

**U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT  
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS  
DUE FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009**

## **I. The Cold War**

*Use the following reading as a review and reference for the Cold War period. Make sure that you use a separate sheet of loose-leaf paper when you do the exercises on page 4. You should keep this reading for your reference.*

After the defeat of Germany and Japan, the United States began a struggle, referred to as the cold war, with the Soviet Union. It developed slowly, with minor differences involving conflicts without military action in economic and foreign policies. Some of the situations, though, almost threatened war. People in the United States, during the middle 1940s, were enjoying prosperity and a high standard of living. At the same time, they were frightened that the cold war would bring about a "hot" war.

There were fundamental differences between the Soviet Union and the United States as to what the world should be like after World War II. The Americans were suspicious of the Russians and they, in turn, were suspicious of the Americans. During the war, the leaders of the Allies met to discuss military strategies and plans for the postwar world. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Joseph Stalin met together for the first time in Teheran, Iran, and planned military strategy against the Germans and agreed to establish an international organization to keep peace. The Dumbarton Oaks Conference was scheduled in 1944 to draw up more specific plans for the United Nations.

The three leaders met again in the Soviet city of Yalta, in 1945, to discuss the approaching end of hostilities and the fate of Poland. Roosevelt and Churchill wanted a government in Poland which would cooperate with Western European nations, and Stalin insisted that the Polish needed a Communist government. Unfortunately, President Roosevelt suffered a sudden stroke and died in 1945, and Harry S Truman succeeded him as president. President Truman found himself facing difficult global problems.

After the war, Soviet troops remained in Poland. Disagreement existed among the allied powers about the future of Germany. Finally, Germany was divided into four zones controlled by the United States, France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union. Berlin, which was located in the Soviet zone, was also divided into four zones. Great Britain, France, and the United States decided to join their zones into one nation. This angered the Soviets who were afraid that Germany might become a powerful nation again. In 1948 the Soviets tried to force the other nations out of Berlin by blockading the city. No one could get in or out of Berlin. The Allies organized a successful airlift to get food and supplies to Berliners. The Soviets finally lifted the blockade in 1949. Hungary, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Romania were under Soviet control by 1947. These nations, with Poland, were known as the "iron curtain countries."

In Asia a civil war was being fought in China. The Nationalist government, under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, was fighting the Communists, led by Mao Zedong. The United States supported Chiang Kai-shek because they feared the spread of communism in Asia. Mao Zedong was successful in driving Chiang Kai-shek's forces to Taiwan, an island off the coast of China. China was now under Communist control.

America's new policy was to "contain" the threat of any Soviet expansion. When the Soviets threatened Turkey and Greece, President Truman, in a speech before Congress in 1947, presented

the "Truman Doctrine" which promised assistance to people to develop their own countries in their own way. Congress immediately approved military aid and economic assistance to Greece. In 1948 Secretary of State George C. Marshall announced a plan, the Marshall Plan, which offered American financial assistance in rebuilding the economies of European countries.

To resist the aggressive actions of the Soviet Union, Western European nations and the United States signed an agreement in 1949 establishing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). An armed attack against one member of the organization would be considered an attack against all. The Soviet Union created the Warsaw Pact, in 1955, with the Communist governments of Eastern Europe.

When the Soviet Union announced the explosion of its first atomic weapon and Chiang Kai-shek's government fled to Taiwan, President Truman decided to review American foreign policy. The National Security Council report recommended that the United States expand its military power and assume the responsibility of defending freedom in the world.

Even as government spending dropped after the war, the demand for consumer goods increased. The GI Bill of Rights (1944) provided economic and educational assistance to returning veterans. Prices increased rapidly for all kinds of consumer goods. The workers demanded pay raises, and labor disputes were common in many industries. The United Mine workers went on strike, closing down the coal fields for over a month. President Truman ordered the men back to work and forced the mine owners to meet most of the union's demands. The president also pressured the railroad workers to return to their jobs after striking. The Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 was passed by Congress over President Truman's veto. This act created more restrictions on unions by introducing new procedures for collective bargaining. The closed shop was now illegal. This meant that someone could be hired without being a member of a union.

A few days after the surrender of Japan, President Truman presented to Congress a domestic program called the "Fair Deal." This expanded Social Security benefits, formed a permanent Fair Employment Practices Act, provided public housing and slum clearance, and many other programs. Later, he added federal aid to education and a plan for health insurance. The "Fair Deal" made little progress in Congress. Most of the programs were defeated.

During the Convention of 1948, the Democrats reluctantly gave the presidential nomination to Harry S Truman. The Republicans nominated Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York. Many people thought that President Truman's bid for the presidency was hopeless. Nevertheless, he campaigned tirelessly. "I'm going to fight hard. I'm going to give them hell!" He let the people know how he felt about the "do nothing good for nothing Republican Congress." He wanted a repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, increased price supports for farmers, and strong civil rights protection for African Americans. It was one of the most dramatic upsets in the history of presidential elections when Harry S Truman won.

