The Early Cold War: 1945-1953

Essential Questions:
1) What were Yalta and Potsdam?
2) Why did the alliance that had existed between Russia and the U.S. during World War II fall apart?
3) What were the major points of difference?
4) What were the new roles of Joseph Stalin and Harry Truman in world politics?
Postwar Reality

- **Consequences of World War II**
  - 1) Communist Russia (the Soviet Union) became the new enemy
  - 2) Unlike the isolation after WWI, the U.S. was engaged in world affairs
  - 3) The triumph of Communists in China
  - 4) Decolonization
    - The independence of nations from European (U.S. & Japan) colonial powers.
Cost of World War II

- **Germany** - 3 million combat deaths (3/4ths on the eastern front)
- **Japan** – over 1.5 combat deaths; 900,000 civilians dead
- **Soviet Union** - 13 million combat deaths
- **U.S.** – 300,000 combat deaths, over 100,000 other deaths
- **When you include all combat and civilian deaths, World War II becomes the most destructive war in history with estimates as high as 60 million, including 25 million Russians.**
Postwar Efforts at Revenge

The Nuremberg Trials of 1945-46
- After WWII the Allied powers place on trial the highest-ranking Nazi officers for "crimes against humanity"
- Hitler, Goebbels, and Himmler were dead; but, 22 Nazi leaders (including Goring) were tried at an international military tribunal at Nuremburg, Germany. 12 were sentenced to death. Similar trials occurred in the east and throughout the world.
- The Tokyo Trial (1946-48) — Japanese war criminals were placed on trial.

Postwar Reality: Soviet Control of Eastern Europe

- Europe was politically cut in half; Soviet troops had overrun eastern Europe and penetrated into the heart of Germany.
- During 1944-1945, Stalin starts shaping the post-war world by occupying SE Europe with Soviet troops that should have been on the Polish front pushing toward Berlin.
- Roosevelt did not have postwar aims because he still had to fight Japan; Stalin did have postwar aims.
What were Yalta and Potsdam?

- **Yalta** was a wartime allied conference, featuring the "Big Three" (Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin) which dealt mainly with the settlement of post-war Europe.
  - Allegedly FD Roosevelt was too ill to withstand Stalin's demands, and his successor, Harry S Truman, took a tougher line.
  - Harry Truman became president of the U.S. after FDR died from a stroke in April, 1945.

- **The Potsdam Conference**, featuring Churchill, Stalin and Truman, met to decide the future of Germany and postwar Europe in general. In effect, Germany was divided, with the Western powers controlling West Germany and the U.S.S.R. controlling East Germany.
YALTA (in the USSR)
Date: Feb 1945
Present: Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin

POTSDAM (Germany)
Date: July 1945
Present: Churchill, Truman and Stalin
What happened in Germany?

- The Russians took very high casualties to capture Berlin in May 1945. They spent the early occupation trying to take over all zones of the city but were stopped by German democrats such as Willy Brandt and Konrad Adenauer. Reluctantly the Russians had to admit the Americans, French and British to their respective zones.
Iron Curtain

– A term used by Winston Churchill to describe the separating of those communist lands of East Europe from the West.

Part I: “Reconstruction & Confrontation”
1. Bonus Challenge: Identify as many things we will study as possible!

2. Why did relations sour?

- Major point: The USSR lost around 20 million people in WW2
- By contrast GB lost around 370,000 and the USA lost 297,000 people.
- **Joseph Stalin** (died 1953) — the Communist dictator of Russia — was determined to make the USSR a new superpower and to challenge democracy and capitalism around the world.
In order to strengthen his dictatorial power, Stalin started the Great Purges (also known as “The Terror”), during which Stalin ordered the assassination of countless suspected political enemies. Others were sent to labor camps!
Inside the USSR: Stalin’s “Cult of Personality”

- Stalin promoted Russian history and culture
- Promoted a “Cult of Personality”—Stalin ordered the production and circulation of propaganda material portraying himself as a great national hero and “deity” (god-like figure).
In order to quickly modernize Russia, Stalin developed "Five-Year Plans"—a program of state-guided industrialization and the collectivization of agriculture.

- **Collectivization**—policy designed to increase agricultural output from large-scale mechanized farms, to bring the peasantry under more direct political control, and to make tax collection more efficient.
- Led to the death of millions of Russian farmers due to starvation and exhaustion!

