

Teacher Overview Objectives:

Post-War and the Beginning of the Cold War

NYS Social Studies Framework Alignment:

Key Idea	Conceptual Understanding	Content Specification	Objectives
<p>10.6 UNRESOLVED GLOBAL CONFLICT (1945–1991: THE COLD WAR): The second half of the 20th century was shaped by the Cold War, a legacy of World War II. The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as global superpowers engaged in ideological, political, economic, and military competition. (Standards: 2, 3, 4, 5; Themes: TCC, GOV, ECO, TECH, EXCH)</p>	<p>10.6a The Cold War originated from tensions near the end of World War II as plans for peace were made and implemented. The Cold War was characterized by competition for power and ideological differences between the United States and the Soviet Union.</p> <p>10.6b The Cold War was a period of confrontations and attempts at peaceful coexistence.</p>	<p>Students will compare and contrast how peace was conceived at Yalta and Potsdam with what happened in Europe in the four years after World War II (i.e., Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe, Truman Doctrine, Berlin blockade, NATO).</p> <p>Students will examine the new military alliances, nuclear proliferation, and the rise of the military-industrial complex.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the causes and effects of changes in the relationship between the United States and the USSR from 1941 to 1955. 2. Identify the military alliances in the Cold War and the countries involved. 3. Describe the actions taken by the Soviet Union to consolidate its power in Eastern Europe.

1

Why did the relationship between the United States and USSR change from 1941 to 1955?

Objectives: Describe the causes and effects of changes in the relationship between the United States and the USSR from 1941 to 1955.

1941-1945: The United States and USSR become allies

The relationship between the United States and the USSR had always been strained because the political ideologies each supported, capitalism and democracy in the US and communism and a command economy in the USSR, were opposed to one another. Their relationship was further tested following Stalin's decision to sign the non-aggression pact, or the Nazi-Soviet Pact, with Nazi Germany in 1939. Stalin's decision and occupation of Poland in 1939 led the United States to publicly condemn the USSR. While angry with the USSR, the United States did not forget that Nazi Germany was the greatest threat to international collective security. United States president Franklin Delano Roosevelt hesitated to sever all ties with the USSR and instead sought to improve relations as Hitler was picking up speed in 1940. In June 1941, Hitler broke the Nazi-Soviet Pact and invaded the USSR. This was the perfect opportunity for the United States to leverage this betrayal to gain a new ally to defeat the Nazis. The United States sent an aide to assess the Soviet military situation and by the end of October, the first **Lend-Lease aid** to the Soviet Union was sent. Lend-Lease aid was a package that provided significant military supplies and other assistance to the Allies. Stalin left the Axis powers and joined the Allies.

During the war, there were several disagreements between the United States and the USSR. In spite of these differences, the defeat of Nazi Germany was a joint success. This victory over the Nazis did not magically fix the relationship between the United States and the USSR. The United States was still concerned about the spread of Soviet communism and Stalin's totalitarian rule. The USSR was frustrated with America's hesitance to treat it as part of the international community and their slowness in entering World War II. As the war was nearing the end, this distrust continued to grow.

1. Why did the United States and the USSR fight together as allies in 1941?
2. Did the United States and the USSR ever fully trust one another? Explain.
3. Using your understanding of how the United States and the USSR became allies and their levels of trust, what problems might emerge in the postwar period?



Source:
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2009634186/> and
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/9/96/THIS_MAN_IS_YOUR_FRIEND._RUSSIAN_-_NARA_-_515795.jpg/800px-THIS_MAN_IS_YOUR_FRIEND._RUSSIAN_-_NARA_-_515795.jpg

Title: This man is your friend: Russian He fights for freedom.

Date Created/Published: [Washington, D.C.] : U.S. Government Printing Office ; 1942.

What does this American propaganda poster reveal about the relationship between the United States and USSR in 1942?

February-July 1945: The War Conferences and Agreements

1945 was an important year because it marked the end of World War II and the emergence of new relationships between the remaining world powers: the United States and the USSR. Prior to the official end of World War II, the Allies (United States, USSR, and Britain) hosted two conferences: Yalta in February 1945 and Potsdam in July 1945. These conferences were designed to help decide what would happen to Europe, specifically, Germany, at the end of World War II. In between the conferences, delegates from 50 nations meet in San Francisco for the United Nations (UN) in April of 1945. The United Nations, much like the original intent of the League of Nations, was created to maintain international peace and security. By May 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allies.

