

WWII was a very crucial point in the history of the world. This era in the late parts of the nineteenth century was a defining period for many countries and nations across the globe. All of this led to many global shifts and changes in the dynamics across many fields which helped shape the world into what it is today. Throughout this essay the diverse viewpoints presented by Kennan, Novikov, and McNamara, and examining the implications of their analyses for understanding the history of the post-WWII era.

Kennan's perspective of WWII played a very keen insight into the significance of WWII and the aftermath of it. In this perspective, Kennan identified the Soviet Union as the primary threat in the post WWII period. This view is seen through, 'Soviet socialism and must therefore be forestalled at all costs'(Kennan) and "Conflicts between capitalist states, though likewise fraught with danger for USSR, nevertheless hold out great possibilities for advancement of socialist cause, particularly if USSR remains militarily powerful, ideologically monolithic and faithful to its present brilliant leadership"(Kennan). These observations above show why the Soviet Union in Kennan's perspective was a threat. Kennan outlines in his "long telegram" a plan for containment of the Soviet Union so communism and socialist views would not spread. Novikov's point of view attributes the post WWII militarism to the aggressive intentions of the United States. This was shown through, "The United States of America, if it was not able to completely avoid participation in the war, would enter it only at the last moment when it might be able to influence its outcome without great effort, completely securing its own interests" (Novikov). Novikov's perspective does not fit the general narrative of post-WWII of the containment of communism. Novikov contradicts this by saying the United States acted

in the war not to stop communism but to gain power on the world stage and continue its own agenda. I find Novikov's perspective more believable because it makes sense as to what was happening more in the time period rather than just the containment of communism.

McNamara had many insights with his experience of WWII. In this experience he highlighted the use of technology and the advancements it had in the battlefield. Examples of this technology are radar systems and longer ranged aircraft. These help shape and modify the current state of warfare. Another technological advancement was the harnessing of nuclear power. McNamara had an insight on the Cuban Missile Crisis. He talked about the use of crisis management and how it was handled and how the effects of nuclear warfare could have been extremely deadly. This is shown throughout his explanation of the crisis and the effects it had during the time and what it did to help move the fear of communism in the United States. McNamara's point of view of the vietnam war was a very crucial one. His view was outlined by the right way and the right amount of intervention in war. This was shown in his tone and his explanation of what occurred during the war. Another major point he made was his experience as the Secretary of Defense and what was occurring in his position through ethical decisions. Another point in the Vietnam War that was made was the use of technology and the use of improper strategies. This was outlined through the use of military advancements such as napalm and the use of American strategies against Guerrilla warfare. Overall his insight into the Vietnam War was a perfect way to see what was really occurring during the war. The lesson I believe that should have been followed during the Cold War was lesson number eleven. This lesson is from the 'Fog of war' and is outlined by in order to

do good sometimes engaging in evil is needed. This is the case because it shows the need for communication between countries and how spying can be used to help keep each other safe. This shows how lesson number eleven needed to be followed during the Cold War.

Overall, I believe that the world has changed massively since WWII. This is shown through current day alliances and world wide infrastructure. Many countries that were sided together during the war are still in alliances today. The fear of communism is still very prevalent in current society with fears of China being broadcasted very frequently. The increase in military technology can still be seen today where we still make more advancements in the defense sector due to the fear of another major conflict occurring. Overall I believe the World was changed by WWII and we will continue to see the after effects of what occurred for years to come.