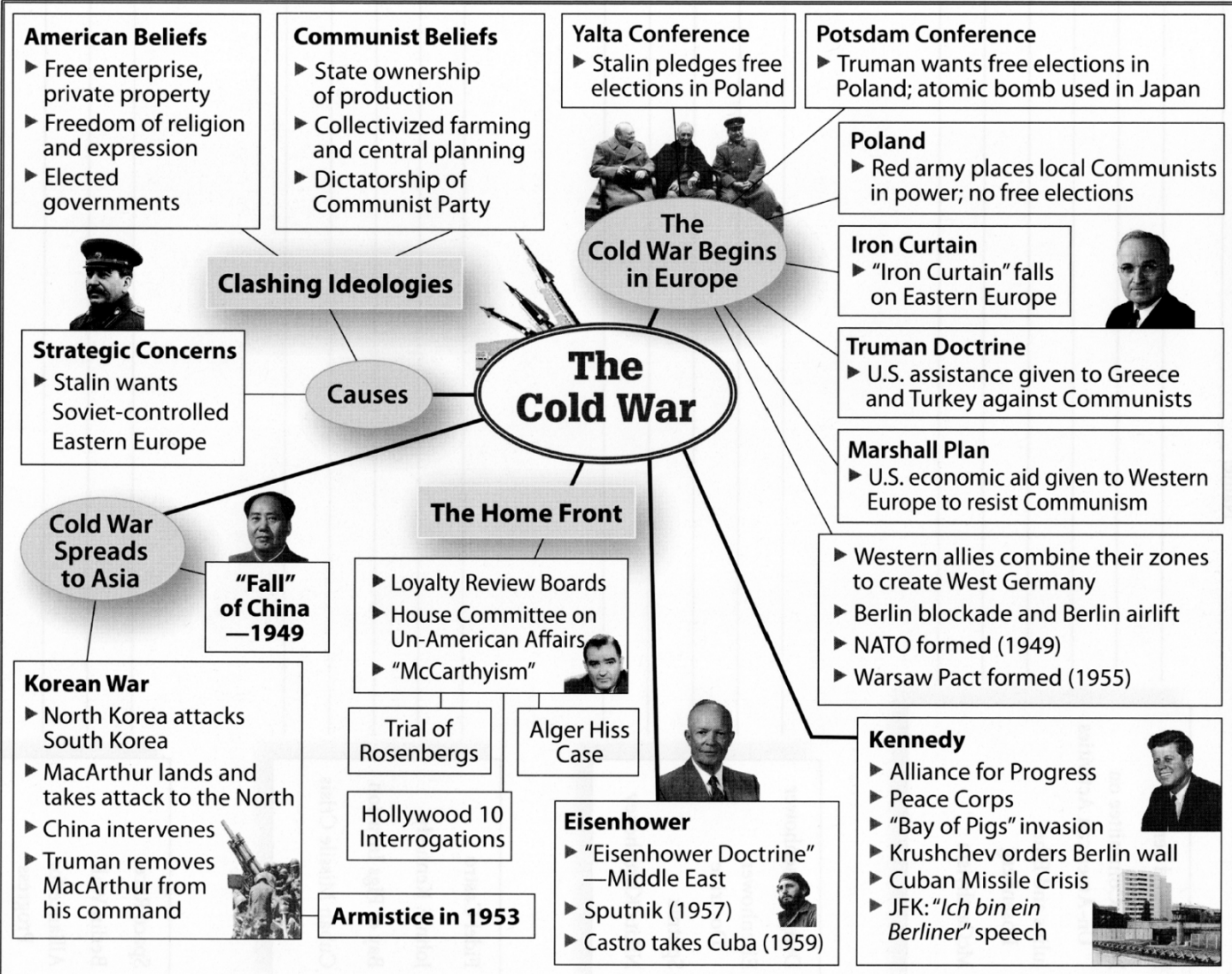


The Essentials

name:

The Cold War

Unit 9



The Causes of the Cold War

The **Cold War** was rooted in the political, economic, and social differences between the two superpowers. Each superpower attempted to promote its way of life to other nations:

- ▶ The Soviet Union was a **Communist** country. Communists claimed that their society was run for the benefit of workers. In practice, the Soviet Union was a dictatorship run by **Joseph Stalin**. Citizens had limited rights and political opponents were imprisoned or killed. The country had a planned economy and collectivized agriculture. Factories were state-owned. Central planners told factory workers what and how much to produce.
- ▶ The United States was a **capitalist democracy**. People enjoyed individual rights, including free speech, freedom of press, and freedom of religion. They elected their own leaders. Americans could own property and run private businesses.
- ▶ Stalin mistrusted the West and resented the failure of Britain and the United States to open a second front before June 1944. He felt the Soviet Union had the right to control Eastern Europe to safeguard its own security.
- ▶ American leaders equally mistrusted Stalin. Stalin had promised free elections in Poland at Yalta but failed to honor his pledge. Americans refused to share the secret of the atomic bomb with the Soviets.

The Start of the Cold War in Europe

- ▶ Communists were placed in power in all those countries of Eastern Europe occupied by the Soviet (“Red”) army after World War II.
- ▶ Trade, travel and communications between Eastern and Western Europe were cut. In 1946, Winston Churchill announced that an “**Iron Curtain**” had fallen on Eastern Europe.
- ▶ In 1947, Communists threatened the governments of Greece and Turkey.
- ▶ Truman announced the **Truman Doctrine** in March 1947: the United States would provide assistance to free peoples resisting Communism, including military and economic assistance to Turkey and Greece.
- ▶ In 1948, the United States announced the **Marshall Plan**: the United States would give economic aid to the countries of Western Europe to help them rebuild their economies, strengthen their resistance to Communism, and restore trade with the United States.
- ▶ **Containment Policy**: American leaders sought to “**contain**” Communism. They would not challenge Communism where it already existed, but they would prevent it from spreading further.

