

Chapter 18, Section 1: The Cold War Unfolds

Objectives

Understand how two sides faced off in Europe during the Cold War.

Learn how nuclear weapons threatened the world.

Understand how the Cold War spread globally.

Compare and contrast the Soviet Union and the United States in the Cold War.

Terms, People, and Places

superpowersanti-ballistic missiles (ABMs)Ronald ReaganétenteFidel CastroJohn F. KennedyideologyNikita KhrushchevLeonid Brezhnevcontainment

CHECKPOINT Questions:

How was Europe divided, and what were three consequences of its division?

What factors discouraged the use of nuclear weapons during the Cold War?

How did the U.S. and the Soviet Union confront each other around the world during the Cold War?

How did the Soviet government handle critics of its policies?

How did America respond to the threat of communism at home and overseas?

Section Summary

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as **superpowers**. They each created military alliances made up of nations they protected or occupied. The United States helped form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which comprised Western European allies. The Soviet Union signed the Warsaw Pact with Eastern European countries. The line between the democratic West and communist East was called the Iron Curtain. Many revolts challenging Soviet domination were extinguished with military force.

The superpowers also engaged in a weapons race—both developed nuclear weapons. To reduce the threat of war, the two sides held several disarmament talks. One agreement was intended to limit the use of **anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs)**. These weapons were designed to shoot down missiles launched by hostile nations. The ABMs were considered a threat because they could give one side more protection, which might encourage it to attack. Then during the 1980s, President **Ronald Reagan** proposed a missile defense program called “Star Wars.” Other agreements limited the number of nuclear weapons that nations could maintain, which eased Cold War tensions. This period was called the era of **détente**. It ended, however, when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

During the 1950s, **Fidel Castro** led a revolution in Cuba and became its leader. To bring down Castro’s communist regime, U.S. President **John F. Kennedy** supported an invasion of Cuba, but the attempt failed. One year later, the Soviets sent nuclear missiles to Cuba. Many feared a nuclear war. After the United States blockaded Cuba, Soviet leader **Nikita Khrushchev** agreed to remove the missiles.

The Soviets wanted to spread communist **ideology** around the globe. When Khrushchev came to power, he eased censorship and increased tolerance. However, repression returned under **Leonid Brezhnev**. American leaders followed a policy of **containment**. This was a strategy of keeping communism from spreading to other nations. In addition, a “red scare” in the United States resulted in Senator Joseph McCarthy leading an internal hunt for communists in the government and military. The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) also sought out communist sympathizers.

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Chapter 18, Section 3: Communism Spreads in East Asia

Objectives

Analyze China's communist revolution.

Describe China's role as a "wild card" in the Cold War.

Explain how war came to Korea and how the two Koreas followed different paths.

Terms, People, and Places

collectivizationGreat Leap

ForwardCultural Revolution38th

parallelKim Il SungSyngman RheePusan

Perimeterdemilitarized zone

CHECKPOINT Questions:

What were the main successes and failures of the Chinese Communist Revolution?

Explain when and why China became involved in the Korean War.

How did North Korea's economic performance compare to South Korea's?

Section Summary

After World War II, Mao Zedong led communist forces to victory over Jiang Jieshi's Nationalists, who fled to Taiwan. Then Mao began to reshape China's economy. First, he gave land to peasants, but then called for **collectivization**. Under this system, Mao moved people from their small villages and individual farms into communes of thousands of people on thousands of acres. Known as the **Great Leap Forward**, the program was intended to increase farm and industrial production. Instead, it produced low quality, useless goods and less food. Bad weather also affected crops, and many people starved.

To remove "bourgeois" tendencies from China, Mao began the **Cultural Revolution**. Skilled workers and managers were removed from factories and forced to work on farms or in labor camps. This resulted in a slowed economy and a threat of civil war.

At first, the United States supported the Nationalist government in Taiwan. The West was concerned that the Soviet Union and China would become allies, but border clashes led the Soviets to withdraw aid and advisors from China. U.S. leaders thought that by "playing the China card," or improving relations with the Chinese, they would further isolate the Soviets. In 1979, the United States established diplomatic relations with China.

Korea was an independent nation until Japan invaded it in World War II. After the war, American and Soviet forces agreed to divide the Korean peninsula at the **38th parallel**. **Kim Il Sung**, a communist, ruled the North; and **Syngman Rhee**, allied with the United States, controlled the South. In 1950, North Korean troops attacked South Korea. The United Nations forces stopped them along a line known as the **Pusan Perimeter**, then began advancing north. Mao sent troops to help the North Koreans. UN forces were pushed back south of the 38th parallel.

In 1953, both sides signed an armistice to end the fighting, but troops remained on both sides of the **demilitarized zone (DMZ)**. Over time, South Korea enjoyed an economic boom and a rise in living standards, while communist North Korea's economy declined. Kim Il Sung's emphasis on self-reliance kept North Korea isolated and poor.

