Europe and North America

1945–Present

Europe and North America

The Big Picture

World War II left behind enormous destruction and a world order dominated by two nations: the United States and the Soviet Union. In the years to come, the bitter rivalry between these two superpowers would affect not only Europe and North America, but the world.

Theme Society

Periods of conflict and unrest can have a profound effect on the societies involved. In this chapter you will learn how the Cold War conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union affected societies around the world.
Europe and North America

Section 1

Click the icon to play. Listen to History audio.

Click the icon below to connect to the Interactive Maps.

The NATO alliance was formed in 1949 to counter Soviet power in Eastern Europe.

Communism and Soviet influence spread quickly across much of Asia and Eastern Europe after World War II.
Main Idea

Once partners in war, the Soviet Union and the other former Allies found it much more difficult to cooperate in peace. The result was an era of conflict and confrontation called the Cold War.

Content Statement 17:
Describe how WWII devastated most of Europe and Asia, led to the occupation of Eastern Europe and Japan, and began the Atomic age.

Content Statement 18:
Analyze how the U.S. and Soviet Union became superpowers and competed for global influence.
• Nuremberg trials:
• Cold War:
• Iron curtain
• Truman Doctrine:
• Marshall Plan:
• Containment:
• Berlin Airlift:
• NATO:
• Warsaw Pact:
Ch 15-1 vocabulary

- **Nuremberg trials**: (1945-1949) trials in which an Allied military tribunal tried several dozen top Nazi and military officials; many were executed for war crimes.

- **Cold War**: an era of high tension and bitter rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union in the decades following WWII.

- **Iron curtain**: term coined by Winston Churchill in 1946 to describe an imaginary line dividing Communist countries in the Soviet bloc from countries in Western Europe during the Cold War.

- **Truman Doctrine**: (1947) U.S. President Truman’s pledge to provide economic and military aid to countries threatened by communism.

- **Marshall Plan**: (1947) plan for the economic reconstruction of Europe after WWII.
Ch 15-1 vocabulary

• **Containment:** the United States policy adopted in the 1940’s to stop the spread of communism by providing economic and military aid to countries opposing the Soviets.

• **Berlin Airlift:** (1948-1949) a program in which the United States and Britain shipped supplies by air to West Berlin during the Soviet blockade of all routes to the city.

• **NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization; a defensive military alliance to twelve Western nations formed in 1949.

• **Warsaw Pact:** a military alliance of the Soviet-dominated countries of Eastern Europe, established in 1955.
Europe Post WWII
Europe and North America

Section 1

WWII Aftermath
Europe and North America

Section 1

WWII Aftermath
Causes of WWI and WWII (Cold War)

1) **Militarism**: building up of military weapons

2) **Alliances**: WWI: Triple Alliance (Central Powers) Triple Entente (The Allies) WWII: Axis Powers (Japan, Germany, Italy) Allied Powers. Cold War: NATO (U.S), Warsaw Pact (U.S.S.R)

3) **Imperialism**: expanding territorial claims

4) **Nationalism**: putting the interests of your nation above the interests of all others.
The Problems of Peace

- In World War II the Allies worked together to defeat the Axis
- At war’s end, shattered European nations needed to be dealt with
- This task placed a great strain on the alliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) Occupying Germany</th>
<th>1) Four Zones</th>
<th>1) Capital Divided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much of Germany in ruins when war ended, May 1945</td>
<td>Allies began to plan Germany’s future before war’s end</td>
<td>Soviet Union to control one-third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allies needed to establish system to govern and rebuild nation</td>
<td>Agreed on major issues at Potsdam Conference in July 1945.</td>
<td>Remaining two-thirds controlled by rest of Allies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agreed to divide into four zones of occupation</td>
<td>Also divided capital of Berlin into four occupation zones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Britain, France, U.S., USSR would occupy zones</td>
<td>Separate countries controlling zones: Could govern how they wanted. Never meant to be permanent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 1949 Germany was divided into four zones of occupation: American, British, French, and Soviet.

