



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **10th Grade | Unit 9**

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1009

The Contemporary World

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The Contemporary World

Introduction

The contemporary world is the world in which we live. Presenting current events in historical terms is a challenge. It is a challenge because this history is still being made. This LIFE PAC® will present events from World War II until the present day. You will see how our world has been shaped by these events. You will be studying events through which your parents and grandparents lived.

In the first section, you will study the **Cold War** between the United States and the Soviet Union. You will see how the developing conflict shaped post-war Europe. You will learn how the vast power and nuclear arsenals of the two super-powers kept them from fighting a direct war. You will study the crises and local wars that marked the conflict between them. You will learn how the conflict ended with the fall of the Soviet Union.

In the second section, you will study the geography and current political status of the nations of the world. In a continent-by-continent survey, you will see how the world has changed during the Cold War and how it has remained the same.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the nature of the Cold War.
2. Name the major events of the Cold War.
3. Understand the basic structure of the United Nations.
4. Describe the course of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
5. Describe the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe and the collapse of the Soviet Union.
6. Describe the basic geography of the six inhabited continents.
7. Name the major mountains, rivers, lakes, and deserts of the six inhabited continents.
8. Recognize the names and locations of the countries of the world.
9. Have a basic understanding of the current status of the nations of the world.

Survey the LIFE PAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study and write your questions here.

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines for writing, intended for student questions.

1. THE COLD WAR

Introduction. The Cold War is the name given to the period that began at the end of World War II and ended with the collapse of Soviet power. During this time, the two **superpowers**, the United States and the Soviet Union, did not fight an actual “hot” war with each other. Instead this war was fought in a series of confrontations and local wars through out the world. The end of this period is so recent

that it is not yet clearly defined. This LIFEPAC dates the end of the Cold War in 1991 when Communism ended in the Soviet Union, and the country was divided into new countries. Another possible date would be 1989, when Communism collapsed in Eastern Europe, and the **Berlin Wall** was dismantled. In either case, the Cold War ended with a victory for the United States.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the nature of the Cold War.
2. Name the major events of the Cold War.
3. Understand the basic structure of the United Nations.
4. Describe the course of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
5. Describe the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Vocabulary

Study these words and phrases to enhance your learning success in this section.

autonomy

containment

endemic

NATO

repatriation

thermonuclear

Berlin Wall

Demilitarized Zone

intercontinental ballistic missiles

nominally

satellites

Warsaw Pact

Cold War

draft

Iron Curtain

purge

superpowers

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR

Post-War Situation. The United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) were the most powerful nations in the world at the end of World War II. Europe was devastated. Germany and Japan were in ruins from Allied bombing. The Soviet Union had a huge, well-supplied army holding all of Eastern Europe and one-third of Germany. The United States expected a period of friendly relations with the Soviet Union at the end of the war. After all, the two peoples had fought and died opposing a common enemy for four years. The U.S. expected to be able to use its influence during this time to convince the Soviet Union to withdraw from Europe peacefully. In fact, Joseph Stalin, the Soviet dictator, had no intention of allowing Eastern Europe to be free and possibly allied with the West.

Stalin acted quickly to secure his position, ignoring the promises he had made during the war. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (the Baltic Republics) were annexed again (they had been taken in 1940 under an agreement with Hitler). Some Polish land was also taken by the Soviet Union. Poland was then compensated with a part of Soviet-occupied Germany (this basically shifted the entire country west). The Allied leaders had actually *agreed* to this travesty at Yalta, an Allied conference during the war. Stalin had given “his word” that Poland and the other nations would be allowed to have

free elections. Instead, pro-Soviet Communist governments were set up in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Czechoslovakia. Yugoslavia and Albania set up Communist governments of their own. These nations became Soviet **satellites** and were completely cut off from their free neighbors. In 1946, England’s famous wartime leader, Winston Churchill, spoke of an “**iron curtain**” which now separated Europe into two opposing camps.

The United States immediately faced this new threat to the recently freed nations of Europe. When a Communist takeover was threatened in Greece in 1947, President Harry Truman chose to act. He realized that a return to the longstanding U.S. policy of isolation would leave the world unable to protect itself from Soviet aggression. Therefore, he formulated and announced the policy of **containment**, also known as the Truman Doctrine. This policy committed the United States to restrict Communism to the places it already existed. Any attempt to spread it to new countries would be opposed by the United States throughout the world. In the case of Greece, \$400 million in aid was sent to both Greece and Turkey, which successfully defeated the Communist rebels in their lands. Containment was to continue as the basic policy of the United States through all of the Cold War.

**Answer the following.**

1.1 What are the two historical events, including dates, that could be used to mark the end of the Cold War?

a. _____

b. _____

1.2 Describe the policy of containment.

1.3 Who were the primary antagonists during the Cold War?

a. _____

b. _____

1.4 The Soviet Union set up Communist governments in:

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____ d. _____

e. _____

1.5 How did the United States expect to get the Soviets out of Eastern Europe after the war?

1.6 What two nations set up their own Communist governments after World War II?

a. _____ b. _____

United Nations. One ray of hope in the early years of the Cold War was the United Nations (UN). This international body had been formed in 1945 while the war was still being fought. Unlike its predecessor, the post-World War I League of Nations, the United Nations had the backing of the United States. The Soviet Union also joined. However, the United States and the Soviet Union both had a veto over any resolution passed by the organization. The Soviets used this freely to prevent any interference in their interests. Moreover, the UN had no enforcement power to back its decisions. It provided a forum for discussion and occasional action that was used by both sides in the Cold War.

The United Nations was created at a conference in San Francisco. Fifty nations signed the original charter that went into effect on October 24, 1945. The UN then accepted an invitation to set up its headquarters in the United States in New York City. The United Nations has six main organizational structures:

The General Assembly. All member states are represented in the General Assembly. The General Assembly makes all of its decisions by a majority vote, occasionally a two-thirds majority. Each country has one vote. The Assembly takes part in the election of the members for the other UN organizations. Its resolutions are not binding on any member nation except as they relate to the United Nations budget.

