**World History 3201 - Unit 04**

**The Cold War**

4.1 Students will be expected to draw upon primary and/or secondary sources to demonstrate an understanding of how the Cold War began and its impact on Europe.

4.1.1 Define:

**Cold War**

The period following WWII, 1945 to 1990, when increasing diplomatic and political tension between the West / United States and the East / Soviet Union created the constant threat of war.

**Containment**

The defensive American foreign policy developed in 1947 to contain the spread of communism through economic and technical assistance to threatened countries. The policy later included military force.

4.1.2 Analyze the impact of Churchill’s **“Iron Curtain” speech and Stalin’s “two hostile camps” speech** on the deterioration of Soviet-Western relations.

Two speeches in 1946 alerted the world to the deteriorating relationship between the Soviet Union and Western World.

**Joseph Stalin**

**Stalin’s "Two Hostile Camps Speech"**: In Feb. 1946 Stalin gave a speech to voters in Moscow. In it he predicted that the unevenness of development in capitalist countries would result in a split of two hostile camps with war the inevitable result. He also warned that the future would not bring internal or external peace. In Washington Stalin’s words were interpreted to mean that war with the West was inevitable.

**Winston Churchill**

**Churchill’s "Iron Curtain Speech":** Churchill had always distrusted Stalin and in March 1946 accepted an invitation from President Truman to visit the U.S. In his speech Churchill warned Americans of the Soviet threat and the need for an "association of English speaking peoples" acting outside of the U.N. to re-order the world. His speech convinced many Americans that Truman’s "get tough" approach to the soviets was the right one.

4.1.3 Analyze how the policy of **containmen**t was reflected in the **Truman Doctrine**, the **Marshall Plan** and the formation of **NATO.**

**Harry Truman**: The policy of containment was put into action in the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Berlin Airlift and formation of NATO.

**Truman Doctrine**: In March 1947 President Truman called on the U.S to resist communism throughout the world. He stated, ... it must be the policy of the U.S to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation... our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid... free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms...Truman’s speech was designed to get support for an American pledge of hundreds of millions of dollars to prevent the spread of communism in Europe. Greece was in the middle of a civil war in which rebel forces, including communists were attempting to overthrow the pro-western government. The policy of fighting communism around the world became known as the Truman Doctrine. American aid would be given to a number of regimes, including right wing dictatorships, in an effort to block communism. Thus the U.S. committed itself to sacrificing money and lives to stop the spread of communism.

**Marshall Plan:** In 1947 Western Europe was in the midst of a postwar depression. Unemployment and social unrest were a concern to the U.S. If Western European countries were to remain free of Soviet influence they would have to regain their economic and political strength. In June 1947 the Marshall Plan was announced. The plan offered aid to all countries (even those in the Soviet bloc) devastated by the war. Countries accepting aid would have to open their economic records to the U.S. The Soviets even explored it till they concluded it was an extension of the Truman Doctrine. Between1948-1952, 16 European countries accepted over 13 billion in aid. As a result industrial growth flourished in Western Europe which resulted in economic and political stability. One other benefit/goal was that the U.S. economy enjoyed unprecedented growth in the 1950's. Wealthy European countries would not turn to communism.

**Berlin Air lift**: Until 1948 the Cold War had not drawn the two super powers into open conflict. The continued division of Germany would test each superpowers will. Britain, France and the U.S. were preparing to establish an independent West German state. The Soviets wanted to block the establishment West Germany, in fact they wanted a united Germany under Soviet control. To accomplish this the Soviet Union blocked all rail, canal, and road links into West Berlin. To the Western powers this was a test of their commitment to West Germany, if they backed down here it would weaken their position world-wide. Britain and the U.S. responded to the blockade with a massive airlift. 24 hours a day for 11 months thousands of tonnes of supplies were flown into West Germany until the Soviets lifted the Blockade. West Germany was created in May 1948 while East Germany was created in October 1948.By standing up to the Soviets during the Blockade the West demonstrated their resolve to stand up to the Soviets. The blockade strengthened the West’s ties to West Germany.?

**NATO**: In April 1949 was established, led by the United States it brought 12 countries together to counter the perceived threat from the Soviet Bloc countries. An attack on one country would be an attack against all. NATO indicated the West’s intent to meet Soviet expansion with collective resistance.

4.1.4 Evaluate the reaction of the Soviet Union to containment by referring to the **Molotov Plan, Berlin Blockade/Airlift and formation of the Warsaw Pact.**

The Soviet Union responded to the American policy of containment.