“Stalin’s Cult Of Personality”
Why did Stalin promote industrialization?

**Motives for industrialisation**
If we are backward and weak, we may be beaten and enslaved. But if we are powerful, people must beware of us. We are 50 to 100 years behind the advanced countries of the West. We must make up this gap in 10 years. Either we do this or they crush us.
(from a speech made by Stalin to the First Conference of Workers in 1931)

**Propaganda**
Workers were bombarded with posters which aimed to generate support for the industrialisation programme. What is the purpose of each of the following propaganda pieces?

**The Soviet people and industrialisation**
The Soviet people achieved so much in such a short time. This happened because all the country’s wealth belongs to the working people who create this wealth. The Stakhanovite movement spread all over the country. Thousands of workers produced more than their quota. Miracles were created by the enthusiastic work of the Soviet people.
(from a Soviet school textbook published in 1976)
Investigative Question:
What were the local and global effects of the ideological conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union?

Explore:
The Cold War was the period of conflict, tension, and competition between the United States and the Soviet Union from the mid-1940s until the early 1980s. From the images above, can you determine a possible cause of this 40-year conflict?

Connect:
Can you think of any new ideological conflicts taking place in the world today? Have they resulted in global conflict?

Captain America

Warm Up—5 minutes!

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Raid Name: Steve Rogers
Occupation: Super Soldier, former Intelligence officer
Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with an enhanced record
Identity: Secret
Other Aliases: Nomad, the Captain
Place of Birth: New York City

Profile: Steve Rogers was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1918. He was drafted into the Army in 1940 and became a Captain during World War II. After the war, he was briefly a member of the Avengers.

In his early career, Rogers was known for his strength, speed, and agility. He was eventually contacted by Dr. Abraham Erskine, a scientist who had developed a formula for creating a super-soldier. Rogers agreed to be the subject of the experiment and was given a serum that enhanced his physical and mental abilities.

After months of training, Rogers was able to demonstrate his enhanced abilities. He was eventually recruited into the Strategic Homeland Investigation, Enforcement, and Landing Forces (S.H.I.E.L.D.)

1. Why did Steve Rogers become a Super Soldier in 1941?
2. What is the origin of Captain America?
3. Captain America's popularity soared during the 1950s. Why do you think that is so?
The Post-War World: The rise of the superpowers

- The damage caused by World War II to several European and Asian countries left only two countries with the military strength and resources to be called superpowers... USA and USSR!

Differing Ideologies

- **Ideology** -- is an organized collection of ideas. An ideology can be thought of as a comprehensive vision, as a way of looking at things. It is often applied to politics.
- Two opposing ideologies: USA was capitalist and USSR was communism.
- They had allied against Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy... Now that the common enemy had been defeated, the reason for co-operation was gone.
- Differences soon emerged.
The Ideological Struggle

**GOAL**: Spread world-wide Communism

**US & the Western Democracies**

**GOAL**: "Containment" (stop the spread) of Communism & the eventual collapse of the Communist world.

**METHODOLOGIES:**

- Espionage [KGB vs. CIA]
- Arms Race [nuclear escalation]
- Ideological Competition for the minds and hearts of Third World peoples [Communist govt. & command economy vs. democratic govt. & capitalist economy] → "proxy wars"
- Bi-Polarization of Europe [NATO vs. Warsaw Pact]
Roots of the Cold War: "Ideas" (ideological differences)

**Introduction**
- The "Cold War" between communist USSR and the capitalist West has its roots in deep differences of opinion about how societies should be run.
- Read through the following table, which provides analysis of which factors contributed to this disagreement. Read the ideas of capitalism and communism and evaluate and discuss which you believe are the most true.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Capitalism</th>
<th>Communism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Politics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
<td>Voters should only be allowed to choose between communist candidates, because...</td>
<td>Voters should be able to choose anyone of any party, because...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Censorship</td>
<td>The press should never criticise a communist government, because...</td>
<td>The press should be free to criticise the government, because...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press</td>
<td>Free Press</td>
<td>Free Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>Equality of Opportunity (people should be free to share their wealth with those less fortunate, because...</td>
<td>Equality of Opportunity (people should be free to earn as much (or as little) money as they are able, because...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>Nationalisation (assets and property should be owned by the state on behalf of all the people, because...)</td>
<td>Privatisation (assets and property should be owned by individuals and companies, because...)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions and Tasks
1. Complete each sentence in the table by trying to explain how this idea could be defended (you don’t necessarily have to believe in it).
2. Make a poster or diagram which illustrates the main differences between capitalism and communism.

