Restructuring the Postwar World, 1945-Present

The United States and the Soviet Union vie for superiority, and both countries extend their control over other nations.
Restructuring the Postwar World, 1945-Present

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Section-1

Cold War: Superpowers Face Off

The opposing economic and political philosophies of the United States and the Soviet Union lead to global competition.
Chapter 33

Section-1

Cold War: Superpowers Face Off

Allies Become Enemies

Yalta Conference: A Postwar Plan

- In February 1945, British, American, Soviet leaders meet at Yalta
- They agree to divide Germany into zones of occupation when WWII ends
- Soviet leader Stalin agrees to allow free elections in Eastern Europe

Creation of the United Nations

- June 1945, 50 nations form United Nations—international organization
- All members represented in General Assembly; 11 on Security Council
- Five permanent members have Security Council veto power

Continued...
Differing U.S. and Soviet Goals

- U.S. and Soviets split sharply after WWII ends
- U.S. is world’s richest and most powerful country after WWII
- Soviets recovering from high war casualties, many destroyed cities
Eastern Europe’s Iron Curtain

**Soviets Build a Buffer**
- Soviets control Eastern European countries after World War II
- Stalin installs Communist governments in several countries
- Truman urges free elections; Stalin refuses
- In 1946, Stalin says capitalism and communism cannot co-exist

**An Iron Curtain Divides East and West**
- Germany divided; East Germany Communist, West Germany Democratic
- *Iron Curtain*—Winston Churchill’s name for the division of Europe
United States Tries to Contain Soviets

Containment

- Containment—U.S. plan to stop the spread of communism

The Truman Doctrine

- Truman Doctrine—U.S. supports countries that reject communism
- Congress approves Truman’s request for aid to Greece, Turkey

The Marshall Plan

- Much of Western Europe lay in ruins after World War II
- Marshall Plan—U.S. program of assisting Western European countries
- Congress approves plan after Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia
United States Tries to Contain Soviets \{continued\}

The Berlin Airlift

- In 1948, U.S., Britain, France withdraw forces from West Germany
- Their former occupation zones form one country
- Soviets oppose this, stop land and water traffic into West Berlin
- West Berlin, located in Soviet occupation zone, faces starvation
- U.S., Britain fly in supplies for 11 months until the blockade ends
The Cold War Divides the World

The Cold War

- **Cold War**—struggle of U.S., Soviet Union using means short of war

Superpowers Form Rival Alliances

- In 1949, U.S., Canada, West European countries form NATO
- **NATO**—North Atlantic Treaty Organization, defensive military alliance
- In 1955, Soviets, Eastern European nations sign **Warsaw Pact** alliance
- In 1961, Soviets build Berlin Wall to separate East and West Berlin
The Cold War Divides the World \textit{continued}

The Threat of Nuclear War

- Soviet Union explodes its first atomic bomb in 1949
- U.S. and Soviet Union both develop more powerful hydrogen bomb
- \textit{Brinkmanship}—policy of willingness to go to the edge of war
- Increasing tensions lead to military buildup by U.S. and Soviets

The Cold War in the Skies

- In 1957, Soviets launch Sputnik, first unmanned satellite
- In 1960, Soviets shoot down American spy plane, increasing tensions
Communists Take Power in China

After World War II, Chinese Communists defeat Nationalist forces and two separate Chinas emerge.
Communists Take Power in China

Communists vs. Nationalists

World War II in China

• Mao Zedong — leads Chinese Communists against Japanese invaders
• Jiang Jieshi — leader of Chinese Nationalists in World War II
• Nationalist and Communist Chinese resume civil war after WWII ends

Civil War Resumes

• Economic problems cause Nationalist soldiers to desert to Communists
• Mao’s troops take control of China’s major cities
• In 1949, People’s Republic of China created;
• Nationalists to Taiwan
The Two Chinas Affect the Cold War

The Superpowers React
- U.S. supports Nationalist state in Taiwan, called Republic of China
- Soviets and China agree to help each other in event of attack
- U.S. tries to stop Soviet expansion and spread of communism in Asia

