

Cold War Assignments:

Open up the PowerPoint for instructions. This document contains the documents needed to complete your assignments.

Assignment #1-- America the Story of Us: Superpower

https://www.history.com/videos/superpower?playlist_slug=history-at-home-america-the-story-of-us

Answer the questions as you watch the episode.

1. What is the U.S. population in 1945?
2. How much more does the average American family make than in Europe?
3. What were America's first highways?
4. What President makes it his mission to improve the roads?
5. What is the biggest engineering project in history?
6. By 1955 the USA is making what percentage of the world's automobiles?
7. Why do many towns die?
8. In 1946, _____ baby is born every _____ seconds.
9. What is America's most famous postwar housing?
10. How much was the family home in today's money?
11. What "wins" the South?
12. Who tells the world in 1961 that America will put a man on the moon?
13. How many Americans worked strictly on Apollo 11?
14. How many Americans reached the moon?
15. What is the fault line that chains the nation?
16. When does change occur for African Americans?
17. What happens in July 1948?
18. Who was the voice of the modern Civil Rights Movement?
19. What was passed a year after the March on Washington?
20. What did the Manhattan Project develop?
21. What infiltrates the Manhattan Project?
22. When did the Soviets get the bomb?
23. What were the drills done at school?
24. 1960 – The _____ Incident: a US spy plane shot down over the USSR.
25. 1962 - _____ Crisis over nuclear warheads in Cuba.
26. Why were congressional hearings set up?

COLD WAR OVERVIEW

Directions: Read the following information and complete one pager notes

Overview: What was the Cold War?

After being Allies during WWII, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. soon viewed each other with increasing suspicion. Their political differences created a climate of icy tension that plunged the two countries into an era of bitter rivalry known as the Cold War. The rivalry between the two superpowers led to many indirect (proxy) wars. There was never a direct military engagement between the US and the Soviet Union, but there was half a century of military buildup as well as political battles for support around the world. Tensions lasted until the break up of the USSR in the early 1990's.

Causes of the Cold War

1. The Soviet Union was a Communist country, ruled by a dictator, who cared little about human rights.

The USA was a capitalist democracy which valued freedom.

2. Stalin wanted huge reparations from Germany, and a 'buffer' of friendly states to protect the USSR from being invaded again.

Britain and the USA wanted to protect democracy, and help Germany to recover. They were worried that large areas of eastern Europe were falling under Soviet control.

3. The Soviet Union could not forget that in 1918 Britain and the USA had tried to destroy the Russian Revolution. Stalin also thought that they had not given him enough help in the Second World War.

Britain and the USA could not forget that Stalin had signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact with Germany in 1939.

4. Neither side trusted each other. Every action they took made them hate each other more.

How did the United States respond to communism?

Truman began a policy of **containment**—blocking the Soviets from spreading communism. Under the **Truman Doctrine**, the United States helped nations that were threatened by communism. The United States also adopted the **Marshall Plan** in 1947. This plan gave food and other aid to European countries to help them recover from the war. In 1948, the Soviets and Americans *clashed* over Germany. France, Britain, and the United States agreed to pull their troops out of Germany. They let the three zones that they occupied unite. But the Soviets refused to leave their zone. Then they cut off all highway and train traffic into Berlin, which was deep within the Soviet zone. The United States and Britain responded with the *Berlin airlift*. They flew food and supplies into the city for 11 months. Finally, the Soviets lifted the *blockade*.

Tensions between Super Powers increase

The struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union was called the **Cold War**. Many countries supported one superpower or the other. The United States, Canada, and several countries in Western Europe formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**). NATO was a military *alliance*. Each nation promised to defend any other member that was attacked. The Soviets and the countries of Eastern Europe made a similar agreement. It was called the **Warsaw Pact**. In 1949, the Soviet Union announced that it had developed an atomic bomb. Three years later, both superpowers had an even more deadly weapon—the hydrogen bomb. Soon both nations were involved in an arms race. They produced more and more nuclear weapons and developed new ways to deliver them. Both sides were willing to go to the brink, or edge, of war. This became known as **brinkmanship**. In 1957, the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik*, the world's first human-made satellite. Many people were shocked. Americans felt that the Soviets were far ahead in science and technology. The United States then began spending huge amounts of money to improve science education. The U-2 incident brought more tension. The United States sent planes, called U-2 planes, to spy over Soviet territory. One was shot down in 1960.

Iron Curtain

At the end of World War II, Soviet forces occupied lands along its western border. After the war, Stalin made sure Communist governments were in place in these lands: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland, and Yugoslavia. This divided Europe between East and West.

Winston Churchill called this division the "iron curtain."

