Defined Major Points for Unit 8: 1950s & Cold War

Unit 8 Calendar (A Days & B Days)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|  |  |  |  | Feb 10  Vocab Grids |
| Feb 13 | Feb 14  Vocab Presentations  Origins of the Cold War (B2) | Feb 15  Vocab Grids | Feb 16  Vocab Quiz  Origins of the Cold War (B1) / Early Events of the Cold War (B2) | Feb 17  Vocab Presentations  Origins of the Cold War |
| Feb 20 | Feb 21  Early Events of the Cold War    Review Cold War (B2) | Feb 22  MOCK STAAR  No Class | Feb 23  Go over Mock STAAR | Feb 24  Go over Mock STAAR  Start Early Events of the Cold War |
| Feb 27  Vocab Quiz  Early Events of the Cold War | Feb 28  Culture of the 1950s Scavenger Hunt | Mar 1  Culture of the 1950s Scavenger Hunt | Mar 2  Review  Test over the Cold War | Mar 3  Review  Test over the Cold War |

Vocab Words

* Satellite nation
* Iron Curtain
* Beat movement
* Capitalism
* Communism
* Containment
* NATO
* McCarthyism
* Consumerism
* Military-industrial complex
* GI Bill
* Suburb
* Baby boom
* Generation gap

Origins of the Cold War

* The Cold War is an era of confrontation, competition, and tension between the communist Soviet Union and the democratic United States, lasting from 1945-1990
  + There is no real fighting that happens, except for “hot spot” areas of conflict in localized regions
* For the United States, the goals after WWII are to
  + Promote democracy and self-determination
  + Fix the global economy by promoting internationalism
  + Help rebuild Europe and Germany
* For the Soviet Union, the goals after WWII are to
  + Promote communism due to suspicion of capitalism
  + Control the countries between Germany and the Soviet Union
  + Secure the Soviet border, because Germany has invaded twice
  + Keep Germany weak
* Before WWII ends, FDR, Churchill, and Stalin meet at the Yalta Conference, and it is decided that
  + Germany and Berlin will be divided into four regions, with each region controlled by an Allied country
  + The people of Europe (and specifically Poland) will hold elections to decide what form of government to adopt
* Ultimately, Poland and Romania become communist when the elections are not held, which leads to tension between the US and the Soviet Union
* After FDR dies (but before Japan surrenders), Churchill, Stalin, and Truman meet up at the Potsdam Conference. Stalin is suspicious of Truman, especially when Truman informs Stalin of the atomic bomb. Tension increases between the Soviet Union and the US.
* Churchill declares that an “iron curtain” exists between the communist Eastern European countries and the free Western European countries.

Early Cold War Years Under Truman

* George Kennan (the American diplomat in Moscow) writes a Long Telegram and proposes the idea of containment to prevent the spread of communism by allowing communism to stay where it currently exists
* The Truman Doctrine is an example of containment. It is a document that explains the US will help any country who wants to fight the Soviets. As a result, Congress sends money to countries in Europe.
* Europe is experiencing hard times economically. George Marshall proposes that the US will send money to all struggling European countries. After this happens, capitalism looks great to other countries, and communism looks bad.
* In 1948, the British, French, and American sectors of Germany combine to form West Germany, but because the Soviets control the land around Berlin, they cannot access their sector in Berlin due to a Soviet blockade. For an entire year, we send planes round the clock to West Berlin to bring them food, supplies, and fuel. It is successful, and Stalin calls off the blockade.
* In April 1949, the countries of Western Europe, the US, and Canada form NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) which is a pact to support each other militarily if attacked.
* In 1949, Mao Zedong leads a communist revolution in China with the support of the Soviets. This is alarming because containment has failed!
* From 1950-1953, the Koreans fight a war over whether communism should be established in Korea. Ultimately, the country is divided with the northern portion being communist and the southern portion free. Containment has once again failed.

Eisenhower in the Cold War

* Eisenhower is elected after the perception that Truman and the Democrats failed at containing communism. He engages in brinkmanship, which means that the US increases its stockpile of nuclear weapons and air force in an effort to be ready to threaten a nuclear attack against the Soviets.
* Eisenhower gives the CIA permission to stage covert operations around the world to oust communism.
* After Stalin dies, the new leader of the Soviet Union Khrushchev believes the US and Soviet Union can peacefully co-exist, but when Eisenhower sends a spy plane over the Soviet Union, Khrushchev changes his mind.
* The space race is a competition over who can get to space first. Soviet send up the first satellite Sputnik in 1957. As a result, US invests in science education. Soviets send first man in space, but US gets first man on the moon. Perception that US won the space race.
* Also, an arms race exists between US and Soviet Union. Competition over who can have most and deadliest weapons

Domestic Issues & Culture During the 1950s

* There is a growing suspicion of communism, and Americans are worried. There is a rumor that Hollywood is filled with communists trying to sneak communist propaganda into movies. There is a House Un-American Activities Committee that investigates this.
* Ultimately, it is revealed that many government officials are communist spies trying to infiltrate the government. Two such spies are Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs (who leaked information about the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union).
* Senator Joseph McCarthy begins to accuse people of being communist. It becomes popular at first, but then declines.
* The Venona Papers, which were revealed in 1995 revealed that many government officials were in fact spies.
* The US adopts the motto “In God We Trust” to distinguish ourselves from the Soviets, as they do not believe in religion.
* When men come home from WWII, the US experiences a baby boom.
* Many Americans move to the suburbs after WWII to settle down and start a family.
* President Truman ends discrimination in the military based on race.
* Rock and roll becomes popular music.
* Jonas Salk invents the polio vaccine.
* The Federal Highway Act is passed under Eisenhower, and many highways are built.
* Computers and TVs are invented.