

Unit 9 - Cold War and Contemporary Europe

Guided Notes ANSWERS

Rebuilding Europe

Question	Notes	Extra Information
<p>How did the United States use the Marshall Plan as a means to strengthen democracy in Europe?</p>	<p>The US offered money to any European country that was struggling to rebuild after World War II as long as they promised to implement a democratic government. These countries would serve as the US allies and buffer during the 50 years of the Cold War.</p>	<p>World War II created a power vacuum as it left the former center of International politics, Europe, devastated. The US, the only industrial nation at the time that was still intact, stepped in to fill that vacuum, and it used the Marshall Plan as means to strengthen the other Western Democracies to counter the perceived threat of communism from the Soviet Union.</p> <p>Countered by the Soviet Union who offered money to the Eastern European States who embraced Communism, to rebuild after World War II.</p>
<p>Compare and contrast the Dawes Plan and the Marshall Plan in terms of their motivations and their successes as related to rebuilding Europe after war.</p>	<p>Dawes Plan - Banks supplied the money specifically to Germany to help it rebuild. In turn Germany could use the money to pay off the reparations it owed to Britain and France which would help them rebuild.</p> <p>Marshall Plan - Rather than private banks supplying the money and filtering the aid to most of Europe through one country, Germany, the Marshall Plan was federally funded and provided direct aid to the individual countries.</p> <p>Both plans were examples of</p>	<p>Marshall Plan is an early example of containment. The stronger the US could help make the Western European Democracies the more likely they would be able to fend off the spread of Communism from Eastern Europe.</p>

	<p>realpolitik as they were both ultimately means of helping to stabilize Europe to avoid another War which would inevitably benefit the United States.</p>	
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The Cold War

Question	Notes	Extra Information
<p>Identify and explain when and why the Cold War began between the United States and the Soviet Union.</p>	<p>Stalin's reneging on his word to allow the Eastern European countries to hold free elections after World War II increased an already existing distrust of Stalin that the West, specifically the United States had. This distrust would continue to intensify over the next 50 years throughout the Cold War.</p> <p>Division of Germany - Potsdam Conference - Germany had been divided after World War II into 4 occupation Zones, with each of the 4 members of the Allies controlling one sector. - Within the sector controlled by the USSR was the German capital and center of its industry Berlin. -Ultimately due to ideological differences as well as different beliefs on how to control Germany, there was no way for the 4 allies to continue to work together and Germany was divided into communist East Germany and democratic West Germany - Berlin was also divided, creating an island of</p>	<p>Unlike a Hot War there is no defining event that can be pinpointed as the start of the Cold War. However there are numerous events that one could argue started the Cold War.</p> <p>1918 - US failed to recognize Bolshevik regime - some historians will point to this as the start of the Cold War</p> <p>Death of FDR and Truman's Presidency - Stalin's relationship with FDR was one of respect, at least on Stalin's side. However, when Roosevelt suddenly died in 1945 and Truman became president that same respect that Stalin had for FDR did not transfer over, and the relationship between the two Allies quickly deteriorated.</p> <p>The Kennan Telegram - in 1946 George Kennan, the US Ambassador to the Soviet Union sent a telegram to Washington stating that Stalin and his regime were evil and not to be trusted. This was the first time that anyone had written down or recorded the distrust that the</p>

	<p>democracy in the middle of a sea of communism -This divide was a physical manifestation of the ideological divide that would define the next 50 years.</p> <p>Churchill’s Iron Curtain Speech - In 1946 Winston Churchill gave a speech declaring that an “Iron Curtain” had befallen Europe, dividing it East and West with communism taking hold in the East and democracy taking hold in the West. - This speech was one of the first articulations of the divide that would define the Cold War.</p> <p>Arms Race was probably the scariest and most prominent aspect of the Cold War. It was initiated by the United States with the Manhattan Project and the establishment of the Atomic Bombs that were dropped on Japan at the end of World War II. It wasn’t long before the Soviets also produced nuclear weapons and the two sides proceeded to build up their arsenals, and supply their allies with nuclear capabilities. The fear that this created was a major contributor to the tensions that defined the Cold War.</p>	<p>US had for Stalin and his regime.</p> <p>Just as we can’t pinpoint one date as the start, we also can’t pinpoint one reason for the onset of the Cold War. More likely it is a combination of a number of different things.</p> <p>Bi-Polar World with Two Big Superpowers - this goes along with the fact that WWII established a power vacuum in Europe and it was the US and the USSR who were first to fill that vacuum. The two countries established themselves as Superpowers and for the next 50 years the two competed with each other for the support and alliance of countries throughout the world. -</p> <p>Mirror Imaging - Misperceptions - this theory is based on the idea that it didn’t matter what the US did or the USSR did, the other was going to see it as bad and evil, while seeing all of their own decisions as good and right.</p>
<p>Even Though the Cold War was a period where there were no direct conflicts between the US and the Soviet Union, it identified how both nations used “proxy wars” to advance their objectives.</p>	<p>Korean War - in the 1950s the United States through its enrollment in the UN sent troops to defend South Korea against Communist North Korea. This was a localized civil war, however both Communist</p>	<p>Berlin Airlift - Since Berlin, the capital and industrial center of Germany, was inside the Soviet occupied zone of Germany, the democratic Allies, the US, Britain and France, could not just cede Berlin to the Soviet</p>