1. What was the purpose of the 1945 war conferences in Yalta and Potsdam? Given your prior knowledge of war conferences and agreements, what problems might arise?
2. What major events occurred between Yalta and Potsdam? How might these events impact the relationships between the Allies?

February 1945: Yalta Conference



Source:

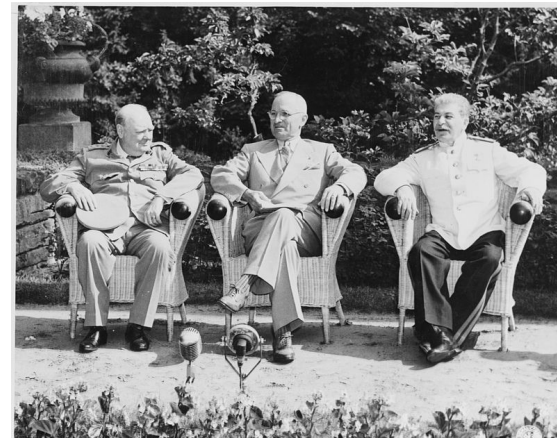
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Yalta_conference#/media/File:Yalta_summit_1945_with_Churchill,_Roosevelt,_Stalin.jpg

Who: Churchill (Britain), Roosevelt (USA), Stalin (USSR)

What: A *meeting* between three of the Allies of World War II to discuss Europe's postwar reorganization.

Where: Yalta in Crimea

July 1945: Potsdam Agreement



Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Potsdam_Conference#/media/File:L_to_R,_British_Prime_Minister_Winston_Churchill,_President_Harry_S._Truman,_and_Soviet_leader_Josef_Stalin_in_the..._-_NARA_-_198958.jpg

Who: Churchill (Britain), Truman (USA), Stalin (USSR)

What: The *agreement* between three of the Allies of World War II for the military occupation and reconstruction of Germany

Where: Potsdam near Berlin

War Stage: Germany was not defeated.

What were the key points of the meeting?

- Germany would be split into four occupied zones
- Germany would undergo demilitarization and denazification
- Germany would pay reparations partially in the form of forced labor
- The Declaration of Liberated Europe would allow for free elections in Eastern Europe
- Stalin pledged to permit free elections in Poland and to form a government of “national unity” composed of communists and non-communists
- Stalin agreed to enter the fight against the Empire of Japan when Germany was defeated

1. What was the purpose of the conference at Yalta?

2. Why do you think did Stalin pledged to permit free elections in Poland?

War Stage: Germany was defeated.

At Potsdam, there were arguments about the details of the agreement reached at Yalta. For example, there were disagreements about the boundaries for the four occupied zones of Germany. There were also disagreements about the amount of reparations the USSR wanted to take from Germany. The United States and Britain believed the USSR wanted too much and this would repeat the situation created by the Treaty of Versailles where the massive reparations hurt the German economy and fueled the rise of the Nazis.

Harry S. Truman, the new president of the United States was also frustrated because Stalin began to arrest non-communist leaders of Poland after agreeing to a government of “national unity.” Additionally, even though there were supposed to be free elections in Eastern Europe, the United States and Britain noticed that communists were rising to power in Eastern Europe.

While there were many disagreements, there were some agreements such as:

- Germany would be demilitarized and disarmed
- German society would be remade along democratic lines by repeal of all discriminatory laws from the Nazi era
- Germans deemed to be “war criminals” would be arrested and tried

3. What disagreements were there at Potsdam? Why?

4. What do these disagreements reveal about the changing relationship between the United States and the USSR?

5. How did the peace conceived at Yalta differ from the peace conceived at Potsdam? Why?

6. How might these differences impact the relationship between the United States and the USSR?

1947: The Birth of the Cold War

During the war, the United States and USSR cooperated to defeat Nazi Germany. However, after the war ended, disagreements over reparations and the emergence of communist governments in Eastern Europe strained the relationship. Many of the enduring ideological and pre-war disagreements surfaced. Between 1945 and 1947, Stalin went back on his pledge to allow free elections in Eastern Europe and to have coalition governments of both communist and non-communist leaders. During these two years, communists seized control of many Eastern European nations. This made the United States nervous because Stalin was defiant and the United States feared the ideological spread of communism. By 1947, the distrust heightened between the United States and USSR leading to a conflict known as the **Cold War**. The Cold War was a state of political and military tension after World War II between powers in the Western Bloc (the United States and its capitalist allies) and powers in the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union and its communist allies). The term "cold" is used because there was no direct fighting between the two sides, however, there were **proxy wars** or wars between other nations supported by the two sides.