**Location**  Why was it necessary to airlift supplies to West Berlin?

See *Skills Handbook*, p. H20
2) Ridding Germany of Nazis

- Allies also worked together to establish plan to rid Germany of any remnants of Nazi Party, Nazi beliefs
- Brought former Nazi, military leaders to justice for crimes committed during war at **Nuremberg trials** in Nuremberg, Germany; 1945–1949

2) Trials and Reparations

- Military courts tried more than two hundred Nazi, military officials
- Several dozen sentenced to death for roles in Holocaust, war crimes
- Allies also agreed on plan for Germany to pay reparations for destruction caused by war; in form of currency, industrial equipment
- Soviet Union got largest share; had suffered greatest destruction

**WHY DIFFERENT FROM VERSAILLES??: OCCUPATION:**
3) Beyond Germany

- Allies agreed on Germany, what to do with rest of Europe more difficult
- Even before war ended, major Allied powers in conflict over Eastern Europe
- Eastern Europe bordered Soviet Union, was occupied by Soviet forces

3) Buffer Zone

- Soviet leaders had been invaded by Germany in both wars
- Wanted buffer zone of friendly governments to guard against another attack
- Stalin promised to respect Eastern Europeans’ right to choose governments
- Stalin goes back on that promise
- Just finished fighting dictators (Hitler; Mussolini). Don’t want more.

3) Growing Tensions

- American, British leaders believed Stalin planned to establish pro-Soviet Communist governments throughout Eastern Europe and beyond
- Growing tensions between Allies about to lead to another conflict
Europe Post WWII
The relationship between the Soviet Union and the Western nations continued to worsen after the war. Soon the United States and the Soviet Union entered an era of tension and hostility, which became known as the Cold War.

4) The Struggle Begins

- Cold War more than military rivalry
- Struggle for power, control between two nations with very different approaches
- Conflict between communism, capitalist democracy
- Russian communism = dictatorship. Communism is economic philosophy. Socialist Republic

5) Pro-Soviet Governments

- Backed by Soviet troops, pro-Soviet Communist governments established in Eastern Europe. Political opponents assassinated.
- Only Yugoslavia avoided Soviet domination, although it was led by Communist dictator
- As communism spread throughout Eastern Europe, tension between the Soviet Union and the western democracies continued to grow.
### More Tension

#### 6) Another Possible War

- Tension worsened by Soviet failure to remove troops from northern Iran
- January 1946, President Truman warned “Another war is in the making.”
- February 1946, Stalin stated publicly he believed war between East, West bound to happen

#### 6) Iron Curtain

- March 1946, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave speech in U.S.
  - “Our difficulties and dangers will not be removed by closing our eyes to them. They will not be removed by mere waiting to see what happens; nor will they be removed by a policy of appeasement.” page 481
- Problem won’t be solved by policy of appeasement
- Churchill used image of **iron curtain** to describe the division of Europe as result of Soviet actions
- Said this was serious threat to peace
Causes of WWI and WWII (Cold War)

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4) **Nationalism:** putting the interests of your nation above the interests of all others.
In a famous speech, Winston Churchill described a Communist "iron curtain" descending on Europe.

1. Location  What countries were on the eastern side of the iron curtain?
2. Place     How were Germany and Berlin divided?
The democratic nations of the West soon faced a test of their resolve to contain the Communist East.

7) **The Truman Doctrine**

- Early 1947, Soviet backed Communists threatened governments of Greece, Turkey
- British said they would no longer finance pro-Western governments
- President Truman announced **Truman Doctrine**—pledge to provide economic, military aid to oppose spread of communism
- Congress agreed to send aid to Greece, Turkey

7) **The Marshall Plan**

- Because of post-war economies, Truman believed more European countries might turn to communism
- U.S. launched massive program of economic aid
- **Marshall Plan** provided $13 billion for rebuilding Europe
- Plan helped Western Europe make rapid recovery from war, preserved political stability
Europe Post WWII
Cold War Confrontations

8) Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan demonstrated West’s Cold War policy, *containment*

- Containment involved resisting Soviet aggression in order to contain spread of communism
- Confrontations between East, West soon became increasingly severe

9) *Crisis in Berlin*

- Division of Germany, Berlin originally meant to be temporary
- 1947, Western leaders began planning creation of independent democratic German nation
- Also planned democratic government in West Berlin. USSR opposed.
- Russia also upset with introduction of new currency to West Germany: the Deutsche Mark. Called it American economic imperialism.
- As a result, Stalin wants to choke West out of Berlin.

