

Standard 7-5: The Cold War

Review of Main Ideas

The Cold War Begins

- ⊙ After WW2, the U.S. and the Soviet Union emerge as the leaders of the world.
- ⊙ The U.S. wants to spread **democracy** (people choose their leaders in government) and free enterprise (businesses compete for profits with little government control). The Soviet Union wants to spread **communism** (the government controls every aspect of life).
- ⊙ The U.S. wants to stop the spread of communism!!!
- ⊙ The differences between the two countries begin the **COLD WAR**.
- ⊙ After the war ends, the Soviet Union refuses to remove the troops that had been used to kick out the Germans from countries in Eastern Europe. (ex. Poland, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia).
- ⊙ These countries become “**satellite**” countries of the USSR - meaning they were clustered around the Soviet Union and the Soviets controlled their governments and economies.
- ⊙ **Yalta Conference** (1945) ended WW2. Germany is divided into 4 zones: French, British, and American zones (becomes democratic West Germany in 1949), and the Soviet Union’s zone (becomes communist East Germany).
- ⊙ Berlin (the former capital) was also divided into zones.
- ⊙ Berlin Airlift - Berlin Airlift was an 11 month period when Allies had to drop supplies from airplanes into the democratic sectors of Berlin after the Soviet Union blockades it.

Containment of Communism

- ❖ **Truman Doctrine** (1947)- Promises to stop the spread of communism worldwide. The U.S. pledges money to help individuals fight communism worldwide.
- ❖ **Marshall Plan** (1947) - U.S. gives \$13 billion dollars to help Western Europe after the war because Communism was more likely to spread in places with poverty.
- ❖ **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization - 1949): military alliance among the U.S., Canada, and 10 European countries (democratic countries)
- ❖ **Warsaw Pact** (1949): military alliance between the Soviet Union and other communist countries

Berlin Wall

- ⌘ Winston Churchill called the separation of Western and Eastern Europe the **Iron Curtain**.
- ⌘ The living conditions in the West (democratic) were so much better than in the East (communist), many people attempted to defect to the West.
- ⌘ The **Berlin Wall** was built in 1961 - becomes the symbol for the Cold War.

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China

- ↳ **Mao Zedong** (Communist) and **Chiang Kai-shek** (Nationalist) are leading a Civil War in China before and after WW2.
- ↳ The Communists won in 1949 and renamed China, “The People’s Republic of China” with Chairman Mao as the leader.
- ↳ Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan and called it the “Republic of China.”
- ↳ The U.S. recognized both governments in 1972.

Korea

- ↳ After the Japanese were kicked out after WW2, Korea was divided at the 38th parallel (latitude). The U.S. backed the South, and Communist countries backed the North.
- ↳ The Korean War began in 1950 when communist North Korea invaded democratic South Korea in hopes of uniting the country under communism.
- ↳ The War ends in a stalemate in 1953. Korea remains divided at the **38th parallel** (DMZ).

Vietnam

- ↳ After WW2, the French wanted to regain control of French Indo-China (Vietnam).
- ↳ Vietnamese nationalists were led by **Ho Chi Minh** (communist).
- ↳ Americans gave the French money and weapons to fight the communists because of the fear of the **Domino Theory** (if one country fell, all countries in the region would be communist.)
- ↳ The French lose: the country is divided at the **17th parallel**. The north is communist (led by Minh), the south is democratic (led by Ngo Dinh Diem)
- ↳ U.S. fought against the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong (communists in South Vietnam). These groups used **guerrilla warfare** (sneak attacks).
- ↳ The U.S. could not win, so they withdrew in 1975.
- ↳ 58,000 American soldiers died. Vietnam became communist, as well as Cambodia and Laos.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

- ↳ **Fidel Castro** became the communist leader of Cuba in 1959.
- ↳ In 1962, a U.S. spy plane flew over Cuba and took pictures of Soviet missiles being assembled.
- ↳ President Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba.
- ↳ After 2 weeks of intense negotiations, the missiles were removed.

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The Space Race

- ⌘ The Soviets were the first to launch a satellite (Sputnik) into space. (1957).
- ⌘ In response, the U.S. placed an emphasis on math and science in schools, and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) was created.
- ⌘ Americans were the first to land on the moon (1969).

The Fall of Communism

- ⌘ **Gorbachev**, the Soviet leader, began three new programs that ultimately led to the break-up of the Soviet Union.
 1. **Perestroika**: Restructured the economy by allowing free enterprise and profit making. Also created a Soviet Parliament for the 1st time since 1918.
 2. **Glasnost**: “openness” people are allowed to write or say what they want about the government without fear.
 3. **Demokratizatsiya**: allowed for greater democracy in government; more than one person could run for public office.
- ⌘ The new freedoms in the Soviet Union encouraged peaceful revolutions in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria in 1989. Gorbachev promised the Soviet Union would stay out of these revolutions.
- ⌘ On November 9, 1989, the Brandenburg Gates were opened in Berlin. People in East and West Berlin were finally able to move about freely, and the Wall was torn down. Germany was reunited into one country in 1990.
- ⌘ All 15 Soviet republics declared their independence. In December 1991, Gorbachev announced the end of the Soviet Union and the Cold War was over.