

## Attachment B: Notes on the Cold War —Version with Teacher Notes

### 1. **Following World War II, Soviet forces occupied much of Eastern and Central Europe and East Germany.**

Illustrate this, using a map of Europe. Explain that the Soviets were looking for a buffer between the Soviet Union and Germany as a result of previous German aggression. Discuss how this created conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union.

### 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.**

Illustrate the division of Germany, using a map of the country at the time. Explain that this division was intended to be temporary but that the Soviets' imposition of a communist government in their sector violated the intent of the agreement and strengthened the discord between the United States and the Soviet Union. Explain that occupation of West Germany ended when they adopted a democratic government; however, United States, British, and French troops remained in West Germany to protect it from Soviet invasion. Further, explain that these forces remain today, although the numbers have decreased drastically following the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union in 1990. Allow time for student questions and discussion.

### 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.**

Explain that the infrastructure of Europe was destroyed as a result of the war. The fear was that without financial assistance from the U.S., these countries would be easy prey for communist takeover. Explain that Soviet *satellites* (define this term) were offered money, but they refused it. Encourage discussion on the United States providing economic assistance to foreign countries. Does this practice benefit the United States? How? Talk about present-day assistance the United States provides.

### 5. **The United Nations was formed near the end of World War II. Its purpose was to prevent future wars.**

Display the UN Organization Chart (Attachment C), and point out the important parts. Conduct a discussion on current activities of the United Nations; for example, in 2003, the United Nations was conducting weapons inspections in Iraq. Discuss the benefit to the United States of having United Nations support for actions regarding foreign governments.

### 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.**

Explain that the United States has a *market economy* — one that promotes private ownership of the means of production. The Soviet Union had a *command economy* — one in which the government owns the means of production. Explain that at times, the disagreements between the United States and the Soviet Union nearly resulted in military action. Examples of the

strain between democratic societies and communist societies will be discussed as the unit on the Cold War continues.

**7. The Truman Doctrine was a United States pledge to resist the spread of communism worldwide.**

Explain that the Truman Doctrine was originally a proposal of immediate financial assistance to Greece and Turkey, but it became a foreign policy to resist communist aggression.

**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.**

Using a map of the world, illustrate the countries that joined NATO. Explain the current status of NATO.

**9. The Warsaw Pact, an alliance of Soviet and East European countries, was a response to NATO.**

Using a map of the world, illustrate the countries that joined the Warsaw Pact. Explain the current status of the Warsaw Pact.

**10. In 1949, the communists took over China. America feared the spread of communism.**

Briefly review the communist takeover of China, including a brief discussion of Mao Zedong and Chiang Kai-shek. Also discuss the formation of Nationalist China. Explain United States reaction. In addition, address the relationship between China and the Soviet Union.

**11. The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear arms race during the Cold War.**

Explain the meaning of an “arms race.” This is an excellent opportunity to share with students how Americans prepared for possible nuclear war, including school drills, the construction of bomb shelters, etc. Also, share any recent movies, TV shows, books, or video games that may have a reference to this time period. (For example, the sitcom *Happy Days* did a show on the Cunninghams constructing a bomb shelter.) Mention the secret bomb shelter at the Greenbriar Resort in West Virginia. (Information can be found at [http://www.cnn.com/US/9511/gimme\\_shelter](http://www.cnn.com/US/9511/gimme_shelter).)

**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.**

Conduct a class discussion on the pro and cons of this policy.

*Korean War*

**13. The United States became involved in the Korean War in 1950 when communist North Korea invaded South Korea.**

Explain that the Japanese had annexed Korea prior to World War I. The terms of Japan’s surrender at the end of World War II required Japan to give up control of Korea. Korea, left with no government, was temporarily divided. North Korea was occupied by the Soviets and South Korea was occupied by the United States. A pro-American government emerged in South Korea and a pro-communist government emerged in North Korea. The occupation ended in 1949. The next year North Korea invaded South Korea. Using your textbook, briefly review the progress of the war.

**14. China entered the conflict on the side of North Korea. A truce was signed in 1953. Korea remained divided along the 38th parallel.**

Explain the current status of North and South Korea. Discuss the impact the Korean War had on U.S./Chinese relations.

### *Vietnam War*

**15. The United States began providing economic aid to the French in Vietnam as part of the American policy of containment.**

Explain that Vietnam was part of an area known as French Indochina. Elaborate on U.S. aid to the French in this area. Explain that the French were defeated by the Vietminh in 1954. Following the defeat of the French, an international conference was held to determine the fate of Vietnam. The Geneva Accords divided Vietnam into two countries: the north was communist under Ho Chi Minh, and the south was anticommunist under Ngo Dinh Diem.

**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.**

Explain the role of Ho Chi Minh and the Vietminh. Identify Bao Dai and Ngo Dinh Diem. Also, explain the extent of internal opposition to Diem separate from the actions of the North.