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Chapter 18, Section 4: War in Southeast Asia

Objectives

[Describe events in Indochina after World War II.](#)

[Learn how America entered the Vietnam War.](#)

[Understand how the Vietnam War ended.](#)

[Analyze Southeast Asia after the war.](#)

Terms, People, and Places

[guerrillas](#)[Ho Chi Minh](#)[Dienbienphu](#)[domino theory](#)[Viet Cong](#)[Tet Offensive](#)[Khmer Rouge](#)[Pol Pot](#)

CHECKPOINT Questions:

How did the domino theory lead the United States to send troops to Vietnam?

Why did the United States withdraw its troops from Vietnam?

How did communist Vietnam dominate parts of Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War?

Section Summary

In the 1800s, the French ruled the area in Southeast Asia called French Indochina. During World War II, Japan invaded that region, but faced resistance from **guerrillas**. After the war, the French tried to reestablish authority in Vietnam. However, forces led by communist leader **Ho Chi Minh** fought the colonialists. The French left Vietnam in 1954, after a Vietnamese victory at **Dienbienphu**. After that, Ho controlled the northern part of Vietnam while the United States supported the noncommunist government in the south.

Ho wanted to unite Vietnam. He provided aid to the National Liberation Front, or **Viet Cong**, a communist guerrilla organization in the south. American leaders saw Vietnam as an extension of the Cold War and developed the **domino theory**. This was the belief that if communists won in South Vietnam, then communism could spread to other governments in Southeast Asia. After a North Vietnamese attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer, Congress authorized the president to take military measures to prevent further communist aggression in Southeast Asia.

Despite massive American support, the South Vietnamese failed to defeat the Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese allies. During the **Tet Offensive**, the North Vietnamese attacked cities all over the south. Even though the communists were not able to hold any cities, it marked a turning point in U.S. public opinion. Upset by civilian deaths from the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam as well as growing American casualties, many Americans began to oppose the war. President Nixon came under increasing pressure to terminate the conflict. The Paris Peace Accord of 1973 established a ceasefire and American troops began to withdraw. Two years later communist North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam.

Neighboring Cambodia and Laos also ended up with communist governments. In Cambodia, guerrillas called the **Khmer Rouge** came to power. Led by the brutal dictator **Pol Pot**, their policies led to a genocide that killed about one third of the population. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia, the genocide ended. Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge were forced to retreat. Communism did not spread any farther in Southeast Asia.

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Chapter 20, Section 2: Struggles in Africa

Objectives

Understand South Africa's struggle for freedom.

Describe how struggles for independence and Cold War rivalries brought decades of conflict to South Africa's neighbors.

Analyze how ethnic conflicts killed millions in Rwanda and Sudan.

Terms, People, and Places

apartheidAfrican National Congress (ANC)SharpevilleNelson MandelaDesmond TutuF.W. de KlerkHutusTutsisDarfur

CHECKPOINT Questions:

What factors finally brought an end to apartheid in South Africa?

Why did fighting continue after Angola and Mozambique achieved independence?

How did the conflict in Darfur differ from the conflict in southern Sudan?

Section Summary

In the 1950s and 1960s, many new nations won independence in Africa. Several other African nations suffered internal conflicts and civil wars. In 1910, South Africa achieved self-rule from Britain. Most civil rights, however, were limited to white settlers. The black majority had few rights under a legal system of racial segregation called **apartheid**. Under apartheid, nonwhites faced many restrictions. For example, laws banned marriages between races and stipulated segregated restaurants, beaches, and schools.

The **African National Congress (ANC)** opposed apartheid and led the struggle for majority rule. In 1960 police gunned down 69 people during a protest in **Sharpeville**, a black township. The government then outlawed the ANC. **Nelson Mandela**, an ANC leader, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

In the 1980s, international demands for an end to apartheid and for Mandela's release increased. In 1984, Bishop **Desmond Tutu** won the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent opposition to apartheid. In 1990, South African president **F.W. de Klerk** ended apartheid and freed Mandela, who was elected president in 1994.

South Africa's neighbors also experienced long conflicts to attain independence. Portugal granted independence to Angola and Mozambique in 1975. South Africa and the United States saw the new nations as threats because some liberation leaders had ties to the ANC or the Soviet Union.

After independence, ethnic conflicts plagued many nations. Historic resentments divided nations, and regional rivalries fed ethnic violence. In Rwanda, one of Africa's deadliest wars occurred. There, the **Hutus** were the majority, but the minority **Tutsis** dominated the country. In 1994, extremist Hutus slaughtered about 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Another 3 million Rwandans lost their homes. In response, world leaders pledged to stop genocide wherever it may occur. Their power to do this, however, was limited. In Sudan, non-Muslim, non-Arab rebels in the south battled Arab Muslims from the north. This war, drought, and famine caused millions of deaths. Finally, southern rebels signed a peace agreement in 2004. In the same year, however, ethnic conflict spread to Darfur in western Sudan. This conflict raised fears of a new genocide.

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Chapter 20, Section 3: Conflicts in the Middle East

Objectives

Understand why Arabs and Israelis fought over land.

