

SS5H7: 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.

SS5H8 The student will describe the importance of key people, events, and developments between 1950-1975.

- a. Discuss the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War.

The Cold War in Europe, the
“iron curtain”, Berlin Airlift,
Nato, Korean War,
McCarthy, Cuban Missile
Crisis, Khrushchev, and
Vietnam

The Cold War in Europe

- The United States and the Soviet Union were very different.
- As a capitalist democracy the US allowed citizens and businesses to own private property, determine economic production, and pursue profits.
- Its Constitution also guaranteed basic human rights and allowed citizens to have a role in their government.



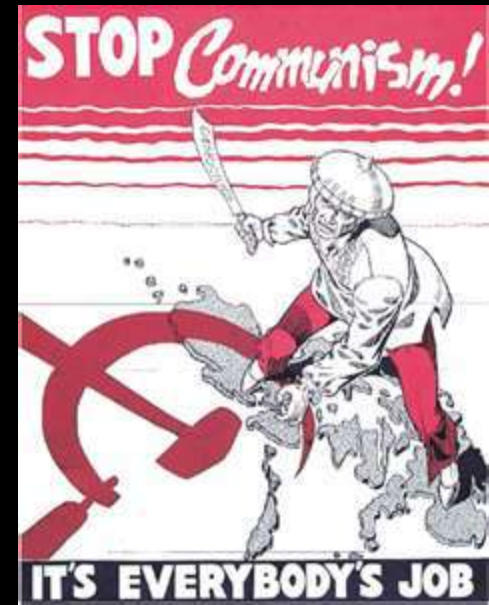
The Cold War in Europe

- ◎ The Soviet Union was a communist dictatorship.
- ◎ Its dictator, Joseph Stalin, commonly ordered the imprisonment or execution of anyone who opposed his rule.
- ◎ Communism meant that the state, not the citizens or businesses, owned nearly all the property and determined production.



The Cold War in Europe

- After the war, these differences led the two sides to distrust on another.
- Stalin feared that the US and Great Britain would invade the USSR while they still had armies in Germany.
- He decided not to give up territories his army had conquered during war.
- Instead, he made them part of the Soviet Union or set up new communist governments that answered to him.
- The US and Great Britain believed that Stalin wanted to invade Western Europe.
- They believed he wanted to spread communism to the rest of the continent.
- They saw Stalin's refusal to give up Eastern Europe as proof they were right.



The Cold War in Europe

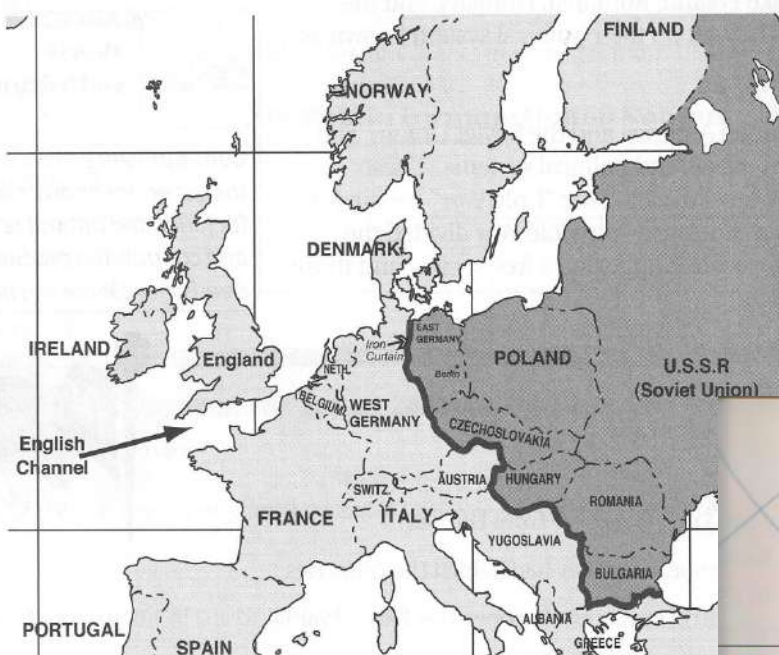
- This period marked the start of the Cold War.
- It was a time when people around the world feared the tension between the US and USSR would eventually lead to war.
- REFLECT: The US is a capitalist democracy. The Soviet Union is a communist dictatorship. What caused the start of the Cold War? Stalin's refusal of giving up Eastern Europe because the US and Great Britain thought Stalin wanted to spread communism to the rest of the continent.

The “Iron Curtain”

- Following Germany's defeat, the Allies divided the country.
- The US, Great Britain, and France governed sections of western Germany.
- The allies also invaded the German capital of Berlin.
- Even though Berlin was in the Soviet sector of Germany, each of the allied powers governed a portion of the city.
- The US, Great Britain and France believed this arrangement was temporary.
- They thought Germany would soon be a free democracy.