**17. United States military buildup in Vietnam increased during the administrations of Kennedy and Johnson.**

Explain the role of military advisors in Vietnam and the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

**18. American military forces repeatedly defeated North Vietnam but were unable to force an end to the war through a limited war.**

Explain the boundaries and restrictions that were placed on the military. Discuss the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Tet Offensive, and other key events during the Vietnam War.

**19. America became divided over the Vietnam War. War protests took place, especially on college campuses.**

Discuss reasons for the opposition.

**20. President Johnson decided not to run for re-election. Richard Nixon was elected president in 1968.**

Discuss Johnson's decision not to run for re-election. Discuss Kent State and other protests. Discuss why some felt the war was necessary, while others felt it was not. Also, discuss the My Lai massacre of 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.**

Explain Vietnamization, and discuss why it failed. Also, discuss how the Soviet Union was involved in this conflict and how it compared to other conflicts between the United States and the Soviet Union.

**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.**

Discuss the terms of the peace agreement, the withdrawal of U.S. troops, and the 1975 invasion. Discuss present day status of Vietnam; its government, economy, etc.

### *Cuba*

**23. The United States engaged in Cold-War-related confrontations with Cuba.**

Indicate Cuba on a map.

**24. Fidel Castro took over Cuba in a communist revolution in 1959.**

Show a picture of Castro in 1959 and a current one. Provide some background on Cuba prior to the revolution. Explain why the revolution was very popular among most Cubans. Explain how long Castro has been in power in Cuba. Discuss the impact of Castro's rule on some Cubans. This discussion may include what happened to some Cubans who fled Cuba. Gloria Fajardo Estefan's biography may be helpful to prompt discussion. A selection of a few of her popular songs may help the students understand the historical context. Explain that Castro does not permit her music to be played in Cuba.

**25. The United States trained a group of Cubans to invade Cuba. The invasion took place in 1961 and failed.**

Discuss why the invasion failed and what happened to the Cubans that took part in the invasion. Explain that Gloria Estefan's father participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion.

**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.**

Illustrate on a map why the United States was concerned with the location of Soviet missiles in Cuba. Discuss President Kennedy's actions during this crisis. Include the options the United States considered, such as invasion and air strikes. Ask the students what they might have done in a similar situation.

*Cold War continued*

**27. Fear of communism and threat of nuclear war affected life in the United States during the Cold War.**

Discuss the reaction of Americans to this fear, for example, school drills for possible nuclear attack and the building of bomb shelters.

**28. Alger Hiss and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of spying.**

Discuss the accusations against these individuals and what happened to them as a result. Discuss any recent cases of Americans accused of spying.

**29. Senator Joseph McCarthy accused many Americans of spying.**

Discuss the trials and the final outcome, including the discrediting of McCarthy. Discuss the impact the accusations had on Americans.

**30. Foreign policy became a major issue in presidential campaigns.**

Discuss some of the presidential campaigns during the Cold War time period. Look at the résumés of some of the candidates. Ask the students to decide, based on these résumés, which candidates were best qualified to deal with foreign affairs. Discuss the outcome of the elections and what, if anything, happened during the winner's administration. Based on that information, have students comment on whether or not foreign experience is necessary for a presidential candidate.

**31. Cold War military contracts benefited Virginia's economy.**

Discuss which industries in Virginia would benefit from a wartime economy. Discuss which industries might suffer. Discuss the reasons for both situations.

**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."**

Ask student what he meant. Ask what they can do for the United States today .

**33. Many Americans served in the military during the Cold War; the United States prevailed over the Soviet Union.**

Recap the major military conflicts during the Cold War. Discuss military service in the United States during wartime and peacetime. Ask why the United States ultimately prevailed in the Cold War. Ask, "What is the current status of the Soviet Union?"

**34. President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.**

Ask students to talk to family members who remember Kennedy's assassination. Ask them what their thoughts were at the time. Discuss the theories about the assassination.

**35. Vietnam War veterans returned home to encounter much indifference and hostility. It was several years before Vietnam veterans were honored.**

Show a picture of the Vietnam memorial. If possible, take a field trip to D.C. to visit the Korean and Vietnam War memorials, as well as Arlington Cemetery.

**36. The Soviet Union's Cold War military buildup took a toll on their command economy.**

Define *command economy*. Discuss the problems with this type of economic system. Discuss the hardships the Soviet people suffered during this time period. Explain that they were not permitted to leave the country except under very tight restriction. Use as examples Olympic athletes, Mikhail Baryshnikov (dancer), Katrina Witt (ice skater from East Germany), and others.

**37. Soviet Republics began to push for independence.**

Discuss the Soviet Republics that were trying to break away from the Soviet Union.

**38. Mikhail Gorbachev attempted to save the Soviet Union through *glasnost* and *perestroika*.**

Define these terms, and discuss whether or not Gorbachev was successful.

**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.**

Show pictures of the Berlin Wall, and explain why it was constructed. Also, show pictures or videos from 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down. Discuss the impact this had on the reunification of Germany. Discuss the collapse of the Soviet Union and the current status of her former republics.