

Attachment A: Notes on the Cold War

1. Following World War II, Soviet forces occupied much of Eastern and Central Europe and East Germany.
2. Following World War II, Germany was divided as follows:
 - West Germany was occupied by United States, Britain, and France until the adoption of a democratic government.
 - East Germany was dominated by the Soviet Union.
 - Berlin was occupied by all four powers. The Berlin Airlift brought supplies to Berlin when the Soviets blockaded routes from West Germany to West Berlin.
3. Following World War II, Japan was occupied by the United States until the adoption of a democratic government.
4. In an attempt to prevent the spread of communism, the Marshall Plan provided assistance to European countries destroyed by the war.
5. The United Nations was formed near the end of World War II. Its purpose was to prevent future wars.
6. The Cold War was an economic and political power struggle from 1945 to 1989 between the democratic ideals of the United States and the communist government of the Soviet Union.
7. The Truman Doctrine was a United States pledge to resist the spread of communism worldwide.
8. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed to provide a defensive alliance to protect Western Europe against an invasion by the Soviet Union.
9. The Warsaw Pact, an alliance of Soviet and East European countries, was a response to NATO.
10. In 1949, the communists took over China. America feared the spread of communism.
11. The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear arms race during the Cold War.
12. Massive retaliation was a United States policy adopted during the Eisenhower administration. It threatened the use of nuclear weapons in response to Soviet aggression against another country.

Korean War

13. The United States became involved in the Korean War in 1950 when communist North Korea invaded South Korea.
14. China entered the conflict on the side of North Korea. A truce was signed in 1953. Korea remained divided along the 38th parallel.

Vietnam War

15. The United States began providing economic aid to the French in Vietnam as part of the American policy of containment.
16. In the 1950s and 1960s, communist North Vietnam attempted to force a communist government in South Vietnam. The United States provided assistance to South Vietnam.

17. **United States military buildup in Vietnam increased during the administrations of Kennedy and Johnson.**
18. **American military forces repeatedly defeated North Vietnam but were unable to force an end to the war through a limited war.**
19. **America became divided over the Vietnam War. War protests took place, especially on college campuses.**
20. **President Johnson decided not to run for re-election. Richard Nixon was elected president in 1968.**
21. **“Vietnamization” was Nixon’s plan to withdraw American troops and replace them with U.S.-supplied South Vietnamese forces. It was unsuccessful because South Vietnamese forces were unable to resist invasion from Soviet-supplied North Vietnam.**
22. **A peace agreement was signed in 1973, and United States troops left Vietnam. In 1975, North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam, which was unable to resist. Vietnam became a united country under a communist government.**

Cuba

23. **The United States engaged in Cold-War-related confrontations with Cuba.**
24. **Fidel Castro took over Cuba in a communist revolution in 1959.**
25. **The United States trained a group of Cubans to invade Cuba. The invasion took place in 1961 and failed.**
26. **In 1962, the Soviet Union began to build missile launchers in Cuba. The United States protested, and for several days, the world worried that a nuclear war would erupt. The Soviet Union decided to remove the missiles. This event is known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.**

Cold War continued

27. **Fear of communism and threat of nuclear war affected life in the United States during the Cold War.**
28. **Alger Hiss and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of spying.**
29. **Senator Joseph McCarthy accused many Americans of spying.**
30. **Foreign policy became a major issue in presidential campaigns.**
31. **Cold War military contracts benefited Virginia’s economy.**
32. **President Kennedy’s inaugural address became famous for this quote: “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”**
33. **Many Americans served in the military during the Cold War; the United States prevailed over the Soviet Union.**
34. **President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.**
35. **Vietnam War veterans returned home to encounter much indifference and hostility. It was several years before Vietnam veterans were honored.**
36. **The Soviet Union’s Cold War military buildup took a toll on their command economy.**
37. **Soviet Republics began to push for independence.**

- 38. Mikhail Gorbachev attempted to save the Soviet Union through “glasnost” and “perestroika.”**
- 39. President Reagan demanded that the Soviet Union tear down the Berlin Wall. The United States increased economic and military pressure of the Soviet Union during this time.**