The “Iron Curtain”

- Stalin would not give up East Germany.
- Eventually Germany became two separate nations.
- West Germany became a capitalist democracy (like the US) and East Germany became a communist state (like the USSR).
- Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill described Europe as being divided by an “Iron Curtain”.
- On the west side of the “curtain” were the democracies of Western Europe.
- On the east side were the communist nations of Eastern Europe.



Europe and the Cold War



- Communist country
- Non-communist country
- Iron curtain



● Reflect: What did Churchill mean when he described Europe as being divided by an “Iron Curtain”? It meant that the nations were separate and did not get along.



Containment Policy and the Truman Doctrine

- ⦿ The US decided that it could not remove communism from Eastern Europe without war, so President Truman adopted a containment policy.
- ⦿ Containment meant that the US would not attempt to remove communism from places where it already existed, but it would do all it could to make sure communism didn't spread to other parts of the world.
- ⦿ Truman's vow to help other nations resist communism became known as the Truman Doctrine.
- ⦿ In Europe, the Truman Doctrine led to the Marshall Plan.
- ⦿ This plan involved the US government giving money to European nations.
- ⦿ The money helped them rebuild after the war.
- ⦿ By helping nations rebuild, the US believed it would prevent the spread of communism.

The Berlin Airlift

- Stalin wanted the western Allies out of Berlin.
- His army surrounded West Berlin and would not let any supplies in or out.
 - West Berlin could only be reached by traveling through East Germany {which was Communist}.
 - They blocked highway, rail, and water routes so that no food or fuel could get into the city.



The Berlin Airlift

- Truman responded with the Berlin Airlift.
- For several months in 1948 and '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.
- But the Berlin Airlift only made the two sides angrier with one another.



◉ Reflect: Why did the US get involved with the Berlin Airlift?

Because Stalin surrounded West Berlin and the US and its allies need to get supplies in, so they used airplanes.



The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

- Just before the end of the Berlin Airlift, the United States signed a treaty with Canada and several European nations.
- Each nation vowed to help the others if the Soviets attacked.
- They also formed NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization).
- NATO would provide a combined military force to fight against any attack from Eastern Europe.
 - > NATO was a military alliance.



◎ Reflect: Why was NATO formed?

To provide a combined military force against an attack from Eastern Europe.



The Nuclear Arms Race

- ◉ Within a few years of the US dropping its first atomic bomb, the Soviet Union developed its own nuclear weapons.
- ◉ A few years later, both nations developed hydrogen bombs that were more powerful than the bombs dropped on Japan.
- ◉ A nuclear arms race developed between the US and USSR.
- ◉ Both nations created more nuclear weapons and had nuclear missiles that could travel 1000's of miles in minutes and destroy cities on the other side of the world.
- ◉ People lived in fear of a nuclear war that would destroy the entire planet.



The Korean War

- After WWII, the Allies split the East Asian nation of Korea in half.
- North Korea became a Communist state (like East Berlin) and South Korea became a capitalist democracy (like West Berlin).
- 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 Korean War

- The United Nations elected to send troops to stop the invasion.
- President Truman put MacArthur in charge.
- MacArthur drove back the North Koreans.
- Before he could finally defeat them, Chinese troops (China became a communist state in 1949) crossed the border to help the North Koreans.
- The Korean War continued until 1953.
- It resulted in a cease-fire that left the country divided at almost the same place as before the war began.



◎ Reflect: The Korean War was fought to stop communism. How did it start and finish?



Started by
North Korea
invading South
Korea and
ended with a
line dividing the
two nations.



Joseph McCarthy



- A US senator from the state of Wisconsin.
- During the 1950's, he became convinced that Communist 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 McCarthy even though he had very little evidence to support his claims.
- Eventually, McCarthy went too far.
- He accused high-ranking military officers of being Communists.
- When McCarthy tried to make his case on television during a series of congressional hearings, most people thought he came off looking cruel, paranoid, and perhaps crazy.
- The hearings ruined McCarthy's political career.

◎ Reflect: How did the actions of McCarthy impact the lives of many innocent Americans?

The Cuban Missile Crisis and Nikita Khrushchev

- Cuba is a small island nations less than a hundred miles off the coast of Florida.
- In 1959, communist rebels under the leadership of Fidel Castro overthrew the government and took control of the country.
- The US grew concerned.
- John F. Kennedy was the new President.
- He approved an attempt to overthrow Castro's government.
- The plan failed and increased Castro's fear that the US might try to invade Cuba.



