

## 28 – The Cold War

**Key Concept 4.1: Total war and political instability in the first half of the 20th century gave way to a polarized state order during the Cold War and eventually to efforts at transnational union.**

- IV. As World War II ended, a Cold War between the liberal democratic West and the communist East began, lasting nearly half a century.
- E. Despite efforts to maintain international cooperation through the newly created United Nations, deep-seated tensions between the USSR and the West led to the division of Europe, which was referred to in the West as the Iron Curtain.
- F. The Cold War played out on a global stage and involved propaganda campaigns; covert actions; limited “hot wars” in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean; and an arms race, with the threat of a nuclear war.
- Korean War, Vietnam War, The Yom Kippur War, The Afghanistan War
- E. The United States exerted a strong military, political, and economic influence in Western Europe, leading to the creation of world monetary and trade systems and geopolitical alliances such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), World Trade Organization (WTO)
- F. Countries east of the Iron Curtain came under the military, political, and economic domination of the Soviet Union within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) and the Warsaw Pact.
- G. The collapse of the USSR in 1991 ended the Cold War and led to the establishment of capitalist economies throughout Eastern Europe. Germany was reunited, the Czechs and the Slovaks parted, Yugoslavia dissolved, and the European Union was enlarged through admission of former Eastern bloc countries.
- V. In response to the destructive impact of two world wars, economic and political integration, forming a series of transnational unions that grew in size and scope over the second half of the 20th century.
- C. As the economic alliance known as the European Coal and Steel Community, envisioned as a means to spur postwar economic recovery, developed into the European Economic Community (EEC or Common Market) and the European Union (EU), Europe experienced increasing economic and

political integration and efforts to establish a shared European identity.

- D. One of the major continuing challenges to countries in the EU is balancing national sovereignty with the responsibilities of membership in an economic and political union.
- The creation of the euro, The creation of a European parliament, Free movement across borders
- VI. Nationalist and separatist movements, along with ethnic conflict and ethnic cleansing, periodically disrupted the post–World War II peace.
- Ireland, Chechnya
  - Basque (ETA), Flemish
  - Bosnian Muslims, Albanian Muslims of Kosovo
- VII. The process of decolonization occurred over the course of the century with varying degrees of cooperation, interference, or resistance from European imperialist states.
- C. Despite indigenous nationalist movements, independence for many African and Asian territories was delayed until the mid- and even late 20th century by the imperial powers’ reluctance to relinquish control, threats of interference from other nations, unstable economic and political systems, and Cold War strategic alignments.
- Indian National Congress, Algeria’s National Liberation Front (FLN), Ho Chi Minh’s Viet Minh, Sukarno in Indonesia

**Key Concept 4.2: The stresses of economic collapse and total war engendered internal conflicts within European states and created conflicting conceptions of the relationship between the individual and the state, as demonstrated in the ideological battle between liberal democracy, communism, and fascism.**

- V. Postwar economic growth supported an increase in welfare benefits; however, subsequent economic stagnation led to criticism and limitation of the welfare state.
- A. Marshall Plan funds from the United States financed an extensive reconstruction of industry and infrastructure and stimulated an extended period of growth in Western and Central Europe, often referred to as an “economic miracle,” which increased the economic and cultural importance of consumerism.
- B. The expansion of cradle-to-grave social welfare programs in the aftermath of World War II, accompanied by high taxes, became a contentious

domestic political issue as the budgets of European nations came under pressure in the late 20th century.

- IV. Eastern European nations were defined by their relationship with the Soviet Union, which oscillated between repression and limited reform, until Mikhail Gorbachev's policies led to the collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the fall of the Soviet Union.
- A. Central and Eastern European nations within the Soviet bloc followed an economic model based on central planning, extensive social welfare, and specialized production among bloc members.
  - B. After 1956, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's de-Stalinization policies failed to meet their economic

goals within the Soviet Union and prompted revolts in Eastern Europe.

- C. Following a long period of economic stagnation, Mikhail Gorbachev's internal reforms of perestroika and glasnost, designed to make the Soviet system more flexible, failed to stave off the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of its hegemonic control over Eastern and Central European satellites.
- D. The rise of new nationalisms in Central and Eastern Europe brought peaceful revolution in most countries but resulted in war and genocide in the Balkans and instability in some former Soviet republics.