The Security Council. The Security Council is the UN organization responsible for keeping peace in the world. It consists of fifteen members, five of which (France, Great Britain, the United States, China, and Russia) are permanent members. The permanent members have a veto over any decision made by the council; otherwise, decisions are made by majority vote.

The Council can investigate and make recommendations on any matter it feels threatens world peace.

The Secretariat. The Secretariat consists of the secretary-general of the United Nations and his staff. The secretary-general is appointed by the General Assembly after being nominated by the Security Council. He serves a five-year term. The Secretariat runs the day-to-day operations of the UN. The secretary-general is also able to use the prestige of his position to encourage solutions of international problems.

International Court of Justice. The Court of Justice is the judicial branch of the United Nations. Its fifteen judges are appointed to nine-year terms. The court sits at The Hague, Netherlands. It gives advisory opinions to other UN branches and decides disputes between any governments that agree to submit a problem to the court. Decisions are by a majority vote of the judges.

The Economic and Social Council. The Economic Council is responsible for implementing United Nations' projects to improve life on this planet. It works to improve health, change working conditions, assist refugees, and improve agriculture among other things. The Council has 54 members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. It meets semi-annually, and decisions are by majority vote.

The Trusteeship Council. The Trusteeship council is responsible for the oversight of territories that are under UN protection and not yet independent nations. Most of these were former colonies such as Cameroon and New Guinea. There were eleven of these trusteeships at the end of World War II. Most are now independent nations.

**Answer true or false.**

- 1.7 _____ The UN has its own army to enforce its decisions.
- 1.8 _____ The Soviets could veto any UN resolution.
- 1.9 _____ The General Assembly has oversight of territories under UN protection.
- 1.10 _____ The Secretary-General is a figurehead.
- 1.11 _____ The Security Council is responsible for keeping peace in the world.

Answer the following question.

- 1.12 What are the strengths and weaknesses of the United Nations?

Marshall Plan. Much of Europe was so devastated by World War II that people were willing to vote the Communists into power if they promised jobs and food. Faced with this threat, the United States began a massive program of aid in 1948 aimed at helping countries recover from the war. It was called the Marshall Plan after Secretary of State and former General George Marshall, who organized it. The countries of Eastern Europe were even invited to participate, but the Soviet Union would not allow that. Eventually, over 12 billion dollars provided the push Europe needed to return to prosperity, and none of the free countries which participated became Communist.

NATO. Forced to recognize the continuing threat the Soviet Union posed in Europe, the United States decided to join in a peacetime military alliance for the first time in its history. The alliance was called **NATO**, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It was formed in 1949 by the United States, Canada, Iceland, Norway,

Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. West Germany (created from the non-Soviet occupation zones) joined later. The pact basically warned the Soviets that any attack on one of these nations would be considered an attack on all of them. The allied nations contributed troops and supplies to maintain a combined army in Europe ready to defend themselves. The Soviets responded by forming the **Warsaw Pact**, which claimed to be an alliance between the Soviet Union and its satellites, eventually including East Germany (created from the Soviet zone).

China. World War II had temporarily interrupted a civil war in China. Fighting between the Communists, led by Mao Zedong, and the Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, resumed as soon as the departure of the Japanese occupation forces gave them elbow room. The Communists re-entered the conflict with a great advantage. The Soviet Union had declared

war on Japan two days before it surrendered. This was done at the request of the American government, which had expected to need help defeating the Japanese Empire. The success of the atomic bomb allowed the Soviets to capture north China without much effort. The Soviets gave Mao Zedong's forces this rich, industrial northern area. The Soviet Union also gave them the weapons and supplies captured from the Japanese. Moreover, the Nationalists suffered from the corruption and ineptitude so common in traditional Chinese government. The United States refused to give the Nationalists much assistance, believing there was little they could do to affect the outcome.

The Communists, with widespread popular support from the long-oppressed peasants,

quickly gained the upper hand. Late in 1949, the Nationalists and their supporters fled to the island of Formosa (Taiwan) and established themselves there. On the mainland, Mao announced the formation of the People's Republic of China.

This was a frightening development for the United States, which feared a Chinese-Soviet Communist alliance. Until 1978 the United States did not recognize Mao's government and considered the leaders of Taiwan to be the legitimate government of China. In fact, the Soviets and the Chinese did cooperate for a time, but dictators seldom cooperate well. The two countries eventually were publicly disagreeing with each other and even fought skirmishes along their mutual border.



Complete the following.

- 1.13 The U.S. feared that Communist China would ally itself with _____ .
- 1.14 The first defensive alliance the United States ever entered into was _____ .
- 1.15 The United States gave substantial aid to Europe after World War II under the _____ .
- 1.16 The two parties in China's civil war were _____ and _____ .
- 1.17 _____ was the victorious Chinese leader in 1949.

Answer the following question.

1.18 Why did China fall to the Communists?

THE COURSE OF THE COLD WAR

Berlin Blockade. The Cold War was defined by a series of crises and local wars much like a regular war is defined by battles. The first “battle” of the Cold War came over Berlin. Like Germany as a whole, Berlin had been divided into four separate zones, each occupied by a different Allied nation (United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union). This division, which was intended to be very temporary, was still officially in place when the Cold War ended. The difficulty was that Berlin was located deep inside the Soviet occupation zone. Therefore, the western nations had to send supplies to their parts of the city through the Soviet zone. In 1948 the Soviets refused to let the Allies cross their zone. They hoped to force the West to abandon Berlin to the Communists. The United States refused and instead organized a huge airlift to supply the city. At its height, “Operation Vittles” was landing one plane in Berlin every three minutes around the clock. The Soviets finally admitted the West was not going to give up Berlin and ended the blockade after almost a year.