	<p>USSR and Communist China were feeding money and supplies into North Korea, and the United States through the veil of the United Nations was helping the South Korean effort. In the end it ended with the establishment of a demilitarized zone at the 38th parallel, dividing North and South Korea, with the North remaining communist and the South democratic.</p> <p>Vietnam War - In 1960s and 70s the United States sent troops to Vietnam in a “police action” in an attempt to stop the spread of communism from North Vietnam into South Vietnam. The aim here was to provide enough aid to noncommunist South Vietnam so that it could fend off the advances of communist North Vietnam. Again this was not a direct conflict between the US and the USSR however, both countries aided their respective sides with money, armaments and in the case of the US men.</p> <p>NATO - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was a military alliance between the Western Democracies. Together they pledged to defend each other against the spread of communism.</p> <p>Warsaw Pact - The Warsaw Pact was created in response to NATO and similarly it was a military alliance designed to defend each other against the</p>	<p>Union. It was decided to divide Berlin into 4 occupations zones as well, thus creating East and West Berlin. West Berlin was the democratic side, and it was essentially trapped in the middle of a sea of communism. The Soviet Union wanted to push their former allies out of Berlin and proceeded to shut down all trade and travel in and out of West Berlin, hoping to choke the Allies out. This ended in a giant game of chicken between the US and their allies began to airlift supplies into West Berlin. At any moment a hot war could have broken out between the sides, but in the end the Soviet Union backed down and reopened access in and out of West Berlin.</p> <p>Cuban Missile Crisis - like the Berlin Airlift, this was a close call in terms of ending in a direct conflict between the two Superpowers. In response to the US putting nuclear weapons in Turkey aimed at Moscow, the USSR put nuclear weapons in Cuba aimed at the United States. Once again the US and the USSR found themselves engaged in a giant game of chicken, and for 13 days the world held their breath before ultimately the USSR backed down and removed the weapons and President Kennedy’s request.</p> <p>Afghanistan - The Soviet Union, which borders Afghanistan, wanted to</p>
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	<p>democracies of the West.</p>	<p>impose a communist dictatorship there that would be a puppet of the Soviet Government. The US under Ronald Reagan backed the Taliban as it was not Communist. This was a successful attempt by the US to contain communism even though the US was not defending a democracy.</p>
<p>What methods did the US and the Soviet Union use, other than military conflict, to gain allies and strengthen their respective positions in the world?</p>	<p>International Monetary Fund - this was a means of providing monetary aid to struggling nations. This was a tool used by the democratic West to encourage democracy and gain allies.</p> <p>Council for Mutual Economic Assistance - this was the Soviet Union's response to the IMF, and its way of providing economic reinforcements to the Warsaw Pact countries. This aid bound those states economically to the Soviet Union and to each other in order to prevent them from becoming vulnerable to democracy.</p> <p>The Soviet Union also implemented an extensive Social Welfare system that would protect the people within. Everyone was guaranteed housing and a job, and even though these were of poor quality, it provided a sense of comfort to the people knowing that they would be taken care of and it made them loyal to the government.</p>	<p>Aid to African countries like Ethiopia were used to buy influence during the Cold War</p> <p>Realpolitik - just as Bismark during the Unification of Germany made decisions that would benefit his goal of Unification regardless of the morality of the actions, so did the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.</p>
<p>What was the purpose behind the Berlin Wall and how did it reflect the strict control that</p>	<p>Since democratic West Berlin was located inside communist controlled East</p>	<p>The Berlin Wall was constructed essentially overnight, dividing families of</p>