Soviet Union Characteristics

Communism: "An economic system in which all means of production are owned by the people

- land, factories, railroads, and businesses private property does not exist
- all goods and services are to be shared equally
- In theory there are no social classes- but they still existed in the USSR

Totalitarianism: Under Stalin the Soviet Union took control of all aspects of both public and private life

Motives:

- Encourage communism in other countries as part of a world wide worker's revolution
- Control Eastern Europe to protect Soviet borders & limit U.S. influence
- Keep Germany divided to prevent them from waging war again



United States Characteristics

Democracy: America is a democracy that has a capitalist economic system, free elections, & competing political parties

Capitalism: An economic system in which money is invested with the goal of making more money (profit)

Motives:

- Encourage democracy in other countries in order to help prevent the rise of Communist government
- Rebuild European governments to promote stability & create new markets for American goods
- Reunite Germany to stabilize it & increase the security of Europe

COLD WAR TIMELINE

Directions: Use the timeline to plot US Leadership (first line), Events (2nd line), and Soviet Leadership (3rd line)

Influential American Leaders

President	Cold War Tensions	Term
Harry Truman	Increased	1945-1953
Dwight Eisenhower	Increased	1953-1961
John F Kennedy	Increased	1961-1963
Lyndon B Johnson	Increased	1963-1969
Richard Nixon	Decreased	1969-1974
Ford	Decreased	1974-1977
Ronald Regan	Increased	1981-1989

Increased tension- highlight red
Decreased tension- highlight green

Cold War Events

Event	Description	Date
Yalta Conference	With the defeat of Nazi Germany imminent, the Big Three Allies meet in the Crimean resort town of Yalta from February 4-11. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin agree to jointly govern postwar Germany, while Stalin pledges fair and open elections in Poland.	1945
Berlin Airlift	On June 24, the Soviet Union makes a bid for control of Berlin by blockading all land access to the city. From June 1948 to May 1949, U.S. and British planes airlift 1.5 million tons of supplies to the residents of West Berlin. After 200,000 flights, the Soviet Union lifts the blockade.	1948
Korean War	On June 25, North Korean communist forces cross the 38th parallel and invade South Korea. On June 27, Truman orders U.S. forces to assist the South Koreans while the U.N. Security Council condemns the invasion and establishes a 15-nation fighting force. Chinese troops enter the conflict by year's end.	1950
Sputnik	On October 4, the Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the first man-made satellite to orbit the Earth. In 1958, the U.S. creates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the space race is in full gear.	1957
U-2 Incident	On May 1, an American high-altitude U-2 spy plane is shot down on a mission over the Soviet Union. After the Soviets announce the capture of pilot Francis Gary Powers, the United States recants earlier assertions that the plane was on a weather research mission.	1960
Cuban Missile Conference	After the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, the Soviet Union installs nuclear missiles in Cuba capable of reaching most of the continental United States. After U-2 flights confirm their existence, Kennedy orders a naval blockade of Cuba on October 22 until the Soviet Union removes its missiles. On October 28, the Soviets agree to remove the missiles, defusing one of the most dangerous confrontations of the Cold War.	1962
Vietnam	North Vietnamese patrol boats fired on the USS Mattox in the Gulf of Tonkin on August 2. On August 7, the U.S. Congress approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Johnson authority to send U.S. troops to South Vietnam	1964
SALT Treaty	On November 17, the first phase of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks begins in Helsinki, Finland. The finished agreement, signed by Nixon and Brezhnev in Moscow on May 26, 1972, places limits on both submarine-launched and intercontinental nuclear missiles.	1969
Star Wars	On March 23, Reagan outlines his Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars," a space-based defensive shield that would use lasers and other advanced technology to destroy attacking missiles far above the Earth's surface. Soviets accuse the U.S of violating the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty.	1983
Berlin Wall Falls	Gorbachev renounces the Brezhnev Doctrine, which pledged to use Soviet force to protect its interests in Eastern Europe. On September 10, Hungary opens its border with Austria, allowing East Germans to flee to the West. After massive public demonstrations in East Germany and Eastern Europe, the Berlin Wall falls on November 9.	1989

Influential Soviet Leaders

Leader	Cold War Tensions	Term
Joseph Stalin	Increased	1924-1953
Nikita Khrushchev	Increased	1955-1964
Leonid Brezhnev	Increased/Decreased	1964-1982
Mikhail Gorbachev	Decreased	1985-1991

Increased tension- highlight red
Decreased tension- highlight green



COLD WAR TIMELINE



1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990

US Leadership



Events



USSR Leadership



Assignment #4

Central Historical Question: Who was primarily responsible for the Cold War—the United States or the Soviet Union?

After reviewing the slides on the PowerPoint read the primary documents and answer the guiding questions. After answering the guiding questions respond to the Central Historical Question.

Timeline of the Early Cold War

- 1945 February 4-11 - Yalta Conference
- 1945 August 6 - United States first used atomic bomb in war
- 1945 August 8 - Russia enters war against Japan
- 1945 August 14 - Japanese surrenders, ending World War II
- 1946 March - Winston Churchill delivers "Iron Curtain" speech
- 1947 March - Truman announces Truman Doctrine
- 1947 June - Marshall Plan is announced
- 1948 February - Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia
- 1948 June 24 - Berlin blockade begins
- 1949 July - NATO treaty ratified
- 1949 May 12 - Berlin Blockade ends
- 1949 September - Mao Zedong, a communist, takes control of China
- 1949 September - Soviets explode first atomic bomb
- 1955 May – Warsaw Pact

Document A: The Iron Curtain Speech (Modified)

It is my duty, however, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe.