Nuclear Arms Race. The year 1949 was a dark one for the United States. Not only did China fall to the Communists that year, but the Soviet Union also exploded its first atomic bomb. American experts had not expected that development for several more years. The Soviet Union presumably used spies to steal the information on several key parts of the bomb from the United States. This development set up one of the defining features of the Cold War, the nuclear arms race. Both of the superpowers were afraid of the other achieving nuclear superiority. The United States was particularly concerned because Communism placed no value on human life. Communists considered all methods acceptable to advance their goals. Therefore, both superpowers committed huge resources to developing newer, stronger bombs and faster ways to deliver them. The United States exploded its first **thermonuclear**

bomb in 1952. The Soviet Union did the same in 1953. Later in the 1950s, both sides developed **intercontinental ballistic missiles** (ICBMs) and equipped submarines with nuclear weapons.

Both sides eventually built enough weapons to destroy each other several times over. The sheer number and power of these weapons justifiably frightened planners in both nations. There was good reason to fear that a war between the superpowers might escalate to include nuclear weapons. If that happened, the two sides might destroy not only each other, but the rest of the world as well. This was one of the primary reasons that the Cold War stayed cold.

Korean War. The Soviet Union had occupied the nation of Korea north of the 38th parallel of north latitude in the closing days of World War II. In keeping with his actions in Eastern Europe, Stalin refused to allow Korea to be reunited under a free government. Instead, he set up a Communist government in North Korea, while the United States allowed free elections in South Korea. Both north and south claimed to be the lawful government for the entire nation. The United States ended its occupation of the south in 1949 and withdrew its troops.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations immediately condemned the invasion and asked its members to aid South Korea. The Soviet Union would have vetoed this action, but it was boycotting to protest the fact that Communist China had not been given the Chinese seat on the UN Security Council. Without ever formally declaring war, the United States provided most of the men and weapons for the conflict that followed.

The North quickly drove the unprepared South Korean troops down the Korean Peninsula. American reinforcements did not arrive quickly enough to prevent the fall of the capital, Seoul.

In fact, the Allies (U.S., South Korea, and other UN members) were driven back until they held only a small area around the city of Pusan in the country's southeast corner. There they held their ground at what was known as the Pusan Perimeter.

General Douglas MacArthur was given command of the Allies. He decided not to fight his way back up the peninsula through the enemy lines. Instead, in a brilliant military maneuver, he sent troops to land halfway up the peninsula at Inchon, near Seoul. These forces cut off the army attacking the Pusan Perimeter and liberated the capital. Then, MacArthur began to drive up into North Korea. Allied forces had almost conquered the entire country when China sent hundreds of thousands of “volunteers” to the aid of the North Koreans. It was the Allies who were then driven back. They lost and then later retook Seoul in the fighting that followed. The conflict eventually reached a stalemate very near the 38th parallel, which had been the original border.

MacArthur wanted to attack China, and he became very public about his opinion. President Truman, however, was worried about starting World War III and insisted on keeping the war in Korea. This approach is known as a “limited war.” When MacArthur continued to publicly work against the policies of his commander-in-chief, Truman fired him. MacArthur had tremendous support at home. Truman's decision made him very unpopular. Many people still believe that MacArthur was correct in his opinions, but it was not his decision to make.

A cease-fire was proposed in June of 1951. Truce talks began in July. Both sides quickly agreed on a new dividing line between North and South Korea. However, the talks stalled over the issue of **repatriation** of prisoners of war. Many of the Chinese and North Korean prisoners did not want to be forced to return to their Communist homelands. The Communists insisted that all prisoners had to be



| MacArthur wanted to attack China

repatriated even if it was against their will. The Allies refused. The talks stalled until March of 1953. The impasse was broken when Joseph Stalin died, and the new Soviet leaders decided to support the truce.

An armistice was signed in July of 1953, ending the fighting but *not* officially ending the war. A two-and-a-half-mile wide **Demilitarized Zone** was set up along the border of the two nations. Prisoners who did not wish to return home could be visited by delegates from their nation, but would not be forced to return. Over 14,000 Chinese and over 7,000 North Koreans did not go home. A much smaller number of South Koreans and even a few Americans also refused. The war ended much as it had begun, with the Communists holding most of Korea north of the 38th parallel. They had not gained any new ground. In accordance with U.S. policy, Communism had been “contained.”

**Answer the following.**

1.19 Why was Douglas MacArthur fired as commander of the armed forces in Korea?

1.20 What two things happened in 1949 that were victories for Communism?

- a. _____
- b. _____

1.21 Why was there good reason to fear a war between the United States and the Soviet Union?

1.22 How did the United States respond to the Berlin Blockade?

1.23 What issue stalled the peace talks to end the Korean War? Explain.

1.24 What did the Korean War accomplish?

1.25 What was MacArthur's strategy to break out of the Pusan Perimeter, and how did it work?

Write true or false.

- 1.26 _____ The Allies were initially driven back in Korea, but held at the Pusan Perimeter.
- 1.27 _____ The nuclear arms race was one of the defining features of the Cold War.
- 1.28 _____ The U.S. Congress declared war on North Korea shortly after the invasion of the South began.
- 1.29 _____ Korea was a limited war.

Changes after Stalin's death. After Stalin died in 1953, Nikita Khrushchev gradually assumed the dominant role in the Soviet Union. This brought about a change in Soviet tactics. The Communists still sought to take over the world, but from this point on the Soviets began to be more cautious. They began to negotiate with the United States over issues of trade and armaments. The new leadership definitely did not want to start a nuclear war. However, tension between the two powers continued and crises still occurred. Relations between the superpowers were unstable for the rest of the Cold War. Discussions and agreements would bring “thaws,” and the next crisis would return to the Cold War “chill.” Moreover, the Soviets made it very clear that they intended to retain control of Eastern Europe.