They responded to the Marshall Plan with the Molotov Plan

They responded to the Plan to establish West Germany with the Berlin Blockade

They responded to the Formation of NATO (1949) with The Warsaw Pact (1955)

\*One year on a Public Exam they had a quote by some Russian General talking about a communist military alliance in 1955. Here's a decent answer to that question.

*"Following World War II, two superpowers emerged: the United States and the Soviet Union. Disagreements over ideologies and politics in post-war Europe brought about a period of increased tensions between these two nations. We refer to this period as the Cold War. In 1946 President Truman of the United States created what he called a policy of containment. This meant that he would stop the spread of communism anywhere in the world with any means he could. He wouldn't try to drive the communists out of places where they already were, but he would not allow any new places to become communist. The policy was made official and called the Truman Doctrine. To implement his policy he did a number of things. To begin with, he created a new country of West Germany rather than allow it to become part of the communist controlled East Germany. The Soviet Union responded by blocking road and rail access through East Germany to the western side of Berlin which was part of the country of West Germany. The United States then implemented the Marshall Plan, which was $13,000,000,000 in aid to war torn countries of Europe, given on the condition that they not be communist. The Soviets responded with an aid plan of their own. They called it the Molotov Plan and offered technical and industrial help to communist countries in Europe. Then in 1949, the United States created a military alliance called NATO or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to protect itself, Canada and the countries of Western Europe from Soviet aggression. The Soviets responded with a military alliance of its own. In 1955 they created the Warsaw Pact. That's the communist military alliance that is referred to in the source above. The Warsaw Pact was designed to unify the communist countries of Eastern Europe under the Soviet sphere of influence. The creation of this alliance now meant that the world was clearly divided into two sides. Tensions between these two sides would last from 1945 to 1990."*

4.1.5 Identify on a map NATO and Warsaw Pact members in 1955.

4.2 Students will be expected to draw upon primary and/or secondary sources to demonstrate an understanding of major Cold War incidents outside Europe-spotlight Korea, Cuba and Vietnam.



4.2.1 Define:

**Uniting for Peace resolution:** U.N. resolution that gave the General assembly power to deal with issues of international aggression if the Security Council is deadlocked.

**Veto:** The right to reject a proposal or forbid an action.

**Viet Cong:** were rebels who tried to overthrow the government of South Vietnam in the sixties. The wanted to reunite South Vietnam under the communist government of North Vietnam.

**Viet Minh:** For a long time Vietnam was a French Colony. After WWII People in Vietnam wanted their independence. The Viet Minh was a group of rebels that fought the French until 1954 when France agreed to leave and allow Vietnam to become independent. When they went to set up their new country. American support for capitalism in the South forced them to split the country in two - socialist North Vietnam and U.S. Friendly South Vietnam. We don't use the term Viet Minh after the 1950s. Its leadership became the leadership of the new country of North Vietnam. It might have been the leaders of all of Vietnam if the Americans had stayed out of it, or if South Vietnam let people vote.

4.2.2 Analyze the Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam War from the following perspectives:

causes

results

**Korean War**

**Cause**: Following WWII the Soviets held North Korea while the U.S. held the South. They agreed to divide Korea at the 38th parallel. Korea was to be reunited following a peace settlement but, as with Germany, the Cold war intervened and Korea remained divided. Unable to get Soviet cooperation the United States turned the issue over to the UN where the General Assembly established a commission to oversee free elections and set up a unified independent government. The Soviets held their own election and established North Korea (Communist). The Americans did the same and formed South Korea (Democratic) both Korean governments claimed to speak for all Korea as each leader wanted to unify the country under his rule. Neither country could gain admission into the UN because each was vetoed by the opposing superpower. The North and the South became more deeply divided and increasingly hostile. War broke out in June 1950 when Northern forces crossed the 38th parallel and invaded the South.

**Results:** The day after the invasion Truman pledged American military support against any act of communist expansion in Asia. At the UN the U.S introduced the Uniting for Peace Resolution demanding that the North withdraw (there was no Soviet veto because they were boycotting the UN over America’s refusal to allow the new Chinese communist government to take China’s seat in the UN). With the Soviets out the U.N. Security Council approved military action against the North. With U.S. leadership, the UN initiated its first major test of collective security. Early in the war the North enjoyed success then the American led UN forces successfully counter attacked. The American military leader wanted to pursue the North Koreans across the 38th parallel even into China but Truman not wanting WW III ordered him to halt as the UN resolution only gave them authority to restore South Korea. For the rest of the war the battle lines shifted back and forth as a stalemate developed.