9) *West Berlin Blockade*

- June 1948, Soviets blocked off land, rail, water routes into West Berlin to force West to leave Berlin
- Berlin’s 2 million residents couldn’t import food, coal and other vital supplies. Stalin turns off electricity.
- Western leaders organized **Berlin airlift** to supply Berlin by air. At one point plane was taking off from or landing in Berlin every 30 sec.
- Airlift successful; Soviets called off blockade May, 1949. Lasted 15 months
- Churchill: No appeasement!!
In 1949 Germany was divided into four zones of occupation: American, British, French, and Soviet.

**Location** Why was it necessary to airlift supplies to West Berlin?

See [Skills Handbook](#), p. H20
Germany and NATO

• At end of Berlin crisis, western zones of Germany formed Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany.
• Soviet zone became German Democratic Republic, or East Germany.
• U.S., Canada, most Western European countries joined in military alliance—North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO—designed to counter Soviet power in Europe. Formed April, 1949.
• 1955, Soviet Union, Communist nations of Eastern Europe formed own alliance, Warsaw Pact.
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11) War in Korea

11) Division of Korea
- Allies gained control of Korea after Japan’s World War II surrender
- Soviet Union, U.S. agreed to temporarily divide country in half
- Soviets established Communist government in north; U.S. supported non-Communist regime in south

12) Eisenhower’s Warning
- June 1950, North Koreans attacked South Korea
- U.S. had withdrawn most of its forces in South Korea prior to attack.
- U.S. asked United Nations to approve use of force to stop invasion
- Eisenhower: “We’ll have a dozen Koreas soon if we don’t take a firm stand.”

MacArthur at Inchon
- UN formed military force; troops from 17 nations sent to Korea
- North Koreans nearly conquered south within matter of months
- American general Douglas MacArthur, UN forces landed behind enemy lines at Inchon; tipped balance back in favor of UN forces
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Push Back</th>
<th>War Shifts Again</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• UN forces pushed North Koreans out of south</td>
<td>• War shifted again when Communist Chinese came to aid of North Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Drove deep into North Korea near Chinese border</td>
<td>• Drove UN forces out of north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Seen as Soviet Imperialism</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stalemate</th>
<th>End of War</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 1951, war settled into stalemate</td>
<td>• 1953, both sides agreed to armistice; war over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Battle lines lay about where they had been before North Korea’s initial invasion</td>
<td>• Little changed during war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• North remained Communist state; South, ally of West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Europe and North America

Section 1

**The Korean War, 1950–1951**

1. In a surprise attack, North Korean troops invade the South.
2. UN forces land at Inchon, attacking behind North Korean lines.
3. UN forces quickly push north from Pusan and Inchon.
4. China enters the war on the side of North Korea.

**Geography Skills**

Interpreting Maps

- Territory changed hands frequently during the Korean War as troops moved over an area smaller than the state of California.
- Movement: Describe North Korean movements during the war.

*Interactive Map
Keyword: SHL ENA*
Europe and North America

Section 1

Korea June 1950

June 1950

Pyongyang

Inchon

Seoul

Pusan

38th parallel
Korea Oct 1950: Should UN keep going?
CAUSES AND EFFECTS
OF THE COLD WAR

CAUSES

- Disagreements between the Allies during World War II
- Differing U.S. and Soviet political and economic systems
- Differing goals for postwar Germany and Eastern Europe
- Soviet expansion of communism in Eastern Europe
- Resistance to Soviet aggression by United States

EFFECTS

- Political and military struggles around the world
- Increased military spending, leading to an arms race
- The ever-present danger of nuclear war