Invasion of Hungary. The Communist dictator of Hungary, Matthias Rákosi, did a great deal of damage to the nation's economy in the years after World War II. Due to discontent, he allowed a more liberal man, Imre Nagy, to become premier in 1953. However, Rákosi did not like the reforms Nagy instituted and removed him from office in 1955. The reversal caused more discontent which escalated into open revolt in October of 1956. Nagy was reappointed and established a reform, anti-Communist government. Soviet troops invaded within days. They used tanks against the protesters. Nagy was executed, a hard-line Communist government was installed, and about 200,000 people fled the country. The Soviet Union had

no intention of losing its satellites. The United States did what it could to help the refugees, including allowing 30,000 to immigrate to this country.

Suez Crisis. President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt sought funds from the West to build a huge dam on the upper Nile River during the mid-1950s. The United States offered to fund the project until Nasser began to accept aid from the Soviet Union. The offer was then withdrawn. Furious, Nasser took over the Suez Canal, which was owned by British and French investors, intending to use its revenue to finance the dam. This action threatened the supply of oil to the United States and Europe.

Israel, France, and Britain staged a joint attack on Egypt in October of 1956 while the Soviet army was busy with Hungary. The United States was not informed of the attack until it began. The Soviet Union threatened to send troops to help Egypt. With American backing, the United Nations was able to negotiate a cease fire and sent in its first peace-keeping troops to maintain order. The Soviets eventually provided the money to build the Aswan High Dam.

The Soviet support of Egypt set a pattern for the Cold War. The Soviets became the usual source of weapons and aid for the more aggressive Arab nations. This was especially true of the violent Arab terrorist groups that were often trained, as well as supplied, by the Communists. At the same time, the United States supported Israel and some of the more moderate Arab nations in the Middle East.

Incidents and problems. The Soviet Union created a panic in the United States when in 1957 it launched the first artificial satellite into Earth's orbit, Sputnik I, and successfully tested an ICBM the same year. America immediately stepped up its own rocket and space programs. An American satellite was successfully launched in January of 1958, reestablishing the balance of technology.

A thaw occurred in 1959 when the superpower leaders met several times to engage in friendly discussions. This thaw was ruined by the U-2 Incident in May of 1960. An American U-2 spy plane was shot down that month over the Soviet Union. The pilot was captured and confessed to being on a photographic spy mission. President Dwight Eisenhower admitted that the United States was regularly flying spy missions over Soviet territory and refused to apologize. Further discussions planned between the two powers were canceled as a result.

Cuba. The island nation of Cuba is about 90 miles south of Florida. In 1959 a revolutionary group led by Fidel Castro overthrew the island's dictator and formed a new government. At first, the United States supported the change. However, beginning in 1960 Castro began to seize American businesses and property in Cuba. The United States responded by cutting off trade and diplomatic relations with the island. Castro answered by establishing trade relations with the Soviet Union and setting up a Communist government. The United States was deeply concerned about having a Communist neighbor.

Bay of Pigs. Many Cubans who opposed Castro fled to the United States as his policies became clear. These exiles organized an invasion of their homeland to overthrow the Castro dictatorship. The exiles were trained in Central America by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency of the United States) and were promised American fighter cover for the invasion. President Kennedy approved of the invasion. However, he refused to send military planes to protect the exiles as they landed at the Bay of Pigs in April of 1961. Without proper support, the exiles were squashed by Castro's forces. The entire fiasco damaged American prestige, especially in Latin America.

Cuban Missile Crisis. Castro was convinced by 1962 that the United States would eventually invade Cuba. He, therefore, arranged with the Soviets to install nuclear missiles in Cuba aimed at the United States. These would be in easy range of the major American cities of the east coast. Besides protecting Cuba, the weapons could be used to blackmail the United States in other areas of the world. By God's provision, the United States learned of the missile bases before they were completed. (They were picked up on reconnaissance photos).

President John F. Kennedy ordered a blockade of Cuba to prevent the missiles from being delivered. He then demanded the removal of the bases already in place. For several very tense days, no one knew if the Soviets would honor the blockade or start a war over it. Finally, the Soviet ships carrying the missiles turned back and, over Castro's protests, Khrushchev agreed to remove the bases. In exchange, the United States agreed not to invade Cuba.



| The Berlin Wall before 1989

Berlin Wall. In 1961 Berlin, Germany was still an occupied city divided into four zones. The World War II allies had not been able to reach an agreement on the reunification of the city and the country. The Soviet-held part of the city and nation had been made into a nominally independent Communist dictatorship. It was called the German Democratic Republic or East Germany. The western-held sectors had formed a republic named the Federal Republic of Germany or West Germany. West Germany, unlike its eastern counterpart, had regained its prosperity with the aid of the Marshall Plan. Political and economic conditions in East

Germany were so bad that almost 3 million citizens fled to the West. Most of the people fled through Berlin because the Communists had closed the rest of the border between the two nations. Facing a massive loss of workers, especially educated people, the Communists moved to stop the flood of refugees in August of 1961. In that month, they literally built a wall around the city of West Berlin to keep East Germans from reaching freedom there. Germans in the west called it *Schandmauer* (wall of shame). To most of the world, it was the Berlin Wall, the most infamous symbol of the Cold War.



Answer the following questions.

1.30 What ruined the American–Soviet thaw of 1959?

1.31 What nations attacked Egypt in 1956 to recover the Suez Canal?

- a. _____ b. _____
c. _____

1.32 Why was the Berlin Wall put up?

1.33 What happened at the Bay of Pigs in 1961?

1.34 Why did the U.S. blockade Cuba in 1962?

1.35 What triggered the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956?

Match the following.