The two sides of the Cold War

**Capitalism**
- **In theory:** All industry, nature and agriculture should be owned by private people or firms. Competition between rival factories or shops or firms will ensure prices fall, and make firms more efficient.
- **In practice:**
  - Any person should be free to start a business and employ people.
  - Average standard of living higher than under Communism, but a wide spread between rich and poor.
  - A free economy.

**Communism**
- **In theory:** Everything belongs to the state and should be run by the government on behalf of the people. A classless society achieved by overthrowing capitalism by revolution.
- **In practice:**
  - No private person should be allowed to profit from the work of others.
  - Average standard of living, but (in theory) everyone equal.
  - A controlled economy.

**Opportunity for all**
- Choice of many parties for Government, chosen by the people. A democracy.

17
What’s the meaning of these cartoons?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Actual Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Reduction of Soviet ability to project outside power.</td>
<td>Exploitation of tensions in international communism.</td>
<td>Cooperation with communist regimes; [supporting Titoism in Yugoslavia]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
George Kennan ["X Article"]: CONTAINMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Actual Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.

-Winston Churchill

Task: Why did Churchill call it an "iron curtain"?
1) What would be an appropriate title to a newspaper containing these cartoons? 2) Describe the meaning of each cartoon.
c. What is the message of this cartoon?
(remember CIDI)

Context
At the time this source was produced,....

Interpretation
I think the message of the cartoonist is that...

Detail
The cartoonist creates this impression in a number of ways...

Source A: Stalin speaking on 9th Feb. 1945
Victory means, first of all, that our Soviet social system has won. The Soviet social system has successfully stood the test in the fire of war and it has proved its complete vitality. The Soviet social system has proved to be more capable and more stable than a non-Soviet social system. The Soviet social system is a better form of society than any non-Soviet social system.

Source B: At Yalta, in February 1945, Stalin tried to explain to Churchill and Roosevelt why Poland was so important to the Soviet Union.
Mr. Churchill has said that for Great Britain the Polish question is one of honour. But for the Russians it is a question of both honour and security. Throughout history Poland has been the corridor of attack on Russia. It is not merely a question of honour for Russia, but one of life and death.

Source C: In March 1946, Stalin replied to Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech. It should not be forgotten that the Germans invaded the USSR through Finland, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. The Germans were able to invade because governments hostile to the Soviet Union existed in these countries. As a result the Soviet Union had a loss of life several times greater than that of Britain and the United States put together. And so what is surprising about the fact that the Soviet Union, anxious for its future safety, is trying to see that governments loyal to the Soviet Union should exist in these countries?

a. Using these sources and notes made in your earlier www.activshistory.co.uk worksheets, identify FIVE reasons why Stalin wanted to take control of Eastern Europe.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
The Bipolarization of Europe

By 1945, the Soviet Union had established communist regimes in all of the territories that they had "liberated" during World War Two. This process was described as the "iron curtain" by Winston Churchill. The Hungarian Communist Katolik describes the process as "socialism in one country" because States erected barriers to the free flow of goods and information. The countries were: East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania. The Eastern Bloc was created to prevent the spread of democracy and capitalism. It was controlled by the Soviet Union and the countries in the bloc collaborated with each other.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Bloc</th>
<th>Eastern Bloc</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>DE</td>
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<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>BE</td>
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<td>AT</td>
<td>CH</td>
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<td>IE</td>
<td>DK</td>
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<td>GR</td>
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<td>ES</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>USSR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 1: Using any sources available to you, prepare a presentation on the events that happened between 1942 and 1958 in one of the countries shaded in the map.

Different members of the class may choose research different countries and present to the rest of the class what they have found.

East Germany was a particularly interesting case. Yugoslavia provides a very different picture, because its leader (Tito) successfully resisted Stalin.
“I believe that it must be the policy of the U.S. to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures....We must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way....Our help should primarily be through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes.”