<p>Stalin implemented over Eastern Europe?</p>	<p>Germany it became a means of escape for people who felt trapped in East Berlin and East Germany. The Soviet Union and the East German Government needed to stop the exodus, and so they created a secret police that was used to root out dissenters amongst the populations of the Warsaw Pact Countries including East Germany and the Soviet Union.</p> <p>In 1961 the Soviet Union sponsored the construction of the Berlin Wall which was a physical divide between East and West Berlin. The Wall trapped the population of East Berlin in, making it nearly impossible for them to continue to escape through West Berlin.</p>	<p>which many did not see each other in person for decades.</p>
<p>Explain how Stalin's death changed the relationship between the western democracies and the Soviet Union, and how it influenced movements within the Eastern Bloc countries.</p>	<p>When Krushchev became the new Premier of the Soviet Union he put into place the de-Stalinization program. The relationship with the United States seemed to somewhat ease during this period. Krushchev also eased soviet control over the Eastern Bloc countries, allowing them some autonomy. These reforms, all though moral and good, were harmful to the Soviet Union's control over Eastern Europe and as a result cracks seem to form in the Soviet Sphere of Influence.</p> <p>1956 Hungarian Revolution - unrest in Hungary was crushed by forces sent into Hungary by the Soviet Union.</p>	<p>1960 - Sino-Soviet Split - as shocking as this was to the rest of the world, communist China broke its alliance with the Soviet Union after it reneged on the promise to provide nuclear weapons to China.</p> <p>1963 - Romania tried to gain independence and Soviet Union stopped it with military force</p> <p>1968 - Soviet Union sent military forced into Czechoslovakia to stop the reform movement</p>

	<p>1980 - Solidarity formed in Poland. Solidarity was a labor union that formed in Poland. It took 9 years for the movement to reach a point where Poland would gain its independence, but the emergence of it here was a reflection of the cracks that were forming in the Soviet Sphere.</p>	
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The Fall of the Soviet Union

Question	Notes	Extra Information
<p>Identify the various possible causes for the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.</p>	<p>When the Soviet Union finally fell in 1991 a number of theories formed to explain its collapse. It is most likely a combination of the pressures from a number of different sources that ultimately caused the breakup of the Soviet Union.</p> <p>When Mikhail Gorbachev took over as Premier of the Soviet Union he attempted to strengthen the state by instituting two new policies, Perestroika and Glasnost. Perestroika was a means of implementing economic reforms and allowing into the USSR bits of capitalism, such as private property. Glasnost allowed for the free exchange of ideas into and out of the Soviet Union. These two policies opened a can of worms they could not contain. As people gained more and more access to goods and ideas from the West the more they would want. These added to the pressure that would</p>	<p>Gorbachev was the first Soviet Premier to have graduated from college and</p> <p>Implosion Theory - the base that it was founded on were the seeds of its destruction - devoid of creativity, competition and incentive communism does not allow for society to continue to advance, and therefore it could not keep up with the democracies of the West.</p> <p>Boris Yeltsin the mayor of Moscow, possibly in an attempt for himself to gain more power pushed for democratic reforms. In a coup, Yeltsin overthrew Gorbachev and became the first elected President of Russia.</p> <p>Strategic Overstretch - because the USSR had falsely inflated its economy in an attempt to keep up with and compete with the economic growth of the United States, it did not really have the</p>

	<p>ultimately cause the collapse of the USSR.</p> <p>In the late 80s there was increased pressure coming from within many of the Eastern Bloc Countries to end communism. By 1989 the Solidarity movement in Poland had become a political movement that successfully established a democracy within Poland, ending 50 years of communist control. Also in 1989 the Berlin Wall was torn down by the populations of East and West Berlin, signifying an end to communism in Germany and a move towards the reunification of the German state as a democratic state. The pressure from these states as well as others contributed to the ultimate collapse of the USSR in 1991.</p>	<p>resources needed to maintain the influence and power it claimed to have. In essence the USSR had spread itself too thin and ultimately it could not afford to continue any longer.</p>
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Nationalism & Atrocities

Question	Notes	Extra Information
<p>How did the collapse of the Soviet Union lead to a rise in nationalism throughout Eastern Europe and how did that lead to conflicts and atrocities in the former Eastern Bloc?</p>	<p>Communist quelled Nationalism throughout the Soviet sphere of influence, and when the Soviet Union collapsed cultures and traditions that had been suppressed by communism reemerged. Most of the states that made up the former Soviet Union gained their independence, however Russia wanted to keep control of those states that resources and benefits that it wanted.</p> <p>Chechnya was one of those regions. When the USSR</p>	<p>In the early stages of the Soviet Union the communist government engaged in a policy known as Russification. In order to accomplish this Russians were sent to live throughout the Soviet states, the idea was to create one unified culture and to do this they had to suppress all of the nationalities that made up the new Soviet Union. This policy was fine as long as the USSR was strong and united, but once the cracks started to form, and the nationalities started to re-emerge and vie</p>

