Steve Jobs etc.

Our module for seniors, **Changing World Order**, demystifies the conflicts and crises of today by identifying the roots and evolutions of these issues, which all go back to events of the 20th century.

This week's newsletter showcases the ideas of three promising Dreamers: Mehar, who writes about the intense war between legendary innovators Edison and Tesla. Manek gives a precise primer on the USSR's establishment, while Uday provides insight into the Cold War and the Space Race therein.

Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

The War of Currents

Mehar Arora
10 years



The root of the AC-DC current war lies in the 1880s. That was the time when Thomas Alva Edison was at the peak of his career. He developed the Direct Current (DC) which is even today being used in batteries. The flaw in it was that it couldn't travel long distances and could not be easily converted to high or low voltages.

During the same period, there was a sharp young man originally from Croatia, named Nikola Tesla working in Edison's company. Tesla's manager sent a note along with Tesla to Edison, informing him all about this sharp young man. Thomas Alva Edison was impressed and asked Tesla to pursue Tesla's suggestion that he could improve DC dynamos. He gave a very short deadline to Tesla and told him if he could achieve this target then Tesla would get a huge reward. Tesla was successful and when he asked for the reward Edison refused by calling his offer a mere joke.

This upset Tesla who immediately quit Edison's company. After much struggle, George Westinghouse invested in Tesla by buying his AC motor patents. It was Westinghouse who worked with Tesla, and took the lead in the AC-DC war. It started with getting the contract to light up the 1893 Chicago Fair where AC-powered lights were so bright that they became a success against dull DC lights. Soon, Westinghouse won a dream project: making the power plant at Niagara Falls. AC had officially won.

Founding of the USSR

Manek Mehra
14 years



The formation of USSR wasn't an overnight decision. This formation had had a lot of planning. Back in the year 1898 Karl Marx's Marxism inspired the formation of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party (RSDP) in Russia, but in just five years (by 1903) the party split into two factions, the Bolsheviks & the Mensheviks. Lenin's Bolsheviks argued for socialism while the Mensheviks argued for democratic goals.

There was unrest which led to people revolting in the empire and under pressure Tsar Nicholas II formed the parliament called Duma. But, this was a farce as rights were limited and the parliament had the elite class chosen by the Tsar. Soon after, WW1 started with Russia deeply involved in it. There were heavy losses of life and wealth. Also, the Ottoman Empire blockaded the supplies to Russia leading to famine in the country.

This situation further led to unrest and two revolutions followed in the year 1917. The February Revolution ended the reign of Tsar Nicholas II and transferred the power to a provisional government. But, the provisional government was also soon overthrown by the Bolsheviks in the October Revolution. So, the Bolsheviks officially took over the country in October 1917. However, there was opposition to the Bolsheviks from the White Russians who were aided by Britain, France, Japan and the US, but the Bolsheviks established their rule. In 1922, under the leadership of Lenin, the Bolsheviks, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was formed in which 15 Soviet Socialist Republics came together as one.

The Cold War at its Height

Uday Nanda
12 years



After the second world war the USA and USSR were two world powers with two different ideologies: Capitalism and Communism. Both wanted to prove that their ideologies were better than the other. This started a rivalry between both countries that would last for the latter half of the 20th century. This rivalry during the period of its peak was known as the Cold War starting in 1947 and ending in 1991.

The cold war divided into different parts like the Space Race, Nuclear Race, proxy wars but the main object was to spread ideologies. These ideologies created a rift between the countries that were communist and others that were capitalist.

The Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall were a physical manifestation of this separation of ideologies. The Iron Curtain, on a much bigger scale, separated the North East and the North west part of the world. The first nuclear bomb was made by the USA was the biggest was made by the USSR.

The Space Race started when the V2 rocket was sent to space by USSR, while the USA struggled. The USSR was way ahead until the USA sent Apollo 11 to the moon and it landed the first man on the moon. The Space Race ended with the cold war by using the international space station as a truce sign.