

APWH UNIT 8 REFERENCE SHEET

COLD WAR & DECOLONIZATION c.1900 to the present



OVERVIEW OF	Context and Causes		
The Cold War	<p><u>End of WWII, Beginnings of the Cold War...a Tale of Three Conferences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tehran Conference (1943) - Allies agree to an end strategy for WWII - Russia will attack from the east, US and Britain will attack from the West. In return, USSR will get part of Poland at the end of the war. • Yalta Conference (1945) - Allies discuss what to do after WWII in Europe and how to defeat Japan. FDR/US wants free elections and for the USSR to help end the war in the Pacific, Stalin/USSR wants control over Eastern Europe to prevent another Hitler and will help fight Japan if given some islands in the Pacific. • Potsdam Conference (1945) - Allies discuss peace in Europe, and Stalin (who is occupying Eastern Europe) refuses to leave. Germany is split into four sections between Allied powers (Berlin is split as well); tensions between the US and USSR mounts; prelude to Cold War. • ALSO IMPORTANT (1945): the League of Nations of WWI failed, so the US, Britain, USSR, and China create the UNITED NATIONS 		
	<p><u>Two New Superpowers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US (suffered least from destruction of WWII) • USSR (only country that can challenge the US militarily and via political influence) 	<p><u>Two Different Ideologies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalism/Democracy/"You're simply the West - better than all the rest" (nod to Tina Turner) • Communism - seen not just as an economic but political and cultural challenge to the above 	<p><u>One New Technology</u></p> <p><i>Okay, okay, so there are lots of new technologies...you have better air pressure systems for planes, refrigeration, plastics, penicillin...but the ONE DURING WWII THAT IMPACTS THE COLD WAR THE MOST:</i></p> <p><i>The atomic bomb</i></p>
	<p>Conducting the Cold War - What is it and Major Elements</p>		
<p>What is a/the Cold War: conflict that does not involve direct military confrontation between the immediate rival states (in this case, US and USSR)</p> <p>Why are they fighting: capitalism vs communism, democracy vs authoritarianism, fear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Iron Curtain:</u> Winston Churchill's metaphor describing the split between Western and Eastern Europe (West with capitalism/democracy, East with communism/authoritarianism) <p>How is it fought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1) Alliances, 2) Arms race/Space Race, 3) Proxy Wars • Also through propaganda, secret ops/intelligence, war of ideology and intimidation 			

1) Cold War Cool Kid Clubs - Alliances and their Actions

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949)

- Views Communism like a disease; purpose is to support member nations in conflicts/wars, prevent communism from spreading
 - Domino Theory: it's spread will topple one government after another until it reaches us!
 - Containment: the best way to stop communism is to accept it where it is, and halt its spread (quarantine it)
- Truman Doctrine: promise that the US would stop communist influence, especially in Greece/Turkey with economic and military support
- Marshall Plan: offered 12 billion to all nations of Europe to modernize industry, support trade, rebuild infrastructure

Warsaw Pact - USSR and the communist bloc (1955)

- Views the West as aggressive; combined armed forces of member nations and based leaders in the USSR
- COMECON: Council for Mutual Economic Assistance; like the Marshall Plan but for Eastern European satellite states; modest impact on economy

Non-Aligned Movement

- Countries (usually African and Asian ones) who wanted to stay out of the Cold War
- Bandung Conference: delegates from 29 countries condemned colonialism
- Though many want new framework without two superpowers fighting, many become allied with one superpower or the other

3) Proxy Wars and Interventions

Proxy Wars: major powers help bring about conflict between other nations but do not fight one another directly

Berlin Blockade, Airlift, and Berlin Wall

- Context: Like Germany, Berlin was divided into four zones (three western sections become free city within East Germany)
- Blockade: USSR wants to control all of Berlin, so blockades the zones to prevent the West from accessing it/sending supplies
- Berlin Airlift: Allies fly supplies over blockade and airdrop necessities to west Berlin
 - After this, Germany splits officially into two - West Germany = Federal Republic of Germany, East Germany = German Democratic Republic
 - Europe also is now seen as solidly divided into East and West
- Berlin Wall: citizens of East Germany migrate to the West, about 2.5 million; but the USSR views this as a threat to their economy and their pride, so they set up fence and then a permanent wall in 1961
 - Those who try to escape beyond the wall are arrested or killed
 - When the wall falls it symbolizes the end of the Cold War

2) Let's Go to the Races! - Arms and Space Race

Arms Race: stockpiling and mass production of nuclear weapons

- Hydrogen Bomb: developed in 1950s by the US and USSR, more powerful than atom bombs
- Military-Industrial Complex: close relationship between military and industry that develops weapons, leads to informal alliance between government and large defense contractors - gain too much power
- Mutually Assured Destruction: "even if you win, you lose"; idea that it does not matter which country fires first, both would be destroyed; helped prevent the use of nuclear weapons

Space Race: competition between the US and USSR to achieve milestones in space

- Sputnik 1: 1957 satellite launched into space (USSR)
- Explorer 1: 1958 satellite launched into space (US)
- NASA: founded in 1958 (US)
- First USSR Man in Space: 1961 Yuri Gagarin
- First US Man in Space: 1962 John Glenn Jr
- Apollo 11, First Man on the Moon: 1969 Neil Armstrong (US)

Vietnam War (1955-1975)