	<p>collapsed in 1991 a Chechen Muslim organization known as the Chechen Nationalist Movement declared independence from Russia. Even though Russia never formally recognized Chechnyan independence in 1994 it reasserted its control. This led to violent conflicts between the two that did not end until 2017 and with Russia maintaining full control over Chechnya.</p> <p>Similar to the way that communism suppressed nationalism in the USSR it did so in Yugoslavia under Josef Tito. However, when Tito died, nationalist movements throughout Yugoslavia vied for their independence. It is important to note that when Yugoslavia was created a number of different ethnic groups were forced to live together, so when Tito died and these ethnic groups reasserted themselves, conflicts between them also re-emerged. Ultimately this led to a genocide of Bosnian Muslims at the hands of Slobadan Milosevec.</p>	<p>for independent rule.</p> <p>Ukraine is another former Soviet State, that Russia never really wanted to let go of. In 2022 under the leadership of Putin, Russia has decided to start a war in Ukraine in order to force it back under Russian control.</p>
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The European Union

Question	Notes	Extra Information
<p>In a Bi-Polar World where the United States and The Soviet Union economically dominated the world market, how did the European Countries compete?</p>	<p>In order to compete with the economic powers of the US and the USSR, six European states realized that they needed to work together and so in 1951 they established the European Coal and Steel</p>	<p>Compare the European Union to the Zollverien</p> <p>The European Union was also responsible in a small way to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the</p>

	<p>Community. This evolved over the years, adding more and more European states as it turned into a common market with the 1957 creation of the EEC (The European Economic Community). The Common Market allowed the member states to compete with the United States and the Soviet Union.</p>	<p>Cold War. The Economic Pressure that the</p>
<p>Explain how nationalism played a role in Britain's choice to exit the European Union.</p>	<p>In 1993, after the Cold War ended, the EEC became the European Union. The seven bodies that regulated and controlled EU policies placed a lot of restrictions on the member states. Britain, which had never joined the EU's single currency, because it did not want to give up the use of the pound, also found itself unhappy with the regulations that the EU were imposing on them. One of the aspects of the EU that the British seemed most unhappy with was the free movement of people. Members of the British Conservative Party staged campaigns to convince the population that the state's involvement in the EU was hurting them economically, and in 2016 Britain voted to leave the EU in what has become known as Brexit.</p>	<p>Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister of Great Britain since 2019 led the British exit from the EU after his predecessor Theresa May stepped down, after facing opposition from her own party over how to carry out Brexit.</p>

Contemporary Western Democracies

Questions	Notes	Extra Information
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<p>Explain how and why Western Democracies like Great Britain responded to the end of World War II with socialist reforms.</p>	<p>The devastation of World War II left the populations of Europe weak and vulnerable, struggling to find a sense of stability. Many of the Western Democracies implement social reforms that would provide government care and aid to the populations, such the British Labor Party which implemented a “cradle-to-grave” social welfare program.</p>	<p>The Beveridge Report was written during World War II and was a criticism of Churchill’s domestic policies and plan to implement social reforms that would protect the people of Britain from “the cradle to the grave” This report is a large part of why the Labor Party took over the British government after the War.</p> <p>In the 1980s Britain’s First Female Prime Minister, a member of the conservative party, made it her goal to privatize the UK, this would roll back many of the social reforms implemented after World War II.</p>
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Globalization

Questions	Notes	Extra Information
<p>How did new technology change the cultural atmosphere of the world?</p>	<p>The evolution of communication from telegraphs to telephones to the internet made the world seem like a much smaller place. People were able to exchange information and ideas in real time. Coupled with improved and less expensive air travel people were able to experience first hand other cultures, traditions, and histories.</p>	<p>Cultural Diffusion - this was a two way street as US music, movies and television shows filtered into Europe, so did the European culture spread to the US and the rest of the world. A prime example would be the Beatles.</p>
<p>How did Globalization influence the international focus on the environment?</p>	<p>The Green Party was an international phenomenon established in reaction to the environmental concerns caused by Industrialization. This was a unifying danger as it affected everyone, and led to international efforts to try and roll back the damage that</p>	

