

Cold War – Chapter 17

Chapter 17

Restructuring the Postwar World, 1945–Present

The United States and the Soviet Union vie for superiority, and both countries extend their control over other nations.



Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin (left to right) at the Yalta Conference (February 1945).



Cold War Enemies, 1949



Cold War, 1946–1980



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Section 1

Cold War: Superpowers Face Off

The opposing economic and political philosophies of the United States and the Soviet Union lead to global competition.

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Allies Become Enemies

Yalta Conference: A Postwar Plan

- In February 1945, British, American, Soviet leaders meet at Yalta
- They agree to divide Germany into zones of occupation when WWII ends *[Visual]*
- Soviet leader Stalin agrees to allow free elections in Eastern Europe



Divided Germany, 1948-1949

Allies Become Enemies

Creation of the United Nations

- June 1945, 50 nations form **United Nations**—international organization
- All members represented in General Assembly; 11 on Security Council
- Five permanent members have Security Council veto power

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Allies Become Enemies

Differing U.S. and Soviet Goals *[Visual]*

- U.S. and Soviets split sharply after WWII ends
- U.S. is world's richest and most powerful country after WWII
- Soviets recovering from high war casualties, many destroyed cities

INTERACTIVE

Superpower Aims in Europe

United States

- Encourage democracy in other countries to help prevent the rise of Communist governments.
- Gain access to raw materials and markets to fuel booming industries.
- Rebuild European governments to promote stability and create new markets for U.S. goods.
- Reunite Germany to stabilize it and increase the security of Europe.

Soviet Union

- Encourage communism in other countries as part of a worldwide workers' revolution.
- Rebuild its war-torn economy using Western Europe's industrial equipment and raw materials.
- Control Eastern Europe to protect Soviet borders and balance the U.S. influence in Western Europe.
- Keep Germany divided to prevent its waging war again.

LEGEND

- Communist Countries, 1948
- Non-Communist Countries, 1948
- Iron Curtain

GEOGRAPHY SKILLSUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. Drawing Conclusions Which countries separated the Soviet Union from Western Europe?
2. Comparing Which U.S. and Soviet aims in Europe conflicted?

Click in the red box to explore Germany during the Cold War.

Superpower Aims in Europe

Eastern Europe's Iron Curtain

Soviets Build a Buffer

- Soviets control Eastern European countries after World War II
- Stalin installs Communist governments in several countries
- Truman urges free elections; Stalin refuses *[Visual]*
- In 1946, Stalin says capitalism and communism cannot co-exist

An Iron Curtain Divides East and West

- Germany divided; East Germany Communist, West Germany democratic
- **Iron Curtain**—Winston Churchill's name for the division of Europe



July 1945. Winston Churchill, Harry S. Truman, and Joseph Stalin (left to right) meet in Potsdam, Germany, after the Allied victory in Europe.

United States Tries to Contain Soviets

Containment

- **Containment**—U.S. plan to stop the spread of communism

The Truman Doctrine

- **Truman Doctrine**—U.S. supports countries that reject communism
- Congress approves Truman's request for aid to Greece, Turkey

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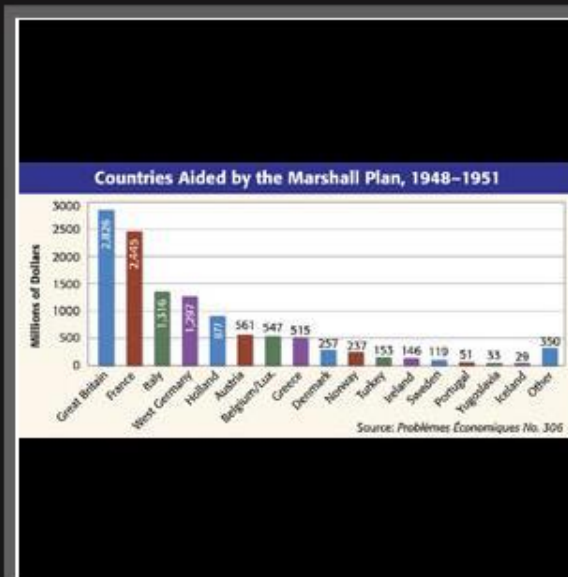
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United States Tries to Contain Soviets