- Context: Pre-WWII, Vietnam was a colony of France. During WWII, Vietnam occupied by Japanese. After WWII, France tries to retake its colony, but leads to civil war and eventual split between North Vietnam and South Vietnam,
 - North becomes communist, South becomes non communist
- Start: North invades South in 1955 (USSR supports with weapons and information, but not many soldiers); South fights back with help of US/UN (US supplies troops, also given supplies); guerrilla warfare
 - High cost of war and lack of domestic support leads to US withdraw in 1973
- Result: war ends with Vietnam reunified under the North; reestablishes friendly ties with US in 1980; estimated 2 million casualties

Bay of Pigs Crisis (1961)

- Context: the US was concerned that Cuba had recently become communist under the leadership of Fidel Castro
- Situation: Kennedy/US government gave support to Cuban exiles, who were trained by the CIA to invade Cuba and assassinate Castro; it fails splendidly

Korean War (1950-1953)

- **Context:** During WWII, Korea occupied by Japanese. After WWII, split into North (USSR backed) and South (US/UN backed) across the 38th Parallel (DMZ)
 - North becomes communist DPRK, South becomes non communist ROK
- **Start:** North invades South in 1950 (USSR supports with weapons and information, but not many soldiers); South pushes North back over DMZ with help of US/UN (US supplies troops, also given supplies)
 - General MacArthur crosses Yalu River into China, who enters on the side of the North
- **Result:** war ends in a stalemate with everyone back in their original borders across the 38th parallel; 4 million casualties, Korea remains divided

Other Conflicts:

- Angola (Africa)
- Contra War (Nicaragua)

as Castro *literally* sees them coming (he also survived a lot of attempts to assassinate him...a more modern Rasputin really)

- **Result:** the US/Kennedy are embarrassed in the eyes of the world (UN does not approve of assassinations); Cuba and USSR become closer
- **Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)**
- **Context:** due to the Bay of Pigs, Cuba and USSR become closer. USSR sends nuclear weapons to Cuba in 1962 (US had shipped missiles to Turkey in 1961)
- **Situation:** spy planes discover the missiles in 1962, and Kennedy orders a "quarantine" (blockade) of the island and begins back channel talks with USSR ambassadors as well as brings the situation to the UN
 - The US and USSR come to the brink of nuclear war during this time, especially when a charge dropped to force a USSR sub to surface almost leads the commander of the submarine to fire
 - Look up Vasili Alexandrovich Arkhipov he is a seriously cool dude
- **Result:** USSR/Khrushchev agree to remove missiles in Cuba if the US/Kennedy remove missiles from Turkey
 - **Hot Line:** direct link between US and USSR offices set up for better communication in the future...in case we near the brink of all out nuclear war again

End of Cold War and its Effects

Challenges to Nuclear Technology/Weapons

- **Antinuclear weapons movement:** first in Japan in 1954, then spread to other countries petitioning against the testing of weapons in the Pacific Ocean; eventually protesting creation, stockpile, and use of weapons
- **Test Ban Treaty:** to limit radiation exposure, in 1963 USSR, US, 100 nations sign (not France and China) outlawing testing nuclear weapons above ground, underwater, and in space
- **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:** 1968 asked countries with nuclear weapons to prevent nuclear technology/materials spreading to countries without it
- **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty:** INF in 1987, restricted creation and use of intermediate-range nuclear weapons, signals thawing of Cold War

Detente: Time period in 1960s and 1970s after Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis where the relationship between the USSR and US was more relaxed

- SALT: Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty of 1972: agreement between USSR and US that froze the number of ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missiles) that each was allowed to have
- Problems in the USSR: economic crisis, reforms in bloc countries of Eastern Europe (ex. Prague Spring), conflict with China at the border
- Problems in the US: Vietnam War made Nixon unpopular, economy suffering
 - US begins to sell grain to the USSR and seeks trade relationship with China
- Detente ends when USSR invades Afghanistan and the US halts grain shipments

Soviet-Afghan War: USSR invades Afghanistan in order to support the communist regime, which is under attack

- USSR has to withdraw in 1989, civil war continues in Afghanistan, weakens the USSR's economy and leadership

Reagan and Gorbachev

- 1980s brings new leaders and renewed tension; both US and USSR have about 12,000 nuclear missiles (enough to "destroy the world 7 times over")
- Reagan
 - calls the USSR the "evil empire"
 - Sends help to Afghanistan (military aid)
 - Strategic Defense Initiative: also called SDI or 'Star Wars Program'; plan to create a defense system that would prevent missiles hitting the US or USSR (specifically via space)

Cold War "Thaws"

- Gorbachev becomes more progressive (more relaxed and open to change)
 - *Perestroika*: restructure the strict government-controlled economy to one with some private ownership
 - *Glasnost*: opening up Soviet society to more freedoms and granting more access to political system
- He and Reagan begin meeting and were able to negotiate a better, peaceful, relationship between the USSR and US
 - They agree to the INF Treaty
- End of the USSR
 - Gorbachev stops supporting Soviet satellites with military and economic aid
 - Leads to democratic reform movements in Eastern European nations (1989)
 - Berlin Wall torn down, Germany reunites in 1990
 - Leads to democratic reform movements within the USSR itself; USSR crumbles. *Cold War is over.*

Janis, J. et al. (2020). *AMSCO Advanced Placement World History: Modern*. Perfection Learning.