



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 9

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 809

Cold War America (1945–1990)

INTRODUCTION | **3**

1. HOT OR COLD? 5

ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR | **7**

HEATING UP, COOLING DOWN | **12**

VIETNAM | **22**

SELF TEST 1 | **26**

2. BETWEEN WAR AND WATERGATE 29

TRUMAN/EISENHOWER | **30**

KENNEDY/JOHNSON | **36**

NIXON | **42**

SELF TEST 2 | **48**

3. UNEXPECTED VICTORY 51

AFTERSHOCKS | **51**

HEALING AND CHANGE | **57**

MIRACULOUS VICTORY | **62**

SELF TEST 3 | **68**



LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

Author:

Theresa Buskey, B.A., J.D.

Editor:

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Westover Studios Design Team:

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

Teresa Davis, DTP Lead

Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

© MCMXCIX by Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. LIFEPAK is a registered trademark of Alpha Omega Publications, Inc.

All trademarks and/or service marks referenced in this material are the property of their respective owners. Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. makes no claim of ownership to any trademarks and/or service marks other than their own and their affiliates, and makes no claim of affiliation to any companies whose trademarks may be listed in this material, other than their own.

Cold War America (1945–1990)

Introduction

From 1945 to 1991, the U.S. and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) met in a conflict called the “Cold War.” It was a conflict of ideas, economics, propaganda, and intimidation. During all of those years, the two sides never directly fought each other in a “hot” war. However, during those years, international politics revolved around the confrontation between the two super powers.

One of the most important features of the Cold War was a massive arms race, particularly in the area of atomic weapons. By the end of the era, both sides had enough nuclear bombs to destroy all life on earth. This “mutually assured destruction,” the ability of both sides to destroy the other if the bombs were ever used, was one of the main reasons the two sides never quite went to war. Both sides were aware that a U.S.-Soviet war could be the end for everyone on the planet.

The Cold War was a world war. Each super-power could count on the support of allies or satellites all over the world. Both fought tenaciously for the hearts of the non-aligned (neutral) nations. Civil wars became part of the Cold War as the Soviets and the Americans supported different sides. However, even in “hot” wars like Korea and Vietnam, the two great powers were careful to avoid expanding the wars beyond that place. These were “limited” wars, carefully restricted to prevent the dreaded World War III.

At the heart of the conflict was the difference between the ideas of the two sides. America was a republic that favored freedom of ideas and a free market economic system. The Soviet Union was a communist nation. Communism is a system that allows no freedom of thought and has an economy completely owned and run by the government. Moreover, communism is a system of flagrant lies. Its governments claim they are utopias where the workers have everything they need, when in reality, people barely have enough of anything. The truth about corruption, poverty, inefficiency, and failure is never reported. Eventually, communism collapsed in the Soviet Union under the weight of its own stupidity. That collapse finally ended the Cold War

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the course of the Cold War and the incidents within it.
2. Name the presidents of the Cold War and the events that happened during their administration.
3. Describe the course of the Civil Rights Movement.
4. Describe events in America and changes in American thinking during the Cold War era.
5. Name the important people on both sides of the Cold War.

1. HOT OR COLD?

The Cold War developed very quickly after World War II. Americans thought the Soviets would be willing to work with their allies after the defeat of Germany. Events quickly proved that assumption wrong.

Stalin was obsessed with protecting his nation by creating a buffer of loyal nations in Eastern Europe. Because these countries were occupied by Soviet troops, the Western nations could not stop it, except by starting another war. Stalin ignored his wartime promises and set up communist governments all over East Europe without allowing free elections.

These actions of Soviet aggression in the Middle East convinced America to abandon her traditional isolation. There was a very real fear

that without the support of the United States, much of the world might be forced under the control of a communist dictatorship. Therefore, America took the leadership of the free world to contain communism at all costs.