The Marshall Plan

- Much of Western Europe lay in ruins after World War II
- **Marshall Plan**—U.S. program of assisting Western European countries *[Visual]*
- Congress approves plan after Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia



Countries Aided by the Marshall Plan, 1948-1951

United States Tries to Contain Soviets

The Berlin Airlift

- In 1948, U.S., Britain, France withdraw forces from West Germany
- Their former occupation zones form one country
- Soviets oppose this, stop land and water traffic into West Berlin
- West Berlin, located in Soviet occupation zone, faces starvation
- U.S., Britain fly in supplies for 11 months until the blockade ends

The Cold War Divides the World

The Cold War

- **Cold War**—struggle of U.S., Soviet Union using means short of war

Superpowers Form Rival Alliances *[Visual]*

- In 1949, U.S., Canada, West European countries form NATO
- **NATO**—North Atlantic Treaty Organization, defensive military alliance
- In 1955, Soviets, Eastern European nations sign **Warsaw Pact** alliance
- In 1961, Soviets build Berlin Wall to separate East and West Berlin



How the Cold War Was Fought

The Cold War Divides the World

The Threat of Nuclear War

- Soviet Union explodes its first atomic bomb in 1949
- U.S. and Soviet Union both develop more powerful hydrogen bomb
- **Brinkmanship**—policy of willingness to go to the edge of war
- Increasing tensions lead to military buildup by U.S. and Soviets

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The Cold War Divides the World

The Cold War in the Skies

- In 1957, Soviets launch *Sputnik*, first unmanned satellite *[Visual]*
- In 1960, Soviets shoot down American spy plane, increasing tensions

**EARTH SATELLITE IN
THE GLOBE AT 18,0
KED IN 4 CROSSINGS**



🔍 Newspaper report of the Soviet Union's launch of *Sputnik* (October 5, 1957).

Section 2

Communists Take Power in China

After World War II, Chinese Communists defeat Nationalist forces and two separate Chinas emerge.

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Communists vs. Nationalists

World War II in China

- **Mao Zedong**—leads Chinese Communists against Japanese invaders
- **Jiang Jieshi**—leader of Chinese Nationalists in World War II
- Nationalist and Communist Chinese resume civil war after WW II ends

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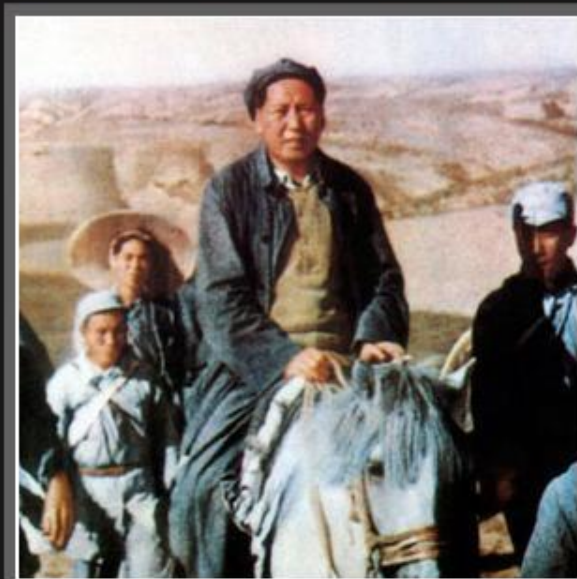
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Communists vs. Nationalists

Civil War Resumes

- Economic problems cause Nationalist soldiers to desert to Communists
- Mao's troops take control of China's major cities *[Visual]*
- In 1949, People's Republic of China created; Nationalists to Taiwan



 Mao on horseback, with Communist troops.