## Major Themes and BIG Questions

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### Themes:

- How did the Cold War develop in the last years of World War II, and how did it change relations between the two sides after the war? (INT-8, SP-14)
- How did the Cold War affect politics and diplomacy? (SP-14, SP-13, SP-1)
- Compare the lives of Europeans in Eastern Europe to those in the Western European nations. (SP-10, SP1, PP-13, PP-1)
- How did differing economic approaches affect Eastern and Western Europe? (SP-19, PP-16, PP-13, PP-8, PP-5, INT-8, INT-6)
- In what ways did technology make a positive change in the lives of Europeans? (IS-3, PP-4)
- How did society and culture change after World War II in Western Europe? (IS-8)
- What effect did increased globalization have on both Europeans and non-Europeans?
- How were former European colonies able to achieve independence, and what effect did this have on Western European nations? (IS-10, IS-7, SP-14, INT-11, INT-10, INT-9, INT-7)
- In what ways did women continue to press for rights, and how successful were they? (IS-9, IS-6, IS-4)

### Essential Questions:

- Discuss the effects of WWII on Europe's population and infrastructure.
- What were the Nuremberg Trials?
- Discuss the agreement reached at the Yalta Conference, 1945.
- Describe Soviet control of Eastern Europe
- What led to the split between the east and the west?
- What was the "iron curtain"?

- Why did the U.S. issue the Truman Doctrine? What was it?
- Why was the Marshall Plan enacted? What was it?
- What ultimately happened to Berlin? Germany?
- What were NATO & the Warsaw Pact and how did they reflect one another?
- What was Truman's policy of containment?
- How did "Big Science" contribute to cold war hostilities between the US and USSR?
- What economic impact did post-war governments have on countries throughout Europe?
- How did Charles de Gaulle view the United States involvement in European affairs?
- How did the Consumer Revolution cause a split between eastern and western European economies?
- What was the Cominform?
- Discuss how Stalin re-imposed strict communist control on the Soviet Union
- What was the East Bloc? How did Stalin maintain control in the East Bloc?
- How did East Bloc countries mirror economic planning of the Soviet Union?
- How did Tito keep Yugoslavia free from communist control?
- How were protestors dealt with across Eastern Europe?
- How was culture and art affected?
- Describe the effects of Khrushchev's liberalism, or de-Stalinization, on both the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.
- What did Khrushchev mean by "peaceful coexistence"?
- Compare the reform attempts in Poland and Hungary on 1956.
- What activities in Berlin and Cuba heightened Cold War tensions?
- How did attitudes of European countries toward their colonies shift after World War II?

- Compare and contrast US and Soviet goals toward post war independence
- What is nonalignment? Why did many countries follow this policy?

- What problems did African colonies face after assuming independence?
- Describe neocolonialism and its impact.

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## VOCABULARY

[How many of these can you remember?]

- United Nations
- Potsdam Conference
- “Iron Curtain” speech
- partition of Germany
- West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany)
- East Germany (German Democratic Republic)
- containment
- Truman Doctrine
- Marshall Plan
- Berlin Airlift, 1948-49
- NATO
- Warsaw Pact
- Korean War
- hydrogen bomb
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- “massive retaliation”
- Eastern Bloc
- gulags
- KGB
- Josip Broz Tito
- Nikita Khrushchev
- De-stalinization
- 20th Party Congress speech
- Boris Pasternak, *Dr. Zhivago*
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*
- Hungarian Uprising, 1956
- “Peaceful Coexistence”
- Austrian independence
- Sputnik
- “space race”
- U-2 incident
- Berlin Wall
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Fidel Castro
- Leonid Brezhnev
- “Prague Spring”
- “socialism with a human face”
- Alexander Dubcek
- Brezhnev Doctrine
- Vietnam War
- détente
- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
- Solidarity
- Pope John Paul II
- Lech Walesa
- Mikhail Gorbachev
- glasnost*
- perestroika*
- INF Treaty, 1987
- START I Treaty, 1990
- Revolutions of 1989
- German reunification
- Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel, “Velvet Revolution”
- Bulgaria
- Romania, Nicolai Ceausescu
- Albania
- fall of Soviet Union
- Coup in Moscow
- Boris Yeltsin
- decolonization
- apartheid
- Nelsen Mandela
- Palestine Liberation Organization
- Mao Zedong
- The Great Leap Forward
- Gamal Abdel Nasser
- UAR
- Bretton Woods Conference, 1944
- GATT
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- World Bank
- United Nations
- Security Council
- General Assembly
- Christian Democrats
- Konrad Adenaur
- Charles de Gaulle
- French Fourth Republic
- French Fifth Republic
- Clement Attlee
- Labour Party
- “economic miracle”
- Keynesian economics
- Jean Monnet
- Ludwig Erhard
- “welfare state”
- mixed economy
- “guest workers”
- Simone de Beauvoir
- Women’s Liberation Movement
- Abstract Expressionism
- Pop Art
- “Theater of the Absurd”
- Americanization