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia; all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow.

In a great number of countries, far from the Russian frontiers and throughout the world, Communist fifth columns are established and work in complete unity and absolute obedience to the directions they receive from the Communist center.

I do not believe that Soviet Russia desires war. What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power and doctrines.

But what we have to consider here today while time remains, is the permanent prevention of war and the establishment of conditions of freedom and democracy as rapidly as possible in all countries.

Source: Excerpt from the "Iron Curtain Speech" delivered by Winston Churchill, March 1946 in Fulton, Missouri.

Guiding Questions:

1. *Sourcing:* Who was Winston Churchill? Why would Americans trust what he has to say about the Soviet Union?
2. *Close reading:* What does Churchill claim that the Soviet Union wanted?

Document B: The Truman Doctrine (Modified)

The United States has received from the Greek Government an urgent appeal for financial and economic assistance...Greece is in desperate need of financial and economic assistance to enable it to resume purchases of food, clothing, fuel, and seeds.

The very existence of the Greek state is today threatened by the terrorist activities of several thousand armed men, led by Communists, who defy the government's authority. . . . Greece must have assistance if it is to become a self-supporting and self-respecting democracy. The United States must supply this assistance. . . . No other nation is willing and able to provide the necessary support for a democratic Greek government.

One of the primary objectives of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which we and other nations will be able to work out a way of life free from coercion.

It is necessary only to glance at a map to realize that the survival and integrity of the Greek nation are of grave importance in a much wider situation. If Greece should fall under the control of an armed minority, the effect upon its neighbor, Turkey, would be immediate and serious. Confusion and disorder might well spread throughout the entire Middle East. . . . Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West as well as to the East.

The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world. And we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation.

Great responsibilities have been placed upon us by the swift movement of events.

Source: Excerpt from the "Truman Doctrine Speech," delivered by President Truman to Congress on March 12, 1947.

Guiding Questions:

1. *Close reading:* Why did Truman believe Greece needed American aid in 1947?
2. *Context:* What does Truman mean when he claims, "Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West as well as to the East"?
3. *Close reading:* Does Truman present American policy as offensive or defensive? What words or phrases does Truman use to present policy this way?

Document C: Soviet Ambassador Telegram (Modified)

The foreign policy of the United States, which reflects the imperialist tendencies of American monopolistic capital, is characterized in the postwar period by a striving for world supremacy. This is the real meaning of the many statements by President Truman and other representatives of American ruling circles; that the United States has the right to lead the world. All the forces of American diplomacy -- the army, the air force, the navy, industry, and science -- are enlisted in the service of this foreign policy. For this purpose broad plans for expansion have been developed and are being implemented through diplomacy and the establishment of a system of naval and air bases stretching far beyond the boundaries of the United States, through the arms race, and through the creation of ever newer types of weapons. . . .

During the Second World War . . . [American leaders] calculated that the United States of America, if it could avoid direct participation in the war, would enter it only at the last minute, when it could easily affect the outcome of the war, completely ensuring its interests.

In this regard, it was thought that the main competitors of the United States would be crushed or greatly weakened in the war, and the United States by virtue of this circumstance would assume the role of the most powerful factor in resolving the fundamental questions of the postwar world.

Source: *Excerpt from a telegram sent by Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Novikov to Soviet Leadership in September 1946.*

Guiding Questions

1. *Sourcing:* Who was Nicholas Novikov? When did he write this telegram?
2. *Close reading:* How does Novikov describe the United States? What evidence does he use to support his description?
3. *Context:* What does Novikov claim the United States planned during the Second World War?

Document D: Henry Wallace (Modified)

I have been increasingly disturbed about the trend of international affairs since the end of the war.

How do American actions appear to other nations? I mean actions [like] the Bikini tests of the atomic bomb and continued production of bombs, the plan to arm Latin America with our weapons, and the effort to secure air bases spread over half the globe from which the other half of the globe can be bombed. I cannot but feel that these actions must make it look to the rest of the world as if we were only paying lip service to peace at the conference table.

These facts rather make it appear either (1) that we are preparing ourselves to win the war which we regard as inevitable or (2) that we are trying to build up a predominance [largest amount] of force to intimidate the rest of mankind.

Our interest in establishing democracy in Eastern Europe, where democracy by and large has never existed, seems to [the Soviets] an attempt to reestablish the encirclement of unfriendly neighbors which might serve as a springboard of still another effort to destroy [them].

Source: *Secretary of Commerce and former Vice President Henry A. Wallace letter to President Harry S. Truman, July 23, 1946. Truman asked Wallace to resign shortly after this letter.*

Guiding Questions

1. *Sourcing:* Who was Henry Wallace? When did he write this letter?
2. *Close Reading:* What is Wallace's main argument?
3. *Corroboration:* How does Wallace's description of American foreign policy compare to Truman's and Novikov's?