The Two Chinas Affect the Cold War

The Superpowers React

- U.S. supports Nationalist state in Taiwan, called Republic of China
- Soviets and China agree to help each other in event of attack
- U.S. tries to stop Soviet expansion and spread of communism in Asia

China Expands under the Communists

- China takes control of Tibet and southern Mongolia
- India welcomes Tibetan refugees fleeing revolt against Chinese
- China, India clash over border; fighting stops but tensions remain

The Communists Transform China

Communists Claim a New “Mandate of Heaven”

- Chinese Communists organize national government and Communist Party

Mao’s Brand of Marxist Socialism

- Mao takes property from landowners and divides it among peasants
- Government seizes private companies and plans production increase

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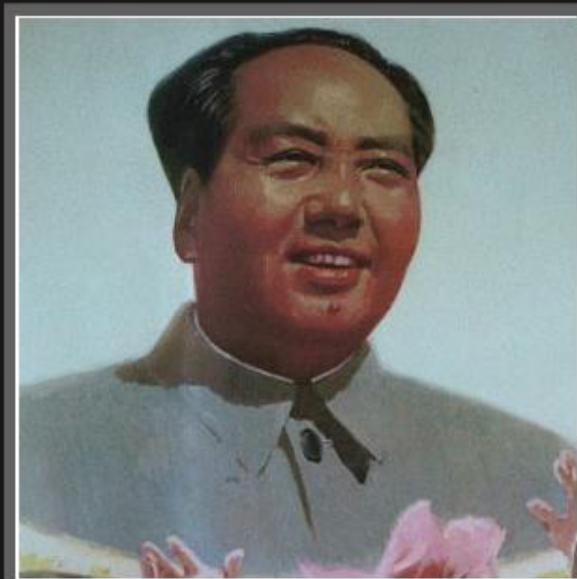
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The Communists Transform China

“The Great Leap Forward” [Visual]

- **Communes**—large collective farms often supporting over 25,000 people
- Program is ended after inefficiency leads to crop failures and famines



 Chinese propaganda poster showing members of China's various ethnic groups praising Mao Zedong.

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The Communists Transform China

New Policies and Mao's Response

- China, Soviet Union clash over leadership of Communist movement
- Strict socialist ideas are moderated, Mao reduces his role in government
- **Red Guards**—militia units formed to enforce strict communism in China

The Cultural Revolution

- **Cultural Revolution**—movement to build society of peasants, workers
- Red Guards close schools and execute or imprison many intellectuals
- In 1968, Chinese army imprisons, executes, or exiles most Red Guards

Section 3

Wars in Korea and Vietnam

In Asia, the Cold War flares into actual wars supported mainly by the superpowers.

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War in Korea

A Divided Land

- **38th parallel**—line dividing Korea into North Korea and South Korea

Standoff at the 38th Parallel *[Visual]*

- In 1950, North Koreans invade South Korea with Soviet support
- South Korea requests UN assistance; 15 nations send troops
- **Douglas MacArthur**—leads UN forces against North Koreans
- North Koreans control most of peninsula when MacArthur attacks
- Half of North's army surrenders, the rest retreat



War in Korea

The Fighting Continues

- UN troops push North Koreans almost to Chinese border
- Chinese send 300,000 troops against UN forces and capture Seoul
- MacArthur calls for nuclear attack and is removed from command
- In 1953, cease fire signed and border established at 38th parallel

Aftermath of the War

- North Korea builds collective farms, heavy industry, nuclear weapons
- South Korea establishes democracy, growing economy with U.S. aid

