Steve Yeh 4/16/15 Tedeschi Identifications

**Nikita Khrushchev**

Khrushchev was the Soviet premier following Stalin and World War II. He lead the Soviet Union through the height of the Cold War, aggressing by way of the Cuban Missile Crisis while promoting the de-Stalinization of the Soviet Union and also ruling with an authoritative hand.

**Fidel Castro**

Castro was a communist revolutionary leader who overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. He allied with the Soviets, embracing military and financial aid from them while also proceeding with the Cuban Missile Crisis at the time.

**John F. Kennedy**

Kennedy was the president of the United States during the height of the Cold War, easing tensions with Khrushchev during the Cuban Missile Crisis and proclaiming that America land a person on the moon by the “end of the decade”. However, Kennedy was the instigator of the Vietnam conflict, first stating that it be American responsibility that Vietnam not be taken over by the NVA.

**Charles de Gaulle**

de Gaulle was the leader of France during the Cold War. He, despite American dispute, pursued independent policies that benefitted France more than any country else.

**Marshal Tito**

Tito was the leader of Yugoslavia. Though his government was still communist, he resisted Soviet hegemony while maintaining good relations with other satellite communist states.

**Richard Nixon**

Nixon was the 37th President of the United States. He is famous for his strong stance against Khrushchev, pulling out of the Vietnam War and the Watergate Scandal which ultimately led to his resignation.

**Mikhail Gorbachev**

Gorbachev was leader of the Soviet Union during its final years. He pushed for reforms that would revitalize the Soviet Union economy as well as restructure. When all else failed, he disintegrated the Soviet empire into many smaller countries while power was still consolidated in the Russian Federation.

**Lech Walesa**

Walesa was the founder of Solidarity, a movement aimed at Polish independence and anti-communism. Solidarity started out as a combined trade union and nationalist movement before being legalized by the Polish government.

**Mutually Assured Destruction**

MAD is a term for the destruction of both superpowers of the bipolar war, the United States and the Soviet Union. The threshold for MAD was almost reached during the Cold War as both sides hoarded huge arsenals of nuclear weapons.

**Berlin Wall**

This wall surrounded West Berlin to keep citizens of East Germany from getting into West Berlin. West Berlin was the key access to a better life in the West, and was finally destroyed during Gorbachev’s way.

**Containment**

Containment is a term for the controlling and minimizing of the spread of a political ideology, particularly communism. Countries with potential of becoming communist states were of high alert to NATO countries as without intervention the domino theory may take place.

**Bay of Pigs**

The location of the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion, this site is found in Cuba. During the invasion, CIA trained and armed Cuban exiles landed in the bay to try to topple Castro’s regime, however, they were defeated quickly.

**Sputnik**

Sputnik was the first satellite launched into space. The Soviet satellite sparked apprehension about U.S. society and education, and the Space Race began between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

**Prague Spring**

The Czechoslovakian move toward liberal communism/socialism lead to fear in the Soviet Union as they believed they would lose control. A Soviet coalition army invaded the Czechoslovakia to stop the movement, using the “Brezhnev doctrine” as justification.

**Détente**

This is a policy of a reduction of hostility between countries. U.S.-Soviet relations went the opposite when U.S. started to supply the Chinese military, which the Soviets disputed as they viewed the Chinese as enemies.

**Korean War**

The split of communist and democracy in Korea was along the 38th parallel, however, the communist revolutionary Kim Il Sung believed that the whole of the peninsula should be under his rule. The Korean War ensued, which the U.S. and later China got involved in, and the resolution finally ended in a creation of a DMZ at the 38th parallel.

**Vietnam War**

The U.S. was alerted when the NLF threatened the democratic but corrupt government of South Vietnam. The U.S. entered the war, which became very unpopular and ended with a U.S. defeat and an imminent North Vietnamese takeover of the Southeast Asian country.

**Perestroika**

This is a Russian term meaning “restructuring”. Gorbachev wanted to decentralize the economy, which many of his comrades objected to.

**Glasnost**

This is a term that refers to the opening of Soviet society to public criticism and admission of past mistakes. This was previously unheard of under Stalin and Khrushchev rule, and started under Gorbachev.