

## Unit 6. The Cold War (1945-1991)

### Learning Target 23

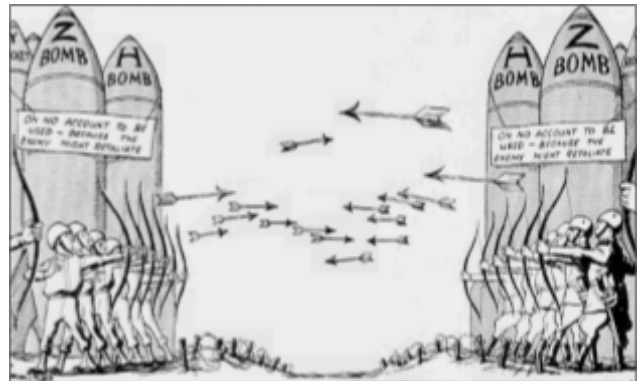
**Summarize how atomic weapons have changed the nature of war, altered the balance of power and started the nuclear age.**



Following World War II, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union) emerged as the two strongest powers in world affairs. The U.S. and Soviet Union had opposing political and economic ideologies. The U.S. was democratic and capitalist. The Soviet Union was communist. From 1945-1991, the two nations challenged one another in a series of confrontations known as the Cold War.

During World War II, the U.S. began a secret program, known as the Manhattan Project, to develop atomic weapons. The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. This was followed by the dropping of the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki on August 9. The dropping of atomic bombs on Japan led to the rapid end of World War II in the Pacific. (The War in Europe had already ended in May.)

The use of atomic weapons changed the nature of war, altered the balance of power and began the nuclear age. The dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan is considered the beginning of the nuclear age. The use of these bombs introduced a new type of weapon capable of mass destruction.



How does this political cartoon reflect the changing nature of war that resulted from the nuclear arms race? Double-click the image to enlarge.

For four years following World War II, the United States was the only country in possession of atomic bombs. This contributed to its status as a global superpower. The threat of using this weapon was seen as a deterrent against the ambitions of the Soviet Union.

The testing and explosion of the atomic bomb by the Soviets in 1949 established the Soviet Union as a second global superpower. In 1952, the U.S. tested its first hydrogen bomb. Three months later, the Soviet Union tested its first thermonuclear bomb, and by using lithium, they made a bigger bomb small enough to fit into a plane. This nuclear arms race continued for decades and threatened world peace.

Cold War Rival	Type of Political System	Economic Ideology
1. United States		
2. Soviet Union (USSR)		

3. What was the purpose of the *Manhattan Project*?

4. On what two Japanese cities did the United States drop atomic bombs, thus beginning the nuclear age?

5. What happened in 1949 that marked the beginning of the *nuclear arms race*?

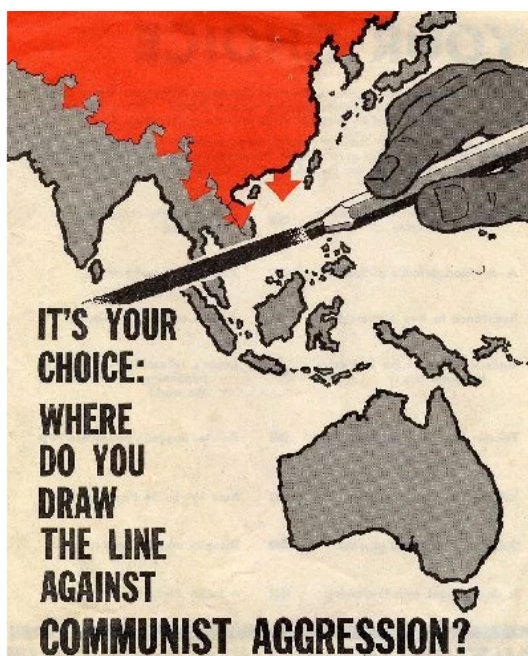
**Learning Target 24****Analyze the policy of containment the United States followed during the Cold War in response to the spread of communism.**

The United States followed a policy of containment during the Cold War in response to the spread of communism. The policy of containment began in the late 1940s to stop the spread of communism in Europe and Asia. It became U.S. policy for decades.

Following World War II, most of the Eastern Europe countries had communist governments and were under Soviet control. In 1949, the Chinese Revolution established a communist government in China.

In Europe, the Marshall Plan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were efforts to contain communism. The Marshall Plan was a program that provided \$13 billion in U.S. aid to help rebuild Western European economies after the end of World War II. By creating strong economies and stable democracies in Western Europe, the U.S. was assured of allies against the Soviet Union. NATO was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and Western European countries to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.