In July 1953 a truce was reached the country remained divided at the 38th parallel. The Korean War demonstrated the United Nations’ strength and limitations as a peacekeeping organization. It was involved in Korea because the U.S. decided it should be and the Soviets were not in a position to use its veto. Finally we saw how effective the U.N. could be when collective action is taken.

**Cuban Missile Crisis**

The island of Cuba, 150 Km off the coast of Florida, had long been in the American sphere of influence. Most of the wealth in Cuba belonged to American businesses and The U.S. supported Cuba’s corrupt dictator, Batista. The result was that while a small group of Cubans lived in wealth, the vast majority of Cubans lived in poverty.

In 1959 a young socialist named Fidel Castro led a popular uprising that overthrew Batista. He set up a new government patterned after the socialist ideals envisioned by Karl Marx. Castro wanted to regain control of Cuba’s economy, for the benefit of all Cubans. In the process he nationalized all privately owned businesses, which means he appropriated them, or claimed them as the property of the people of Cuba.

American investors, having lost approximately 1 billion dollars, were outraged. (Nothing upsets Americans quite as much as when they lose their stuff). As a result President Eisenhower imposed a trade embargo that continues to this day. America would neither buy anything from Cuba, nor sell anything to Cuba. Although this would be an impediment to economic development, Castro carried on and succeeded in creating a first class health care and public education system.

**Fidel Castro’s** nationalization of American businesses resulted in souring Cuban-American relations to put it mildly. In need of economic and military support Castro found a friend in the Soviets who bought huge quantities of Cuban sugar and shipped military weapons to Cuba. Threats from the U.S. pushed Cuba closer to the Soviets.

In April 1961 a small army of Cuban exiles, trained by the American CIA invaded Cuba at the **Bay of Pigs**. The invasion failed and the invaders were quickly defeated. More importantly the invasion strengthened Cuba’s ties to the Soviets.

In October 1962 American spy planes revealed that the Soviets were building missile bases in Cuba that could be used to launch nuclear weapons at the U.S. A nuclear war seemed likely. President Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba in order to keep supplies needed to complete the missile bases from reaching Cuba. A naval blockade is internationally recognized as an act of war. Kennedy hoped that calling it a 'Quarantine' might soften its impact

**John F. Kennedy**

In an effort to avoid war, the Soviets sent secret proposals with a potential solution. Kennedy sent his brother to meet with the Soviet Ambassador and accept the soviet solution. The Soviets would withdraw missiles from Cuba and the U.S. would promise never to invade Cuba, and that they would remove missiles aimed at the USSR, in Turkey

The crisis was over and both sides realized there could be no victory in a nuclear war. The crisis also demonstrated the need for better communication between the two countries as a result the famous hotline was established.

\* On an old exam they gave a map of Cuba and U.S. showing circles of the range of the missiles in Cuba. The question asked 'with reference to the source what led to the Cuban Missile Crisis?' Here's a decent answer...

*"The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 was one of the closest times the world ever came to nuclear war. It was all the result of a political situation in Cuba in the 1950s. Cuba is a small island 150 km off the coast of Florida. In the 1950s it was ruled by a corrupt dictator by the name of Batista. He allowed American businessmen, even Mafia, to invest their money in Cuba with little or no taxes as long as they paid him off. The result was most Cubans were very poor while Batista and his friends lived a lavish lifestyle. This motivated a fellow by the name of Castro to start a revolution. In 1959, Castro and his comrades overthrew Batista and set up a new Marxist government. In the process, he nationalized all property and money in Cuba. American businessmen lost about $1 billion. They were not happy. In response the U.S. imposed a trade embargo on Cuba and refused to allow anyone in the U.S. to buy or sell with Cuba. Then in 1961, they went further. They trained a bunch of Cuban ex-patriots, gave them guns and dropped them off at a place called the Bay of Pigs in hopes that they would overthrow Castro and return Cuba to the way it was. The Bay of Pigs invasion was a disaster and the invaders were captured. Castro realized he needed an ally. He worked out a deal with the Soviet Union to provide him with an ally, to give him weapons, and buy Cuban goods. The Soviet Union didn't just provide him with weapons. They gave him nuclear missiles to put in Cuba. When an American spy plane discovered the missile sites, they realized how serious this was. Nuclear missiles in Cuba meant that the Soviet Union could hit the United States before the United States could even respond. The source above demonstrates the range of these missiles and the sites that they could hit within minutes of being launched. Those circles contain many of major cities in the U.S. America could not allow this. They had to get the missiles out of Cuba, but challenging the Soviet Union would run the risk of nuclear war. The Cold War was a frightening time in our history, and the Cuban Missile Crisis is perhaps its most intense moment."*

**Vietnam War**

For a long time Vietnam was a French Colony, but after WWII People in Vietnam didn't want to be colonists anymore. They wanted their own country.

