

Unit 11

1945 –
1990

The Cold War

The end of World War II left Americans proud of the role they had played in defeating the Axis dictators. For the first time, the U.S. was seen as a world leader or superpower.

A new conflict began almost as soon as World War II ended in 1945. The Soviet Union was determined to spread its system of government control, called communism, to other countries. The U.S. was determined to prevent that from happening. American leaders considered the communist system to be a threat to free governments all over the world.

“The Cold War” is the term for the state of tension without actual fighting between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The rivalry was deadly serious. Each side held atomic weapons that could totally destroy the other side. For over 40 years, the tension and fears of the Cold War shaped American life and world events in countless ways.

Internet resources:

www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap

Words and people to know:

Cold War
Soviet Union
Harry S. Truman

United Nations
superpower

Marshall Plan

George C. Marshall

East / West Germany

partition

communism / communist

dictator / dictatorial

democracy / democratic

capitalism / capitalist

Iron Curtain

containment

NATO

Warsaw Pact

Korean War

Cuban Missile Crisis

John F. Kennedy

blockade

Vietnam War

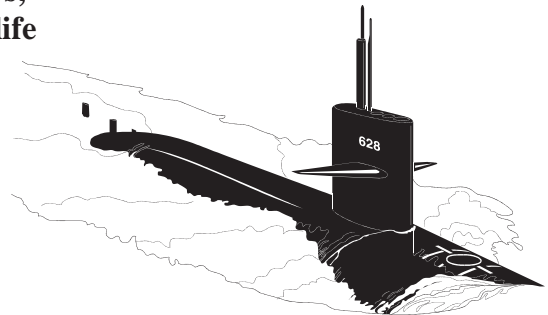
Domino Theory

Berlin Wall

Arms Race

Space Race

Ronald Reagan



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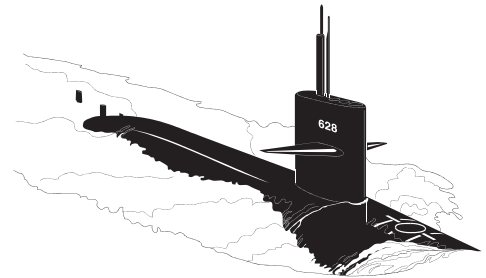
Notes:

Outline – The Cold War

1. What was “The Cold War”?

A. The Cold War was a state of tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

- * It started shortly after World War II ended in 1945, and lasted until around 1990.
- * It kept both countries in fear and on the brink of war, but there was never any direct fighting between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.
- * It divided most of the world into two “camps” or groups of nations: the free world and the communist nations.



2. The United Nations (UN) was formed at the end of World War II.

- * A peacekeeping organization of most of the nations of the world.
- * Its goal: to try to prevent future global wars.
- * Its headquarters building is in New York City.

3. America helped rebuild Europe after World War II.

- A. Much of Europe was in ruins when the war ended.
- B. The Soviet Union’s army occupied and controlled most of Eastern and Central Europe, including the eastern part of Germany.
- C. Germany was partitioned (divided) into East and West Germany.
- * **West Germany** – occupied and controlled by U.S., British, and French armies. After a few years, it was allowed to resume self-government as an independent, democratic nation.
 - * **East Germany** – remained under Soviet control. It was never allowed to develop a democratic government.
- D. **The Marshall Plan** – A U.S. program that gave billions of dollars of financial aid and other help to European nations -
- * to rebuild their economies.
 - * to help prevent the spread of communism.



4. America helped rebuild Japan after World War II.

- A. Much of Japan was in ruins when the war ended.
- B. Japan was occupied and controlled by the American army.
- * The U.S. gave billions of dollars of financial aid and other help to Japan.
- C. After about six years, Japan was allowed to resume self-government as an independent, democratic nation.
- D. Japan became a strong ally of the U.S.