The threat communism posed to the free world dominated American policy and thinking for forty-five years. It was especially strong in the first half of the era, up until the 1970s. During this time, the line between cold and hot war was often dangerously thin. Two “limited” wars were fought between communist and non-communist forces in Korea and Vietnam. Incidents like the Berlin blockade, the Berlin Wall, and the Cuban Missile Crisis threatened to escalate to war. The danger of an earth-destroying war was all too real.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the course of the Cold War and the incidents within it.
2. Name the presidents of the Cold War and the events that happened during their administration.
4. Describe events in America and changes in American thinking during the Cold War era.
5. Name the important people on both sides of the Cold War.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

espionage (es' pē ə nāzh). The use of spies to obtain information about the plans of a foreign government.

fait accompli (fāt' ak om plē'). A thing accomplished and presumably irreversible.

ideology (īd ē əl' ə jē). A systematic body of concepts about human life or culture.

summit (səm' ət). A conference of the highest-level officials (such as heads of government).

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

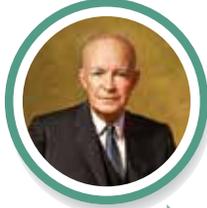
Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



AMERICA from 1945 to 1990



Harry S. Truman
1945-1953
Democratic



Dwight D. Eisenhower
1953-1961
Republican



John F. Kennedy*
1961-1963
Democratic



Lyndon B. Johnson
1963-1969
Democratic



Richard M. Nixon
1969-1974
Republican



Gerald R. Ford
1974-1977
Republican



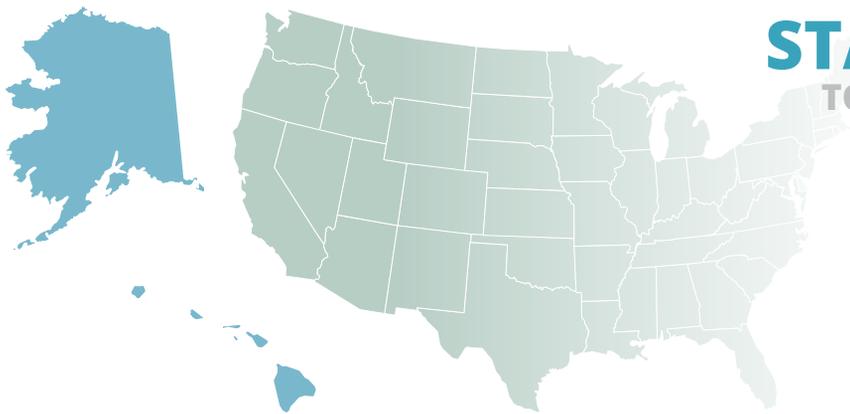
James E. Carter
1977-1981
Democratic



Ronald Reagan
1981-1989
Republican



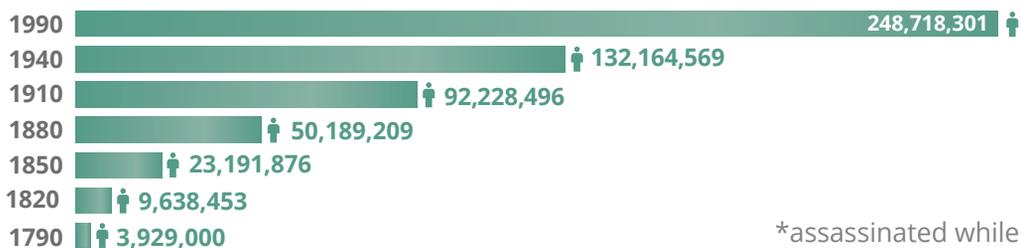
George H. W. Bush
1989-1993
Republican



STATES ADMITTED TO THE UNION

- Alaska 1959
- Hawaii 1959

POPULATION of the United States of America



*assassinated while in office

Origins of the Cold War

Harry S. Truman (1884-1972). Harry S. Truman was unprepared when he suddenly became president in 1945 upon the death of Franklin Roosevelt. He knew nothing of foreign policy and had not been kept up-to-date on anything the president was doing. He did not even know about the project to develop the atomic bomb before Roosevelt's death. Yet, he managed to face his own ignorance and rose to be considered, by some, among America's best presidents.