1. What action did Stalin take that heightened the tension between the United States and USSR? Why did these actions concern the United States?

2. What was the Cold War? Why was the Cold War considered "cold"?

The Cold War: 1945-1991

From 1945 until 1991, two superpowers, the US and USSR, with political and economic differences engaged in the Cold War. The Cold War caused a series of international incidents that brought the world to the brink of disaster. After World War II ended, both the Soviet Union and the U.S. wanted to influence Europe with their systems of government and economy. In 1946, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared that an **iron curtain** had “descended across the continent” dividing Europe into two hostile camps. The USSR influenced Eastern Europe, while the U.S.A. influenced Western Europe.

What was the iron curtain? What did the iron curtain symbolize about international relations?

The Western Bloc

U.S.A. & NATO allies

Economic System: Capitalism

Political System: Democracy

The United States wanted to **contain communism** so they pursued the policy of **containment**.

Containment was a strategy of keeping communism within its existing boundaries and preventing its further expansion. This policy meant the United States would ***support any nation facing an external or internal communist threat.***

The Eastern Bloc

Warsaw Pact allies & **USSR**

Economic System: Command Economy

Political System: Communism

The USSR wanted to **promote communism** and spread these ideas to other countries.

The promotion of communism was a strategy of expanding communism outside its existing boundaries. This policy meant the Soviet Union would ***support any nation facing external or internal aggression from the Western bloc.***

VS.

2

What were the military alliances during the Cold War and which countries were involved?

Objectives: Identify the military alliances in the Cold War and the countries involved.

Directions: Read through the information and examine the maps below, then answer the questions on the right.

The Truman Doctrine and Containment

In 1947, United States President Harry Truman declared a new foreign policy for the US, called the Truman Doctrine. The **Truman Doctrine** stated the United States would provide political, military and economic assistance to all nations under threat from communist forces. Before the Truman Doctrine, the US stayed out of regional conflicts that did not directly involve their country, but the Truman Doctrine made it clear that the US would actively resist the USSR. In the same year, Truman sent military and economic aid to both Greece and Turkey to resist communist threats. The Truman Doctrine was motivated by the idea of **containment** or limiting communism to the areas already under USSR's control.

1. Why did Truman implement the Truman Doctrine?

2. What idea motivated the Truman Doctrine?

3. How would this policy impact the United States' relationship with the USSR?

The Marshall Plan

The **Marshall Plan** was a policy used by the United States to strengthen democratic governments by providing food and economic assistance to war-ravaged European countries to help them rebuild after the war. The Marshall Plan was motivated by the idea that countries recovering from the war were vulnerable to communist threats. To ensure that communism did not spread, the United States provided about \$13 billion to Western nations to help rebuild their economies. Although the USSR was offered participation, they refused and blocked benefits to Eastern Bloc countries, such as East Germany and Poland. The USSR saw the Marshall Plan as an attempt to buy the support of smaller countries.