1.36 _____ Sputnik

1.37 _____ Nasser

1.38 _____ Khrushchev

1.39 _____ Kennedy

1.40 _____ Castro

a. made Cuba Communist

b. seized the Suez Canal

c. a more cautious Soviet leader

d. world's first man-made satellite

e. ordered the blockade of Cuba

Vietnam War. The southeast Asian nations of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos were part of French Indochina before World War II. After the war, the French tried to reconquer their former colony. They were opposed by a Communist group, the Vietminh, led by a Vietnamese man named Ho Chi Minh. The United States aided the French effort as part of their world-wide fight against Communism. In 1954 the French were defeated and a peace treaty was signed in Geneva, Switzerland. The treaty arranged for the country to be temporarily divided at the 17th parallel until elections could be held.

Ho Chi Minh set up a Communist government in the northern sector. The southern leader, Ngo Dinh Diem, refused to allow elections because of the Communist track record of ignoring or subverting elections and because he preferred to remain in power. The United States agreed with Diem and began sending him aid. Diem was a corrupt and autocratic ruler who quickly alienated the peasant population of his nation. Moreover, the Communists had many supporters in South Vietnam who had fought for independence against the French. In 1957 the South Vietnamese Communists, the Viet Cong, rebelled against Diem with the support of North Vietnam. The North, in turn, received aid from the Soviet Union and China. The United States began sending more aid and military advisors to Diem's government.

Diem's misgovernment continued to worsen. In the early 1960s, he began to face protests from the majority Buddhists in his country (Diem was Roman Catholic) accusing him of curtailing their

religion. The situation reached crisis proportions when the government began raids on the Buddhist temples. When Diem refused to listen to reason, President Kennedy began supporting a group of opposition South Vietnamese generals. They staged a military coup in 1963. Diem was killed. The new government proved to be corrupt, unstable, and unable to win the support of the people who viewed it as an American creation.

Supporting this unpopular and unstable government, the United States began to take a larger and larger role in the war. In 1964 two American destroyers were reportedly fired upon by the North Vietnamese in the Gulf of Tonkin. (They were secretly supporting South Vietnamese raids on the North.) President Lyndon Johnson used this incident to request Congressional support for an even wider American role in the fighting. On August 7, 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave the president extensive authority to increase U.S. involvement. In March of 1965 the first American ground troops were sent in to fight.

The American troops were far better equipped and supplied than the Communist guerrillas they fought. However, they could not defeat an enemy who fought, faded away, and mixed in with the general population. The United States did extensive bombing in North Vietnam in an unsuccessful attempt to cut off supplies to the Viet Cong. However, in keeping with the policy of limited warfare, no attempt was made to conquer North Vietnam. There will always be

a question about this policy. Such an invasion might have truly ended the war, or it might have started World War III when the Soviets and Chinese came to North Vietnam's aid.

The war was, therefore, effectively fought to a draw with neither side able to gain a definite advantage. The South Vietnamese people were faced with the massive destruction of their land and population as the war dragged on. The continuing instability and unpopularity of the South Vietnamese government forced the United States to run the war itself. The cost and casualties began to grow at an alarming rate. By the end of the 1960s, the United States had over a half a million men fighting in Vietnam. (About 47,000 men died during the war.) In America, an increasingly liberal and political youth movement found a cause in opposing the war. Mass protests, anti-war slogans, and opposition to the **draft** made the war a difficult political and military issue.

In January of 1968, the Viet Cong launched a massive attack which coincided with the beginning of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year celebration. The Tet Offensive was thrown back by the United States and the South Vietnamese. The Viet Cong suffered massive casualties. However, the sheer size of the attack was a shock to the United States. No one had believed the Viet Cong were capable of mounting such a large, well-coordinated military offensive. Faced with such a capable and resolute enemy as well as mounting opposition at home, President Johnson authorized peace negotiations.

These negotiations failed, but the United States began to reduce its commitment to the war. President Richard Nixon began a policy of Vietnamization in 1969. This policy called for the training of South Vietnamese troops to gradually take over the war for themselves. The withdrawal of American troops was begun in the same year. However, fighting continued and even intensified as supply areas in neutral Cambodia were attacked in 1970. In 1972 the North Vietnamese launched a major invasion of the South. U.S. bombing and mining of northern harbors helped to stop the invasion, but the costs were high on both sides.

Peace talks were reopened in Paris after the failed invasion. An agreement was signed in January of 1973. It allowed for return of prisoners, withdrawal of American troops, and internationally monitored elections to decide the fate of the entire nation. The elections were never held. Fighting began again after the last American troops left. Congress continued to reduce the aid sent to the South Vietnamese government. The North Vietnamese increased their attacks in the light of U.S. pacifism. As Communist troops swept into South Vietnam, Congress refused to send aid to its former ally. American citizens and many desperate South Vietnamese fled the country. The capital city of Saigon fell in April of 1975 and was renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

The loss of Vietnam and the controversy that surrounded it marked America. America has since been a more cynical nation, less willing to trust both its leaders and itself. The policy of containment officially continued, but Americans were less sure of their role in the Cold War.



| Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Wall, Washington, D.C.



Choose the correct letter.

- 1.41 _____ Viet Cong
- 1.42 _____ Ho Chi Minh
- 1.43 _____ Vietminh
- 1.44 _____ Nixon
- 1.45 _____ Johnson
- 1.46 _____ Ngo Dinh Diem
- a. North Vietnamese Communists
- b. Vietnamese Communist leader
- c. corrupt South Vietnamese leader
- d. asked Congress to support wider American involvement
- e. South Vietnamese Communists
- f. began policy of Vietnamization

Complete the following sentences.

- 1.47 Vietnam, like Korea, was a _____ war.
- 1.48 The _____ was passed by Congress in 1964 and allowed the president to expand American involvement in Vietnam.
- 1.49 Saigon was renamed _____ after the fall of South Vietnam.
- 1.50 _____ refused to send aid to South Vietnam as it was invaded in 1975.
- 1.51 The _____ was a well-coordinated, large-scale Viet Cong attack that began during the Vietnamese New Year celebration.