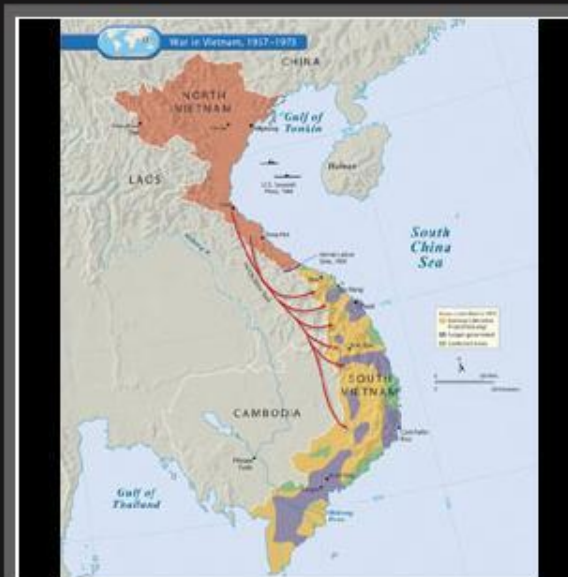
War Breaks Out in Vietnam

The Road to War

- **Ho Chi Minh**—Vietnamese nationalist, later Communist leader

The Fighting Begins *[Visual]*

- In 1954, French surrender to Vietnamese after major defeat
- **Domino theory**—U.S. theory of Communist expansion in Southeast Asia



War in Vietnam, 1957–1973

War Breaks Out in Vietnam

Vietnam—A Divided Country

- International peace conference agrees on a divided Vietnam
- **Ngo Dinh Diem**—leads anti-Communist government in South Vietnam
- **Vietcong**—South Vietnamese Communist guerillas fighting against Diem

The United States Gets Involved

U.S. Troops Enter the Fight

- In 1964, U.S. sends troops to fight Viet Cong, North Vietnamese
- U.S. fights guerilla war defending increasingly unpopular government
- Vietcong gains support from Ho Chi Minh, China, Soviet Union

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The United States Gets Involved

The United States Withdraws

- War grows unpopular in U.S.; in 1969, Nixon starts withdrawing troops
- **Vietnamization**—Nixon's plan to withdraw U.S. from war gradually
- Last U.S. troops leave in 1973; South Vietnam overrun in 1975 *[Visual]*



 Vietnamese civilians try to join the evacuation of U.S. personnel from South Vietnam (April 29, 1975).

Postwar Southeast Asia

Cambodia in Turmoil

- **Khmer Rouge**—Communist rebels who take control of Cambodia in 1975
- They slaughter 2 million people; overthrown by Vietnamese invaders
- In 1993, Cambodia adopts democracy, holds elections with UN help

Vietnam After the War

- Saigon renamed Ho Chi Minh City; Vietnam united as Communist nation
- About 1.5 million people flee Vietnam, some settling in U.S., Canada
- In 1995, United States normalizes relations with Vietnam

Section 4

The Cold War Divides the World

The superpowers support opposing sides in Latin American and Middle Eastern conflicts.

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Fighting for the Third World

More Than One “World”

- **Third World**—developing nations; often newly independent, nonaligned

Cold War Strategies *[Visual]*

- U. S., Soviet Union, China compete for influence over Third World
- Back revolutions and give economic, military, technical aid

INTERACTIVE

Cold War Hot Spots, 1948–1975

INTERACTIVE KEY

- Communist expansion
- Communist expansion prevented by the U.S. and allies

KEY

1945

Use the time line to explore the map.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. **Location** On what continents identified on the map did Cold War conflicts not occur?

Read about what factors of the globe did Communists control.

Cold War Hot Spots, 1948–1975

Fighting for the Third World

Association of Nonaligned Nations

- Many countries, like India, want to avoid involvement in Cold War
- In 1955, Indonesia hosts Asian, African leaders who want neutrality
- **Nonaligned nations**—independent countries not involved in Cold War

Confrontations in Latin America

Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution

- **Fidel Castro**—leads revolt in Cuba against dictator supported by U.S. *[Visual]*
- By 1959, Castro in power, nationalizes economy, takes U.S. property
- In 1961, Castro defeats U.S.-trained Cuban exiles at Bay of Pigs



 Fidel Castro arriving in New York City for a United Nations meeting (1960).