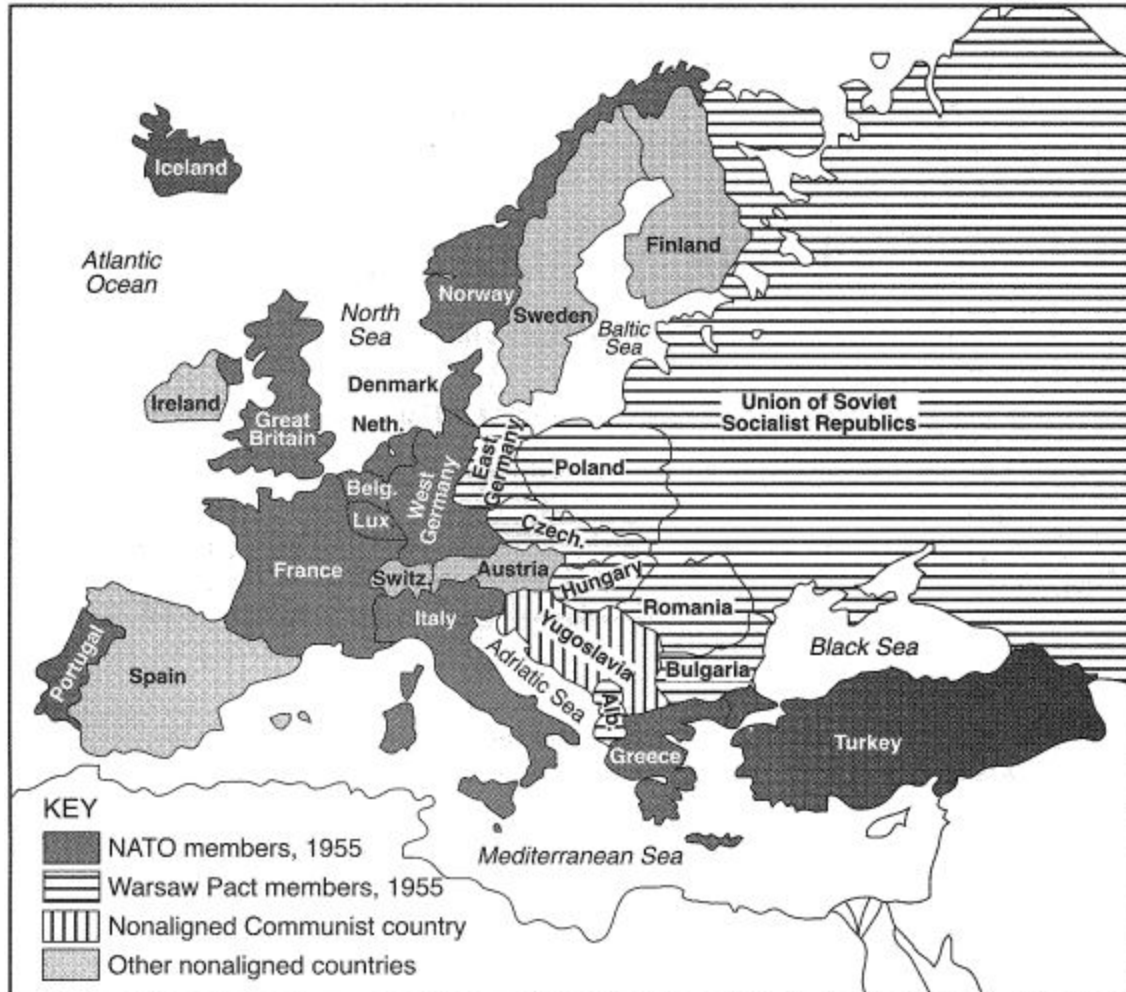
Source: www.usps.com

4. Why was the Marshall Plan passed?

5. How would this policy impact the United States' relationship with the USSR?

Cold War Alliances

Postwar Europe



Source: Larry S. Krieger et al., *World History: Perspectives on the Past*, D.C. Heath and Co. (adapted)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

In 1949, the United States, Canada and ten other countries formed a new military alliance called **NATO or North Atlantic Treaty Organization**. These newly aligned member states agreed to protect one another if any one of them were attacked.

6. What was NATO?

7. How might this alliance have impacted the relationship between the United States and the USSR?

The Warsaw Pact

In 1955, the USSR responded to the formation of NATO by creating their own alliance called the **Warsaw Pact**. The USSR had a number of **satellite states**. A satellite state is a country that is formally independent in the world, but under heavy political, economic and military influence or control from another country. The Warsaw Pact included the USSR and seven satellite states in Eastern Europe. While NATO functioned as an alliance, the USSR used the Warsaw Pact to control their satellite states.

8. What is a satellite state?

9. What was the Warsaw Pact?

10. How did the Warsaw Pact function differently from NATO?

12. Based upon what you've read above, were the United States and the USSR moving closer to or further away from international conflict between 1945 and 1955? Explain.

11. How might this alliance have impacted the relationship between the United States and the USSR?

3

What actions did the Soviet Union take to consolidate its power in Eastern Europe after World War II?

Objectives: Describe the actions taken by the Soviet Union to consolidate its power in Eastern Europe.

Directions: Read about each of the early Cold War conflicts below, and answer the questions on the right.

1948-1961: The Early Cold War

1948:
Berlin
Blockade
and Airlift



Watch [this video on the Berlin Blockade](#), then read the text below.

