

Study Guide

Origins of the Cold War

Korean War

Causes of the Cold War

The Cold war is an era of conflict and confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union

- Disagreements between the Allies during WWII
- Once partners in war, the Soviet Union and the other former Allies found it much more difficult to cooperate in peace.
- It was a time after WWII when the USA and the Soviet Union were rivals for world influence.
- Events of confrontation between the West (United States) and the East (USSR)- It started right after WWII ended and lasted until the break up of the Soviet Union.
- Differing US and Soviet political and economic systems
- Differing goals for postwar Germany and Eastern Europe
- Soviet expansion of communism in Eastern Europe- after WWII the Soviet Union occupied Eastern European countries and installed Communist governments
- Resistance to Soviet aggression by US

The Cold War: Origins and Korean War

- USSR under Joseph Stalin
 - Dictator of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) 1929-1953
 - Transformed from a peasant society into an industrial one
 - Collectivized farming
 - Aligned with the US and Britain in WWII
 - Instituted the Great Purge- a series of campaigns designed to rid the Communist Party, the military and other parts of Soviet society from those he considered a threat
 - On August 23, 1939, the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany signed a *nonaggression pact*. The public text simply indicated that Germany and the Soviet Union would abide by the *neutrality pact* they had signed in 1926. The *secret protocol* however divided Eastern Europe into Nazi and Soviet spheres. On September 1, 1939, Nazi troops invaded Poland beginning World War II. Germany broke the pact in 1941 when they invaded USSR.
 - In 1950, Stalin gave North Korea communist leader Kim Il Sung permission to invade US supported South Korea which triggered the Korean War
- Stalin: The Great Purge
 - Also known as the Great Terror
 - Marks a period of extreme persecution and oppression in the Soviet Union during the late 1930's

- Stalin: Gulag
 - Official name: Main Directorate for Corrective Labor Camps
 - Located mainly in remote regions of Siberia and the Far North
 - Prisoners constructed
 - White Sea-Baltic Canal
 - Moscow-Volga Canal
 - Baikal-Amur main railroad line
 - Numerous hydroelectric stations
 - Strategic roads
 - Industrial enterprises in remote regions
 - Contributed to lumbering and mining of coal, copper, and gold
 - Conditions were extremely harsh, prisoners received inadequate food rations and insufficient clothing, extremely long working hours and physically abused by camp guards
 - Death rate from exhaustion and disease in the camps was high

Post-WWII devastation of Europe- WWII left behind enormous destruction and a world order dominated by two nations: The United States and the Soviet Union. There would soon be a bitter rivalry between these two superpowers

- Germany was in ruins at the end of May 1945...
- The Potsdam Conference- 1945 meeting of Allied leaders-The Big Three—Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (replaced on July 26 by Prime Minister Clement Attlee), and U.S. President **Harry Truman**
- in the German city of Potsdam to address issues about the post-WWII Europe-
- Germany was divided into four zones of occupation:
 - The Soviet Union would control about one-third of the country
 - The remaining two-thirds would be divided into three zones to be controlled by the US, France and Great Britain
 - Berlin was divided into four zones of occupation
- The Allies worked together to establish a plan to rid Germany of the Nazi party and beliefs- The Nuremberg trials held in Nuremberg, Germany between 1945 and 1949 where Allied military courts tried Nazi and military officials for war crimes
- Germany had to pay reparations in the form of German currency and German industrial equipment in which the Soviet Union received the largest share since that country had suffered the greatest destruction

What was The Marshall Plan?

1947 plan for the economic reconstruction of Europe after WWII named after US secretary of state George Marshall who introduced it.

- helped Western Europe make a rapid recovery from the war
- Helped preserved political stability
- Provided broad economic aid to European states on the sole condition that they work together for their mutual benefit
- Soviets forbade Poland and Hungary to take part

- Finland and Czechoslovakia were willing to do so
- Restored prosperity to Western Europe and set the stage for Europe's unprecedented postwar economic growth

What was the Bretton Woods Conference?

In Bretton Woods NJ, July 1944, the system was set up in an attempt to avoid world wide economic disasters such as the Great Depression

- Purpose- set up new rules, regulations and procedures for the major economics of the world to ensure their economic stability
- Established International Monetary Fund and The World Bank
 - Faster global monetary cooperation
 - Achieve greater financial stability
 - Facilitate international trade
 - Reduce employment and poverty
 - Promote sustainable economic growth
- World Bank- eliminate extreme poverty and promoting means of sharing prosperity
- Established US dollar as world's reserve currency

What was the Truman Doctrine?