Outline – *continued*

5. The origins of the Cold War.

- A. The U.S. and the Soviet Union had very different goals and ideologies, but were both “superpowers” in world affairs.
 - * The U.S. was democratic and capitalist.
 - * The Soviet Union was dictatorial and communist.
- B. The Soviet Union dominated the countries of Eastern Europe after World War II. It forced those countries to adopt communist governments under Soviet control.
 - * **The Iron Curtain** was the term for the line dividing the Soviet-controlled countries from the rest of Europe.
- C. U.S. policy was “containment” – to stop the spread of communism.
- D. Two new military defense alliances were created:
 - * **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) – the U.S. and its allies.
 - * **Warsaw Pact** – the Soviet Union and its allies.



The hammer and sickle is the symbol of communism

6. Major conflicts in the Cold War era:

- A. **The Korean War.** (1950 - 1953, but not settled even today)
 - * North Korea (communist) attacked non-communist South Korea.
 - * China (communist) helped North Korea.
 - * The U.S. sent troops to help South Korea resist the attack.
 - * The war ended in a stalemate, with no victor and no peace treaty.



- B. **The Berlin Wall.**

- * A disagreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union about the status of Berlin, the capital of Germany, led to it being divided between East Germany and West Germany.
- * East Germany built the Berlin Wall in 1961 to keep people on their side, East Berlin, from fleeing to West Berlin.
- * The wall became a symbol of the Cold War and the lack of basic freedoms in communist countries.



- C. **The Cuban Missile Crisis.** (1962)

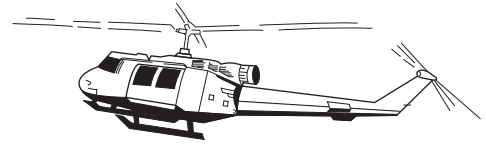
- * The Soviet Union put missiles in Cuba that could carry atomic bombs quickly to targets in the U.S.
- * President John F. Kennedy ordered a blockade of Cuba by American ships.
- * The crisis ended when the Soviets removed the missiles, and the U.S. agreed to remove its missiles in Turkey.



Outline – *continued*

D. The Vietnam War. (1963 - 1973)

- * **North Vietnam** (communist) was attempting to take over **South Vietnam** (non-communist).
- * The U.S. intervened (went in) to help South Vietnam.
- * The Domino Theory: U.S. leaders feared that if South Vietnam fell to communism, other countries in the area would also fall to communism.
- * Americans were deeply divided about our involvement in the war. Many protested against the war effort.
- * The conflict ended in 1973 with a cease-fire agreement in which U.S. troops withdrew from South Vietnam.
- * Two years later, North Vietnam attacked and took over South Vietnam.

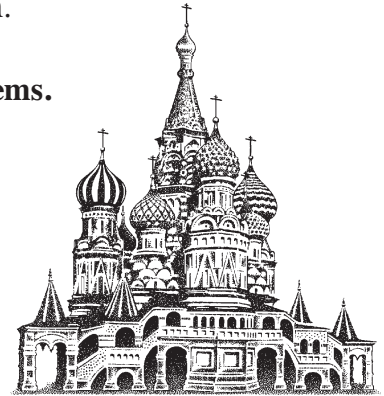


E. The Arms Race and the Space Race.

- * Both sides tried to outdo the other in developing new weapons (arms) and space technology.
- * The Soviet Union launched the first space satellite, but the U.S. won the “Space Race” by being the first to land a man on the moon.

7. The Soviet Union and other communist countries had many problems.

- A. The communist countries lagged far behind the free countries.
 - * They had constant shortages of food and consumer goods like clothing, housing, and automobiles.
 - * Their citizens did not have basic freedoms such as freedom of speech, religion, or the press.
- B. In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan encouraged people in the communist countries to demand freedom and change.