The Viet Minh was a group of rebels led by Ho Chi Minh that rose up to fight the French.

In 1954, they won a significant battle at **Dienbienphu**. France agreed to leave and allow Vietnam to become independent.

When the Vietnamese went to set up their new country however, American support for capitalism in the South forced them to split the country in two - communist North Vietnam and U.S. Friendly South Vietnam with a crackpot dictator

The split was supposed to be temporary and, at a peace conference in Switzerland, it was agreed that Vietnam would be divided at the 17th parallel until elections would be held in 1956 to reunite the country.

South Vietnam dictator Diem, never allowed free elections.

Note: Dictator Diem in the south was repressive and cruel. There's no question about that. It should be noted however, that though he tortured and tormented his citizens in general and Buddhist monks in particular, at least he didn't take your stuff and use it for the benefit of everyone like socialists do.

**Chi Minh**

We don't use the term Viet Minh after the 1950s. Its leadership became the leadership of the new country of North Vietnam. It might have been the leaders of all of Vietnam if the Americans had stayed out of it, or if South Vietnam let people vote.

When Diem refused to allow free elections in the South, Vietnam remained divided and North Vietnam began supporting a communist opposition group in the South - the Viet Cong.

The U.S., following its policy of containment, became involved. The U.S. believed in something called the domino theory. According to this theory the fall of one nation to communism would lead to nearby countries becoming communist. Thus if Vietnam fell to communism so would nearby countries. Thus in 1960 the U.S. began sending (800) military advisors to help the south Vietnamese army. Following Kennedy’s assassination in 1963 (16,000 advisors) the new President Lyndon Johnson did not want to be accused of being soft on communism. He got the American Congress to give him the power to use force in Vietnam (Gulf of Tonkin Resolution). By 1965 the U.S. 500,000 troops fighting in Vietnam.

**Results:** By 1975 the U.S. gave up. North Vietnam occupied South Vietnam and reunited the country. More than a million Vietnamese had been killed. The economies of the North and South were drained. Communism was not contained. The war proved that containment through military force was unworkable and that American military power was not invincible.

Americans were divided over the war: anti-war protests, demonstrations often became violent, public burning of draft cards and American flag, tens of thousands of Americans fled to Canada as draft dodgers. 57,000 Americans were killed another 300,000 were wounded and 2500 were listed as Missing in Action. Tragically another 50,000 have committed suicide and larger numbers battle substance abuse. Financially the U.S. spent 150 billion on the war effort. American prestige, popularity and support was diminished in many nations. The Vietnam War undermined the trust of Americans in their government, politicians and country.

4.2.3 Assess whether the Korean War provides a better example of **American containment or United Nations peacemaking.**

There are two perspectives on this question.

**The Korean War provides a better example of United Nations peace making because:**

 This was an initiative sanctioned by a Resolution that was voted on and approved by the United Nations.

 The action was supported by the involvement of the armed forces of 16 nations, not just the United States.

 An additional 30 countries supplied medical units, hospital ships, food, supplies, and equipment.

 This is a situation where one nation was invading another and therefore the United Nations had an obligation to intervene ie. North Korea invaded South Korea.

The Korean War provides a better example of American containment because:

This is not an example of one nation invading another nation. The two nations were set up artificially a few years earlier because the United States and the Soviet Union could not agree on what sort of government the country of Korea would have. Korea should have been left alone to sort out its own affairs.

The vast majority of the United Nations' forces were American forces led by an American general.

The supporting nations were all supporters of the United States.

The initiative would never have been promoted or pushed by the United States if North Korea had not been communist.

 The resolution would never have been passed in the United Nations Security Council if the Soviet Union or China had been present for the vote.

 Even if one could accept the argument that this was a situation where an invading country must be driven out of the country it invaded, why then did the United Nations forces not stop at the 38th parallel when they had driven North Korean forces out of South Korea? Why did they push to defeat the North Korean forces entirely? They pushed them right up to the Yalu River, intending to unite the entire peninsula under the authority of the South Korean government.

4.2.4 Use selected pieces of music, fashion, art or literature to draw conclusions about the impact of the Cold War era thinking.