Invasion of Czechoslovakia. The economy of Czechoslovakia had done poorly under Communism. By the 1960s many voices, even within the government, were calling for reform. In 1968 a reform-minded man by the name of Alexander Dubcek became the Communist Party leader. He instituted a series of reforms that became known as the Prague Spring. The other Communist leaders in Europe became nervous as Czechoslovakia increased personal freedoms and decreased controls. In August of 1968, troops from the Soviet Union and four Warsaw Pact nations invaded. The Soviet troops remained, and the reforms were reversed. The government was a faithful Soviet ally for the remainder of the Cold War.

Détente. China and the Soviet Union came into increasing conflict with each other as the 1950s ended. Mao Zedong, China's dictator, was a true believer in Communism. He tried repeatedly to make China a classless, revolutionary society and did great damage in the process. He thought the Soviet Union's willingness to negotiate with the West was a betrayal of Communism and a threat to the security of China. In 1960 the Soviet Union stopped sending China technical assistance. After the United States and the Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty in 1963, China broke off relations with the Soviet Union. The two nations fought each other in a series of border clashes in 1969.

The United States realized that it could use the Communist split to pit the two Communist powers against each other. In 1972 President Richard Nixon made a historic trip to Communist China. Although it accomplished little in terms of results, the meeting began to open the door to that previously closed nation. Unfortunately, this also led to the recognition of the People's Republic of China as the real government of China in 1979. This was unfortunate because in doing so the United States ceased to recognize the government of Taiwan which had been an American ally for so long.

Relations between the United States and the Soviet Union continued to improve during this period of time. Nixon also visited Moscow to discuss cuts in the awesome nuclear arms race between the two nations. Several agreements were reached under a series of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). A second group of agreements, SALT II, was signed in 1979 but never ratified because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in that year. This period of thaw was called *détente*. It comes from the French word for loosening and refers to an easing of tensions between nations.

Invasion of Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a small Islamic nation located just south of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. In 1979 those nations were part of the Soviet Union, and Afghanistan was a tempting target on the southern border of the Soviet Union. A pro-Soviet faction had taken control of the Afghan government in 1978 in a bloody coup. In 1979 the Soviet Union sent in troops to support another coup that installed a more solidly Communist regime. These troops spread out over the nation to insure the establishment of a successful Communist government. They were met by determined resistance from Muslim rebels who effectively fought a guerrilla war much like the Viet Cong had in southeast Asia.

This aggression instantly chilled relations with the United States. It was proof that the fine words and careful advances of *détente* had not changed Soviet goals or methods. The United States halted sales of grain to the Soviet Union and refused to participate in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

The United States also sent extensive aid to the Islamic guerrillas who successfully harassed the Soviet troops, killing perhaps 15,000 of them over a nine-year period. The Soviet Union never gained control of the rugged Afghan countryside. In 1988, the Soviet Union accepted a UN-mediated agreement and withdrew its soldiers by February of 1989.

Solidarity. Poland, like most of the East European nations, was only Communist because the Soviet Union would not allow it to be otherwise. The indestructible Roman Catholic Church in Poland gave the people a source of strength that was increased in 1978 when a Polish cardinal, Karol Wojtyla, became Pope John Paul II. Poland's economic condition in the late 1970s was poor. The nation suffered from high prices and a shortage of consumer goods that was **endemic** to Communist regimes.

A huge, nationwide strike by workers demanding better pay, free trade unions, and political reforms took place in 1980 and spread rapidly. The Communist government decided to meet most of the demands and in November recognized the first free (non-government) trade union in a Communist nation, Solidarity. Solidarity was led by an electrician named Lech Walesa. Walesa continued to demand

economic and political reforms as the country's economy deteriorated in 1980-81. In December of 1981, under pressure from the Soviet Union to control his country, Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Communist Party, declared martial law and arrested the leaders of Solidarity. In October of the following year, he outlawed the organization entirely. The leaders were not killed, however. They were slowly released over the next few years as the government became more certain of its control.

Solidarity caught the imagination of the West. Many people thought that a Communist nation would finally break free of its chains. The imposition of martial law was yet another indication of how committed the Communists were to maintaining their autocratic system. Thus, *détente* had collapsed and many felt that the Cold War would never end. However, they did not know God's plans.



Answer the following questions.

1.52 What was Solidarity?

1.53 What was the Prague Spring and how did it end?

1.54 What were the positive and negative results of the American overtures toward China in the early 1970s?

1.55 Why did the Soviets invade Afghanistan?

1.56 How did the United States react to the Afghan invasion?

1.57 What is *détente*?

1.58 How did the Communists stop Solidarity?

1.59 What was SALT and what did it accomplish?

THE END OF THE COLD WAR

Mikhail Gorbachev. Nikita Khrushchev had been removed from power and “retired” in 1964. He was replaced by Leonid Brezhnev, who died in 1982. The next two Soviet leaders died very quickly, Yuri V. Andropov in 1984, and Konstantin U. Chernenko in 1985. In 1985 the youngest member of the ruling Politburo, Mikhail Gorbachev, was chosen to be the seventh leader of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. He was to be the last.

Stalin had essentially killed off any capable person in the party who might eventually challenge his power. Gorbachev was young enough that he was not in the Party during the **purges** under Stalin. Thus, Gorbachev was not one of

the non-thinking, bureaucrats who were the only survivors of Stalin’s capricious anger.

Gorbachev recognized how far the Soviet Union was falling behind the United States in technology and infrastructure. He also realized the Soviet economy was in trouble. Communism did not reward good workers, and the economy barely functioned. Moreover, the cost of maintaining the Soviet military machine (mired in Afghanistan at the time) and supporting pro-Communist groups worldwide was staggering. He also seemed to genuinely favor reforming the bleak, restrictive Soviet society. In any case, Gorbachev began a series of startling reforms that changed the world.

