

**POLITICAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 4**

# Alternative Centres of Power

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

**EXPECTED MARKS****5-6 out of 7. Below 4  
means dates and names  
aren't being memorised.****TIME TO MASTER****8-10 hrs****HELPLINE****70330 05444****WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

After the Cold War, the United States became the only superpower — but it has never been alone. This chapter teaches your child about three ALTERNATIVE centres of power that have grown alongside America. First, the EUROPEAN UNION — twenty-seven European countries that gradually built a common market, a shared currency (the EURO), and a joint diplomatic and military weight that makes them the world's second-largest economic bloc. Second, ASEAN — the ten-country Association of South East Asian Nations, founded in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, which now drives Asian economic and security cooperation through three 'pillars' (security, economic, socio-cultural) and the famously informal 'ASEAN Way'. Third, and most dramatically, CHINA — whose economic reforms launched by Deng Xiaoping in 1978 turned it in forty years into the world's second-largest economy. The chapter also covers India-China relations: the 1962 war, normalisation from 1976, and growing trade today.

**5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD**

- Trace the evolution of the European Union from the Marshall Plan to Maastricht.
- Who were the five founding members of ASEAN, and what is the 'ASEAN Way'?
- What are the three pillars of the ASEAN Community?
- Why is 1978 the key date in China's economic rise?
- What happened in India-China relations between 1962 and the 1990s?

**WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS**

- Confuses the Treaty of Rome (1957) with the Maastricht Treaty (1992).
- Says ASEAN was founded by 10 members (it was 5).
- Misses one or more of ASEAN's three pillars.
- Dates China's rise to 1949 instead of 1978.
- Thinks India-China relations have been frozen since 1962.

**WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO**

Political Science needs PRECISE dates + names. Vague phrases ('Europe came together', 'China became powerful') score very little. Build a dated timeline table for each centre.

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