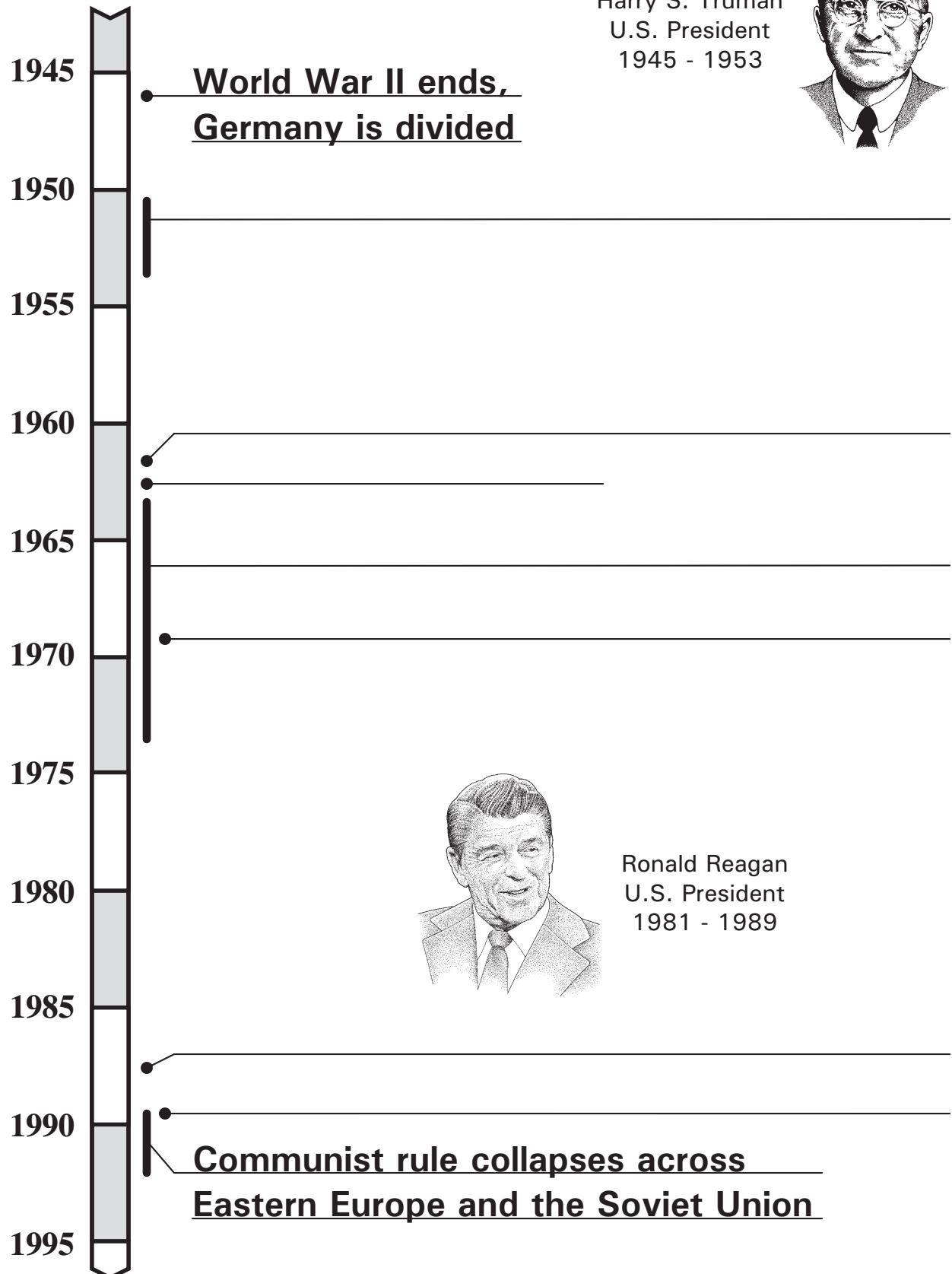


8. The collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Europe. (1989 - 1991)

- A. In 1989, people in communist controlled countries of Eastern Europe began openly protesting against their governments.
- B. Communist leaders lost power as many more people became involved in protests against communist rule.
 - * The Berlin Wall was torn down by thousands of people from East and West Germany. (1989)
 - * Many states of the Soviet Union itself began demanding independence. (1990)
- C. The Soviet Union ceased to exist as it broke up into 15 independent countries. (1991)