- In 1947, Britain told US they could no longer financially support its Greek Allies
- Congress complied when Truman asked them to provide funds to support Greece and Turkey which was then under Soviet Pressure to yield control of the Dardanelles -a narrow, natural strait and internationally-significant waterway in northwestern Turkey that forms part of the continental boundary between Europe and Asia, and separates Asian Turkey from European Turkey.
- A pledge by President Truman to provide economic and military aid to oppose the spread of communism. He advocated a policy of support for **“Free people who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures,”** by implication, anywhere in the world.

Policy of Containment of communism (know definition from vocabulary handout)

The Purpose: to resist the extension of Soviet expansion and influence in the expectation that eventually the Soviet Union would collapse from internal pressures and the burden of its foreign oppression

- The United States' policy adopted in the 1940's to stop the spread of Communism by providing economic and military aid to countries opposing the Soviets
- The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan demonstrated the West's Cold War policy of containment, which involved resisting Soviet aggression in order to contain the spread of communism. The confrontations between East and West soon became increasingly severe.

The Cold War led to the formation of new military alliances.

The formation of NATO-North Atlantic Treaty Organization took place in April 1949

- Committed its members to mutual assistance if any of them was attacked
- For the first time in history the US was committed to defend allies outside the Western hemisphere
- US involvement in NATO was important because it helped support its philosophy of

containment by attempting to keep world order and peace without the spread of communism

- Original 12 members: United States, Great Britain, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, which began work in July 1948 and produced a draft text in December. Representatives of these countries and five more (Italy, Portugal, Norway, Denmark and Iceland) signed the treaty

Warsaw Pact May 1955

- Aligned Communist nations for mutual defense against capitalist nations
- This gave the Cold War shape
- Unlike NATO, Soviets directly dominated the Eastern alliance system through local communist parties controlled from Moscow and the presence of the Red Army

What was Iron Curtain?

Winston Churchill used the image of an iron curtain in his speech to describe the sharp division of Europe that was the result of Soviet actions:

- Western Europe which advocated democracy and capitalism
- Eastern Europe under Soviet (communist) control

He condemns the Soviet Union's policies in Europe and declared, "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent."

This was considered the open volleys announcing the beginning of the Cold War.

The Berlin airlift- what was it and how did it evolve?

- A program in which the US and Britain shipped supplies by air to West Berlin during the Soviet blockade of all routes to the city
- After World War II, the Allies partitioned the defeated Germany into four zones:
 - Soviet-occupied zone
 - American-occupied zone
 - British-occupied zone
 - French-occupied zone
- Berlin, the German capital city, was located deep in the Soviet zone, but it was also divided into four sections.
- In June 1948, the Russians—who wanted Berlin all for themselves—closed all highways, railroads and canals from western-occupied Germany into western-occupied Berlin. This, they believed, would make it impossible for the people who lived there to get food or any other supplies and would eventually drive Britain, France and the U.S. out of the city for good.
- U.S. and its allies decided to supply their sectors of the city from the air
- lasted for more than a year and carried more than 2.3 million tons of cargo into West Berlin

What was The Berlin Wall?

- The division of Germany and Berlin was originally meant to be temporary
- Western leaders (1947) began planning:
 - For the creation of an independent democratic German nation to be formed from the three western zones of occupation
 - To establish a democratic government in West Berlin which was deep inside the

- Soviet zone and was adamantly opposed by the Soviets
- When the Western powers agreed to go forward with a separate constitution for the western sectors of Germany in February 1948, the Soviets walked out of the joint Allied Control Commission.
- All four powers governed Berlin even though it was deep within the Soviet Zone
- The Soviets feared the new currency, which was circulating in Berlin at better rates than their own currency.
- This led to (June 1948)- Soviets blocked off all land, rail and water routes into West Berlin-
- Soviets were attempting to force the West to leave Berlin by cutting off Berlin's 2 million residents from receiving imports of coal, food, and other vital supplies
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The United Nations

- The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in similar circumstances during the first World War, and established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security.
- The name "United Nations", coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt was first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

The Korean War

- Began in 1950 as an attempt by the Communist government of North Korea, which was allied with the Soviet Union, to take over South Korea.
- It confirmed American fears of communist expansion and therefore was adamant to contain Soviet power
- After Japan's surrender in WWII, the Allies had gained control of the Korean Peninsula
- Soviet and US agreed to divide it TEMPORARILY.
- The Soviets quickly established a Communist government in the northern half of Korea
- The US supported a non-Communist regime
- 38th Parallel-