Harry Truman was born and lived most of his life in Missouri. He was widely read but never obtained a college degree. After high school, he worked at various jobs until 1917. He was an artillery officer in France during World War I. After the war, he tried his hand at business and failed. He became a county official with the support of the powerful Democratic Party boss in Missouri, Tom Pendergast. In spite of his association with the corrupt Pendergast machine, Truman was honest and remained free from scandal.

With the help of the Pendergast machine, Truman was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1934 and 1940. He rose to national prominence as the head of a Senate committee that worked to uncover inefficiency and waste in government war spending. The Truman Commission (as it was called) saved the government about \$15 billion. He was a compromise candidate for the vice presidency in 1944. In spite of his difficult start, Truman would set American policy that would affect the whole course of the Cold War.

United Nations. Roosevelt had been determined to replace the toothless League of Nations after World War II. Roosevelt had also learned from Wilson's mistakes. The American delegation to negotiate the charter included Senators from both parties and it was not tied to a harsh treaty. The conference to write a charter for the new United Nations opened in San Francisco on April 25, 1945, just two

weeks after the death of F.D.R. The charter was written in nine weeks by representatives from about fifty nations. The U.S. Senate approved it in a matter of days.

The United Nations was set up with a general assembly in which all nations have a say and a smaller Security Council that controls major decisions on international disputes. The U.S., U.S.S.R., Britain, France, and China all were given permanent seats on the Security Council. The council must unanimously agree on any decision, which gives any one council member veto power over decisions. The Soviets made regular use of their veto in the early years of the U.N. to block any action they believed was threatening to their power (over 100 times in the first 25 years). This was one factor in the rapid growth of distrust between the allies after the end of World War II.

Post-War Problems. American hopes that the wartime cooperation with the Soviets would continue into the post-war era were quickly dashed. Relations with the Soviets went downhill after the understanding established at Yalta in early 1945. The Soviets quickly established obedient communist governments in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania. Communist governments came to power on their own in Yugoslavia and Albania. The democratic government that took control in Czechoslovakia was overthrown by the communists in 1948. The borders of the U.S.S.R. and its new "satellite" nations were closed to prevent the contamination of communist lies by contact with the truth from the outside world.

Germany and Berlin, its capital, had been divided into four sections occupied by the Soviets, Americans, British, and French. The four sectors were supposed to work together and eventually be reunited under an elected government. From the beginning, the Soviets refused to work with their allies to reunite the nation. They held the agricultural section in

the East and refused to ship food to the other areas. They also stripped their section of all valuable industries, transporting whole factories to the U.S.S.R. They refused to sign a treaty with Germany, which would require them to withdraw, and the Soviets set up a communist government in their section.

In the end, the three Western powers worked to unite their sectors as best they could. As the Soviets became more threatening, the Western powers softened their attitude toward Germany, realizing they would need to rebuild the nation to aid in blocking communism. Eventually, two separate nations, communist East Germany and free West Germany would be created out of the defeated Nazi nation.

In 1946 the Soviets refused to remove their troops from Iran, instead using them to aid a separatist movement in the north. The Soviets hoped to gain control over some of the vast oil wealth of the nation. America took the issue to the U.N. and threatened to use force. Stalin backed down as he was not willing to start a war.

American statesmen realized it was only a matter of time until the Soviet Union had its own atomic bomb. These statesmen wanted to avoid a deadly arms race. So, in 1946, when the U.S. was the only nation with the bomb, they proposed giving this technology to the U.N. for international control. The proposal (the Baruch Plan) would have given the U.N. the power to inspect all nuclear sites in the world and insure that the technology was only being used for peaceful purposes. The Soviet Union refused to open its nuclear sites (present or future) to inspectors and used its veto to stop the plan.