Explain why civil war ravaged Lebanon.

Outline Iraq's long history of conflict.

Terms, People, and Places

occupied territories
Yasir Arafat
intifada
Yitzhak Rabin
Jerusalem
militia
Saddam Hussein
no-fly zones
weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)
insurgent

CHECKPOINT Questions:

What obstacles have prevented peace between Israel and the Palestinians?

How did an influx of Palestinians contribute to ethnic conflict in Lebanon?

Why has conflict persisted in Iraq since the defeat of Saddam Hussein?

Section Summary

For decades, the Middle East has been the location of conflict. Modern Israel was created in 1948 on land that had belonged to Palestinian Arabs. As a result, there has been repeated war and violence. In several wars against Egypt and others, Israel gained more land. This is called the **occupied territories**.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, led by **Yasir Arafat**, fought against the Israelis. In the occupied territories, Palestinians launched uprisings called **intifadas**. In addition, suicide bombers spread terror inside Israel. The Israelis responded with armed force, and Palestinian bitterness increased. Leaders, such as Israeli Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**, pushed for peace. There were many stumbling blocks, however, such as disagreements over **Jerusalem**, a city sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. During the early 2000s, new steps toward peace offered some hope, but serious obstacles remained.

Lebanon is home to diverse ethnic and religious groups. The government depended on a delicate balance among Arab Christians, Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims, and Druze. In 1975, Christian and Muslim **militias** battled each other, and both Israel and Syria invaded. By 1990, however, peace had been restored.

Conflicts also plagued Iraq. Iraq's Sunni Muslim minority dominated the country for centuries. The Kurdish minority and Shiite Muslim majority were excluded from power. In 1979 **Saddam Hussein** took power as a dictator. He fought a prolonged war against neighboring Iran in the 1980s. In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. In response, the United States led a coalition against that invasion. In the Gulf War that ensued, Kuwait was liberated and Iraqi forces were crushed. Saddam Hussein remained in power and used terror to impose his will. The United States, France, and Britain set up **no-fly zones** to protect the Kurds and Shiites. The UN worked to keep Saddam Hussein from building biological, nuclear, or chemical weapons, called **weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)**.

In 2003, the United States led a coalition that invaded Iraq and overthrew Saddam Hussein. Iraqi **insurgents** fought against the occupation that followed. In 2005, national elections were held for the first time.

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Chapter 18, Section 5: The End of the Cold War

Objectives

[Understand how the Soviet Union declined.](#)

[Analyze the changes that transformed Eastern Europe.](#)

[Explain how communism declined worldwide and the United States became the sole superpower.](#)

Terms, People, and Places

[mujahedin](#)

[Mikhail Gorbachev](#)

[Glasnost](#)

[perestroika](#)

[Lech Walesa](#)

[Solidarity](#)

[Václav Havel](#)

[Nicolae Ceausescu](#)

CHECKPOINT Questions:

How did Gorbachev's policies lead to a new map of Europe and Asia?

How did glasnost in the Soviet Union lead to the end of communism in Eastern Europe?

How did communist countries react differently to the collapse of the Soviet bloc?

Why did America's position as the sole superpower produce mixed reactions?

Section Summary

The Soviet Union emerged from World War II as a superpower, with control over many Eastern European countries. For many people, the country's superpower status brought few rewards. Consumer goods were inferior and workers were poorly paid. Because workers had lifetime job security, there was little incentive to produce high-quality goods. Still, there were some important technological successes. One example was *Sputnik I*, the first artificial satellite. Keeping up with the United States in an arms race also strained the economy. Then in 1979, Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan and became involved in a long war. The Soviets had few successes battling the **mujahedin**, or Muslim religious warriors, creating a crisis in morale in the USSR.

Then, new Soviet leader **Mikhail Gorbachev** urged reforms. He called for **glasnost**. He ended censorship and encouraged people to discuss the country's problems. Gorbachev also called for **perestroika**, or a restructuring of the government and economy. His policies, however, fed unrest across the Soviet empire.

Eastern Europeans demanded an end to Soviet rule. Previous attempts to defy the Soviets had failed. When Hungarians and Czechs challenged the communist rulers, military force subdued them. By the end of the 1980s, a powerful democracy movement was sweeping the region. In Poland, **Lech Walesa** led **Solidarity**, an independent, unlawful labor union demanding economic and political changes. When Gorbachev declared he would not interfere in Eastern European reforms, Solidarity was legalized. A year later, Walesa was elected president of Poland.

Meanwhile, East German leaders resisted reform, and thousands of East Germans fled to the West. In Czechoslovakia, **Václav Havel**, a dissident writer, was elected president. One by one, communist governments fell. Most changes happened peacefully, but Romanian dictator **Nicolae Ceausescu** refused to step down and he was executed. The Baltic States regained independence. By the end of 1991, the remaining Soviet republics had all formed independent nations. The Soviet Union ceased to exist after 69 years of communist rule.

In 1992, Czechoslovakia was divided into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Additionally, some communist governments in Asia, such as China, instituted economic reforms.

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