Confrontations in Latin America

Nuclear Face-off: the Cuban Missile Crisis

- In 1962, U.S. demands removal of Soviet missiles in Cuba
- Soviets withdraw missiles; U.S. promises not to invade Cuba
- Cuban economy is left dependent on Soviet support

Civil War in Nicaragua

- **Anastasio Somoza**—Nicaraguan dictator supported by U.S.
- **Daniel Ortega**—leads Sandinista rebels who take power in Nicaragua
- U.S. and Soviet Union both initially support Sandinistas
- Sandinistas aid Communist rebels in El Salvador
- U.S. helps anti-Communist Contras in Nicaragua to assist El Salvador
- In 1990, Nicaragua holds first free elections; Sandinistas lose

Confrontations in the Middle East

Religious and Secular Values Clash in Iran

- Shah Reza Pahlavi embraces Western governments, oil companies
- Iranian nationalists overthrow shah, seize British oil company
- U.S. restores shah to power, fearing Soviet encroachment

The United States Supports Secular Rule

- Shah Reza Pahlavi westernizes Iran with U.S. support
- **Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini**—Iranian Muslim leader; lives in exile
- In 1978, Khomeini sparks riots in Iran; shah flees

Confrontations in the Middle East

Khomeini's Anti-U.S. Policies

- Islamic revolutionaries hold American hostages in Tehran (1979–1980) *[Visual]*
- Muslim radicals take control in Iran, increasing tensions with Iraq
- Iran, Iraq fight 8-year war; U.S. aids both sides, Soviets help Iraq



 U.S. hostages in Tehran, Iran (November 1979).

Confrontations in the Middle East

The Superpowers Face Off in Afghanistan

- Soviets invade Afghanistan, help Communist government against rebels
- Muslim rebels fight guerilla war against Soviets with U.S. weapons
- U.S. stops grain shipments to Soviet Union; Soviets withdraw (1989)

Section 5

The Cold War Thaws

The Cold War begins to thaw as the superpowers enter an era of uneasy diplomacy.

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Soviet Policy in Eastern Europe and China

Destalinization and Rumblings of Protest

- **Nikita Khrushchev**—leader of Soviet Union after Stalin dies (1953)
- Khrushchev condemns Stalin; Soviets, West can peacefully compete
- Citizens of Soviet-controlled governments begin protesting communism
- Khrushchev sends Soviet military to put down Hungarian protesters

The Revolt in Czechoslovakia

- **Leonid Brezhnev**—Soviet leader after Khrushchev—represses dissent
- In 1968, Warsaw Pact troops block reforms in Czechoslovakia

Soviet Policy in Eastern Europe and China

The Soviet-Chinese Split

- In 1950, Mao and Stalin sign friendship treaty, but tensions grow
- Chinese and Soviets each want to lead world communism
- Khrushchev ends economic aid and refuses to share nuclear secrets
- Soviets and Chinese fight small skirmishes across the border

From Brinkmanship to Détente

Brinkmanship Breaks Down

- Brinkmanship cause repeated crises; nuclear war a constant threat
- **John F. Kennedy**—U.S. president during the Cuban Missile Crisis
- **Lyndon Johnson**—president who increases U.S. involvement in Vietnam

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From Brinkmanship to Détente

The United States Turns to Détente

- Vietnam-era turmoil fuels desire for less confrontational policy
- **Détente**—policy of reducing Cold War tensions to avoid conflict
- **Richard M. Nixon**—U.S. president who launches détente
- Détente grows out of philosophy known as realpolitik
 - “realistic politics”—recognizes need to be practical, flexible

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
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From Brinkmanship to Détente

Nixon Visits Communist Powers *[Visual]*

- Nixon visits Communist China and Soviet Union, signs SALT I Treaty
- **SALT**—Strategic Arms Limitation Talks—limit nuclear weapons



 Richard Nixon shown visiting Beijing, China after his presidency.

The Collapse of Détente

Policy Changes

- Nixon and Gerald Ford improve relations with Soviets and China
- Jimmy Carter has concerns about Soviet policies but signs SALT II
- Congress will not ratify SALT II due to Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

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The Collapse of Détente

Reagan Takes an Anti-Communist Stance

- **Ronald Reagan**—anti-Communist U.S. president takes office in 1981 *[Visual]*
- Increases military spending, proposes a missile defense program
- In 1985, new Soviet leadership allows easing of Cold War tensions



 President Ronald Reagan signs a document as members of his administration look on.