

The Cold War

1945-1960

The Cold War

Student Chapter Objectives:

- *Discuss the creation of the United Nations and its purpose.*
- *Discover the postwar goals of the United States and the Soviet Union.*
- *Express how the Cold War affected American life at home.*

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I. Yalta Conference

The Soviet Union and the United States had never really been allies since 1917. Each disagreed over battle plans and tactics during the war and the U.S. was upset with the Soviet Union signing the non-aggression pact. Stalin was angry that the U.S. waited so long to get involved in the war.

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Yalta Conference

Who: Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

Where: Yalta, Soviet Union.

What: to discuss the shape of the post-war world.

Decision: to split Germany, along with Berlin, into four zones.

Divided Germany and Berlin, 1949



The Cold War

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A. Stalin promised to hold elections in his newly acquired areas and to join the Americans in helping defeat the Japanese.

B. Creation of the United Nations (U.N.) - a new international peacekeeping organization.

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A. Stalin never fulfilled any of the promises.

B. Critics of Yalta accused Roosevelt and Churchill for not doing enough to stop Stalin's takeover of Eastern Europe.

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II. Death of Roosevelt and the Birth of a New President

A. Not long after the meeting in Yalta, Roosevelt will die of a stroke on April 12, 1945.

B. This will make Vice-president Harry S. Truman the 33rd President of the United States.

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C. Truman's first meeting with Stalin occurred at a conference in Potsdam, Germany. Stalin along with the new British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, all continued to discuss the future of Germany and Poland and each still demanding that which was discussed at Yalta.

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D. Because of Soviet and U.S. relations, Truman wanted to intimidate Stalin. While at the conference, Truman told Stalin about the creation of the atomic bomb. But the thing was, Stalin already knew.

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III. Post War Views

A. American View:

1. Wanted nations to be democratic and have economic opportunity.

a. **Marshall Plan** – gave money to democratic nations that were economically depressed by the war. It also helped to create economic ties and to help ward off Communism.

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B. Soviet View:

1. Needed to rebuild their economy and the number of people in their nation.
2. Spread communism throughout the world.
3. DEFINE COMMUNISM: where government assumes responsibility for the well-being of their people.

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4. That which separates the American views from the Soviet Union views is the Iron Curtain. And the tensions between the two countries for the next 50 years will be known as the Cold War.

War Divisions, 1949



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IV. How will each side accomplish their view on the post war world?

A. United States:

1. Containment – since the Soviet Union was already lost to communism, the United States had to resist Soviet attempts to form Communist governments elsewhere in the world.

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2. **Truman Doctrine** – would provide aid to any country that needed help resisting communism.

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3. **NATO** – North Atlantic Treaty Organization – collective security; member nations agreed that an armed attack against one or more shall be considered an attack against them all.

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B. Soviet Union:

1. Create satellite nations as a buffer zone from democracy.

- Albania
- Bulgaria
- Czechoslovakia
- Hungary
- Romania
- East Germany
- Poland

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2. **Warsaw Pact** – a response to the NATO organization which included the Soviet Union and its satellite nations.

COMPLETE YOUR MAP ON NATO/WARSAW

Divided Germany and Berlin, 1949



Berlin



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V. Berlin Airlift

A. Since West Berlin was surrounded by communism, Stalin and the United States agreed that U.S. troops would be allowed to use the roads/trains to bring in materials for the people of West Berlin.

B. On June 19, 1948, Stalin blockaded the roads into West Berlin.

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C. He wanted the West Berliners to turn to his country for materials and ultimately become communistic.

D. The United States decided that if the blockade could not be removed, they would air lift the materials into West Berlin.

E. This frustrated Stalin and eventually after 11 months, he will remove the blockade.

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VI. *Was the United States successful in stopping the spread of communism and relaxing tensions?*



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A. **Arms race** - race to gain weapons superiority.

B. **Deterrence** – making the U.S. military so strong that no nation would dare attack.

C. **Brinkmanship** – the ability to get to the verge of war without actually going to war.

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D. By 1949, the Soviet Union had successfully built and tested their own atomic bomb.

E. So we built a bigger more destructive bomb – the hydrogen bomb.

F. We also created the Federal Civil Defense Administration to educate the public on a nuclear attack.

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G. Soviet Union created the ICBM - intercontinental ballistic missile.

H. They also created Sputnik – the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth.

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I. They will also shoot down one of our U-2 spy planes.

J. This will require the U.S. to spend a considerable amount of resources and money to catch up to the Soviet Union.

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VII. Other countries that will fall to Communism

- A. China
- B. North Korea
- C. Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia
- D. Latin America

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VIII. Fears of Communism at Home

A. During the Great Depression many Americans joined the Communist party because they had serious doubts about the American capitalist system. But after the war, many saw the Communist party as an association with Stalin and the Soviet Union.

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B. Anti-Communist Crusade: to root out communism in the United States.

1. **Loyalty program** – all new federal employees hired were to be investigated for suspicious communist activity.

2. **HUAC** – House Un-American Activities Committee – will charge Hollywood actors with being members of the communist party.

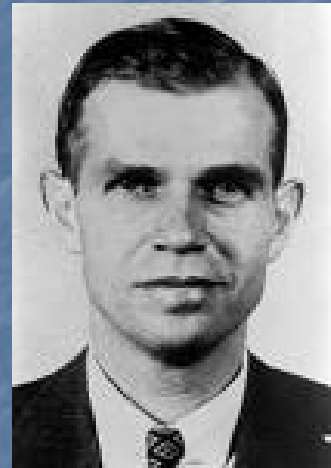
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- a. **Hollywood 10** – ten very prominent actors invoked their 5th amendment rights when asked to testify. They were cited for contempt and served jail terms ranging from six months to a year.
- b. **Blacklist** – studios compiled a list to circulate among employers the names of persons who should not be hired.

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C. Court Spy Cases:

1. Alger Hiss



2. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg



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D. Red Scare – McCarthyism

1. Joseph McCarthy

a. Senator from Wisconsin who needed a platform for re-election.

b. He focused on communism within the U.S. and took his crusade to the senate floor.



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c. He will engage in smear tactics focused on government employees. Merely being accused by McCarthy caused people to lose their jobs.

d. Then he accused Army officials and the Army as being communist. This caused his reputation to fall.

e. The Army–McCarthy hearings were televised and ruined McCarthy because of his outlandish accusations.