

A Cold War may be defined “as a conflict so volatile, so hostile, that adversaries will go to any extreme, short of open warfare, to achieve their own aims.” Term coined by Walter Lippmann

In relation to American history, it was a state of conflict, tension and competition which existed between the United States and the Soviet Union and their allies.

This rivalry was expressed through military coalitions, propaganda, espionage, weapons development, proxy wars, industrial advances and competitive technological development

The Cold War's origins may be best viewed as an accumulation of distrust vis-à-vis one another. As framed by political scientist George Kennan, its origins may be viewed in the following eras:

- ↳ 1917-1929 Building mistrust and animosity
- ↳ 1930-1938 Views of internal events lead to assumptions/judgments which widen divide.
- ↳ 1939-1945 World War II era
- ↳ 1945-1950 Atomic era and escalation

By 1950, the Cold War is fully and culturally entrenched in both America and Russia.

Origins of the Cold War, 1917-1950

The west had long feared the expansion of Tsarist Russia, even pre-1905

In 1917, Britain, US and Russia had been allies for a half year in World War I until the Russian Bolshevik Revolution, after which the Russians negotiated an independent peace with the Central Powers.

- ↳ This separate peace contributes to American mistrust of the Russians, as it left the other powers to fight the Central Powers alone.

President Wilson's 'Fourteen Points' His vision for a post-war world directly conflicted with many of the Soviet Union's policies.

US attempts to influence Russian Civil War.

- ↳ US troops sent to northern Russia in 1918 to assist the Russian White Army (pro-Tsar) against the Russian Red Army (pro-Lenin and pro-Communism).

The US remains in Russia until about 1923. (The British and French also involved)

- ↳ *This led to solidifying suspicion among the Soviet leadership of the nefarious intentions of the capitalist world.*

Lenin in 1919: The Soviet Union is “surrounded by a hostile capitalist encirclement.”

Comintern

Short for ‘Communist International’, 1919

- ↳ It advocated for Communist-style revolutions abroad. This is seen as threat to the United States and the west.

The first Red Scare in the United States, 1919

- ↳ This led many Americans to view the Soviet ideology as a threat.

Operation Trust, 1921-1926

A Soviet counterintelligence and espionage program designed to manipulate the west; uncovered by British spy Sydney Reilly.

1922 The Treaty of Rapallo

- ↳ Between Germany and the Soviet Union, it renounces all territorial and financial claims put forth in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (which had ended World War I).
- ↳ US, France and Britain take offense.

By 1925, Stalin viewed the world in a bipolar sense, with Soviet communism in opposition against the materialistic west.

Several events reinforce the tensions:

- ↳ 1926, Soviet Union funded the British workers strike; This led Britain to break diplomatic relations with Russia
- ↳ 1927, Stalin declared that any possibility of “coexistence with the capitalist countries is receding into the past”
- ↳ 1928, In the Shakhty show-trial, suggestions of a conspiracy involving French and British efforts to overthrow Stalin are asserted, and believed! Propaganda informs the Russian citizenry.
- ↳ 1932-1933, Russian-induced famine in the Ukraine leads to 8+ millions deaths. The west looks on with horror.
- ↳ 1936-1937, Moscow show-trials included allegations of British, French, Japanese and German espionage.
- ↳ 1936-1938, Western countries viewed the Great Purges in Russia with disdain. Initially, half a million Russians were executed.

The United States refuses to recognize the Soviet Union diplomatically until 1933.

- ↳ This delay is viewed as a sign of disrespect and disdain.

Significant, antagonistic differences existed in the political and economic systems of western democracies and the Soviet Union:

- ↳ Capitalism (west) v. socialism (Russia)
- ↳ Free trade (west) v. economic self-sufficiency (Russia)
- ↳ Profit motive economy (west) v. good for the state motivation (Russia)
- ↳ Private enterprise (west) v. state planning (Russia)

The atheistic nature of the Soviet Union is a concern for many Americans.

1938 and 1939, Stalin fears an attack by the Nazis. His efforts to solidify a military defense treaty with the America, Britain and France are rebuffed.