The **Berlin Blockade** was one of the first major international crises of the Cold War. The Berlin Blockade was an attempt in 1948 by the USSR to limit the ability of the Allies (France, Great Britain and the United States) to travel to their sectors of Berlin. After World War II, Germany was divided into occupation zones. Berlin was located inside USSR-controlled eastern Germany but, the United States and other Allies controlled western portions Berlin so there were questions of whether portions of the city would become part of USSR-controlled eastern Germany. On June 24, 1948, Soviet forces blockaded rail, road, and water access to Allied-controlled areas of Berlin in an attempt to get the Allies to give up their sections of the city. The United States and United Kingdom responded by airlifting food and fuel to Berlin. Realizing that they would not be able to force the Allies out without an armed conflict, the USSR forces lifted the blockade on land access to western Berlin and the crisis ended on May 12, 1949. Berlin remained divided for the rest of the Cold War.



Map showing the military zones of divided Germany and Allied flight paths to Berlin during the Berlin Airlift.
Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/the-berlin-blockade>

Map showing the military zones of divided Germany and Allied flight paths to Berlin during the Berlin Airlift.

1. What caused the Berlin Blockade?

2. How did the British, French, and United States get past the Soviet Union's blockade?

3. How did the Berlin Blockade impact the relationship between the United States and the USSR?

1956:
Hungarian
Revolution
of 1956



Read the text below and watch [these clips of newsreels from the 1950s](#) depicting the Hungarian Revolution and Soviet Union's reestablishment of control then answer the questions to the right.

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 (or Hungarian Uprising of 1956) was a spontaneous nationwide revolt against the Communist government of Hungary and that was supported by the Soviet Union, lasting from October 23 until November 10, 1956. It began as a student demonstration which attracted thousands as it marched through central Budapest to the Parliament building. A student delegation entering the radio building in an attempt to broadcast their demands was detained. When the delegation's release was demanded by the demonstrators outside, they were fired upon by the State Security Police (ÁVH) from within the building. The news spread quickly and disorder and violence erupted throughout the capital.

The revolt spread quickly across Hungary, and the government fell. Thousands organized into militias, battling the State Security Police (ÁVH) and Soviet troops. Pro-Soviet communists and ÁVH members were often executed or imprisoned, as former prisoners were released and armed. A new government was formed and declared its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and pledged to re-establish free elections. By the end of October, fighting had almost stopped and a sense of normalcy began to return.

After announcing a willingness to negotiate a withdrawal of Soviet forces, the USSR changed its mind and moved to quash the revolution. On November 4, a large Soviet force invaded Budapest, killing thousands of civilians. Organized resistance ceased by November 10, and mass arrests began. An estimated 200,000 Hungarians fled as refugees. By January 1957, the new Soviet-installed government had suppressed all public opposition. These Soviet actions alienated many Western Marxists, yet strengthened Soviet control over Central Europe, cultivating the perception that communism was both irreversible and monolithic.



Image of protesters defacing a statue of Stalin that they toppled during the Hungarian Revolution. The person circled escaped with refugees and became a well known physician in the United States.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:1956_Georgy_B._Brezhnev_circles_Hungarian_Revolution.jpg

Source: http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Hungarian_Revolution_of_1956

1. What were the goals of the Hungarian Revolution?

2. What was the result of the Hungarian Revolution?

3. Based on the events of the Hungarian Revolution and the Soviet Union's reaction to it, how did people living in Warsaw Pact countries feel about the USSR? How did the Soviet Union maintain its control over satellite nations?

1961: The Berlin Wall



Watch this [TestTube News video entitled “Why Was a Wall Built Around West Berlin?”](#) and [The Wall](#) (start-9:10), and American film from 1962 and read the text below, then answer the questions to the right.

The **Berlin Wall**, an iconic symbol of the Cold War, was initially constructed starting on August 13, 1961, and dismantled in the weeks following November 9, 1989. Part of the Iron Curtain, the Berlin Wall was the most prominent part of the German Democratic Republic’s border system.

Conceived by the East German administration of Walter Ulbricht and approved by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, the wall was a long separation barrier between West Berlin and East Germany (the German Democratic Republic), which closed the border between East and West Berlin for a period of 28 years. It was built during the post-World War II period of a divided Germany, in an effort to stop the drain of labor and economic output associated with the daily migration of huge numbers of professionals and skilled workers between East and West Berlin, and the attendant defections, which had political and economic consequences for the Communist bloc. It effectively decreased emigration (escapes; *Republikflucht* in German) from 2.5 million between 1949 and 1962 to 5,000 between 1962 and 1989.