Timeline: The Cold War





Europe in the Cold War Era 1950s - 1980s

Alliances of the mid-1980s shown

0 600 miles

Key to Alliances

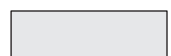
NATO Nations
(North Atlantic Treaty Organization)



Warsaw Pact Nations



Non-Aligned Nations



The United Nations

The United Nations is an international peacekeeping organization created at the end of World War II. It gives all the nations of the world a place to meet and discuss world problems.



The United Nations replaced the old League of Nations, which was created after World War I. That organization was unable to prevent World War II, and stopped meeting. America never joined the League of Nations, but took the lead in creating the new organization.

- 1 _____

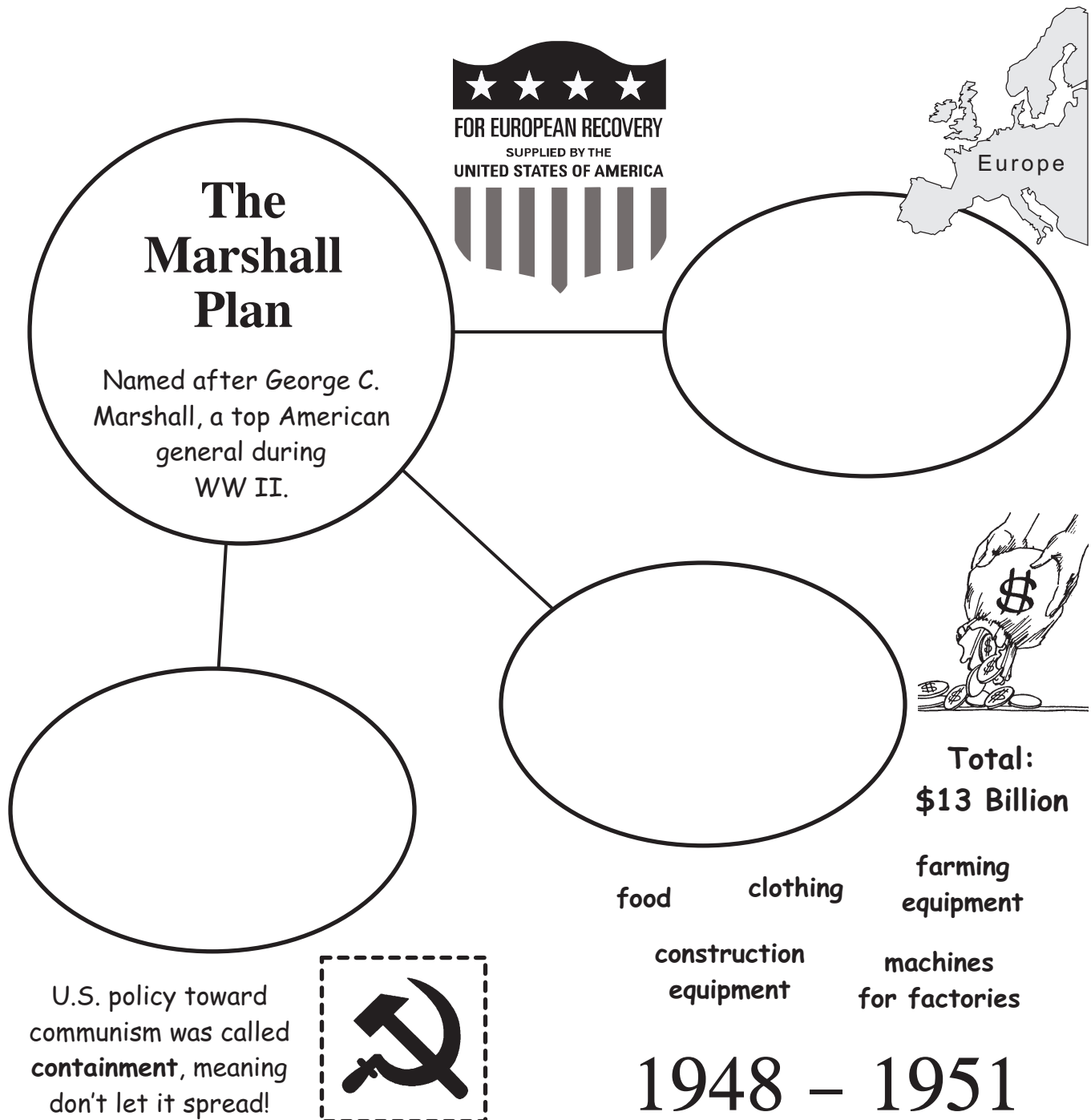
- 2 _____

- 3 _____



Eleanor Roosevelt, President Roosevelt's wife, played a big role in pushing for the creation of the United Nations. She was appointed by President Truman as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations from 1946 to 1952. Mrs. Roosevelt helped write the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

America Helps Rebuild Europe: The Marshall Plan



U.S. leaders considered it in America's best interest to help Europe get back on its feet after World War II. We wanted to try to prevent the kind of problems there that led to the rise of the fascist

dictators after World War I.

Keep in mind that the money we gave through the Marshall Plan was in addition to the help we gave European countries in the years immediately after WW II ended.