China Expands under the Communists
- China takes control of Tibet and southern Mongolia
- India welcomes Tibetan refugees fleeing revolt against Chinese
- China, India clash over border; fighting stops but tensions remain
The Communists Transform China

Communists Claim a New “Mandate of Heaven”
  • Chinese Communists organize national government and Communist Party

Mao’s Brand of Marxist Socialism
  • Mao takes property from landowners and divides it among peasants
  • Government seizes private companies and plans production increase

“The Great Leap Forward”
  • Communes—large collective farms often supporting over 25,000 people
  • Program is ended after inefficiency leads to crop failures and famines
The Communists Transform China \{continued\}

**New Policies and Mao’s Response**

- China, Soviet Union clash over leadership of Communist movement
- Strict socialist ideas are moderated, Mao reduces his role in government
- Red Guards—militia units formed to enforce strict communism in China

**The Cultural Revolution**

- Cultural Revolution—movement to build society of peasants, workers
- Red Guards close schools and execute or imprison many intellectuals
- In 1968, Chinese army imprisons, executes, or exiles most Red Guards
Section-3

Wars in Korea and Vietnam

In Asia, the Cold War flares into actual wars supported mainly by the superpowers.
Wars in Korea and Vietnam

War in Korea

A Divided Land

- 38th parallel—line dividing Korea into North Korea and South Korea

Standoff at the 38th Parallel

- In 1950, North Koreans invade South Korea with Soviet support
- South Korea requests UN assistance; 15 nations send troops
- Douglas MacArthur—leads UN forces against North Koreans
- North Koreans control most of peninsula when MacArthur attacks
- Half of the North’s army surrenders, the rest retreat
War in Korea {continued}

The Fighting Continues
- UN troops push North Koreans almost to Chinese border
- Chinese send 300,000 troops against UN forces and capture Seoul
- MacArthur calls for nuclear attack and is removed from command
- In 1953, cease fire signed and border established at 38th parallel

Aftermath of the War
- North Korea builds collective farms, heavy industry, nuclear weapons
- South Korea establishes democracy, growing economy with U.S. aid
War Breaks Out in Vietnam

The Road to War

- **Ho Chi Minh**—Vietnamese nationalist, later Communist leader

The Fighting Begins

- In 1954, French surrender to Vietnamese after major defeat
- **Domino theory**—U.S. theory of Communist expansion in Southeast Asia

Vietnam—A Divided Country

- International peace conference agrees on a divided Vietnam
- **Ngo Dinh Diem**—leads anti-Communist government in South Vietnam
- **Vietcong**—South Vietnamese Communist guerillas fighting against Diem
The United States Gets Involved

**U.S. Troops Enter the Fight**
- In 1964, U.S. sends troops to fight Viet Cong, North Vietnamese
- U.S. fights guerilla war defending increasingly unpopular government
- Vietcong gains support from Ho Chi Minh, China, Soviet Union

**The United States Withdraws**
- War grows unpopular in U.S.; in 1969, Nixon starts withdrawing troops
- **Vietnamization**—Nixon’s plan to withdraw U.S. from war gradually
- Last U.S. troops leave in 1973; South Vietnam overrun in 1975
Postwar Southeast Asia

Cambodia in Turmoil

- **Khmer Rouge**—Communist rebels who take control of Cambodia in 1975
- They slaughter 2 million people; overthrown by Vietnamese invaders
- In 1993, Cambodia adopts democracy, holds elections with UN help

Vietnam After the War

- Saigon renamed Ho Chi Minh City; Vietnam united as Communist nation
- About 1.5 million people flee Vietnam, some settling in U.S., Canada
- In 1995, United States normalizes relations with Vietnam
Section 4

The Cold War Divides the World

The superpowers support opposing sides in Latin American and Middle Eastern conflicts.
Chapter 33

World History: Patterns of Interaction

Section 4

The Cold War Divides the World

Fighting for the Third World

More Than One “World”

- Third World—developing nations; often newly independent, nonaligned

Cold War Strategies

- U.S., Soviet Union, China compete for influence over Third World
- Back revolutions and give economic, military, technical aid