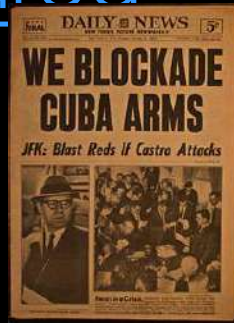
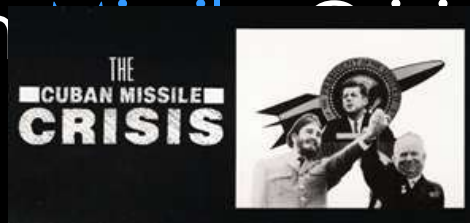
The Cuban Missile Crisis and Nikita Khrushchev

- Castro struck a deal with the Soviet Union and its leader Nikita Khrushchev.
- Khrushchev took over as First Secretary of the USSR and Communist Party after Stalin died in 1953.
- Even though the Soviet Union was no longer a dictatorship under Khrushchev, the new leader was still a tough politician who distrusted the US.
- On one occasion while addressing representatives from capitalist nations he pounded his shoe on a table and vowed, "We will bury you".
- He also tried to bully the US and its allies into leaving West Berlin.
- He eventually backed down when President Eisenhower strengthened NATO's armed forces there.



The Cuban Missile Crisis and Nikita Khrushchev

- Cuba allowed the Soviets to place nuclear missiles in Cuba in 1962.
- When President Kennedy learned of the missiles he called on Khrushchev to remove them and ordered a blockade of the island.
 - A blockade is when navel ships prevent any other ships from leaving or docking in a country's ports.
- For 13 days the world watched and feared that the Cuban nuclear war.



The Cuban Missile Crisis and Nikita Khrushchev

- Finally, the Soviets agreed to remove the missiles and the US promised to never invade Cuba.
- The US also made a secret pledge to remove missiles it had in Turkey.
- Reflect: What was the significance of the Cuban Missile Crisis?

The Vietnam War

- In 1954, an international treaty divided the tiny Southeast Asian country of Vietnam.
- Communist ruled North Vietnam and a pro-US government ruled South Vietnam.
- Soon the two sides were at war.
- Because the southern leader was corrupt, many peasants in South Vietnam formed a rebel army called the Vietcong and fought alongside North Vietnam.



The Vietnam War

- The US did not want South Vietnam to fall to communism.
- First, it sent military advisors who only gave advice to South Vietnamese.
- When it did not work, President Lyndon Johnson ordered bombings and began sending 1000's of troops.
- The Vietnam War escalated in the 1960's and was unlike any war the US had ever fought.
- Even though the US military was much stronger, the Vietcong struck quickly and unexpectedly.



- After killing and wounding as many Americans as they could, Vietcong fighters would go back into the thick jungle.
- The Vietcong did not try to win battles as much as they tried to make the US tired of fighting.
- The US military grew frustrated because it could not keep the Vietcong engaged in a battle long enough to totally defeat them.
- Overtime, people in the US got tired of war.

The Vietnam War

- Many protested against it and demanded that the troops return home.
- Finally in 1973, the US signed a peace agreement that pulled the US out of Vietnam.
- Soon, however, war erupted again between North and South Vietnam.
- In 1987, the Communist took the South Vietnamese capital.
- After a long and bloody war, the Communist finally controlled the entire country.

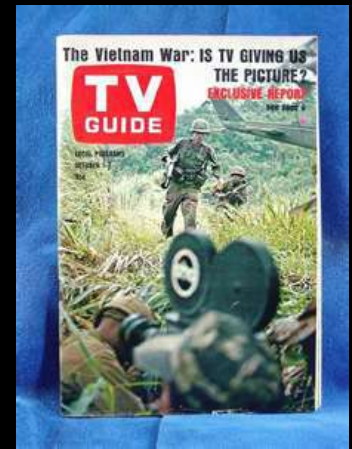
◉ Reflect: Why were the American people divided about the Vietnam War?

The Vietnam War



What was different about Vietnam?

- The Vietnam War was different because it was the first war to occur during the age of television.
- In previous wars, citizens had to rely on radio, newspapers, or edited news reels to receive word of fighting.
- Vietnam was the first war where citizens could actually see much of the death and destruction from their own living rooms.
- This led many citizens to have strong opinions about the war and many questioned the way the government was fighting the war.



What was different about Vietnam?

- Vietnam also occurred during a time where more young people were attending colleges.
- During the 1960's many college students began to question traditional values and authority figures, including the government.
- A huge anti-war movement happened on many college campuses.
- It spread to other parts of society.
- Unlike WWII and Korea, the nation became divided over Vietnam.



What was different about Vietnam?

- The last reason Vietnam was different is because the US lost.
- Vietnam fell to Communism even though the US tried hard.
- Many US soldiers returned home feeling forgotten or hated rather than like heroes.
- Some suffered lasting health and mental problems caused by the war.
- A few had to face the fact they had committed horrible acts against civilians while in Vietnam.
- Even today, memories of Vietnam affect US politics and society.