

Was The Cold War Really Cold?



Supporting Questions

1. Identify and explain events that could be described as “cold” during the Cold War Era
2. What were the “Hot” wars during the Cold War?
3. How did the Cold War End?

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HS US History Inquiry

Compelling Question

Michigan Content Expectations:	<p>8.1.1 Origins and Beginnings of the Cold War – analyze the factors that contributed to the Cold War</p> <p>8.1.2 Foreign Policy During the Cold War – compare the causes and consequences of the American policy of containment</p> <p>8.1.3 End of the Cold War – describe the factors that led to the end of the Cold War.</p>
Staging the Compelling Question:	<p>View and discuss the following song: Billy Joel - “We Didn’t Start the Fire” music and video</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFTLKWw542g</p>

Supporting Question 1
Identify and explain events that could be described as “cold” during the Cold War Era
Formative Performance Task
Make a T Chart, on one side label it as “Cold” events of the Cold War
Featured Sources
<p>Cold War Timeline</p> <p>Crash Course Cold War</p> <p>How the Cold War Got its Name</p> <p>American History “The Cold War”</p>

Supporting Question 2
What were the “Hot” wars during the Cold War?
Formative Performance Task
Continue on your T chart and label the other side as “Hot” List events that turned “hot” during the Cold War
Featured Sources
<p>US Enters the Korean War</p> <p>US Enters Korean War Press Release</p> <p>Proxy War - Vietnam</p>

Supporting Question 3
How did the Cold War End?
Formative Performance Task
Make a timeline of events that led up to the end of the Cold War
Featured Sources
<p>Berlin Wall Speech</p> <p>Glasnos and Perestroika Article</p> <p>The Collapse of the Soviet Union Article</p>

Summative Performance Task	Argument “Was the Cold War Really Cold?” In the Summative Performance Task, students address this issue by supporting their answers with evidence. Students may write an essay, create a multi-media presentation, etc. to craft a claim that is supported by evidence.
Extension:	Have students weigh and discuss if there is a new Cold War today.



Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source A

<p>February 4th – 11th 1945 Yalta Conference Meeting between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin to decide what would happen at the end of the war. Topics discussed included – Partitioning of Germany Fate of Poland The United Nations German reparations</p>	<p>which contain the famous phrase “..an iron curtain has descended on Europe”</p>	<p>May 1949 End of Berlin Blockade Russia ended the blockade of Berlin.</p>
<p>May 8th 1945 V E Day Victory in Europe as Germany surrenders to the Russian army.</p>	<p>March 12th 1947 Truman Doctrine President Truman promised to help any country facing a Communist takeover</p>	<p>April 4th 1949 NATO formed The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation formed with member states Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States</p>
<p>July 17th – August 2nd 1945 Potsdam Conference The Potsdam Conference formally divided Germany and Austria into four zones. It was also agreed that the German capital Berlin would be divided into four zones. The Russian Polish border was determined and Korea was to be divided into Soviet and American zones.</p>	<p>June 5th 1947 Marshall Plan This was a programme of economic aid offered by the United States to any European country. The plan was rejected outright by Stalin and any Eastern Bloc country considering accepting aid was reprimanded severely. Consequently the aid was only given to Western European Countries.</p>	<p>June 25th 1950 Korean War The Korean war began when North Korea invaded South Korea.</p>
<p>August 6th 1945 Hiroshima The United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima</p>	<p>September 1947 Cominform The USSR set up Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) which was the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers’ Parties responsible for the creation of the Eastern bloc.</p>	<p>March 5th 1953 Death of Stalin Joseph Stalin died at the age of 74. He was succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev.</p>
<p>August 8th 1945 Nagasaki The United States dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki.</p>	<p>June 1948 Formation of West Germany The French, USA and UK partitions of Germany were merged to form West Germany</p>	<p>July 27th 1953 Korean War The Korean war ended. North Korea remained affiliated with Russia while South Korea was affiliated with the USA.</p>
<p>August 14th 1945 V J Day The Japanese surrendered bringing World War Two to an end.</p>	<p>June 24th 1948 Berlin Blockade Russia’s response to the merger of the French, USA and UK partitions of Berlin was to cut all road and rail links to that sector. This meant that those living in Western Berlin had no access to food supplies and faced starvation. Food was brought to Western Berliners by US and UK airplanes, an exercise known as the Berlin Airlift.</p>	<p>Summer 1954 Geneva Accords This set of documents ended the French war with the Vietminh and divided Vietnam into North and South states. The communist leader of North Vietnam was Ho Chi Minh while the US friendly south was led by Ngo Dinh Diem.</p>
<p>September 2nd 1945 Vietnam Independence Ho Chi Minh proclaimed Vietnam an independent republic.</p>	<p>March 5th 1946 Churchill’s Iron Curtain Speech Churchill delivers his ‘Sinews of Peace’ speech</p>	<p>May 14th 1955 Warsaw Pact The Warsaw Pact was formed with member states East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union.</p>
		<p>October 23rd 1956 Hungarian Revolution This began as a</p>