Containment. In 1947 the Soviet Union was pressuring Turkey to give them bases and control of the Dardanelles, the straits leading to the Black Sea and the southern Soviet ports. The Soviets were also supporting a communist revolt in Greece. Britain had traditionally been the Western power that handled crises in the



Mediterranean. Devastated by the war, Britain informed the U.S. that they no longer could bear the cost of defending those two nations against Soviet aggression.

Truman faced a key decision. Should the U.S. step in to stop communism in Greece and Turkey, or follow its tradition by not getting involved in Europe? He decided in favor of action. This decision set the course for the U.S. to actively oppose Soviet expansion for the duration of the Cold War.

Truman went before Congress in March of 1947 and asked for \$400 million in aid for Greece and Turkey to prevent them from falling to a communist dictatorship. He knew that another war to end communism was out of the question. What he proposed was a policy recommended by an American diplomat, George Kennan. Kennan, who was an expert on the Soviet Union, recommended a steady, patient “containment” of Soviet expansion. If the communists were met with stable, forceful actions that prevented their expansion, they would be forced to calm down or rethink their policies, he believed.

Truman announced that it would be the policy of the U.S. to contain communism where it already existed. America would aid any free nation in the world faced with communist



threats. This Containment Policy, or the Truman Doctrine, would be the foundation of all American policy toward communism during the Cold War. It would have both positive and negative results. American aid would keep many free people from facing the grinding oppression of a communist takeover. However, many petty dictators would receive U.S. aid to enhance their personal power simply because their opponents supported communist ideals or were receiving Soviet aid. It was a good policy in principle, but often unjust in how it was used.

Marshall Plan. Congress, with the support of the American people, approved the aid to Greece and Turkey. Both of these nations overcame their communist threats with the American help. Then, Truman turned his sights on the rest of Europe. The continent was not recovering from the devastation of the war. Communist parties, which were strong in times of economic problems because they promise to control the economy, were threatening to win elections in France and Italy.

George Marshall, who had run the war from Washington, was now Truman's secretary of state. He invited the nations of Europe to put together a plan for their recovery and the U.S. would supply the funds for it. Western Europe jumped at the offer. A conference in July of 1947 in Paris worked out the European end of the deal. The Soviet Union refused to allow its satellites to participate, calling the plan a capitalist plot. The U.S. Congress was reluctant to approve the Marshall Plan until February of 1948 when the head of the Czech democracy died mysteriously and the communists took over the nation. Congress authorized the funds.

The Marshall Plan was an incredible success. Within a few years, the Western nations were producing as much or more than they had before the war. The communists in France and Italy lost much of their popular support. Trade with Europe helped the American economy return to peacetime production. The Marshall Plan destroyed Soviet hopes of expanding into Western Europe. The strong, healthy Western

democracies would not be susceptible to communist pressure, short of war.

Berlin Airlift. The Western powers continued to press forward with reforms in their sectors of Germany. In 1948 over strong Soviet objections, they set up currency reforms to aid the economy. The Soviets retaliated by cutting off all land routes to the American, French, and British sections of Berlin, inside the Soviet sector. The Soviets undoubtedly hoped to drive the democracies out of the city and bring it completely under Soviet control.

The U.S. refused to back down or start a war. Instead, American pilots began to fly supplies into the city. For almost a year, every piece of coal needed for heat, every cup of flour needed for bread, and every drop of medicine needed for the hospitals came in by plane. At the high point of the airlift, “Operation Vittles” landed a plane in Berlin once every three minutes around the clock. If a plane missed its landing on the first pass, it had to return to its home base. There were no openings on the runway for another try. The Soviets dropped the blockade in May of 1949.

NATO. The continuous aggressive action by the Soviets pushed the Western nations of Europe to sign a defensive treaty in 1948. Seeking security for itself and Europe, America was drawn into the alliance. In April of 1949, the United States broke 150 years of tradition when it signed a permanent alliance with eleven other Western democracies. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bound the nations to treat an attack on one nation as an attack on all. It was the first permanent alliance signed by

the U.S. since the alliance with France during the Revolution. NATO was an apt symbol of the dramatic change in American thinking. She had now fully replaced Britain as the leader of the Western world.

