

SECTION 2



SS.7.C.3.1; SS.7.C.4.1; SS.7.C.4.2; SS.7.C.4.3; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

The Cold War

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

The United States and the Soviet Union worked together during World War II, but the two nations became rivals soon after the war ended. Their political rivalry turned into a competition for global power that became known as the Cold War.

Reading Focus

1. What were the causes of the Cold War?
2. How did the United States use its containment policy to respond to the Berlin blockade, the Cuban missile crisis, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War?
3. What events marked the end of the Cold War?

Key Terms

communism, p. 614
satellite nations, p. 615
containment, p. 615
balance of power, p. 616
limited war, p. 617
détente, p. 618



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the causes of the Cold War, the policy of containment, and the end of the Cold War.

SS.7.C.3.1 Compare different forms of government (direct democracy, representative democracy, socialism, communism, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy).



For more than 40 years, the Cold War had a major effect on the lives of American citizens. During the Cold War, Americans lived in fear of a nuclear attack. The Cold War governed U.S. foreign policy from the end of World War II until 1989. That was when communism in Eastern Europe fell, and the Soviet Union collapsed soon after.

Causes of the Cold War

During World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were allies in fighting Nazi Germany. After the war ended, however, the two countries became great rivals. The roots of the conflict lay in the two countries' different economic systems and forms of government. The United States is a representative democracy. The Soviet Union was a Communist regime.

Roots of Communism

German writer Karl Marx is credited with developing the ideas of socialism into the economic and political system known as communism. Socialism advocates that society

should organize and control the means of production for the welfare of all. Under **communism**, the state would own the land, capital, and labor and make all economic decisions. Marx believed that capitalists were getting rich by treating workers unfairly. He argued that the working class, called the proletariat, would take over all factories and businesses. The working class would then take hold of political power to run nations and their economies.

In 1917 Communists in Russia staged a revolution and took control of the government. Russia became the first country to adopt a Communist system. It was renamed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or the Soviet Union. For decades, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was the center of government power. The Soviet government made all economic decisions. It owned and managed all of the country's industries and farms. It also controlled most aspects of citizens' lives and punished those who spoke out against the government.

Berlin Airlift

German children wave to U.S. planes bringing in food supplies during the Berlin airlift.

How was the Berlin airlift part of the American policy of containment of communism?



The Cold War Begins

Soon after World War II, the Soviet Union had established Communist governments in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, and Poland. The Soviet Union had turned the countries along its borders into **satellite nations**—countries controlled by another country.

With the nations of Eastern Europe under its control, the Soviet Union tried to increase its power elsewhere. The United States saw this expansion of Soviet power and communism as a serious threat to U.S. national security and to world peace.

The resulting competition for global power and influence became known as the Cold War. On one side was the Soviet Union and its satellites. The United States and other noncommunist countries stood on the other side. Both sides used propaganda, spying, alliances, foreign aid, and other **strategies** to “win” the war.

READING CHECK Summarizing How did the Cold War begin?

The Policy of Containment

Even as World War II was ending in 1945, President Harry S. Truman was worried that the Soviet Union would become a danger to the United States and the free world. Then, in March 1947 President Truman announced that the United States would give economic aid to help countries fighting communism. This policy became known as the Truman Doctrine. The idea behind Truman’s policy came to be called **containment**. The United States wanted to prevent Soviet communism from spreading and keep the Soviet Union “contained” to the area it had occupied up to 1947. However, U.S. policy makers expected that the Soviet Union would test the containment policy.

