

Cold War

The Cold War refers to the period following the Second World War when tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union threatened to bring us all to the brink of destruction. It is called the Cold War because it never “heated up” and no shots were fired. However, efforts to stop the spread of communism led us to become involved in heated conflicts around the world. This is our reason for fighting in Korea, Vietnam, and other places as well.

The Cold War dominates the American political landscape from the end of WWII until the collapse of the USSR in the early 1990s. It had profound effects on the way Americans thought, spoke, acted, and voted, and still colors our view of the world.

Essay Questions: You will be given ONE of the following essays on the test.

1. Who started the Cold War?

Consider the following:

- Tensions between the world leaders as WWI ends.
- Actions taken as WWII ends.
- The personalities of world leaders such as Churchill, Stalin, FDR, Truman, Krushchev, and Eisenhower.
- Actions taken immediately following WWII.

2. Was the Vietnam War a noble cause, a tragic blunder, or an unfortunate but inevitable outcome of the cold war?

Consider the following:

- Why were we there?
- How was the war fought?
- What was the impact of the war on the soldiers who fought it and on the nation as a whole?
- Why did it end the way it did?

3. Who should get credit for ending the Cold War?

Consider the following:

- Actions taken by both sides after the Cuban Missile Crisis to avoid nuclear war
- American actions through the 1980s
- Soviet Actions in the 80s
- Individual personalities of Reagan and Gorbachev.
- Anti-communist uprisings in the Soviet Bloc
- Why does the Cold War end the way it does/when it does?

Focus Questions:

How was the United States home front affected by the Cold War (consider McCarthyism and such)?

What is a proxy war and why were they used during the Cold War?

How was the United States foreign policy affected by the Cold War?

Be able to discuss the different methods of containment of the Cold War (economic, military and political)?

Did the United States fail to achieve its goals in Vietnam?

How did the Cold War end?

Unit Objectives:

- ◆ Describe the changes that took place in America during the Cold War.
- ◆ Describe the changes that took place in America after the Cold War.
- ◆ Describe the events that occurred during the Cold War.
- ◆ Describe the Cold War foreign policy.
- ◆ Describe the effect of the deterrence on the World.

Date	Topic	Targets and Objectives	Homework
Mon 3/31	The Cold War Begins	Explain How each of the following impacted the start of the Cold War: The Ideological differences between the US and USSR The United Nations The Potsdam Conference Satellite nations Containment Policy The Iron Curtain The Truman Doctrine	18.1
Tue 4/1	The Cold War in Asia	How does communist China emerge? How does the Korean War start? How does the Korean War go? How does the Korean War end?	18.2
Wed 4/2	The Cold War at Home	How did fear of communism affect Americans? Explain the spy cases that frightened Americans. Explain the rise and fall of Sen. McCarthy and the Red Scare.	18.3
Thu 4/3	Cold War Expansion	How did Brinkmanship and the Arms Race expand the Cold War? Explain the Eisenhower Doctrine, and the expansion of the Cold War around the world. Explain how the Cold War expanded into space.	18.4
Fri 4/4	Spring Break		
Mon 4/14	Early 60s Cold War	Explain (who, what, when, where, why, and who cares?) for each of the following: -The Bay of Pigs invasion -The Cuban Missile Crisis -The Berlin Wall Be able to discuss the Peace Corps and the Race to the moon in the context of the Cold War.	20.1, 20.2 (679-681)
Tue 4/15	Origins of the Vietnam War	Why was there a war between North and South Vietnam? Using the Domino Theory, explain in detail how the US came to be involved in the war in Vietnam. Explain the Gulf of Tonkin Incident and its significance. How did President Johnson escalate American involvement in the War. Explain the nature of the fighting in Vietnam. Why was this war called "a living room war?" What was the significance of that?	22.1, 22.2
Wed 4/16	Vietnam Escalation	Explain the significance of the draft on the war effort. How did the war effect racial tensions in America? Describe the New Left, and (in detail) the anti-war movement. What was the Tet Offensive, and how did it change things? Why was 1968 such a tumultuous year? Explain why the '68 election was such a memorable turning point.	22.3, 22.4
Thu 4/17	<i>Letters Home from Vietnam</i>		

Fri 4/18	<i>Letters Home from Vietnam</i>		
Mon 4/21	End of the Vietnam War	<p>What was meant by "Vietnamization?"</p> <p>How did the US withdraw from the War?</p> <p>Explain the impact of the My Lai massacre, the invasion of Cambodia, the violence at Kent State, and the Pentagon Papers had on American morale.</p> <p>Explain the impact of the war on returning veterans.</p> <p>Explain the impact of the end of the war on foreign policy.</p>	22.5
Tue 4/22	Nixon/Ford/Carter/Reagan	<p>How did détente change the nature of the Cold War?</p> <p>How does American foreign policy shift in the different phases of the Cold War?</p> <p>How did the Cold War end?</p> <p>How did the end of the Cold War impact the role of the United States?</p> <p>How did the end of the Cold War affect events in the Middle East and other places?</p>	TBD
Wed 4/23	Post-Cold War/Review		TBD
Thu 4/24	Essay Writing		
Fri 4/25	Test		

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