In Asia, the policy of containment was the basis for U.S. involvement in the Korean and Vietnam wars. The Korean War started as a civil war between North and South Korea. The war quickly became international when the United Nations (led by the U.S.) joined to support South Korea and communist China entered on the side of North Korea. In Vietnam, North Vietnam wanted to unify the entire country under a single communist government. The government of South Vietnam, however, was more closely allied with the U.S. The U.S. sent military advisors and combat units to support South Vietnam. The Soviet Union and China sent weapons, supplies, and advisers to support North Vietnam.



*What U.S. actions resulted from its policy of containment?*

Note: discussion of the Korean and Vietnam wars in test questions will be limited to use only within the context of containment policies. Questions will not address specifics related to the conduct of the wars. The Chinese Revolution will only be referenced in order to denote China as a country that became communist during this time period.

1. The policy of *containment* began in the late  to  the   
of  in  and .

2. What happened in China in 1949?

3. What was the *Marshall Plan* and what did it do?

4. Based on the context of the reading, what does the term *collective security* mean?

5. Identify two ways that the Korean War and the Vietnam War were similar.

1.
2.

**Learning Target 25**

**Explain how the Second Red Scare and McCarthyism reflected Cold War fears in American society.**



The phrase “Red Scare” is used to describe periods of intense anti-communism in the U.S. (Communists were called Reds.) The First Red Scare occurred as a result of the Russian Revolution in 1917 and continued into the early 1920s. The Second Red Scare occurred during the Cold War. The Second Red Scare and McCarthyism reflected Cold War fears in American society.

As a result of the spread of communism to Eastern Europe and China and the Korean War, many Americans were concerned about the worldwide spread of communism and communist infiltration in the U.S. The Second Red Scare focused attention on the media, labor unions, universities and other organizations as targets of communist subversion.

Like the first Red Scare following World War I, civil liberties were again denied during the Second Red Scare. The investigations of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) led employers to blacklist suspected communists. One area HUAC investigated was the Hollywood movie industry. Many Hollywood actors and writers were accused of disloyalty to the U.S. and being sympathetic to communism. HUAC believed the Soviet Union should be portrayed as the enemy in films.



How did HUAC justify violations of Americans' civil liberties?

Senator Joseph McCarthy was one of the main anti-communist crusaders in the U.S. He played on fears of subversion with his charges of communists infiltrating the U.S. government. Most of McCarthy's accusations were unfounded, but the reputations and careers of many were ruined. The McCarthy hearings and HUAC investigations held the attention of the American people through the middle 1950s.

1. Define *Red Scare*:

2. Based on the context of the reading, define the following terms:

*infiltration*:

*subversion*:

3. What institutions were targeted in the *Second Red Scare*?

4. Describe one tactic used by the *House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)*.

5. What role did *Senator Joseph McCarthy* play in the *Second Red Scare*?

**Learning Target 26**

**Analyze how the Cold War and conflicts in Korea and Vietnam influenced domestic and international politics between the end of World War II and 1992.**

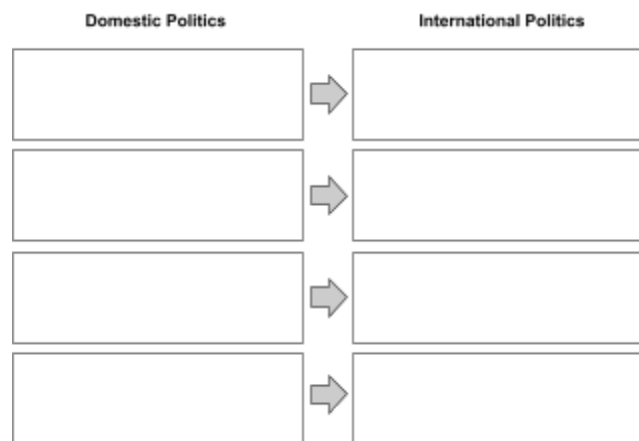


The Cold War dominated international politics and impacted domestic politics in the United States for almost 45 years. The intense rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union led to the creation of alliances, an arms race, and conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. The Cold War also affected international politics in the Middle East and Latin America.

The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 was a direct confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It brought the world close to nuclear war over the installation of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba, just 90 miles from the U.S. coast.

The Cold War affected domestic politics. It led to the Second Red Scare and the rise of McCarthyism. The space race between the U.S. and Soviet Union led the U.S. to increase spending on science education.