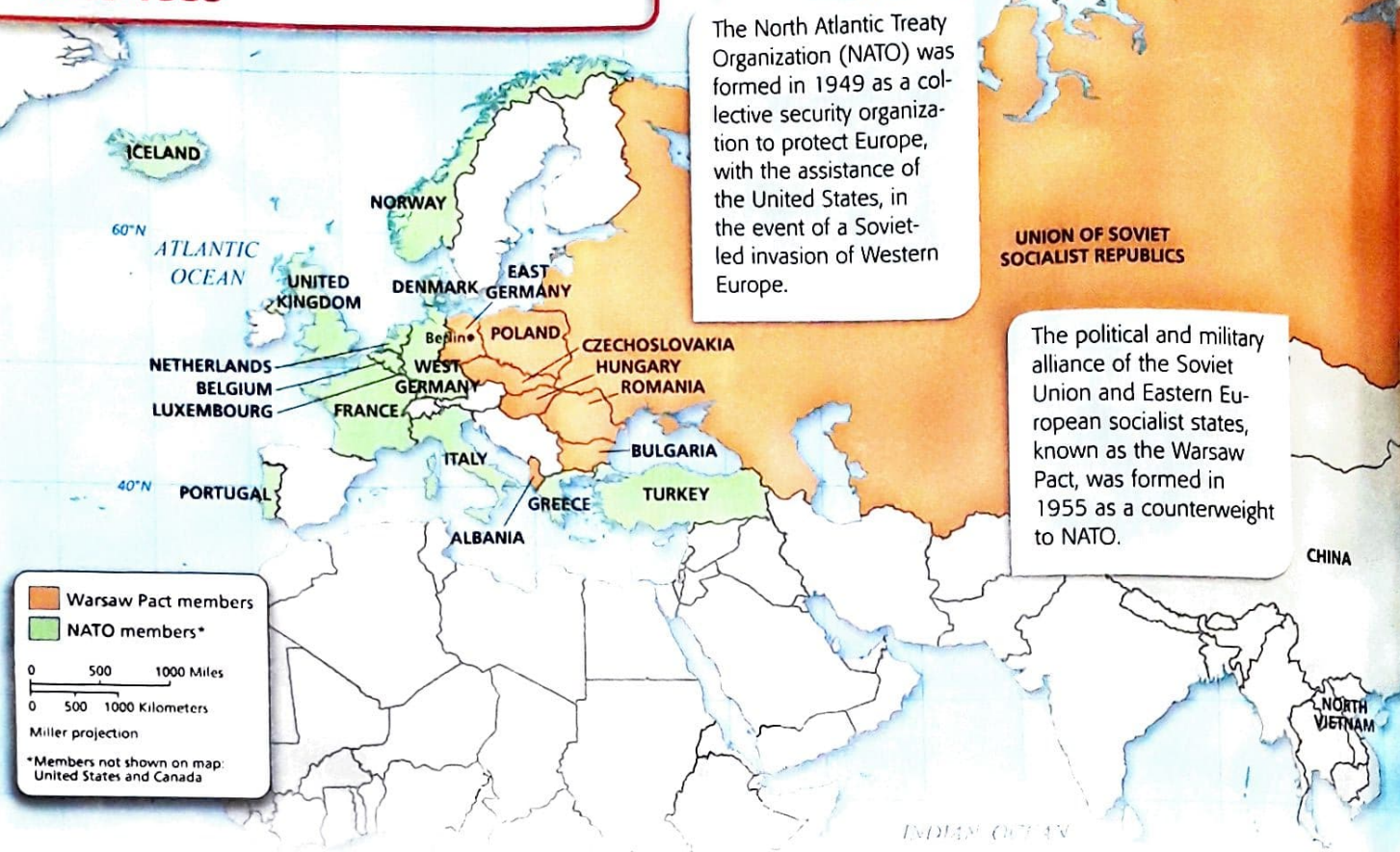
The Berlin Blockade

The first real test of containment came in 1948 in Berlin, Germany. At the end of World War II, Germany was divided into separate zones. The Soviet Union occupied the eastern zone. France, Great Britain, and the United States jointly occupied the western zone.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

strategies:
plans for fighting a battle or a war

Policy of Containment, 1946-1989



Berlin, the capital, was located in the Soviet-occupied zone, but it was divided among France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States. Each country controlled a part of the city.

In June 1948 the Soviet Union tried to force the democratic occupation troops in West Berlin to leave the city. The Soviets blockaded Berlin by closing all western land routes to the city. Residents of West Berlin were cut off from food and supplies. The United States and Great Britain began a massive airlift of fuel, food, clothing, and other essential items. More than 272,000 flights brought 2.3 million tons of needed supplies to West Berlin. The Soviets finally agreed to lift the blockade in 1949.

Communism in China

After World War II, a full-scale civil war broke out in China. In 1949 Chinese Communists

defeated the government led by Chiang Kai-shek. Chiang's forces fled to the island of Taiwan, off the southeastern coast of China. There they set up a government in exile, called Nationalist China, or the Republic of China. The Communists held the mainland—known as the People's Republic of China (PRC). The first head of the People's Republic of China was Mao Zedong. China remains Communist today. Tensions still exist between Taiwan and the PRC, which maintains that Taiwan is still its territory.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

In 1949 the Soviet Union demonstrated to the world that it also had developed nuclear weapons. A **balance of power**, or a situation in which countries are about equal in strength, developed between the Soviet Union and the United States. Each country began testing the other for weaknesses.



As communism spread from Europe to Asia, the United States expanded its policy of containment to confront Communist states around the globe.

ANALYSIS SKILL

INTERPRETING MAPS

Why was it important for Greece and Turkey to join the NATO Alliance?

