

The Cold War

The United States versus the Soviet Union

Cold War

- A state of Tension between nations without actual Fighting
- Developed immediately after World War II when the Soviet Union refused to allow Free elections in Eastern European countries
- Instead creating Communist states under the leadership of the Soviet Union

U.S. Policies

- Truman Doctrine stated the U.S. would oppose the spread of Communism
- It would give military and economic help to any country threatened by Communist expansion
- Containment was the U.S. policy of limiting Communist expansion
- The U.S. turned away from isolationism after WW2
- Marshall Plan was proposed by Secretary of State, George Marshall
- The U.S. pledged \$ 12 billion in financial help

New Organizations

- The United Nations was created
- It was a Peace Keeping organization that addressed world problems, such as war, hunger, disease, and disaster
- Every member country has 1 vote in the General Assembly
- The Security Council has 15 members. Ten of the members are elected for a term of 2 years. Five countries are permanent members of the council. (United States, Great Britain, France, Soviet Union, and China)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- This is a military alliance of Western Europe and the U.S.
- The purpose was to guard against a Soviet attack
- Warsaw Pack was a military alliance of the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries
- The purpose was to protect against the Nato powers

Germany

- Germany was divided temporarily into 4 sections.
- The U.S., Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union each controlled one section

- The capital city of Berlin was located in the Soviet Section
- This caused a problem, so it was divided in half
- East Berlin was under Soviet control and was Communist
- West Berlin was under U.S. control and democratic
- The Soviets agreed to let the U.S. have access to West Berlin
- In 1948, the Soviet Union set up a blockade around West Berlin
- The U. S. no longer had access to West Berlin
- President Truman organizes the Berlin Airlift
- For almost a year, Food and supplies were dropped to the people of West Berlin

China

- Ruler of China was Chiang Kai-shek
- U.S. gave him financial aid to fight Communism
- The Communist were led by Mao Zedong
- Chiang Kai-shek will be defeated and forced to flee to Taiwan and set up a U.S. backed Chinese government
- Mao set up the communist country called the People's Republic of China

Korean War

- After World War II, Korea was divided into 2 countries, North and South Korea
- The border was at the 38th parallel
- North Korea was Communist and supported by the Soviets
- South Korea was backed by the United States
- On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea
- President Truman called for the United Nations to send military help
- The military force will include soldiers from 16 countries
- General Douglas MacArthur was made commander of the army
- Within 3 days the North Koreans had reached Seoul, the capital of South Vietnam
- It took a while for troops and supplies to reach South Korea
- MacArthur took a defensive position at Pusan
- He will order an advance that will chase the North Koreans back over the 38th parallel and almost to the border of China
- The Chinese join the North Koreans and led a counter attack

- The UN troops are pushed back to South Korea
- The war becomes a stalemate
- A cease fire in 1953 created a demilitarized zone, an area that neither side controlled

Results of the Korean War

- More than 2 million Koreans died (mainly civilians)
- U.S. casualties 30,000 killed and 100,000 wounded
- Korea remains divided at the 38th parallel

Joseph McCarthy

- Senator from Wisconsin
- Built his career by threatening to expose Communist
- Claimed to have the names of Communists who worked in the U.S. Government
- Held Senate hearings ~~where~~ he made exaggerated charges
- Since he destroyed careers, few people opposed him
- In 1954, he made false accusations against the U.S. Army
- When the army pushed back, McCarthy could not support the charges
- The U.S. Senate voted to censure (condemn) him
- The term McCarthyism came to mean accusing someone without evidence

The Arms Race

- Stalin died in 1953 and was replaced by Nikita Khrushchev
- In the early 1950s both the U.S. and Soviet Union exploded Hydrogen bombs
- A race began to create the most powerful weapons and stockpile them
- The Soviets launched Sputnik, the world's 1st artificial satellite
- The new goal was to control outer space
- U.S. establishes Nasa
- People build Fall-out shelters to protect themselves from atomic bombs
- School children did "duck and cover drills" to protect themselves from a nuclear blast