5th Grade | Unit 8
Introduction | 3

1. Communist Threat ........................................... 5
   Building the Iron Curtain  | 7
   Division Problems  | 10
   China and Taiwan  | 14
   Anti-Communism in America  | 17
   Self Test 1  | 21

2. Hot War and Crises ........................................... 24
   Korean War  | 25
   Crises  | 29
   Vietnam War  | 32
   Self Test 2  | 35

3. Upheaval in America ........................................... 38
   Civil Rights  | 39
   Protests and Politics  | 43
   Self Test 3  | 49
   LIFEPAC Test | Pull-out
The end of the biggest war in the history of the world (World War II) was also the beginning of the most complicated war in American history, the Cold War. The Cold War was a battle of ideas, alliances, and fear between the communist countries of the world, led by the Soviet Union, and the free world, led by the United States.

It was rather like two powerful towns that built forts filled with cannons next door to each other, gathered rifles and soldiers, fired shots once in a while, but never quite decided to attack the other fort. The U.S. and the Soviet Union never actually went to war with each other. However, they helped out in wars fought by their allies, spied on each other, built huge collections of atomic bombs to threaten each other, and encouraged or forced other countries to join their side of the "war."

It was a long, expensive, difficult war. It began in 1945 at the end of World War II. It did not end until 1989, when communism collapsed in Europe. This LIFEPAC® will cover the first part of the Cold War from 1945 until about 1970. It will cover the two major wars that were fought by the U.S. against communism in Korea and Vietnam. It will also discuss the way the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement affected America.
Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe how the Cold War began.
2. Describe the events and crises of the Cold War.
3. Describe the anti-communist feelings in America and the actions of Senator Joseph McCarthy.
4. Describe the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
5. Describe the Civil Rights Movement.
6. Describe the protests and rebellions of the 1960s.
7. Name the presidents and describe their activities from 1945 to 1973.
1. COMMUNIST THREAT

In the course of World War II, the Soviet Union conquered most of eastern Europe. The U.S. expected those nations to be set free to choose their own governments. Instead, they were forced to set up communist governments. The nations of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, East Germany, Albania, and Bulgaria became Soviet satellites. They were cut off from contact with the free countries and were forced to obey the Soviet Union. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were forced to join the Soviet Union.

At first, the Americans hoped to work with the Soviets, who had been their allies during World War II, but the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, wanted power and he wanted to expand communism. He didn’t want to work with the West. America quickly became aware that the Soviets were now a threat to the peace and freedom of the world. Rather than retreat to isolationism again, America took the lead to protect the free world. This need to stand against communism was the main cause of the Cold War.

Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe how the Cold War began.
2. Describe the events and crises of the Cold War.
3. Describe the anti-communist feelings in America and the actions of Senator Joseph McCarthy.
7. Name the presidents and describe their activities from 1945 to 1973.
Vocabulary

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

**brutal** (brü’ təl). Cruel; inhuman.

**censure** (sen’ shər). An expression of unfavorable opinion; criticism.

**contain** (kən tān’). To hold back.

**equality** (i kwol’ ē tē). The exact likeness in value or rank.

**hearing** (hir’ ing). A chance for both sides to speak about an issue or problem.

**symbol** (sim’ bəl). Something that stands for or represents something else.

**underestimate** (un’ dər es’ tə māt). To assume a person or country will do less than they can or will do.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, ōge, căre, für, lët, ēqual, tém, i, ice; hot, ōpen, ōrder, oil, out; cup, pūt, rūl; child; long, thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.
Building the Iron Curtain

Communism. To understand the Cold War, it is important to first understand communism. Communism is a form of government in which everything is owned by the government. There is no freedom and the people are controlled by lies. Communism promises people complete equality but, in fact, is a very harsh and unfair government.

The government owns all the land, businesses, and factories under communism. Thus, no one can make shoes, cars, baskets, or airplanes unless the government orders them to do it. The government rarely orders the right amount of the things people need, so it is normal not to have enough food or goods under communism.

Also, people are paid for their work by the government and they are not paid more for good work. They also cannot be fired, so they do as little work as possible, making shoes, cars, and other things that are poor quality and often fall apart. People living under communism usually do not have enough of the things they need and what they do have is not very good.

There is no freedom under communism. Usually, one person or a few people run the government. They cannot be voted out of office. When there are elections, the leaders choose who will be elected. Anyone who says that the government is bad or doing something wrong is arrested. Religion is often forbidden, and Christians can go to jail or be killed for believing in Jesus.

Communism also works by lying. People are told that their nation is wonderful and that life is awful in the free countries. The people in a communist country are usually not allowed to talk with people from free countries and learn the truth. American newspapers, for example, are forbidden in communist countries because they tell the truth. Communist governments spend a lot of time telling their people how wonderful communism is, no matter how bad things really are.

Lying about everything is a very big part of communism. They even call their nations democracies and republics! For example, the full name of the Soviet Union was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.), while East Germany was the German Democratic Republic. Thus, free people have good reasons to be afraid of having their nation conquered by communists.
Post-war Europe. After Germany was defeated in 1945, it was divided into four parts. Each part was run by a different Allied nation: America, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. The capital, Berlin, was divided up the same way. The Soviets refused to let their part of Germany work with the others. Finally, Britain, France and the U.S. put their three parts together to form the nation of West Germany, a free country. The Soviet Union made their part into a communist country called East Germany.