However, the creation of the Wall was a propaganda disaster for East Germany and for the communist bloc as a whole. It became a key symbol of what Western powers regarded as Communist tyranny, particularly after the high-profile shootings of would-be defectors.

Source: http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Berlin_Wall

West Berlin

East Berlin

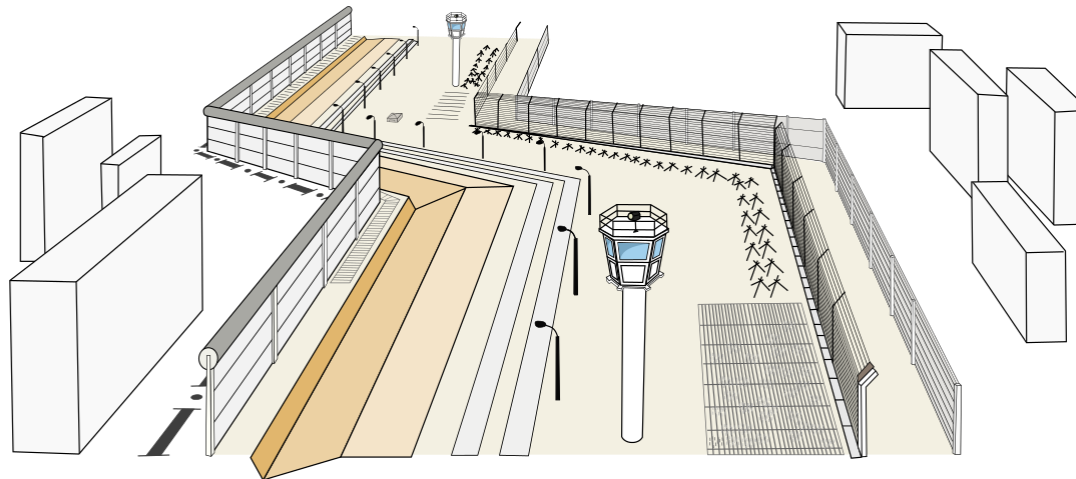


Illustration of the structure Berlin Wall as it was in the 1980s. After it was initially built, the Berlin wall was updated to include two parallel walls, a smooth pipe on the top making it difficult to climb over, barbed wire, guard dogs, watchtowers, and beds of nails.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Structure_of_Berlin_Wall.svg

1. Where was the Berlin Wall located? Why did the Soviet Union build it?

2. What were the effects of the erection of the Berlin Wall?

3. Based on the events described in the videos and text about the Berlin Wall, how did people living in Warsaw Pact countries feel about the USSR? How did the Soviet Union maintain its control over satellite nations?



Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

<p>1. The expansion of Communism into Eastern Europe was a direct result of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) the Crimean War(2) the Napoleonic Wars(3) World War I(4) World War II	<p>4. The invasion of Hungary in 1961 by the Soviet Union and the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 are examples of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) United Nations Security Council resolutions(2) Truman Doctrine failures(3) Marshall Plan effects(4) Cold War Era conflicts
<p>2. The purpose of both the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan was to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) support the construction of the Iron Curtain(2) increase membership in the United Nations(3) prevent the spread of communism(4) attempt to solve world hunger	<p>5. "Warsaw Pact Tanks Invade Budapest" "Wall Divides Berlin" "Liberal Czechoslovak Government Replaced" These historical newspaper headlines were related to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Mikhail Gorbachev's introduction of the policy of glasnost(2) Adolf Hitler's efforts to promote national socialism(3) the Soviet Union's acceptance of capitalism(4) attempts by the Soviet Union to strengthen Communist control
<p>3. The term iron curtain refers to the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) scars left on the land by the trenches of World War I(2) no-fly zone in northern Iraq after the Persian Gulf War(3) border established between India and Pakistan after World War II(4) western boundary of Soviet domination in Europe during the Cold War	

Formative Assessment Task

Directions: After examining all of texts above, complete the task below.

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, write a response in which you

- Describe *two* reasons for the changing relationship between the United States and the USSR changed from 1939 until 1961
- Explain how these changes led to the Cold War