



# The Cold War



SS5H5 The student will discuss the origins and consequences of the Cold War.

- a. Explain the origin and meaning of the term “Iron Curtain.”
- b. Explain how the United States sought to stop the spread of communism through the Berlin airlift, the Korean War, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- c. Identify Joseph McCarthy and Nikita Khrushchev.
- d. Discuss the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War.

## Build on What You Know

- You know that countries usually use armies to fight wars. After WWII, there was a new kind of war. Countries fought this war mostly with words and ideas.

# Vocabulary

- Capitalism- individuals are free to **own** or work for a business of their choosing.
- Socialism- the government, consumers, and businesses **control** the economy.
- Communism- the **government** has complete power.
- Consumer- someone who **buys** something.
- Iron Curtain- an imaginary line that divided Eastern and Western **Europe**.
- Truman Doctrine- the promise to stop the **spread** of communism to countries that were not communist.
- Cease-fire- an agreement to stop **fighting**

# How the Cold War Started...

- Even before the end of World War II, tensions were building between the **U.S.** and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R. or Soviet Union).
- The two countries had different ideas about government and economics and how the **world** should be run after WWII.
- The U.S. is a democratic republic, which is a type of government where we choose representatives to make **laws**.
- The economic system in the U.S. is known as a **free** enterprise or capitalism. In a free enterprise, individuals are free to own or work for a business of their choosing.
- **Socialism** spread throughout Europe after the war. In a Socialist system, the government owns major industries, such as banks, airlines, railroads, and power plants. People own stores, farms, and most factories. Together, government, consumers, and businesses control the economy.
- Communism is the system in which the government has complete power. The U.S.S.R. was run by a dictator and the people did not get to **vote**.
- The U.S. and other Western nations wanted to end communism. The U.S.S.R. wanted to spread it and then control all **Communist** countries.

# Iron Curtain

- Following Germany's defeat, the Allies **divided** the country.
- The US, Great Britain, and **France** governed sections of western Germany which became a free democracy.
- The USSR governed eastern Germany which became a **communist** state.
- The Allies also divided the German **capital** of Berlin even though it was in the Soviet sector of Germany.
- Winston Churchill described **Europe** as being divided by an "Iron Curtain."
- On the west side of the Iron Curtain were the democracies of Western Europe and on the **East** side were the communist nations.



# North Atlantic Treaty Organization

- In **1949**, 12 allied nations signed a treaty in Washington D.C.
- These **12** allied nations founded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to support democracy.
- This organization was formed to stop the spread of communism.
- President Truman promised to help any country that the **USSR** tried to turn Communist. This policy was known as the Truman Doctrine, or the policy of containment.



# Berlin Airlift

- Joseph Stalin wanted the western Allies out of **Berlin**.
- His army surrounded West Berlin and would not let any **supplies** in or out.
- Harry Truman responded with the **Berlin** Airlift.
- For several months in 1948-49, the US and its allies flew **planes** delivering supplies across the Soviet lines and into West Berlin.
- Not wanting a war, **Stalin** finally gave up.
- The Berlin Airlift only made the two sides **angrier** with one another.





# Berlin Wall

- The city of **Berlin** in Germany was divided at the end of WWII.
- The **eastern** part was under Soviet control.
- The **western** part was controlled by the Allies.
- Thousands fled from the **eastern** side to the west.
- In 1961, the Soviets built a **wall** to prevent people from leaving East Berlin and armed soldiers guarded the wall.
- People who tried to **cross** were killed.
- The Berlin Wall became the **symbol** of Communist dictatorship.



# The Korean War

- After WWII, the Allies split the East Asian nation of **Korea** in half.
- **North** Korea became a communist state.
- South Korea became a **capitalist** democracy.
- The **38th** parallel served as a dividing line between the two nations.
- In **1950**, North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel and quickly conquered much of South Korea.
- The UN elected to send **troops** to stop the invasion.
- President Truman put General Douglas MacArthur in **charge**.
- MacArthur drove back the **North** Koreans.
- Before he could fully defeat them, **Chinese** troops crossed the border to help the North Koreans.
- The Korean War continued until **1953** and ended in a cease-fire



# Joseph McCarthy

- Joseph McCarthy was a US **senator** from the state of Wisconsin.
- During the 1950's, he became convinced that Communists were trying to gain control of the **US** government.
- He vowed to find these **Communists** and drive them out.
- At first many US citizens backed him, but he went to far and accused high-ranking **military** officers of being Communists.
- When McCarthy tried to make his case on **television**, most people thought he came off looking cruel, paranoid, and perhaps crazy.
- The hearings on television **ruined** McCarthy's political career.



# Nikita Khrushchev

- Nikita Khrushchev took over as First Secretary of the USSR's Communist Party after Joseph Stalin died in **1953**.
- Under Khrushchev, the Soviet government was no longer a **dictatorship**.
- Khrushchev was a tough politician who distrusted the **US**.
- He tried to bully the US and its allies into leaving **West** Berlin in 1958.



# Cuban Missile Crisis

- This was a **13** day confrontation between the U.S. and Soviet Union.
- A U.S. **spy** plane found missiles being stored in Cuba from the Soviet Union.
- The U.S. ordered a military blockade around Cuba to keep any more Soviet **missiles** from entering Cuba.
- After a period of tense negotiations, an agreement was met between John F. **Kennedy** and Nikita Khrushchev.
- The Soviets agreed to dismantle and send back the **missiles** from Cuba and the U.S. agreed to take out their missiles from Turkey and Italy.



# Vietnam War

- By 1954, Vietnam had been divided into two parts.
- The Northern part was communist and the southern part was capitalist.
- At first the U.S. trained the South Vietnamese to fight the Communists.
- By 1963, there were about 17,000 American soldiers in Vietnam.
- By 1969, there were more than 500,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam.
- More than 58,000 American troops were killed during the war.
- In 1973, U.S. troops withdrew.
- South Vietnam fell to the Communists in 1975.
- The Vietnam War became very unpopular in the late 1960's and early 1970's.
- Vietnam was the first war in which citizens could actually see much of the death and destruction from a television.
- Many young people protested the war.
- This is one of the reasons the troops were removed.