Iron Curtain. By 1948, it was clear that the world had been divided into two armed camps. America led the free, wealthy Western democracies. They were called the Western Bloc and the Free or First World. The Soviet Union led the Communist nations which were referred to as the Communist or Eastern Bloc and as the Second World. Eventually, the poorer, developing nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, which were not clearly allied with either side, would be known as the Third World.

Winston Churchill, Britain’s wartime leader, described the situation with his usual eloquence in March of 1946. In a speech at an American university Churchill stated: “an iron curtain has descended across the Continent” of Europe. The term “behind the Iron Curtain” was used throughout the Cold War to refer to the communist nations of Europe.

The United States made one basic assumption about communism during these early years. American leaders assumed that all communist nations and movements were under Soviet control. Many were, but not all. The U.S. was slow to realize that some revolutions that had Soviet support were not under perfect Soviet control. The U.S. also was slow to recognize differences between communist leaders of different nations. This “us against them” mentality limited American diplomatic choices for many years.



Name the person, treaty, or item.

- 1.1 _____ the two systems of government in conflict during the Cold War

- 1.2 _____ group that makes the major international decisions at the U.N.
- 1.3 _____ basic American policy toward communism
- 1.4 _____ American reaction to the blockade of Berlin, 1948-49
- 1.5 _____ America's first permanent alliance since the Revolution
- 1.6 _____ President who set the basic American policies for the Cold War
- 1.7 _____ aid plan that restored post-war Western Europe
- 1.8 _____ barrier between the Free and Communist Worlds in Europe, named by Winston Churchill
- 1.9 _____ first two nations given U.S. aid to stop communism after World War II

- 1.10 _____ international organization created in 1945
- 1.11 _____ proposal in 1946 to put atomic power under U.N. control

Complete these items.

- 1.12 How was Germany administered in the years right after the war? _____

- 1.13 How did Germany wind up as two nations for the duration of the Cold War? _____

- 1.14 What event in 1948 pushed Congress to approve the Marshall Plan? _____

1.15 Name the nations of Eastern Europe that became communist after the war. _____

1.16 Name two Soviet actions in 1946 that pushed the world toward the Cold War. _____

1.17 Identify each of these groups.

a. Western Bloc _____

b. Eastern Bloc _____

c. Third World _____

1.18 Describe the Truman Doctrine. _____

1.19 In your own words, describe why the Cold War developed after World War II? _____

Heating Up, Cooling Down

1949. 1949 was a bad year for the Western Bloc. The Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb that year. American experts had been expecting this, but not so soon. The Soviet nuclear program was aided by communist **espionage** in America. The two superpowers immediately began to pour money into bigger and more sophisticated nuclear weapons to make sure their opponents never had an advantage over them. Both sides also realized that a war between the two Blocs now had the potential for destruction beyond anything ever seen before. They would have to make certain that war never started.

Also in 1949, America's ally in China, Chiang Kai-shek, lost in a civil war to the communist forces under Mao Zedong. Chiang's government (Nationalist China) was hopelessly corrupt

and never was able to win the support of the huge peasant population, which followed Mao. American policymakers decided there was no way to prevent the loss if Chiang could not get the support of his own people. Chiang and the Nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan to live under American protection. America refused to recognize the new communist government and insisted for years that the Nationalists on Taiwan were the rightful rulers of China.

Mao was a charismatic leader and a different kind of communist than Stalin. Mao saw communism as a continuous revolution to bring his kind of "equality" to all people by force. Stalin was more practical, more interested in simple power than ideas. The Soviets gave the Chinese communists economic and military aid for years, but the two sides eventually came

SELF TEST 1

Choose the correct person for each description (2 points, each answer).