- Truman Doctrine

Question: Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? How might this applied to the current situation in Iraq?

What was the Truman Doctrine?

- Truman had been horrified at the pre-war Allied policy of appeasement and was determined to stand up to any Soviet intimidation.

- The Truman Doctrine (1947) promised that the USA "would support free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures". Triggered by British inability to hold the line in Greece, it was followed by aid to Greece and Turkey, and also money to secure upcoming elections in Italy and the advance of Communist trade unions in France.

It signalled the end of "isolationist" policies. Isolationism — the policy of not getting involved in foreign affairs.
Truman Doctrine [1947]

1. **Reason #1:** Civil War in Greece.
2. **Reason #2:** Turkey under pressure from the USSR for concessions in the Dardanelles.
3. **The U. S. should support free peoples throughout the world who were resisting takeovers by armed minorities or outside pressures...** We must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way.
4. **The U.S. gave Greece & Turkey $400 million in aid.**
Marshall Plan [1948]

1. “European Recovery Program.”
2. Created by Secretary of State, George Marshall
3. The U.S. should provide aid to all European nations that need it. This move is not against any country or doctrine, but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos.
4. $12.5 billion of US aid to Western Europe extended to Eastern Europe & USSR, [but this was rejected].
Why did the U.S. defense budget go up beginning in 1948?

Read "The Marshall Plan for Rebuilding Western Europe" and answer "Questions for Discussion and Writing." Then, complete this!
Task 1: Structured Questions

a. Why was the policy set out by the Truman Doctrine known as “containment”?

b. Why were the states which surrounded the USSR known as “satellite” states?

c. George Marshall said his plan was “Directed against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos”. So why did the USSR refuse Marshall Aid?

d. Truman always described Marshall Aid and the Truman Doctrine as “Two Halves of the same whole”. What do you think he meant by this?

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Task 2: Cartoon Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Is the source FOR or AGAINST UNBIASED about the Marshall Plan?</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
<th>What features of the cartoon create this impression?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Task 1: Write-up

With your grid completed, you are now ready to write up your findings as a mini-essay. Use the sources and your completed grid to complete the table (note: you do not need to use all of the sources).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Which depicts...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source A</td>
<td>George Marshall announced his plan for economic aid to Europe, placing himself in a very dangerous position.</td>
<td>This is demonstrated by Source A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source B</td>
<td>The Soviet Union was opposed to the Marshall Plan because it feared it would make Europe dependent on America.</td>
<td>This is demonstrated by Source B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source C</td>
<td>Many Americans were against the Marshall Plan because they thought it could not be successful.</td>
<td>This is demonstrated by Source C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source D</td>
<td>As a result, the Marshall Plan was not approved immediately, and this created fears that Europe would fall to the communists.</td>
<td>This is demonstrated by Source D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source E</td>
<td>Marshall argued that the American people were turning a blind eye to the disastrous results that the collapse of Europe could have for the USA.</td>
<td>This is demonstrated by Source E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source F</td>
<td>The plan was eventually put into action, and was much more successful than Stalin's own COMECON plan.</td>
<td>This is demonstrated by Source F.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion Point

After World War One, the USA retreated into a policy of "isolationism." After World War Two this did not happen. Why do you think this was?
Berlin Blockade & Airlift (1948-49)

Warm Up: What do you think is going on in the photos? Think: Who, what, when, where and why?

West Germany — democratic and more economically successful
East Germany — Communist and poorer.

The Allied airlift, during which Allied aircraft dropped food supplies by parachute into Berlin, signalled the West’s determination to use all resources to defend Berlin against a Communist takeover.

The Berlin Airlift

• The Allies couldn’t agree on what to do with Germany.
  • Instead of 4 zones, now only 2!

• Stalin blockades West Berlin, cutting off food and supplies. He hoped the Allies would give up West Berlin.

• Stalin, feeling defeated, gives up the blockade.

Task: How’s the temperature of the Cold War doing? Draw in the temperature in Fahrenheit.
Post-War Germany

ILLINGWORTH CARTOONS
Worksheet 4 - The Cold War

THE SITUATION
This cartoon was published on 16 July 1948. It shows Uncle Sam looking at a barometer with the face of Stalin and the words “Berlin Blockade” on it.

You will need to build up your knowledge of the cartoon step by step.