America Helps Rebuild Japan

Japan surrendered in 1945 after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. World War II was finally over.

The American army took control of Japan and its government after the surrender. Japan was occupied by U.S. military forces for about six years.

Many Japanese people were on the edge of starvation in 1945. The United States sent in millions of dollars of emergency food supplies. American soldiers helped set up and run the food distribution system. Eventually, U.S. financial aid to Japan totaled almost six billion dollars.

American officials wrote a new constitution for the country. Japan adopted a democratic system of self-government. Among other things, the



new system gave women in Japan equal rights for the first time, including the right to vote.

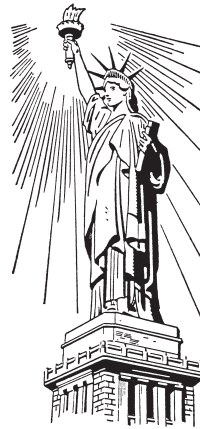
In 1952 the U.S. military occupation of Japan officially ended. The country began running its own government under the new constitution. Japan became a strong ally and friend of the United States.

Use the graphic organizer below to show the key points underlined in the text above.

Japan After World War II		

Origins of the Cold War

What were the reasons for the Cold War tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union?



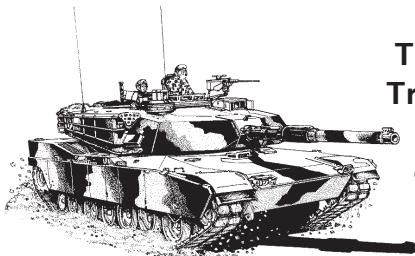
U.S.A.

Soviet Union

- democracy
- capitalism

- dictatorship
- communism





The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) defense alliance includes the U.S.A.