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Hungarian protest against Communist rule in Budapest. It quickly gathered momentum and on 24th October Soviet tanks entered Budapest. The tanks withdrew on 28th October and a new government was formed which quickly moved to introduce democracy, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion. The Soviet tanks returned on 4th November encircling Budapest. The Prime Minister Imre Nagy made a World broadcast that Hungary was under attack from the Soviet Union and calling for aid. Hungary fell to Russia on 10th November 1956.

October 30th 1956 Suez Crisis Following military bombardment by Israeli forces, a joint British and French force invaded Egypt to regain control of the Suez Canal which had been nationalised by the Egyptian leader Nasser. The attack was heavily criticised by World leaders, especially America because Russia had offered support to Egypt. The British and French were forced to withdraw and a UN peace keeping force was sent to establish order.

November 1st 1957 Space Race USSR Sputnik II carried Laika the dog, the first living creature to go into space.

1960 Paris East/West talks Talks between Nikita Khrushchev and Dwight Eisenhower concerning the fate of Germany broke down when a USA U2 spy plane was shot down over Russian airspace.

April 12th 1961 Space Race Russian cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin became the first human being in space.

April 17th 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion A force of Cuban exiles, trained by the CIA, aided by the US government attempted to invade Cuba and overthrow the Communist government of Fidel Castro. The attempt failed.

August 13th 1961 Berlin Wall Berlin wall built and borders sealed between East and West Germany.

October 14th 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis A US spy plane reported sighting the construction of a Soviet nuclear missile base in Cuba. President Kennedy set up a naval blockade and demanded the removal of the missiles. War was averted when the Russians agreed on 28th October to remove the weapons. The United States agreed not to invade Cuba.

November 22nd 1963 JFK Assassination JF Kennedy was assassinated while on a visit to Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the murder but there has always been speculation that he was not a lone killer and that there may have been communist or CIA complicity.

October 15th 1964 USSR Nikita Krushchev removed from office. He was replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.

July 1965 Vietnam War 150,000 US troops sent to Vietnam.

August 20th 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia Warsaw Pact forces entered Czechoslovakia in a bid to stop the reforms known as 'Prague Spring' instigated by Alexander Dubcek. When he refused to halt his programme of reforms Dubcek was arrested.

December 21st 1968 Space Race US launched Apollo 8 – first manned orbit of the Moon.

20th July 1969 Space Race US Apollo 11 landed on the Moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man on the Moon.

April 30th 1970 Vietnam War President Richard Nixon ordered US troops to go to Cambodia.

September 3rd 1971 Four Power Agreement Berlin The Four Power Agreement made between Russia, USA, Britain and France reconfirmed the rights and responsibilities of those countries with regard to Berlin.

May 26th 1972 SALT Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty signed between the US and USSR.

August 15th 1973 Vietnam The Paris Peace Accords ended American involvement in Vietnam.

April 17th 1975 Cambodia Killing fields The Khmer Rouge attacked and took control of Cambodia. Any supporters of the former regime, anyone with links or supposed links to foreign governments as well as many intellectuals and professionals were executed in a genocide that became known as the 'killing fields'.

April 30th 1975 Vietnam North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam. The capture of Saigon by the North Vietnamese led to the whole country becoming Communist

July 1975 Apollo-Soyuz Test

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Project Joint space venture between USA and USSR heralded as an end to the 'Space Race'

January 20th 1977 Carter President Jimmy Carter became the 39th President of the United States

November 4th 1979 Iranian hostage crisis

A group of Iranian students and militants stormed the American embassy and took 53 Americans hostage to show their support for the Iranian Revolution.