Gorbachev allowed a policy of political reform called *glasnost* (openness), and he began a series of economic reforms known as *perestroika* (restructuring). Gorbachev met several times with President Ronald Reagan and signed an agreement to eliminate certain types of nuclear weapons in Europe. Gorbachev also allowed the people a choice of candidates in elections for a restructured Soviet government. All of the candidates came from the Communist Party, but they represented different factions, and those favoring reform were elected in greater numbers. Gorbachev withdrew Soviet troops from Afghanistan, promised to reduce the military budget, and made it clear the Soviet Union would no longer use force to support Communist governments in Eastern Europe.

The United States responded very cautiously to the Gorbachev storm. President Reagan was a staunch anti-Communist who knew their reputation for deceit. He met with the new Soviet leader and welcomed the reforms. However, he continued to maintain American military readiness and was unwilling to assume the Cold War was over. The world press began to portray Gorbachev as a peacemaker and Reagan as the aggressor in the still-running conflict. In fact, there was a large group of Communists in the Soviet Union who were opposed to Gorbachev's reforms. The reforms would end if he fell from power, and that was a very real possibility.

Revolution of 1989. The conservative Communists in the Soviet Union received an unbelievable shock in 1989. Eastern Europe had endured the chains of Communism since World War II. They would endure them no longer. Protests against Communist rule broke out all over the Communist Bloc. The East European governments began to listen or fall.

Hungary began by exonerating the leaders of their 1956 revolt against the Communists. The government then voted to increase personal freedom and allow the formation of other political parties, making Hungary a multi-party democracy, not a Communist dictatorship.



| Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR

Hungary also opened its border with Austria. Thousands of East Germans took advantage of this to go through Hungary and Austria to freedom in West Germany. East Germany once again faced the crisis of a massive loss of population. In November of 1989, East Germany accepted the inevitable and opened its border with the West. In Berlin, people began to climb over the “Wall of Shame,” and guards no longer shot them for doing so. Armed with sledgehammers, picks, hammers, and anything else they could find, the people of Berlin began to tear down the wall. The entire world watched in awe to see it fall. With a rapidity that was nothing short of astonishing, Germany was reunited as one nation in October of 1990.

A transition government was formed in Czechoslovakia after massive street protests. The government was led by a dissident playwright, Vaclav Havel. He ran the government smoothly until free elections in 1990 put non-Communists in power. In 1992 the nation split into two parts, the Czech Republic and Slovakia; the split reflected the ethnic differences. These events were named “the Velvet Revolution” and “the Velvet Divorce.”

The cruel Communist dictator of Romania was executed in 1989 after rebels from his own army rose against him. The dictator of Bulgaria was forced to resign and was imprisoned for corruption. Both countries held free elections in 1990.

The governments of Yugoslavia and Albania followed with free elections in 1990 and 1991. Albanians fled from their poverty-stricken country by the thousands in the early 1990s to seek better economic conditions elsewhere. Yugoslavia, home to several ethnic groups that hated each other, split into five nations in 1991. These new countries rapidly became entangled in civil wars between the various groups who competed for control of the land. The Serbs of

Bosnia-Herzegovina were especially aggressive and inhumane in their lust for territory. By the mid-1990s, the wars had killed thousands and driven thousands of others from their homes.

The destruction of the Berlin Wall was the key point for the end of Communism in Eastern Europe. It was the most significant symbol of the division of Europe between free and Communist. The United States welcomed the events of 1989 and was delighted when the Soviet Union did not interfere. However, the U.S.S.R. was still officially Communist and very powerful. Many knowledgeable people were concerned that the matter was not yet settled.



Complete the following sentences.

- 1.60** Gorbachev's two key reforms were _____ and _____.
- 1.61** _____ led the transition government in Czechoslovakia.
- 1.62** The dictator of _____ was executed after a rebellion by the army.
- 1.63** _____ split into five nations after the fall of Communism.
- 1.64** The event that marks the end of Communism in Eastern Europe was the destruction of the _____.
- 1.65** East Germany opened its borders with the West because so many of its people were _____.

Answer true or false.

- 1.66** _____ Hungary continues to look at the leaders of their 1956 revolt as criminals.
- 1.67** _____ Gorbachev was the youngest member of the Politburo when he was chosen to lead the Soviet Union.
- 1.68** _____ The United States was cautious about believing Gorbachev's reforms were permanent.
- 1.69** _____ Albania was an unusually prosperous Communist nation that suffered no substantial population loss when its borders were opened.
- 1.70** _____ The two Germanys began negotiations to reunite, but had not come to terms by the mid-1990s.

Fall of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union consisted of fifteen “republics” similar to provinces or states. The government of the republic of Russia quickly became very reform-minded after Gorbachev’s perestroika. It was led by Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin had the distinction of being thrown out of the Soviet Politburo in 1987 for advocating radical economic reform. He won his presidency in a contested election in 1991. He rapidly became a popular and powerful figure, especially since Gorbachev had not been freely elected to any post.

In August of 1991, the Republics were to sign a new Union treaty which would give them greater **autonomy**. The conservatives, however, had enough. Led by Gorbachev’s vice president, the anti-reform Communists took control of the government in Moscow. They confined Gorbachev at his country home and declared a state of emergency. Boris Yeltsin called on the people to oppose the coup. Thousands demonstrated in support of him, and many of the army units refused to accept orders from the “emergency” government. The coup collapsed in three days. Gorbachev was restored, but Yeltsin was now the real power in the Soviet Union.