The Korean War



1950 - 1953

The Korean War



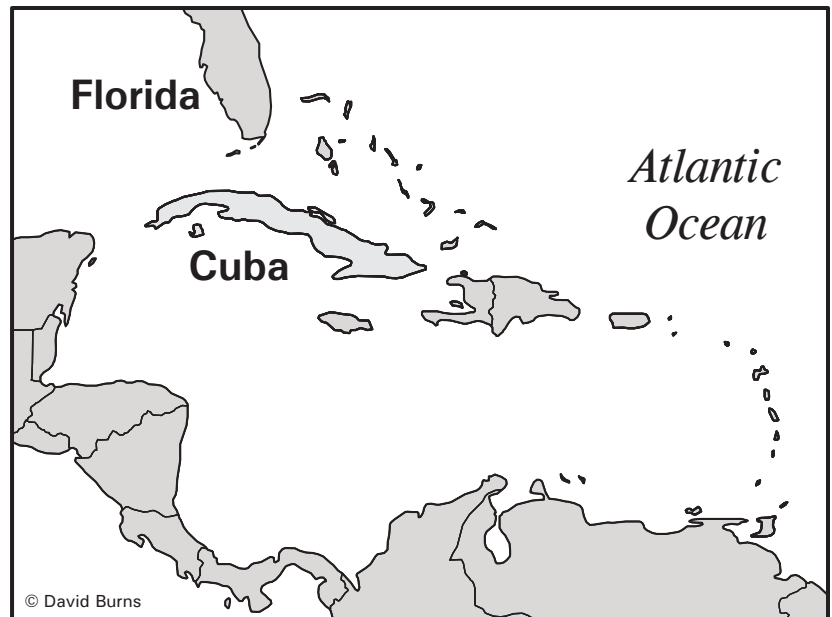






Stalemate =
neither side
wins a clear or
complete victory

The Cuban Missile Crisis



1962

The Cuban Missile Crisis









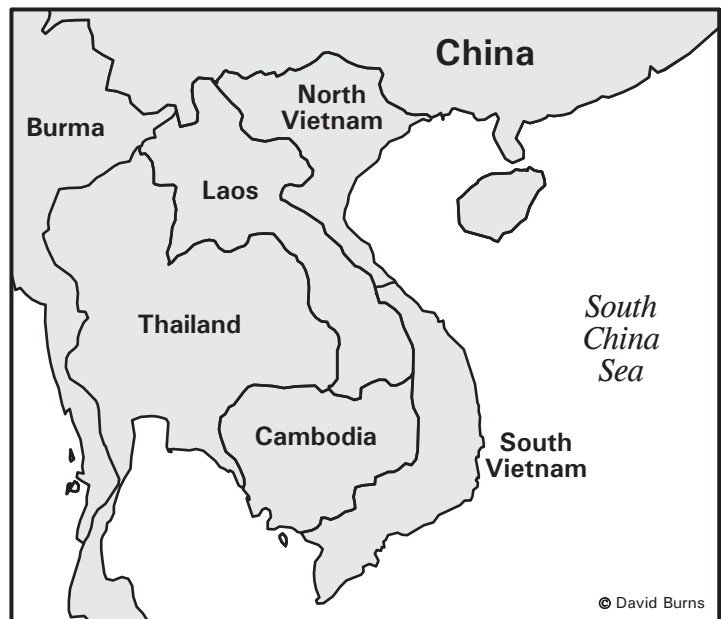
President
John F. Kennedy

blockade -
U.S. Navy ships
would not allow
Soviet ships to
bring in any new
missiles.

