

The Cold War is considered to be a global conflict, a war that went to almost every part of the world. This may be true as the Cold War took place in some form or fashion on almost every continent, particularly in Asia and Europe. That being said, the Cold War took on many forms in ideology, and progression throughout the world. There were marked differences between the regions of East Asia, Europe, and the Middle East in ideologies. Asia proved to be a region in strong support of Communism with the establishment of the three Communist states including China, Vietnam, and Korea. Europe's Cold War was characterized by a split in ideology between the West and the East, as the West supported capitalism and democracy and the East supported socialism and authoritarian regimes. In the Middle East, the Cold War and its ideologies were not as welcomed as the other two regions. The Cold War in the Middle East was characterized by attempts of the Americans and Soviets to influence the region. It ended with a rejection of both ideologies and an reemergence of theocracies and the development of Islamist fundamentalism.

In East Asia, the Cold War was shaped by the Soviet Union and Communism. The establishment of China as a Communist Republic in 1949 was a large part of the introduction of Asia to the Cold War. China was a powerful country during the Cold War that grew in strength as the war developed. Three of the East Asian states, China, Vietnam, and Korea all were Communist and attempted to use Communism to strengthen their state and achieve their goals. China used its relationship with the Soviet Union to improve its standing in international affairs. The leader of China, Mao Zedong, innovated Communism for his own purposes. Vietnam and Korea both dealt with domestic conflicts which led to both states being split into two states by both of the

superpowers. In the case of Korea, the Communist figure in North Korea, Kim Il-Sung manipulated Stalin and Mao into supporting him going to war against South Korea.

In Europe, the Cold War took on an ideology shaped by Western European ideals of capitalism struggling with Eastern Europe ideals of socialism. Germany was a perfect example of this split. At the end of the Second World War, Germany was split in half and placed under the occupation of the Allied powers. Western Germany was placed under the control of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. Eastern Germany was placed under the control of the Soviet Union. The two states were separated from each other with physical barriers and trade sanctions. Germans were not allowed to visit each other. The two states were completely separated and it led to the development of two different cultures, one was capitalist and one was socialist. Another example of the European split in ideology was the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the West and the Warsaw Pact in the East. NATO was an alliance between many of the Western powers and allowed for better diplomatic and military relations. It alienated the East. The Warsaw Pact was an alliance between the Soviet Union and its satellite states to strengthen their military defense against the West. It was seen as a response to NATO. This demonstrated the split in ideology on the continent.

In the Middle East, the Cold War was characterized by Western and Soviet attempts to influence the area. When the Soviets intervened in Afghanistan, there was a shift in the region. The Soviets established a Communist party in Afghanistan that was deeply unpopular with the rural population. The war led to the death of thousands of civilians and a general distrust of the West and Soviets. All of the failings of non-Arab

intervention led to a rejection of what Arab nationalists viewed as the secular, Western world. The Cold War in the Middle East led to a resurgence in religion and the rise of Islamist fundamentalism. This fundamentalism was found in several Arab states including Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. Their goals were to revitalize Arab identity, pushing back against Western imperialism, and return the states to the original intent of Islam. These new governments did not reject modernization, just the Western ideals, including Communism, that drove it.

In conclusion, the Cold War was a global conflict that took on different forms on different continents. In East Asia, Communism was firmly entrenched in China, Vietnam and Korea. This led to increased tension between the Western world and Asian states. In Europe, the Cold War was characterized by a clear split in ideology. Western Europe was capitalist and Eastern Europe was communist. One such example of this split was the issue of the two Germanys. West Germany and East German were ruled by two different ideologies and there was a clear difference in their economies, lifestyles, and political systems. This split in ideology was further characterized by the establishment of NATO in the West, and the Warsaw Pact in the East. The split led to the development of separate economies and value systems. The Middle East had a different Cold War than the other two regions. The Cold War in the Middle East was characterized by the superpowers' attempts to influence the region. It was important to make distinctions between the regions because it reinforced the understanding that the Cold War was not homogenous. It was not a war between just the two superpowers. It was a series of regional and domestic conflicts that were all amplified and connected by the involvement of the two superpowers, and the clear division between two worlds.