December 24th 1979 Afghanistan Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan

July 1980 Olympic Boycott by USA

A number of countries including the USA boycotted the summer Olympics held in Moscow in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Other countries

including Great Britain participated under the Olympic flag rather than their national flag

December 13th 1980 Poland Martial law was declared to crush the Solidarity movement

January 20th 1981 Iranian hostage crisis ended The Iranian hostage crisis ended 444 days after it began

June 1982 START During a summit in Geneva Reagan proposed Strategic Arms Reduction Talks

July 1984 Olympic boycott by Russia Russia and 13 allied countries boycotted the summer Olympics held in Los Angeles in retaliation for the US boycott of 1980.

March 11th 1985 Gorbachov leader of USSR Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union

April 26th 1986 Chernobyl Disaster An explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine remains the worst nuclear disaster in history

June 1987 Glasnost and Perestroika Mikhail Gorbachev announced his intention to follow a policy of glasnost – openness, transparency and freedom of speech; and perestroika – restructuring of government and economy. He also advocated free elections and ending the arms race.

February 15th 1989 Afghanistan The last Soviet troops left Afghanistan

June 4th 1989 Tiananmen Square Anti Communist protests in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China were crushed by the government. The death count is unknown.

August 1989 Poland Tadeusz Mazowiecki elected leader of the Polish government – the first eastern bloc country to become a democracy

October 23rd 1989 Hungary Hungary proclaimed itself a republic

November 9th 1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall The Berlin wall was torn down

November 17th – December 29th 1989 Velvet Revolution The Velvet Revolution, also known as the Gentle Revolution, was a series of peaceful protests in Czechoslovakia that led to the overthrow of the Communist government.

December 2nd, 3rd 1989 Malta Summit This meeting between Mikhail Gorbachov and George H W Bush reversed much of the provisions of the Yalta Conference 1945. It is seen by some as the beginning of the end of the cold war.

December 16th – 25th 1989 Romanian Revolution Riots broke out which culminated in the overthrow and execution of the leader Ceausescu and his wife.

October 3rd 1990 German reunification East and West Germany were reunited as one country.

1st July 1991 End of Warsaw Pact The Warsaw Pact which allied Communist countries was ended

31st July 1991 START The Strategic Arms Reduction treaty was signed between Russia and the USA

25th December 1991 Gorbachev resigned Mikhail Gorbachev resigned. The hammer and sickle flag on the Kremlin was lowered

26th December 1991 End of the Soviet Union Russia formally recognised the end of the Soviet Union

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source B (Video)



USA vs USSR Fight! The Cold War: Crash Course World History #39

5,913,727 views

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Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source C

Bernard Baruch coins term 'Cold War,' April 16, 1947

Bernard Baruch was the multimillionaire financier and adviser to presidents from Woodrow Wilson to Harry S. Truman.

By ANDREW GLASS 04/16/2010 05:03 AM EDT

On this day in 1947, Bernard Baruch, the multi millionaire financier and adviser to presidents from Woodrow Wilson to Harry S. Truman, coined the term “Cold War” to describe the increasingly chilly relations between two World War II Allies: the United States and the Soviet Union.

Baruch used the phrase in a speech to the South Carolina House of Representatives, where his portrait was being unveiled.

“Let us not be deceived;” Baruch said, “we are today in the midst of a Cold War. Our enemies are to be found abroad and at home. Let us never forget this: Our unrest is the heart of their success.”

In September 1947, Walter Lippmann, Baruch’s friend and one of the day’s most widely read journalists, used “Cold War” in his New York Herald Tribune column.

The phrase caught on — to describe the bipolar diplomatic and military rivalry between the nuclear superpowers.

Baruch was born in Camden, S.C., in 1870, the son of German-Jewish immigrants.

After making a fortune on Wall Street, he usually wintered at Hobcaw Barony, his 17,500-acre estate on the South Carolina coast.

He bought the property in 1905.

Winston Churchill knew Baruch and was on the way to see the financier when he was hit by a taxi in 1931. Chur-

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chill later coined his own memorable term “Iron Curtain,” during a speech in Fulton, Mo., on March 5, 1946. Baruch would often sit in Lafayette Park, across from the White House. He would famously talk about domestic and world affairs with a wide range of people who came by to see him. In 1960, on his 90th birthday, a bench in that park was dedicated to him. He died in 1965.

Source: “Bernard M. Baruch: The Adventures of a Wall Street Legend,” by James Grant (1997)

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source D

STEVE EMBER: Welcome to THE MAKING OF A NATION – American history in VOA Special English. I’m Steve Ember.

(MUSIC)

Today, we tell about the period known as the Cold War.