After the election, President Truman continued to have problems with Congress. He did, though, win three important issues. Congress raised the legal minimum wage. It approved an expansion of the Social Security System, and it strengthened the government's commitment to federal housing. He continued to work for civil rights.

In 1950 the North Korean Communist armies invaded South Korea. Americans found themselves involved in a "limited war." At the end of World War II, neither the United States nor the Soviet Union were willing to withdraw their troops from Korea. Because of this situation, Korea had been divided, temporarily, along the parallel. The Soviets left after making certain that North Korea had a strong Communist government, supported by a strong army. The Americans left South Korea a few months later.

President Truman ordered American forces to help the South Koreans to protect themselves against the invaders. On the same day, he asked the United Nations to intervene. The United Nations

agreed to call for international assistance for Syngman Rhee's government in South Korea. General Douglas MacArthur served as commander of the United Nations operations. The troops were mostly Americans.

The U. N. forces were advancing until they realized that North Koreans were receiving assistance from the Chinese. The U. N. forces were pushed back until the South Korean capital of Seoul was captured. Again, the United Nations advanced, regaining what they had lost. President Truman did not want a war with China, and he was trying to negotiate a solution to the conflict. General MacArthur was critical of the president's policy and wanted to confront the Chinese militarily. President Truman, on April 11, 1951, dismissed General MacArthur from his command. Prominent military leaders supported President Truman's decision. The "limited war" continued until 1958. Americans had won a great victory in World War II, but now they were unable to stop North Korea's advances. Some people felt something was wrong in the United States; people were fearful of communism and uneasy within their own country.

The Republicans attacked the Democrats, maintaining that they allowed Communists to gain power and to undermine the American government. Many Hollywood film stars, producers, and writers were accused of sympathizing with the Communists. The House Un-American Activities Committee accused reputable members of the State Department of espionage, or spying.

Fear increased, too, when, in 1947, President Truman issued an executive order which provided for the establishment of loyalty boards to examine the personal and political activities of federal employees. Those persons who were proven to be disloyal or who were thought to be security risks were expected to be fired. The McCarran Internal Security Act was passed in 1950. It required all Communist organizations to register with the government and to publish their records. It prohibited aliens suspected of Communist contacts to enter the United States, and it allowed those already here to be deported. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department investigated and tried to convict people involved in Communist conspiracies to steal America's atomic secrets for the Soviet Union. Julius Rosenberg and his wife Ethel, members of the Communist party, were accused of giving atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. They denied their guilt. Nevertheless, they were convicted of spying and sentenced to death in the electric chair.

National security was a major issue after the war. Joseph McCarthy, a Republican senator from Wisconsin, conducted investigations to check Communist activities in the United States. These investigations were highly publicized. He often used false evidence and terrorized many people, most of them innocent. In December 1954, the Senate finally censured Senator McCarthy.

During the 1952 Democratic presidential convention, Governor Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois was nominated for president, and the Republicans nominated General Dwight D. Eisenhower for the presidency and Richard Nixon for the vice presidency. General Eisenhower pledged to go to Korea, if necessary, to end the "limited war." General Eisenhower won both the popular and the electoral vote by a landslide. Twenty years of Democratic rule came to an end.



## II. Cold War – Matching Terms Exercise

Record your answers to this exercise on a separate sheet of loose-leaf paper.

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### MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH TERMS AND MEANINGS

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Connect the terms in Column I with their definitions in Column II.

COLUMN I

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. GI Bill of Rights
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. containment policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. “iron curtain”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Berlin airlift
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Marshall Plan
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Truman Doctrine
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. “limited war”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. treaty
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. subversive
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. censure
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. cold war
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. reparations
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. espionage
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. treason

COLUMN II

- a. A formal agreement completed between two or more countries concerning peace, mutual protection, or trade.
- b. The betrayal of one’s country by aiding or joining the enemy.
- c. When the Soviets blockaded the capital of Germany, the Allies organized an airlift to get food and other supplies to the city.
- d. An organization or an individual who intends to destroy or overthrow the government in power.
- e. Compensations paid by a defeated country or countries to the victorious nation or nations for war damages.
- f. Legislation which was passed after World War II which provided veterans with benefits in education, housing, employment, and health.
- g. To scold or reprimand someone officially for his/her behavior.
- h. This involves the use of spies to collect information about the activities and plans of another nation.
- i. The offer of U. S. aid to needy European nations to erase hunger and poverty and to improve the economy.
- j. This policy suggested that the United States would become involved in aiding countries in their struggles against totalitarian governments and communism.
- k. The existence of political and/or economic conflicts between nations, yet no military action is taken.
- l. This policy tries to prevent the spread of an opposing nation’s influence.
- m. Warfare waged between two or more nations in which each side limits military involvement.
- n. A term first used by Prime Minister Churchill to describe the line between Soviet-controlled Eastern European nations and the Western European nations.