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|--|-----------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ | Leader of Egypt, took over the Suez Canal to pay for the Aswan Dam | a. Harry S. Truman |
| 1.02 | _____ | Set up containment as U.S. policy | b. Ho Chi Minh |
| 1.03 | _____ | Created a communist dictatorship in Cuba | c. Mao Zedong |
| 1.04 | _____ | Leader of the U.S.S.R. in the 1950s | d. Chiang Kai Shek |
| 1.05 | _____ | Nationalist Chinese leader, fled to Taiwan | e. Nikita Khrushchev |
| 1.06 | _____ | South Vietnamese leader, refused to allow elections with the North, overthrown and killed by a military coup | f. Douglas MacArthur |
| 1.07 | _____ | American commander in Korea, fired for insubordination | g. Gamal Abdel Nasser |
| 1.08 | _____ | Communist victor in China, believed in continuous revolution | h. Fidel Castro |
| 1.09 | _____ | Cambodian communist, killed over a million people due to his ideas on revolution | i. Fulgencio Batista |
| 1.010 | _____ | Pro-American Cuban dictator overthrown by a revolution in 1959 | j. Ngo Dinh Diem |
| 1.011 | _____ | Communist leader of North Vietnam, fought the French and Americans | k. Pol Pot |

Answer these questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.012 What was the Cold War and what kept it from becoming “hot?” _____

1.013 What was the Containment Policy and how was it enforced? _____

Choose the correct letter (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | |
|-------|--|------------------------------|
| 1.014 | _____ American space agency created to catch up with the Soviets in rocketry and space explorations | a. United Nations |
| 1.015 | _____ North Vietnamese attack during New Year, showed they were not as weak as U.S. claimed | b. Marshall Plan |
| 1.016 | _____ South Vietnamese communists | c. Iron Curtain |
| 1.017 | _____ America's first permanent alliance since the 1770s, to protect against communism | d. Berlin Airlift |
| 1.018 | _____ Could deliver nuclear bombs half a world away | e. NATO |
| 1.019 | _____ First artificial satellite, Soviet | f. Sputnik |
| 1.020 | _____ Failed attempt to overthrow Castro | g. NASA |
| 1.021 | _____ New policy of U.S.S.R. toward the U.S. after the death of Stalin | h. peaceful coexistence |
| 1.022 | _____ "Defensive" alliance of the communist nations | i. Eisenhower Doctrine |
| 1.023 | _____ Name for the Free or First World | j. U-2 Affair |
| 1.024 | _____ Dividing line between the free and communist nations of Europe | k. ICBM |
| 1.025 | _____ A war fought to stop communism in a specific country that was not allowed to spread | l. Bay of Pigs |
| 1.026 | _____ Supplied the divided German capital for a year when the Soviets blockaded it, 1948-49 | m. Cuban Missile Crisis |
| 1.027 | _____ U.S. blockaded Castro's island to prevent the delivery of Soviet missiles, Soviets backed down | n. Berlin Wall |
| 1.028 | _____ U.S. would assist any nation in the Middle East that wanted aid against communist aggression | o. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution |
| 1.029 | _____ Aid to Europe that helped it recover from World War II | p. Tet Offensive |
| 1.030 | _____ New postwar league of nations which the U.S. quickly joined | q. limited war |
| 1.031 | _____ Communist Bloc or the Second World nations | r. Viet Cong |
| 1.032 | _____ Congress gave the president uncontrolled freedom to use force in Vietnam | s. Third World |
| 1.033 | _____ Undeveloped nations, not closely allied with any side in the Cold War | t. Warsaw Pact |
| 1.034 | _____ Way to stop East Germans from escaping to the West through Berlin | u. Eastern Bloc |
| 1.035 | _____ An American spy plane was shot down over Russia and the pilot captured, ended plans for a summit and Eisenhower's visit to the U.S.S.R | v. Western Bloc |



HIS0809 - May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-0-7403-0036-3



 **Alpha Omega**
PUBLICATIONS

804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
www.aop.com