The Korean War also fed into the anti-communist hysteria of the late 1940s and 1950s. The United States was able to secure support from the United Nations for the defense of South Korea while the Soviet Union was boycotting the United Nations Security Council.



*Use the graphic organizer to analyze how the Cold War influenced domestic and international politics in the U.S. Double-click the organizer to enter responses.*

Continued U.S. intervention in the Vietnam War divided the U.S. and sparked widespread protests. Spending for the war came at the expense of the domestic programs launched by President Johnson. This led to urban unrest in the 1960s. The Vietnam War was a dominant issue in the presidential campaigns of 1968 and 1972. The difficulties and eventual withdrawal from Vietnam led to concerted efforts on part of the U.S. to find allies in future conflicts.

1. In addition to Korea and Vietnam, where else did the Cold War affect *international politics*?

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2. What specific issue caused the *Cuban Missile Crisis*?

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3. What is the difference between *domestic* and *international politics*?

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4. Briefly describe five examples of how the Cold War affected domestic and international politics:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.



**Learning Target 27**

**Explain how the collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the USSR brought an end to the Cold War era.**



The collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the USSR brought an end to the Cold War. There were multiple causes for the collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The result was a lessening of the tensions between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. that characterized the Cold War period. Several communist governments in Eastern Europe gave up power following mass demonstrations for democracy.

The collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in independent republics that moved to create democratic reforms and introduce free market economies. This brought an end to the Cold War era. The political and economic turmoil occurring in some of the new governments posed new challenges for the United States. The U.S. supported economic and education reforms by providing assistance to some of the former communist countries.

*Note: There will be limited question development for this learning target. Questions will focus on the U.S. perspective related to the collapse of communist governments.*

1. What type of government did former *communist* countries under the control of the USSR embrace after the end of the Cold War?

2. What was one result of this change?

For vocabulary activities, video tutorials,, and additional assessment practice for this unit, go to: <http://www.ohiotestprep.com/american-history.html#Unit6>

## Unit 6. Checking for Understanding

1. The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

### **Part A**

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

How did the Soviet Union respond to this military action?

- A. It accelerated the pace of its military invasion of Germany.
- B. It formed an alliance with the United States to share nuclear technology.
- C. It intensified development on and successfully tested its own nuclear weapons
- D. It withdrew from international organizations in which the United States was also a member.

### **Part B**

Why did the Soviet Union respond in the way that you identified in Part A?

- A. It wanted to quickly end the war to avoid further military casualties.
- B. It wanted to retain political and military influence in the post-war world.
- C. It wanted nuclear technology to be available as a cheap source of energy after the war.
- D. It wanted to pursue a policy of isolationism following the devastation caused by World War II.

2. During the Cold War, the United States engaged in military actions in both Korea and Vietnam. Its actions were successful South Korea, but not in Vietnam. In both instances, however, the aim of the United States was the same.

Describe the policy the United States was pursuing by engaging in these wars.

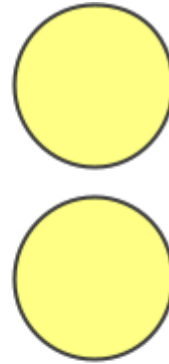
3. Who was in charge of investigating claims of communist activity in the government, armed forces, universities, and other areas of American life during the Second Red Scare in the late 1940s and early 1950s?
  - A. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg
  - B. Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss
  - C. House Un-American Activities Committee
  - D. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
  
4. Beginning with the Red Scare of the 1920s, which historical development contributed to a recurring pattern of anti-communism in the United States?
  - A. growing prosperity following World War II
  - B. migration from the Great Plains during the Dust Bowl
  - C. increased unemployment during the Great Depression
  - D. accusations made by Senator Joseph McCarthy in Congress

- The United States engaged in two wars in Asia during the Cold War Era in an attempt to prevent the spread of communism.

Identify two contested areas in which the U.S. fought wars during this time.

Select the areas on the map.

*Double-click the image and move the circles to identify the responses.*



6. Developments in international affairs in the late 1980s had enormous consequences for the United States.
- A. Identify the two developments that relate to this time period.
  - B. Identify the two consequences that relate to this time period.

Select two boxes in each column.

**Developments**

The power and control of the Soviet Union increases during this period

The Cold War escalates during this time period

Communist governments in Eastern Europe collapse

Mass demonstrations supporting democratic reforms take place in Soviet Republics

**Consequences**

New challenges shifted the focus of U.S. foreign policy

The U.S. supported economic and educational reforms in former communist countries

Tensions increased between the U.S. and Soviet Union