The Cold War began after World War Two. The main enemies were the United States and the Soviet Union. The Cold War got its name because both sides were afraid of fighting each other directly. In a “hot war,” nuclear weapons might destroy everything. So, instead, both sides fought each other indirectly. They supported opposing sides in conflicts in different parts of the world. They also used words as weapons. They threatened and denounced each other. Or they tried to make each other look foolish.

Over the years, leaders on both sides changed. Yet the Cold War continued. It was the major force in world politics for most of the second half of the twentieth century.

President Harry Truman

The Cold War world was separated into three groups. The United States led the West. This group included countries with democratic political systems. The Soviet Union led the East. This group included countries with communist political systems. The non-aligned group included countries that did not want to be tied to either the West or the East.

(MUSIC)

Harry Truman was the first American president to fight the Cold War. He used several policies. One was the Truman Doctrine. This was a plan to give money and military aid to countries threatened by communism. The Truman Doctrine effectively stopped communists from taking control of Greece and Turkey.

Another policy was the Marshall Plan. This strengthened the economies and governments of countries in western Europe.

A major event in the Cold War was the Berlin Airlift. After World War Two, the United States and its allies divided Germany. Berlin was a part of communist East Germany. The city was divided into east and west.

In June nineteen forty-eight, Soviet-led forces blocked all roads and railways leading to the western part of Berlin. President Truman quickly ordered military airplanes to fly coal, food, and medicine to the city.

(SOUND)

The planes kept coming, sometimes landing every few minutes, for more than a year. The United States received help from Britain and France. Together, they provided almost two and one-half million tons of supplies on about two hundred-eighty thousand flights.

C-47s unloading at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin

The United States also led the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in nineteen forty-nine. NATO was a joint military group. Its purpose was to defend against Soviet forces in Europe.

The Soviet Union and its east European allies formed their own joint military group -- the Warsaw Pact -- six years later.

In nineteen fifty-three, Soviet leader Josef Stalin died. His death gave the new American president, Dwight Eisenhower, a chance to deal with new Soviet leaders.

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(MUSIC)

In July nineteen-fifty-five, Eisenhower and Nikolai Bulganin met in Geneva, Switzerland. The leaders of Britain and France also attended.

Eisenhower proposed that the Americans and Soviets agree to let their military bases be inspected by air by the other side. The Soviets later rejected the proposal. Yet the meeting in Geneva was not considered a failure. After all, the leaders of the world's most powerful nations had shaken hands.

Cold War tensions increased, then eased, then increased again over the years. The changes came as both sides attempted to influence political and economic developments around the world.

For example, the Soviet Union provided military, economic, and technical aid to communist governments in Asia. The United States then helped eight Asian nations fight communism by establishing the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, known as SEATO.

In the nineteen fifties, the United States began sending military advisers to help South Vietnam defend itself against communist North Vietnam. That aid would later expand into a long and bloody period of American involvement in Vietnam.

The Cold War also affected the Middle East. In the nineteen fifties, both East and West offered aid to Egypt to build the Aswan High Dam on the Nile River. The West cancelled its offer, however, after Egypt bought weapons from the communist government in Czechoslovakia.

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser then seized control of the company that operated the Suez Canal.

(SOUND)

A few months later, Israel invaded Egypt. France and Britain joined the invasion.

For once, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed on a major issue. Both supported a United Nations resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire.

The Suez crisis was a political victory for the Soviets. When the Soviet Union supported Egypt, it gained new friends in the Arab world.

In nineteen fifty-nine, cold war tensions eased a little. The new Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, visited Dwight Eisenhower in the United States. The meeting was very friendly. But the next year, relations got worse again.

(MUSIC)

An American U-2 reconnaissance airplane was shot down over the Soviet Union. The plane and its pilot, Francis Gary Powers, were captured. Eisenhower admitted that such planes had been spying on the Soviets for four years. In a speech at the United Nations, Khrushchev got so angry that he took off his shoe and beat it on a table. John Kennedy followed Eisenhower as president in nineteen sixty-one. During his early days in office, Cuban exiles invaded Cuba. It came to be known as the Bay of Pigs invasion. The forces wanted to oust the communist government of Fidel Castro.

America's Central Intelligence Agency had provided training for the exiles. But the United States failed to send military planes to protect them during the invasion. As a result, almost all were killed or taken prisoner by Cuban forces trained and supported by the Soviet Union and its allies.

At the same time in Europe, tens of thousands of East Germans had fled to the West. East Germany's government decided to stop them. It built a wall separating the eastern and western parts of the city of Berlin. Guards shot at anyone who tried to flee by climbing over.