The Soviet Union also refused to honor its promise to allow free elections in eastern Europe. In the years right after the war, all of the nations taken by the Soviet Union set up communist governments with the help of Soviet soldiers. Yugoslavia created its own communist government and never was fully controlled by the Soviet Union. These new communist countries were not allowed to trade with, work with, or communicate much with the free nations of Europe. Winston Churchill, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, said that an Iron Curtain had fallen across Europe. It became common during the Cold War to talk about the nations “behind the Iron Curtain.”

The Iron Curtain divided Europe into two major alliances. Soon, most of the world was divided also. The free, democratic nations were called Western World or the Free World. The communist countries were called Eastern Bloc or the Communist Bloc. Each side was led by a superpower, a large powerful nation that had a huge army and atomic bombs. The Free World was led by the United States, and the Communist Bloc was led by the Soviet Union. Some poorer nations were not part of the two sides; they were called the Third World or the Non-Aligned Nations.

Communist leaders lied to make workers believe they had better lives than they really had.
Thus, like Europe before World War I, the whole world was divided into two powerful alliances which quickly started an arms race, except this time both sides were building atomic bombs. The two sides would, in time, build enough bombs to totally destroy all life on earth if they were all used! The fear that they might start a nuclear (atomic bomb) war is what kept the Cold War from becoming a real war. Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union were too afraid that they and most of the world might be destroyed if a war began.

Answer these questions.

1.1 What were the nine countries behind the Iron Curtain in Europe? ____________________________________________________

1.2 Is religion usually allowed in a communist country? __________________________________________________________

1.3 What happened to the part of Germany occupied by the Soviet Union? ____________________________________________

1.4 What were the two superpowers afraid of if a real war had started between them? __________________________________

1.5 What were the four nations that occupied Germany in 1945? _________________________________________________

1.6 What were the two “superpowers” of the Cold War? __________________________________________________________

1.7 What were the names for the nations that were not communist, led by the U.S.? ________________________________

1.8 What were the names for the communist nations? ______________________________________________________________

1.9 What were the names for the poorer countries that were not on either side in the Cold War? ________________________
Division Problems

Containment. The Soviets wanted more communist countries beyond what they already had taken after the war. They tried (but failed) to use their army to get a communist government in Iran, an oil-rich nation south of the Soviet Union. They also were helping communist fighters in Greece who were trying to overthrow the government there. All this scared the United States. In 1947 President Truman decided to help the people of Greece fight off the communists. With the support of Congress, money was sent to Greece and Turkey to help the governments there get weapons and supplies. The communists were defeated in both nations.

Truman began the U.S. policy called containment. It would be the U.S. plan for all of the Cold War. Truman knew he could not overthrow communism in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe without starting another world war. Therefore, he decided to contain communism, to keep it from spreading. He committed the U.S. to give help to any nation on earth that might be attacked by people trying to set up a communist government. Most of the battles of the Cold War were caused by someone backed by the Soviet Union trying to spread communism to a new country and someone with American help trying to stop them.

Marshall Plan. All of Europe had been badly damaged by World War II. Homes and factories were destroyed. People were homeless. There were few jobs. The people needed help,
SELF TEST 1

Match these people (each answer, 2 points).

1.01 ________ Senator who made accusations about communists in America
   a. Joseph Stalin
   b. Harry S. Truman
   c. Dwight D. Eisenhower
d. George Marshall
e. Chiang Kai-shek
f. Mao Zedong
g. Joseph McCarthy
h. Alger Hiss
i. Julius & Ethel Rosenberg

1.02 ________ Communist Chinese leader

1.03 ________ State Department man accused of being a communist spy

1.04 ________ Executed for giving American atomic secrets to the Soviets

1.05 ________ American general at home in World War II, Secretary of State after the war

1.06 ________ Nationalist Chinese leader

1.07 ________ Communist dictator of the Soviet Union

1.08 ________ Campaign slogan, “I like Ike”

1.09 ________ President at the end of World War II, set up U.S. policy to deal with communism during the Cold War

Answer these question (each answer, 4 points).

1.010 What is communism? ______________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

1.011 What happened to the nations of eastern Europe after World War II?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

1.012 What was the American policy of containment during the Cold War?
__________________________________________________________________________
1.024 ___________ Polish free union in the 1980s
1.025 ___________ Treaty organization the U.S. joined to protect western Europe from the Soviet Union
1.026 ___________ First man-made satellite, 1957
1.027 ___________ American space agency
1.028 ___________ Name for the dividing line between free and communist Europe, came from Winston Churchill
1.029 ___________ The communist treaty organization that was supposed to protect eastern Europe

Write true or false in the blank (each answer, 2 points).

1.030 _______ America returned to isolationism after World War II.
1.031 _______ People in communist countries are not allowed to talk freely with people in free countries.
1.032 _______ Communists often call their countries republics or democracies.
1.033 _______ Czechoslovakia was a faithful communist nation all through the Cold War.
1.034 _______ Dwight D. Eisenhower ended many of the New Deal programs and went back to how the government was run before the Great Depression.
1.035 _______ The Soviets built the first reusable space craft, the space shuttle.