

**Origins of the Cold War Powerpoint**

- I. What was the **Cold War**?
- a. The Cold War was a \_\_\_\_\_ between the \_\_\_\_\_ & the \_\_\_\_\_ that started after WWII.
  - b. During the Cold War, both nations used \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ actions designed to undermine the other nation. Both also invested billions in a massive weapons build-up in an effort to have bigger, better weaponry.
- II. **Why did the Cold War start?**
- a. The U.S. and the Soviet Union had a fragile relationship from the 1917 \_\_\_\_\_ (when the Soviets adopted a communist govt.)
    - i. Remember in the 1920s, the U.S. experienced the first \_\_\_\_\_, a time in which Americans were afraid of communism and persecuted communists and immigrants from communist nations.
  - b. **What was the root cause of Cold War?** The two sides had very different ideas about how the postwar world should look. HOW SO?
    - i. American vision:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - ii. Soviet vision:
  - c. **Tensions continue during WWII:**
    - i. During the war, the U.S. and Soviets fought on the same side in an effort to defeat the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan.) This was an alliance of \_\_\_\_\_ – both countries wanted to bring an end to Hitler’s rule.
    - ii. Despite fighting on the same side, the U.S. and Russians were not really friends. They both spied on each other during the war.

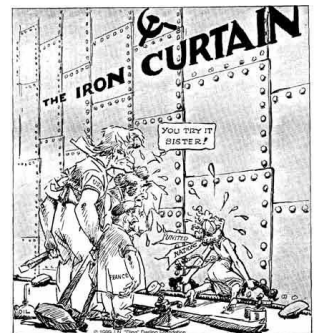
- iii. The U.S. developed the atomic bomb with the hopes that it would make the U.S. stronger in the post-war years. Some believe part of the reason the U.S. ultimately used the atomic bomb against Japan was to scare the Soviets and ensure that they did not gain territory in Asia.
- iv. **Potsdam Conference**, May 1945: At Potsdam, the Allies agreed on conditions to end the European conflict. In the months/years after the conference, they would clash over almost all of these points.

1. Terms included:

- a. What was done with Germany once they had been defeated? What about Berlin (the capital)?
- b. What was done with those eastern European nations that the Soviet army had liberated from the Germans?
- c. How was another world war to be averted?

III. After the war, the American people transferred their hatred of Germany and Japan into hatred of communists.

- a. How do you think this likening the Russians to the Nazis contributed in some ways to the heightening of the conflict?



IV. The Cold War was never actually “officially” declared.

- a. However, two speeches mark the unofficial start of the Cold War:

- i. In 1946, Stalin made a speech in which he predicted what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ii. The same year, Winston Churchill, made his famous “\_\_\_\_\_”  
speech.
  - 1. What is the “**iron curtain**?” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. What threat do the Soviets pose? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. What was this speech so significant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

V. Containment

- a. To address the concerns that the Americans had about the Soviets, they adopted a policy called “**containment**.”
- b. Americans believed that:
  - i. The communist Soviet Union was a “persistent toy automobile wound up and headed in a given direction, stopping only when it meets with some unanswerable force.” MEANING WHAT?
  - ii. Based on this belief, the U.S. felt was necessary to contain the Soviet threat against any part of the world.
- c. **Containment** is defined as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. This was accomplished through both persuasion and force.

VI. How did the U.S. implement their policy of containment?

- a. Division of Germany
  - i. Problems arose almost immediately after the Potsdam Conference. Truman refused to allow the Soviets to use Germany’s industrial plants in Western Germany (most of the nation’s industry was located in the west, the non-Soviet sector.)
  - ii. Concerned with the deteriorating economic situation in the western zones, the U.S. pumped money through the **Marshall Plan** into Western Germany which got economic recovery underway.

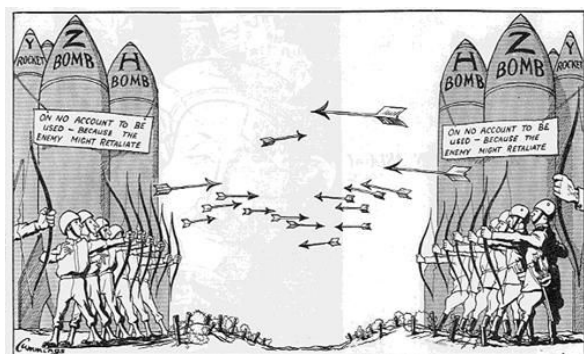
- iii. The Russians were ticked off by this whole Marshall Plan situation, because they felt it was just a way for the U.S. to buy friends in Western Europe.

b. **Berlin Airlift**

- i. Tension then rose when in June 1948 when the 3 western sectors of Germany changed their currency to the Deutsch Mark. The Soviets had not agreed to the currency reform and in response, they blockaded all ground and water routes to West Berlin in June of 1948.
- ii. Truman did not want to risk starting a war with the Soviet Union by forcing open the trade routes, nor did he want to give up West Berlin to the Soviets.
  - 1. So he started what was known as the \_\_\_\_\_, in which he moved supplies into West Berlin by plane. This went on for over a year.
  - 2. The airlift was a success for the U.S. in that it...

- iii. By the time the Soviet blockade was ended in May 1949, the Marshall Plan had succeeded in strengthening capitalist nations in Western Europe.

- c. The Soviets resisted the reunification efforts of the West out of a fear of a reunited Germany which could potentially invade the Soviet Union again. In Oct. 1949, the Soviets formed a separate government in E. Germany called the German Democratic Republic while the W. was united as the Federal Republic of Germany in May 1949.
- d. Constant stream of E. Germans fleeing to W. Germany strained E-W relations in the 1950s. The Soviets sealed the borders between E. and W. Germany in 1952 but people cont. to flee from E. to W. Berlin. August 1961 the construction of the \_\_\_\_\_ began. The wall ultimately surrounded all of W. Berlin cutting it off from the rest of E. Germany. The wall remained in place until Nov. 9, 1989.
- e. Formation of **NATO**
  - i. The tension that resulted from the Berlin airlift convinced Western powers that they needed to form a peacetime alliance against the Soviet threat.
  - ii. Thus, NATO (\_\_\_\_\_) was established. Participating nations pledged that an attack on one was an attack on all.
- f. **Arms race** - the US spent billions of dollars on nuclear development and traditional weaponry to ensure that should war break out between the 2 nations, the US would come out on top.



VII. Despite the United States' efforts at containing communism, a series of unfortunate events made 1949 a disturbing year for the U.S..

- a. In 1949, a Chinese Civil War resulted in a victory for the Communists led by Mao Zedong. Americans felt that China becoming communist was very disappointing – WHY?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1949, the U.S. learned that the U.S.S.R. had \_\_\_\_\_. From then on, “fear of the bomb” would rule life in America as well as diplomatic relations.

VIII. How did the U.S. cope with the events of 1949?

- a. In response to these events, the National Security Council (an advisory committee responsible for advising the president on matters of national security) made the following recommendations in what was referred to as **NSC-68** (Nat. Sec. Council document #68):

- i. The U.S. should \_\_\_\_\_ (from \$13 billion to \$50 billion annually) in order to meet the security needs of the time. This increase in spending should be paid for by \_\_\_\_\_ on Americans.
- ii. Scientists should begin developing more advanced nuclear technology (the \_\_\_\_\_.)