Immediately after the coup, all activities of the Communist Party were suspended in the Soviet Union. Yeltsin ordered his people to take control of all government functions within the Russian Republic. In November, Yeltsin banned the Communist Party in Russia and seized its assets. By the end of the year, the republics had decided that they did not want a new central government over them. Instead, they agreed to form a loose confederation. On December 25, 1991 Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as the last president of the Union of

Soviet Socialist Republics. The following day the Soviet Union was formally dissolved, and the Commonwealth of Independent States which comprised eleven of the fifteen former republics took its place.

After the fall. Reforms in the new Commonwealth countries have been hampered by rising crime rates, widespread unemployment, and a simple lack of knowledge on how to run private businesses. There have been several conflicts between ethnic groups in the new countries. A power struggle between Yeltsin and the Russian Parliament (still dominated by former Communists) resulted in the army being called in to seize the Parliament building in 1993. However, the most striking change in the former Soviet Union has been spiritual. There is a deep, insatiable hunger for the Word of God in Russia. Many people have become Christians. However, many cults are exploiting this hunger to their own advantage. Moreover, the Russian Orthodox Church (which survived the Communist era by cooperating with the government) seeks to exclude all who are not of its faith. The challenges are many for these people who have known only slavery and spiritual darkness for their entire lives.

Conclusion. The United States won the Cold War. It was a victory that went to the survivor. It left behind a huge debt, a massive cache of nuclear weapons, and a freer world. The long struggle exhausted both of the superpowers. However, the vital, free American economy was able to survive the pressure. The post-Cold War world is a very complicated place. It is not clear what new alliances will rise out of its ashes. This is where our record of history stops and you begin to observe history as it is made.

**Complete the following.**

1.71 _____ was the elected president of Russia who led the resistance to the Communist coup in 1991.

1.72 The Communist coup attempt collapsed in _____ days.

1.73 What are the problems that face the countries of the former Soviet Union?

1.74 _____ was thrown out of the Politburo in 1987 for advocating rapid reforms.

1.75 Why did the coup attempt by the Communists fail in 1991?

1.76 Eleven of the original fifteen republics of the Soviet Union formed the _____ in 1991.

Complete the following activity.

You have studied the reality of Communism in this LIFEPAK. Research the theory of Communism as it was written by Marx. Then answer these two questions (one page each).

1.77 Why were people attracted by Communism?

1.78 What are the flaws you can find in Communist *theory*?

TEACHER CHECK

_____ initials

_____ date



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Choose the correct letter to identify the person (each answer, 2 points).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1.01 _____ Joseph Stalin</p> <p>1.02 _____ Mao Zedong</p> <p>1.03 _____ Fidel Castro</p> <p>1.04 _____ Ho Chi Minh</p> <p>1.05 _____ Lech Walesa</p> <p>1.06 _____ Mikhail Gorbachev</p> <p>1.07 _____ Douglas MacArthur</p> <p>1.08 _____ Gamal Abdel Nasser</p> <p>1.09 _____ John F. Kennedy</p> <p>1.010 _____ Harry Truman</p> | <p>a. last president of the U.S.S.R.</p> <p>b. leader of Solidarity</p> <p>c. Egyptian president</p> <p>d. Soviet leader, began the Cold War</p> <p>e. American president during Cuban Missile Crisis</p> <p>f. Cuban Communist leader</p> <p>g. Chinese Communist leader</p> <p>h. Korean War military commander</p> <p>i. Vietnamese Communist leader</p> <p>j. American president who formulated containment policy</p> |
|--|--|

Complete the sentences using the answers below (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Pusan Perimeter | Bay of Pigs | Sputnik |
| <i>Détente</i> | General Assembly | Warsaw Pact |
| SALT | Security Council | Solidarity |
| Gulf of Tonkin Resolution | | |

- 1.011** U.S.-trained Cuban exiles tried to invade Cuba at the _____.
- 1.012** The first satellite ever launched into earth's orbit was the Soviet _____.
- 1.013** All countries in the United Nations are represented in the _____.
- 1.014** The Cold War "thaw" of the 1970s was called _____.
- 1.015** The military alliance between the Soviet Union and its satellites was called _____.
- 1.016** The UN _____ is responsible for world peace and has five permanent members who have a veto over decisions.

- 1.017** The _____ gave the president extensive authority to increase American involvement in the Vietnam War.
- 1.018** The first free trade union in a Communist country was _____.
- 1.019** The initial invasion by the North Koreans in 1950 drove the Allied troops back to _____.
- 1.020** _____ was a series of agreements between the superpowers to reduce the number of nuclear weapons each held.

Complete the following sentences (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.021** The most infamous symbol of the Cold War was the _____ which divided the German capital.
- 1.022** The United States gave billions of dollars to rebuild post-World War II Europe under the _____ to prevent Communism from growing there.
- 1.023** The United States blockaded Cuba to prevent nuclear weapons from being installed there during the _____.
- 1.024** The Soviets cut off access to Berlin by land during the _____; so the city was supplied by air for almost a year.
- 1.025** The Western democracies formed a mutual defense alliance called _____ after World War II to face the growing Soviet threat.

Complete the following activity (5 points).

- 1.026** Describe the American policy of containment.

Choose the correct country from the list below (each answer, 3 points).

China
Afghanistan

Poland
Soviet Union

Czechoslovakia

- 1.027 _____ Communists drove out the Nationalists, who took refuge on the island of Taiwan.
- 1.028 _____ Prague Spring of 1968 was crushed by the Warsaw Pact.
- 1.029 _____ A U-2 spy plane from the United States was shot down in 1960.
- 1.030 _____ Communists were never able to take full control of the country due to American-backed Muslim rebels.
- 1.031 _____ The Catholic Church gave strength to the founders of Solidarity.

Choose one of the following topics and discuss it in a detailed paragraph (25 points).

- 1.032 Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe
- The Causes and Course of the Korean War
- The Causes and Conclusion of the Vietnam War

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	_____	_____
			initials	date



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