Events of the Early Cold War

The Division of Germany and the “Berlin Airlift”:

- ▶ The Western Allies merged their occupation zones in Germany together to form **West Germany** (Federal Republic of Germany).
- ▶ Stalin reacted by cutting off all Western land routes to West Berlin in 1948.
- ▶ The United States and its allies responded with the “**Berlin Airlift**.” Supplies were flown to West Berlin.
- ▶ After several months, Stalin reopened the roads to West Berlin.
- ▶ The Soviet occupation zone became **East Germany** (German Democratic Republic).

NATO vs. the Warsaw Pact:

- ▶ The Western Allies formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or **NATO**, in 1949. NATO guaranteed the countries of Western Europe that they would be protected against Soviet attack by American nuclear weapons.
- ▶ The Soviet Union and its Eastern European **satellites** formed the **Warsaw Pact** in 1955.
- ▶ The Soviet Union sent its troops several times into Warsaw Pact countries to maintain Communism.

The Impact of the Cold War on Life in the United States

- ▶ In the United States, the Cold War led to a **second “Red Scare.”** Many feared Communist spies.
- ▶ **Loyalty Review Boards** and the **House Committee on Un-American Activities** interrogated citizens on their political activities. After being investigated by the House Committee, the “**Hollywood 10**” lost their jobs.
- ▶ **Alger Hiss**, a prominent State Department official, was imprisoned for being a Communist.
- ▶ The **Rosenbergs** were tried and executed for giving atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.
- ▶ In the 1950s, **Senator Joseph McCarthy** claimed to have evidence of Communist spies in the State Department and other branches of government, but he never produced it. In 1953, McCarthy lost his influence when he challenged the army. The term “**McCarthyism**” now refers to anti-Communist hysteria.

The Cold War Spreads to Asia

The "Fall" of China:

- ▶ In 1949, China was taken over by Communist forces led by **Mao Zedong**. Mao declared the **People's Republic of China** in October 1949.
- ▶ Chiang Kai-Shek and the Chinese Nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan.
- ▶ The United States refused to recognize the Communist government of China.

The Korean War:

- ▶ Korea was divided in two after World War II along the 38th parallel. A Communist state was established in the North and a pro-Western government in the South.
- ▶ Communist North Korea attacked South Korea in June 1950.
- ▶ Truman decided to help the South Koreans resist the Communist attack. Truman acted with the approval of the U.N. Security Council.
- ▶ **General MacArthur** chased the North Koreans to the Yalu River on the border with China. His advance brought China into the war.
- ▶ MacArthur favored using nuclear weapons to defeat the Chinese. Truman dismissed MacArthur when he was openly critical of the President.
- ▶ A truce was signed at **Panmunjon** in 1953, leaving Korea divided along the 38th parallel just as before the war. The demilitarized zone, or **DMZ**, is the strip of land between the two countries.



Nuclear Proliferation and the Arms Race

- ▶ **Nuclear proliferation** refers to the spread of atomic weapons to other countries.
- ▶ This became a problem when the Soviet Union exploded its own atomic bomb in 1949. Within a few years, both superpowers developed much more destructive hydrogen bombs. Each power thought its nuclear arms served as a **deterrent** against attack.
- ▶ Nuclear weapons eventually spread to several other countries, including Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, and Israel.
- ▶ The problem of nuclear proliferation remains today. How many more countries should have nuclear weapons? Should Iran have nuclear weapons? Does the spread of nuclear weapons increase the likelihood that these destructive weapons will be used, accidentally or deliberately, or fall into the hands of terrorists?

Foreign Policy Events under Eisenhower

- ▶ **Eisenhower Doctrine:** President Eisenhower announced the “**Eisenhower Doctrine**”—that the United States would oppose the spread of Communism in the Middle East—and sent troops to Lebanon.
- ▶ **Sputnik:** The Soviet success in sending *Sputnik* into space in 1957 caused the United States to increase its spending on science education.
- ▶ In Guatemala, CIA-trained exiles overthrew a leftist government.
- ▶ **Castro and Cuba:** In 1959, **Fidel Castro** successfully overthrew **Batista**, a dictator in Cuba. Castro quickly imprisoned opponents and soon established a Communist state.
- ▶ When Castro seized some U.S. investments, Eisenhower began an economic boycott and let the CIA train Cuban exiles planning to overthrow Castro.

Foreign Policy Events under Kennedy

- ▶ **Bay of Pigs Invasion:** In April 1961, a few months after John F. Kennedy became President, the Cuban exiles attempted to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. However Kennedy failed to give the exiles air cover and their invasion failed.
- ▶ **Berlin Wall:** In 1961, Soviet leader **Nikita Khrushchev** ordered the building of the **Berlin Wall** to prevent East Germans from escaping to West Berlin.
- ▶ **Kennedy’s Berlin Speech:** When Kennedy later visited Berlin, he declared “I am a Berliner” to show his solidarity with the West Berliners.
- ▶ **Other Programs:** Kennedy started the Peace Corps, Alliance for Progress and “Green Berets” in his efforts to combat Communism.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

- ▶ In October 1962, Americans discovered that Soviet nuclear missiles were about to be installed in Cuba. These missiles would have threatened Florida and other targets in the United States. This discovery led to the “**Cuban Missile Crisis**”—the closest the world has come to a nuclear war.
- ▶ America blockaded Cuba and threatened to invade the island.
- ▶ Khrushchev finally removed the missiles when Kennedy pledged not to invade Cuba and offered to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey.
- ▶ The United States and Soviet Union set up a “hot line” for emergency calls between their leaders; they also agreed to negotiate a partial test ban treaty.