The Vietnam War



**Main period
of U.S. involvement:
1963 - 1973**



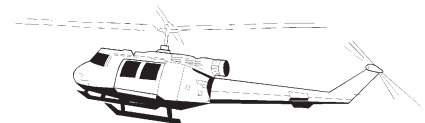
The Vietnam War





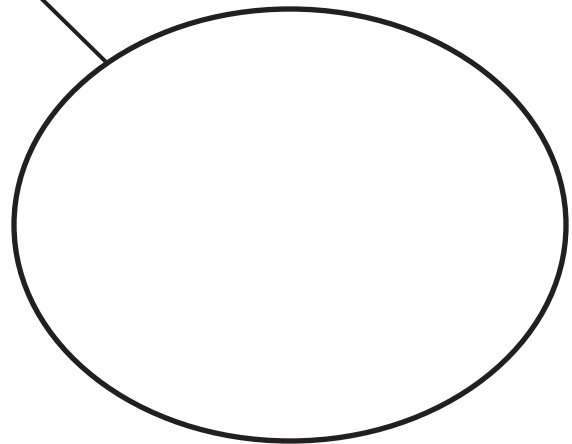
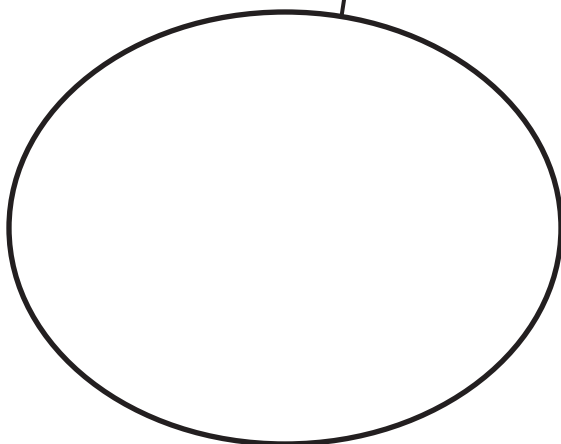
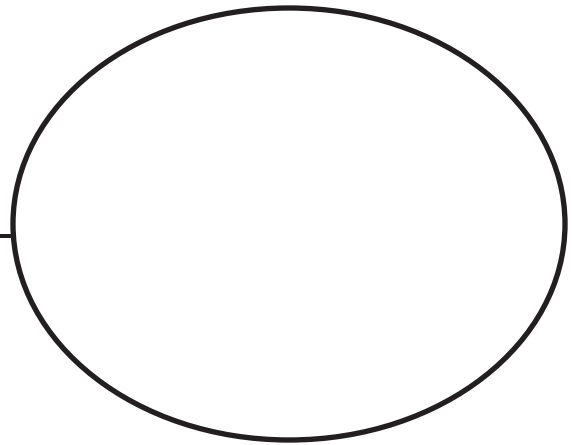


Domino Theory =
The fear that if
one country fell
to communism,
other nearby
countries would
fall as well.



Problems Grew in the Communist Countries

During the years of the Cold War, communist countries had many problems in common.



In the West today, we see a free world that has achieved a level of prosperity and well-being unprecedented in all human history. In the Communist world, we see failure, technological backwardness, declining standards of health, even want of the most basic kind – too little food...

After these four decades, then, there stands before the entire world one great and inescapable conclusion: Freedom leads to prosperity... Freedom is the victor.

– President Ronald Reagan, Speech at the Berlin Wall, 1987

The Cold War Ends as Communism Collapses

1989

Eastern European countries
begin breaking away from
communist rule



1990

- _____
- _____

- _____



1991

- _____

- _____

• The Soviet Union ceases to exist

Arms Race - the push by the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the Cold War to develop larger, more powerful weapons during the Cold War era. Each side believed that if it fell behind in weapons technology, the other side might be tempted to attack.

Berlin Wall - the wall of concrete and barbed wire built across Berlin by communist East Germany in 1961 to stop its citizens from fleeing to freedom in West Germany.

Berlin was the capital of Germany when Germany was divided after World War II. The U.S. had insisted that half of Berlin, which is in the eastern part of Germany, should be declared part of West Germany.

The wall was torn down in 1989 as more and more people in communist countries in Europe, including East Germany, began openly demanding change.

blockade - to block or stop ships from going to or from a particular place.

capitalism / capitalist - the economic system in which people can own businesses, farms, homes, and other property. Examples: the United States and most other countries around the world.

The name comes from the term “capital,” which means the money or other assets used to start or expand a business.

Cold War - the period of tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union from around 1945 to 1990. It was called a “cold” war because it never turned “hot” with actual fighting between the two countries.

communism / communist - an economic and political system in which the government owns all businesses, farms, homes, and most other property. Example: the Soviet Union during the Cold War era.

While this system of government control of most property has inspired many people around the world to support communism, it has not worked well anywhere.

Also, because the communist system tends to concentrate political power in the hands of a small number of people, communist leaders almost always become abusive and determined above all to keep themselves in power.

containment - the U.S. policy during the Cold War of trying to prevent the spread of communism. This policy meant that the U.S. would support countries where communists were attacking or attempting to overthrow the existing government. Examples: South Korea and South Vietnam.