4.3 Students will be expected to draw upon primary and/or secondary sources to demonstrate an understanding of the end of the Cold War, the break-up of the Soviet Union, and the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

4.3.1 Define:

**Détente**: The relaxation of international tensions, specifically between the Soviets and Americans in the 1970's.

**Star Wars** Strategic Defence Initiative, U.S. plan to destroy Soviet satellites and missiles while in flight.

4.3.2 Analyze the impact of perestroika and glasnost on the economic and social conditions in the Soviet Union

In 1985 **Mikhail Gorbachev** became the new Soviet leader. Younger, better educated and open minded compared to previous Soviet leaders, he realized that the threat to the USSR was economic collapse not invasion from the West. Years of maintaining a military presence in other parts of the world had drained the economy. The situation was made worse by the communist system of guaranteed employment and lack of incentives which did little to develop innovation, competence or hard work. To deal with this problem Gorbachev introduced reforms such as **perestroika** : the restructuring of the Soviet Union’s economy to make it more productive by moving away from communism towards a free market. The introduction of perestroika resulted in dissatisfaction and frustration. Without government subsidies food and consumer goods became more expensive which was unpopular with people. By 1990 little headway had been made in establishing a freer market as hard line communists resisted change which was unpopular with people who wanted change. Inflation, strikes led to poor working and living conditions and political instability in the Soviet Union by 1991. As the Soviet economy worsened so did social conditions: crime swept the country, health care unraveled, infant mortality rates rose and life expectancy declined, pollution levels created health hazards, alcoholism became the third most common cause of death.

Gorbachev introduced another reform - **glasnost**: a policy of openness and increased freedom that removed censorship. It was hoped that by opening communication it would lead to a better society. Glasnost resulted in Gorbachev’s fall from power. With the freedom glasnost provided people who felt Gorbachev was not moving fast enough to bring changes to the USSR began to criticize him. At the same time old hard line communists opposed Gorbachev feeling he had already gone too far with reforms. Eventually these two different views would bring events to a climax in the Soviet Union that would result in Gorbachev’s fall from power and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Thus ending the Cold War.

4.3.3 Assess the **impact of Gorbachev’s reform** on Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and the global community with reference to:

collapse of communism in Eastern Europe

re-unification of the two Germanys

end of the Cold War

When **Gorbachev** became leader of the Soviet Union he introduced a number of reforms which had a significant impact. As mentioned in SC0 4.3.2 Gorbachev’s reforms of **perestroika and glasnost** brought about the end of Communism in Russia in 1991. However he also introduced a series of peace reforms in 1985 that would significantly impact Eastern Europe.

Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe: Until 1985 the typical Soviet-American approach to international security was to talk about peace while continuing to increase their nuclear stockpile of weapons. Gorbachev changed this in 1985 with a series of peace initiatives:

He challenged the West to stop the arms race:

At the U.N. he announced a reduction in Soviet armed forces, including a substantial number in Eastern Europe.

In 1988 the Soviets began withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.

Arms talks that began with U.S. in 1986 led to agreements to destroy intermediate & short range nuclear missiles.

In 1989 he had FREE elections in the Soviet Union.

For the satellite states in Eastern Europe, events in the Soviet Union came to mean the destruction of the communist system. Eager to seize the opportunity, countries in Eastern Europe began to claim their independence after 40 years of Soviet control.

Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland rejected communism and introduced democracy and capitalism. Romania\*, Bulgaria\* and Albania\* retained communism. Yugoslavia\* rejected communism but plunged into civil war. \*Each of these countries have either changed to democracy and capitalism or are in the process.

**Re-Unification of Germany:** The Berlin Wall symbolized the division of the world into opposing Cold War camps. On Nov.10 1989 the world watched as East and West Berliners using sledgehammers demolished this wall. This event more than any other signified the end of the Cold War. The division of Germany had always been a central issue of the Cold War. When Gorbachev withdrew Soviet support from the East German communist government, in 1985, hopes of reunification grew. East Germans demonstrated for reform and as discontent grew the hardline Communist leader was forced out of office for a more reform minded leader. This lead to the fall of the Berlin Wall. The leader of West Germany, Helmut Kohl, proposed unification if East Germany held free elections. The East German government was lukewarm in its response however realizing they could no longer maintain power, free elections were held the next year. The East German people voted for a government that supported reunification. In July 1990 Kohl met with Gorbachev to remove Soviet objections to German reunification (Germany agreed to pay 9.5 billion to remove Soviet troops). On Sept. 12 the four nations that divided Germany at the end of WWII signed a reunification treaty. East and West Germany were reunited on Oct. 3 1990.

**End of The Cold War:** The Soviet Union’s withdrawal from Eastern Europe led to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. The reunification of Germany in 1990 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 ended the Cold War. It ended quietly rather than with nuclear holocaust as many had feared. However the new world order would bring new threats such as international terrorism.

4.3.4 Analyze each of the following challenges facing former Soviet republics:

political reform

economic stability

ethnic relations