	<p>had been done. The Green Party not only took root in the individual countries of Europe, but in the European Parliament as well, and it influenced numerous EU regulations on the industries and economies of its member states.</p>	
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Medical Technology

Questions	Notes	Extra Information
<p>Explain both the positive and negative implications of the medical advancements of the 20th and 21st centuries.</p>	<p>Positive - new vaccines, therapies and medications, such as chemotherapy, led to increased life expectancies.</p> <p>However with these new technologies came some serious moral issues that divided people based on their religious and ethical beliefs.</p> <p>One example was abortion which had become increasing safe for the health of mothers. This had a positive impact on the feminist movement and the quality of life of many women, however because certain religions believe abortion to be ethically wrong, this created a bitter divide in the populations between Pro-life and Pro-choice activists.</p>	<p>There are also moral and ethical concerns with the use of medical advances that were learned by the Nazi physicians who experimented on victims of the Holocaust.</p>

Migration and Immigration

Questions	Notes	Extra Information
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<p>How did globalization influence the immigration movements into Europe?</p>	<p>Increase in immigration resulted from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Industrialization ● Decolonization <p>Anti-Immigration movements - in the 1970s Europe faced an economic downturn. At the time many of these countries were running social welfare states, and with a rising population the cost of these programs was increasing faster than the tax base could afford. This led to a rise in the popularity of conservative parties like the National Front in France that wanted to roll back these programs.</p>	<p>Immigration from former Eastern Bloc countries</p> <p>Refugees</p> <p>Margaret Thatcher can be compared to the National Front in France in terms of her stance on privatization.</p>
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Feminism

Questions	Notes	Extra Information
<p>Identify and explain how the Second Wave of Feminism improved the lives of women throughout Europe.</p>	<p>With the end of World War II came the implementation of women’s suffrage in most of the European countries, although Switzerland seemed to lag behind the rest, implementing the vote for women in 1971. As a result of this new political voice, women were able to make even more strides, this was the Second Wave of Feminism. Women like the French writer, Simone de Bouvior, continued to argue that women would not be satisfied until they had all the same opportunities as men.</p> <p>New medical technology, such as the introduction of birth control pills also</p>	<p>Angela Merkel - was the first female Chancellor of Germany and served from 2005 - 2021.</p>

	<p>allowed women a new kind of freedom as they gained more autonomy over their bodies, and were freed to establish careers without the worry of unplanned pregnancies.</p> <p>All of this led to an increase in the number of women who were elected into public office. Margaret Thatcher was the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mary Robinson was the first President of Ireland, and Edith Carson was the first woman elected Premier of France.</p>	
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Decolonization

Questions	Notes	Extra Information
<p>How did the rise in nationalism as a result of the World Wars influenced the decolonization of Asia?</p>	<p>National self-determination was not new to Europe, and in fact was one of President Wilson's idealist 14 Points at the end of World War I. The concept inevitably spread to the Empires that Europe had built during the 19th century leading to a massive decolonization movement.</p> <p>India - Gandhi and the Indian National Congress gained independence from Great Britain in 1957.</p> <p>National Liberation Front a Muslim nationalist group in Algeria wanted its independence from France. In 1958 French President Charles de Gualle recognized its right to national self-determination and its independence.</p>	<p>Make connections between national self-determination that led to World War II and the national self-determination that resulted from World War II.</p> <p>Early signs of nationalism in India that showed that it was not new and had been in fact growing for years can be pointed back to instances like the Sepoy Rebellion.</p>

20th & 21st Century Culture

Questions	Notes	Extra Information
<p>Identify and explain how the cultural changes in Europe in the later part of the 20th century and the early 21st century were in response to the despotic governments of the 20th century.</p>	<p>A communist state is devoid of religion, and the Western Democracies saw religion as one of the greatest tools of opposition to that. The Cold War saw a rise in Christianity with movements like the Confessing Church in Germany and the Second Vatican Council in Italy.</p> <p>The Wars also affected how people felt, there was a great deal of hopelessness and loss, and these feelings were intertwined in the postwar art and literature. Examples of this are apparent in the Dada movement as well as in the works of authors like James Joyce.</p>	<p>Art was also used as a tool against communism. In the Communist run countries only realist art was allowed for fear that any other kind of artwork would hold subliminal messages of rebellion. So artists began to use art as a means of protest.</p> <p>The Berlin Wall became a canvas for many Western European artists who wanted to portray their anger and dislike of the communist run regimes in East Germany and the Eastern Bloc countries.</p>