Cuban Missile Crisis - the dispute between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in 1962 that began when the Soviets put nuclear missiles in Cuba. The U.S. placed a naval blockade around Cuba, demanded that the Soviet Union not attempt to bring in any more missiles, and also remove the ones already there. After a tense period of negotiation, the Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles. The U.S. agreed to remove missiles it had in Turkey, which is near the Soviet Union.

democracy / democratic - the political system in which people vote for their leaders and have a real voice in the lawmaking process. Example: the United States.

dictator / dictatorial - a person who has total or near-total power to rule a country as he or she sees fit.

Domino Theory - the term for the fear that if one country in an area became communist, others around it would fall into communism one after another.

East / West Germany - the two countries that were created when Germany was partitioned (divided) after World War II ended. East Germany was communist, and West German was non-communist. They were reunited in 1990 after the collapse of communism.

Iron Curtain - the term for the imaginary line across Europe that divided the countries under communist control and the free countries during the Cold War era. The communist countries were said to be “behind the Iron Curtain.”

Although the term had a symbolic meaning in the years just after World War II, it wasn’t long before the communist countries built fences and guard towers along the line.

Kennedy, John F. - president of the U.S. from 1961 until he was assassinated in 1963. He was president during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was also known for his strong support for the U.S. space program.

Korean War - the war that began in 1950 when communist North Korea, aided by communist China, invaded non-communist South Korea. The U.S. went in to help South Korea. The war ended in 1953 in a stalemate (neither side won). The U.S. still keeps American soldiers stationed in South Korea as a warning to North Korean leaders not to consider another attack.

continued

Glossary – *continued*

Marshall Plan - the American effort to help rebuild Europe after World War II. The U.S. gave \$13 billion dollars to European countries over a four year period.

Marshall, George C. - a leader in the American government in the years after World War II who developed the Marshall Plan to help rebuild Europe. He had been a general in the U.S. Army in Europe during the war.

NATO - the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military defense alliance of nations mostly in Western Europe and North America. It was created in 1949 to defend the countries of Western Europe from any possible attack by the Soviet Union.

partition - to divide into parts.

Reagan, Ronald - president of the U.S. from 1981 to 1989. He is famous for a 1987 speech at the Berlin Wall in which he publicly called on the Soviet Union's leader to come and "tear down this wall!" The speech made a very powerful point: if communism needs a concrete wall to keep people from running away from it, it must be a really awful system of government.

Soviet Union - the communist nation that was a rival to the United States during the Cold War era. Russia was the largest state of the Soviet Union. Its full name is the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or U.S.S.R. The Soviet Union broke up into 15 separate and independent countries as communist rule collapsed in 1991.

Space Race - the term for the competition between the Soviet Union and the United States to be the first in satellite and manned spacecraft achievements. The Soviet Union put up the first space satellite (called

Sputnik) in 1957, and the first man in space in 1961. The U.S., however, won the most important bragging rights in the race by putting the first men on the moon in 1969.

superpower - a country that has such a powerful influence in world affairs that it plays a role in almost every important international conflict or crisis.

Truman, Harry S. - president of the U.S. from 1945 to 1953. He was president when the Marshall Plan was developed to help Europe rebuild after World War II. He also declared that America would help countries around the world resist attacks or take-over attempts by communist forces.

United Nations - an international peacekeeping organization formed at the end of World War II as a place where countries can work together to solve any conflicts that could lead to another global war. It also attempts to promote health and human rights around the globe. The UN has its headquarters building in New York City.

Vietnam War - a conflict that involved attacks by communist North Vietnam against non-communist South Vietnam in the decades after World War II. The United States became heavily involved starting in 1963, to help defend South Vietnam. The U.S. withdrew its troops after a cease-fire agreement was signed in 1973. Two years later, North Vietnam invaded and conquered South Vietnam.

Warsaw Pact - a military defense alliance of communist nations in Eastern Europe with the Soviet Union during the Cold War era. The alliance no longer exists.