The most dangerous of these confrontations took place in October 1962. President John F. Kennedy learned that the Soviets were building secret missile bases in Cuba. Fidel Castro had set up a Communist government on the island in 1959.

Kennedy knew that these missile bases could threaten the United States. Thus, he demanded that the Soviet Union remove its missiles from Cuba. Kennedy declared that the United States was ready to take military action if necessary. The U.S. Navy and Air Force were used to search foreign ships bound for Cuba, and Army troops were put on alert. As a result of this show of military strength and will, the Soviet Union backed down and agreed to remove its missiles from Cuba.

The Korean War

During the Cold War, the United States also became involved in military conflicts that were limited in scope. A **limited war** is fought without using a country's full power. That is, it is fought without using nuclear weapons.

As a result of an agreement reached after World War II, the Asian country of Korea was divided into Communist North Korea and noncommunist South Korea. In June 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea in an attempt to reunite the country under a Communist government. North Korea was equipped with Soviet weapons. Chinese troops also began helping the North Koreans.

The U.S. government called on the United Nations to halt the invasion. Troops from the United States and 15 other members of the United Nations helped defend South Korea. By July 1953, the conflict had reached a stalemate. The two sides agreed that Korea would remain divided into Communist North Korea and noncommunist South Korea. Tensions remain high between the two Korean countries today.

The Vietnam War

In 1954 three French colonies in Southeast Asia became independent. These colonies were Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Vietnam, like Korea, was divided into a Communist northern half and a noncommunist southern half. The agreements called for elections to be held throughout Vietnam in 1956 to reunite the country. When the elections did not take place, Communist guerillas revolted. Troops and supplies from North Vietnam helped guerilla forces in the south. The North Vietnamese received military supplies from the Soviet Union and China.

U.S. officials feared that if South Vietnam fell to the Communists, other countries in Southeast Asia might also fall. The United States sent economic aid and military advisers to South Vietnam, and in time, combat troops were sent into action. By 1969 some 540,000 Americans were fighting in Vietnam.

FOCUS ON

Castro's rise to power was followed by a wave of emigration from the island. About 215,000 Cubans, fleeing communism, moved to the United States in the early years of the Cuban Revolution. A large number settled in Miami, Florida. Today, Miami is often considered to be the center of the Cuban community in the United States.

In January 1973 a peace agreement was announced and the war came to an end for the United States. The war had lasted more than eight years, killed some 58,000 Americans, and wounded more than 300,000. It cost nearly \$140 billion. Despite the peace agreement, fighting continued in Vietnam. By 1975 the Communist government controlled all of Vietnam.

READING CHECK Analyzing Information Why did the United States become involved in the Vietnam War?

The End of the Cold War

The Soviet Union suffered from the costs of the Cold War. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union. Faced with a failing economy, citizen unrest, and a stifling political system, Gorbachev began a series of reforms. Gorbachev's reform policies included efforts at *détente*, or a lessening of tensions, between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Social changes throughout Eastern Europe caused a number of citizens in several Soviet satellite nations to overturn their Communist governments. By 1990 the Communist

"Tear Down this Wall"

On June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan challenged Soviet Communist Party Chairman Gorbachev to come to Berlin and "tear down this wall."

The sign behind President Reagan is a warning that you are now leaving West Berlin.



governments in six Eastern European countries fell. Germany was soon reunited under a democratic government.

Also in 1990 a number of Soviet republics, including East Germany, rallied for independence from the Soviet Union. In 1991 the Soviet Union dissolved. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an organization of former Soviet republics, replaced it. With the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Cold War was over.

Summarizing How did the Cold War end?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Define** Write a brief definition for each of the following terms: **communism** and **satellite nations**.

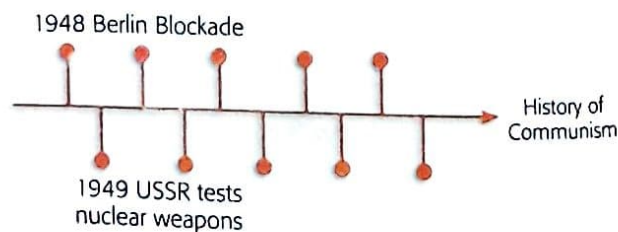
b. Analyze Information In what ways is communism both an economic and a political system?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition for each of the following terms: **containment**, **balance of power**, and **limited war**.

b. Compare and Contrast How did the U.S. response to the Berlin blockade and the Cuban missile crisis differ?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition for the following term: **détente**.

b. Summarize In what ways did the reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev help end the Cold War?

Critical Thinking

- Sequencing** Copy the time line. Use it to list some of the important events of the Cold War in their proper order.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Problem Solving** Write a newspaper article describing the end of the Cold War.