Who was Stalin?

According to Illingworth’s portrayal, what kind of man was he?

What do you notice about the faces? What kind of relationship was between the two leaders?

What do you suppose is the message of this cartoon at first glance?

Read a little about the history of Berlin in the Cold War. Do you understand the cartoon a little more now? What was Illingworth trying saying here?

http://www.igc.org.uk/ilingworth/
The Arms Race: A “Missile Gap?”

- The Soviet Union exploded its first A-bomb in 1949.
- Now there were two nuclear superpowers!

Ingredients list for a nuclear bomb

At its simplest, an atomic (fission) bomb does one thing: it assembles a “critical mass” of fission fuel fast enough to start a chain reaction. One liberated neutron strikes a uranium nucleus, releasing energy and more neutrons. If the process occurs in the blink of an eye, before the bomb blows itself apart, you have the kind of fission weapon that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

(Hydrogen bombs, aka fusion bombs, are more powerful, but much more difficult to make. Thus the proliferation debate focuses on fission bombs.)

An atomic bomb requires two key ingredients: expertise and bomb fuel.
Fission is the splitting of atoms into smaller pieces. In a fission chain reaction, neutrons hit atomic nuclei, releasing energy and neutrons, which strike other atoms, releasing yet more energy and yet more neutrons. This chain reaction is the heart of an atomic bomb.

Check out this video of an atomic blast on YouTube!
Directions: Complete this sheet and create a 8-10 slide PowerPoint on the subject. Answer this question: Was the invention of nuclear energy a benefit to humankind or just a means to bring about its ultimate destruction? How did it increase Cold War tensions? Include your sources!

**Student Note Sheet - History of Nuclear Energy**

**Historical Event in the Development of Nuclear Energy**

**1600s**

**1900s to 1950**

**1950 to present**
8th Grade Warm Up: 4 Minutes

• Prompt: Write down a thesis statement with which you will use to defend your position on your nuclear energy PowerPoint presentation. Then, list at least three arguments, which can be supported by facts and evidence, which you will use to support your thesis.
Mao’s Revolution: 1949

Who lost China? - A 2<sup>nd</sup> Power!

Communist leader Mao Zedong establishes the People’s Republic of China, a communist government! Panic grows in the U.S.

The Korean War: A Country divided!

Syngman Rhee

North Korea
Communist country, Influenced by China

Kim Il-Sung

South Korea
Democratic country, Influenced by U.S.A.

"Domino Theory"—Countries will continue to fall to Communism unless its contained (by U.S.)!
**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949)**

A military alliance established by the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949. Meant to prevent the spread of Communism.

- United States
- Belgium
- Britain
- Canada
- Denmark
- France
- Iceland
- Italy
- Luxemburg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- 1952: Greece & Turkey
- 1955: West Germany
- 1983: Spain

**Warsaw Pact (1955)**

An organization of communist states in Central and Eastern Europe. It was established in 1955 in Warsaw, Poland. It was a response to the NATO alliance.

- U. S. S. R.
- East Germany
- Albania
- Hungary
- Bulgaria
- Poland
- Czechoslovakia
- Rumania
To be continued in Korean War PowerPoint!

Project Choice #1

Cold War: Introduction

What was the "Cold War"?

- The "Cold War" is the name given to the rivalry between the Communist USSR and the United States. The USSR and the US were the world's "Superpowers".
- Although the Cold War was mainly characterized by detente and rivalry, there were "hot spots" where military conflict broke out (e.g., Korea and Vietnam).
- Both sides had nuclear weapons, and conflict could be triggered by the push of a button. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the world was pushed to the brink of a nuclear holocaust which ended before any nuclear explosion.
- The Cold War ended when the USSR collapsed.

Task 1

- Your job is to produce a timeline of the main events of the Cold War on one side of large paper.

How much time do I have available?

One lesson plus a homework.

What should I include?

- At least 10 events.
- The time and the name of the event.
- A description of the event.

How should I research it?

- You should use the internet ("Cold War Timeline" usually throws out some good results from a search engine) and any other sources available to you.
- WARNING: Many timelines will be very detailed. Try to find one that is short and relatively brief to save time. Read through the events and then decide upon some to include.
Rubric:
5 points for each card, featuring your own drawings and facts on back. Sources must be cited!