- ↳ He takes this as evidence that the west wants to see the Soviet Union destroyed.
- ↳ Absent any other ally, Stalin signs the non-Aggression Pact with Germany.
 - ↳ The west views this as proof the Soviets are as bad as they always believed.

World War II, Stalin pleads for the west to launch a western-front offensive to alleviate the pressure and resultant losses on the Russian eastern front.

- ↳ The west does not rush; D-Day delayed years. Stalin interprets this delay as evidence that the west wants to see Russians suffer.
- ↳ On 1945 assault of Berlin, western forces ring the city, allowing the Soviets to charge in, thereby enduring more casualties.

Yalta Conference 1945

Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin meet to discuss post-war Europe reorganization.

- ↳ Despite some points of agreement (and much disagreement), Stalin grudgingly accepted the premise of the United Nations.
- ↳ He disliked the notion of the UN encouraging democracy, and of the number of war-torn western powers granted authority there.
- ↳ He sought acceptance to the UN of all 16 Soviet republics (it would give the Soviets more of a voting voice), but 14 were denied. Stalin remains upset.

1945, Soviets are accused by the west of interference in the affairs of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, which the Soviet Union denies.

Stalin perceives American intimidation efforts

Division of Berlin and Germany

Stalin was aware of the American atomic bomb project (he had spies at Los Alamos) in spite of American efforts to keep it quiet.

- ↳ Truman tells Stalin the Americans have a major new weapon, with no details.
- ↳ America drops the bombs on Japan 88 days before the Russians were committed to enter the war in the Pacific.
- ↳ Americans make sure Russians see full evidence of destructive force of the bombs.

Post-war (1945) American and England believe they will be at war with the Soviet Union in a short period of time, and keep many of their troops in Europe for this reason.

Creation of international organizations (NATO, UN) with clear western influence threaten Russia

1947 events design global response framework:

- ⇒ Marshall Plan, 1947
 - ↳ US gives money to European countries to rebuild, so long as they embrace capitalism, democracy and trade with the United States.
- ⇒ ‘Molotov Plan’ or ‘Comecon’ (the Soviet response to the Marshall Plan.)
 - ↳ Soviet offer money and trade with eastern Europe, but not with Germany, which Stalin feared if it were to reunite.
- ⇒ National Security Act of 1947
 - ↳ Creates United States bureaucracies of CIA, NSC, and united many agencies into a Department of Defense.
- ⇒ Truman Doctrine, 1947
 - ↳ Containment of Soviet influence
 - ↳ Supports economic restoration of Western Europe through the Marshall Plan and Military containment through NATO.

Soviet ‘blockade’ of Berlin, and the allied airlift in response. June 1948 - May 1949

1948, US recovers documents informing about the Nazi-Soviet relations of 1939-1940

July 1948 – Executive Order 9981
The desegregated the US Armed Forces

1950, National Security Council resolution 68 shifted American foreign policy from passive to active containment of the Soviet Union.

- ↳ It specifies the belief that Russia planned world domination.

Name: _____
Period: _____ Date: _____

Brainstorm review – Cold War 1

Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper, and attach this as the coversheet to what you turn in.

1. Define Cold War.
2. What two main countries was the Cold War between?
3. Looking on the brainstorm study sheet, what is the first sentence written in italicized lettering?
4. How did the end of World War I contribute to America's mistrust of the Russians?
5. How did Wilson's Fourteen Points upset the Soviets?
6. What was the role of the US in the Russian civil war in 1918? (please be detailed)
7. Why did the west feel threatened by Comintern?
8. How does the Treaty of Rapallo in 1922 relate to the east-west tensions?
9. Why is it significant that the US failed to recognize the Russians diplomatically until 1933?
- 10-13. Identify four ways in which the east and west were different.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
14. How were Stalin's efforts to get protection through an alliance pre-WWII a contributing factor in the emerging Cold War?
15. In what ways did the west's conduct during WWII contribute to Stalin's anger?
16. Stalin unhappily accepted the concept of the United Nations. What did he want (which was not agreed to)?
17. What was the Marshall Plan?
18. What was the Molotov Plan?
19. What was the National Security Act of 1947?
20. What was the Truman Doctrine?
21. What of significance happened in 1948?
22. What did Executive Order 9981 do?
23. What did National Security Council resolution 68 do?