

**REVIEW****CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.9.1**

Power Shifts Following World War II

Specific Objective: Compare the economic and military power shifts caused by the war, including the Yalta Pact, the development of nuclear weapons, Soviet control over Eastern European nations, and the economic recoveries of Germany and Japan.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

At the end of World War II, the world was left with two main powers: the United States and the Soviet Union. Tensions between them helped to shape the postwar world.

Tensions Begin at the Yalta Conference

When: February 1945

Who: The leaders of the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union

What happened: Allied leaders decided to divide Germany into zones of military occupation. This division was supposed to be temporary.

- The United States wanted a reunited Germany as part of a democratic and economically stable Europe.
- The Soviet Union wanted a divided Germany that lacked power to start wars. An Iron Curtain Falls After the war, not only Germany, but Europe itself, became divided into West and East.
- At the war's end, Soviet troops were stationed in many Eastern European nations. The Soviet Union refused to permit free elections in these nations.
- Soviet authorities took over most of Eastern Europe, isolating it from the west. This isolation was so strong that it was called an **"iron curtain."**
- Eastern Europe became unified with the Soviet Union.
- The nations of Western Europe became unified in opposition to Soviet aggression- Nuclear Weapons Tensions were heightened by nuclear weapons development in the two superpowers.
- **1952** The United States tests the world's first nuclear bomb.
- **1953** The Soviet Union tests its first nuclear bomb.
- **Economic Recovery** The economic recoveries of Germany and Japan heralded another power shift.
- In the 1950s, West Germany began an economic boom as an international industrial power with investments in Asia and Africa. (East Germany suffered economically; the Soviets collected war payments from East Germany until 1954.)
- Japan's astonishing economic recovery also began in the 1950s. Japan soon became the world's second-largest economy after the United States.

**PRACTICE****CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.9.1**

Power Shifts Following World War II

Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 At the Yalta Conference, the decision was made to**
 - A** divide Germany into occupation zones.
 - B** begin testing nuclear weapons.
 - C** form an alliance to defeat Hitler.
 - D** establish the League of Nations.
- 2 How was the Soviet Union able to begin taking control of Eastern Europe following World War II?**
 - A** Eastern Europe asked the Soviet Union for economic aid.
 - B** The Soviet Union offered jobs to impoverished Eastern Europeans.
 - C** Soviet troops were already stationed in Eastern Europe during the war.
 - D** Because U.S. President Roosevelt died before the war ended, old treaties were void.
- 3 After World War II, Western Europe became united in its opposition to**
 - A** nuclear weapons development.
 - B** investment in foreign markets.
 - C** a military alliance with the United States.
 - D** the Soviet Union.
- 4 After World War II, why did the Soviet Union favor a divided Germany?**
 - A** West Germany lay outside the iron curtain.
 - B** The Soviet Union wanted exclusive access to East Germany's natural resources.
 - C** The Soviet Union believed a divided Germany could not start another war.
 - D** The Soviet Union did not want to be burdened with West Germany's economic problems.
- 5 Who conducted the world's *first* successful test of a nuclear bomb?**
 - A** Germany
 - B** Great Britain
 - C** the Soviet Union
 - D** the United States
- 6 Which nation emerged as *one* economic superpower after World War II?**
 - A** Austria
 - B** Great Britain
 - C** Japan
 - D** Korea