Continued...
Association of Nonaligned Nations

- Many countries, like India, want to avoid involvement in Cold War
- In 1955, Indonesia hosts Asian, African leaders who want neutrality
- **Nonaligned nations**—independent countries not involved in Cold War
Confrontations in Latin America

**Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution**
- Fidel Castro—leads revolt in Cuba against dictator supported by U.S.
- By 1959, Castro in power, nationalizes economy, takes U.S. property
- In 1961, Castro defeats U.S.-trained Cuban exiles at Bay of Pigs

**Nuclear Face-off: the Cuban Missile Crisis**
- In 1962, U.S. demands removal of Soviet missiles in Cuba
- Soviets withdraw missiles; U.S. promises not to invade Cuba
- Cuban economy is left dependent on Soviet support
Confrontations in Latin America  \textit{(continued)}

Civil War in Nicaragua

- \textbf{Anastasio Somoza}—Nicaraguan dictator supported by U.S.
- \textbf{Daniel Ortega}—leads Sandinista rebels who take power in Nicaragua
- U.S. and Soviet Union both initially support Sandinistas
- Sandinistas aid Communist rebels in El Salvador
- U.S. helps anti-Communist Contras in Nicaragua to assist El Salvador
- In 1990, Nicaragua holds first free elections; Sandinistas lose
Confrontations in the Middle East

Religious and Secular Values Clash in Iran
  • Shah Reza Pahlavi embraces Western governments, oil companies
  • Iranian nationalists overthrow shah, seize British oil company
  • U.S. restores shah to power, fearing Soviet encroachment

The United States Supports Secular Rule
  • Shah Reza Pahlavi westernizes Iran with U.S. support
  • Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini—Iranian Muslim leader; lives in exile
  • In 1978, Khomeini sparks riots in Iran; shah flees

Continued...
Confrontations in the Middle East  \{continued\}

Khomeini’s Anti-U.S. Policies

- Muslim radicals take control in Iran, increasing tensions with Iraq
- Iran, Iraq fight 8-year war; U.S. aids both sides, Soviets help Iraq

The Superpowers Face Off in Afghanistan

- Soviets invade Afghanistan, help Communist government against rebels
- Muslim rebels fight guerilla war against Soviets with U.S. weapons
- U.S. stops grain shipments to Soviet Union; Soviets withdraw (1989)
Section-5

The Cold War Thaws

The Cold War begins to thaw as the superpowers enter an era of uneasy diplomacy.
The Revolt in Czechoslovakia

- **Leonid Brezhnev**—Soviet leader after Khrushchev—represses dissent
- In 1968, Warsaw Pact troops block reforms in Czechoslovakia
Soviet Policy in Eastern Europe and China \(\text{continued}\)

**The Soviet-Chinese Split**

- In 1950, Mao and Stalin sign friendship treaty, but tensions grow
- Chinese and Soviets each want to lead world communism
- Khrushchev ends economic aid and refuses to share nuclear secrets
- Soviets and Chinese fight small skirmishes across the border
From Brinkmanship to Détente

Brinkmanship Breaks Down

- Brinkmanship causes repeated crises; nuclear war a constant threat
- John F. Kennedy—U.S. president during the Cuban Missile crisis
- Lyndon Johnson—president who increases U.S. involvement in Vietnam
From Brinkmanship to Détente *continued*

The United States Turns to Détente

- Vietnam-era turmoil fuels desire for less confrontational policy
- **Détente**—policy of reducing Cold War tensions to avoid conflict
- **Richard M. Nixon**—U.S. president who launches détente
- Détente grows out of philosophy known as realpolitik
- “realistic politics”—recognizes need to be practical, flexible

Nixon Visits Communist Powers

- Nixon visits Communist China and Soviet Union, signs SALT I Treaty
- **SALT**—Strategic Arms Limitation Talks—limit nuclear weapons
The Collapse of Détente

Policy Changes

- Nixon and Gerald Ford improve relations with Soviets and China
- Jimmy Carter has concerns about Soviet policies but signs SALT II
- Congress will not ratify SALT II due to Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

Reagan Takes an Anti-Communist Stance

- Increases military spending, proposes a missile defense program
- In 1985, new Soviet leadership allows easing of Cold War tensions
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