During Kennedy's second year in office, American intelligence reports discovered Soviet missiles in Cuba.

JOHN F. KENNEDY: "This government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet military build-up on the island of Cuba. Within the past week, unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a nuclear strike capability against the western hemisphere."

The Soviet Union denied the missiles were there. Yet American photographs, taken from high in the air, proved they were.

America's ambassador to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson:

ADLAI STEVENSON: "Let me ask you one simple question: Do you, Ambassador Zorin, deny that the USSR



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[Soviet Union] has placed and is placing medium- and intermediate-range missile and sites in Cuba. Yes or no? Don't wait for the translation. Yes or no?"

SOVIET AMBASSADOR VALERIAN ZORIN: "Mr. Stevenson, would you continue your statement, please? You will receive the answer in due course, do not worry."

ADLAI STEVENSON: "I'm prepared to wait for my answer until hell freezes over, if that's your decision. And I'm also prepared to present the evidence in this room."

(MUSIC)

The Cuban missile crisis easily could have resulted in a nuclear war. Americans felt especially threatened, with those missiles just one hundred fifty kilometers from the Florida coast. But the crisis ended after a week. Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles if the United States agreed not to interfere in Cuba.

Some progress was made in easing Cold War tensions when Kennedy was president. In nineteen sixty-three, the two sides reached a major arms control agreement. They agreed to ban tests of nuclear weapons above ground, under water, and in space. They also established a direct telephone link between the White House and the Kremlin.

Relations between East and West also improved when Richard Nixon was president. He and Leonid Brezhnev met several times. They reached several arms control agreements. One reduced the number of missiles used to shoot down enemy nuclear weapons. It also banned the testing and deployment of long-distance missiles for five years.

A major change in the Cold War would take place in nineteen eighty-five, when Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union. He met four times with President Ronald Reagan. Gorbachev withdrew Soviet forces from Afghanistan. And he signed an agreement with the United States to destroy all middle-distance and short-distance nuclear missiles.

Barbed wire bars passage through the Brandenburg Gate at the East-West border in Berlin in 1961

By nineteen-eighty-nine, there was widespread unrest in eastern Europe. Gorbachev did not intervene as one eastern European country after another cut its ties with the Soviet Union.

The Berlin Wall, the major symbol of communist oppression, was torn down in November of that year. In less than a year, East and West Germany became one nation again. A few months after that, Warsaw Pact countries officially ended the alliance. The Cold War was over.

The Cold War years were also the time of the "space race" – when the United States and the Soviet Union competed in space exploration. That will be our story next week.

You can find our series online with transcripts, MP3s, podcasts and pictures at voaspecialenglish.com. I'm Steve Ember, inviting you to join us again next week for THE MAKING OF A NATION -- American history in VOA Special English.

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source A

On June 27, 1950, the United States officially entered the Korean War. The U.S. supported the Republic of Korea (commonly called South Korea), in repelling an invasion from the Democratic Republic of Korea (commonly called North Korea).

The Korean War was a conflict that emerged after World War II. The Empire of Japan had occupied the Korean Peninsula during the war. After Japan's defeat, the victorious Allies split the peninsula on the 38th parallel. U.S. troops occupied the southern part, while Soviet troops occupied the northern part. The two Koreas engaged in border conflict, which escalated when North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25.

The Korean War was a proxy war for the Cold War. The West—the United Kingdom and the U.S., supported by the United Nations—supported South Korea, while communist China and the Soviet Union supported North Korea. The Korean War ended three years later, with more than 600,000 casualties (about 36,000 Americans). The war ended with virtually no change in the border.

The Korean Peninsula is still divided, with military personnel from both North and South Korea occupying the demilitarized zone (DMZ).

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/thisday/jun27/us-enters-korean-war/>

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source B

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 30, 1950

At a meeting with Congressional leaders at the White House this morning, the President, together with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reviewed with them the latest developments of the situation in Korea. The Congressional leaders were given a full review of the intensified military activities.

In keeping with the United Nations Security Council's request for support to the Republic of Korea in repelling the North Korean invaders and restoring peace in Korea, the President announced that

- ① he had authorized the United States Air Force to conduct missions on specific military targets in Northern Korea wherever militarily necessary, ② and had ordered a Naval blockade of the entire Korean coast.
- ③ General MacArthur has been authorized to use certain supporting ground units.



- ① authorized by JCS message of Thursday evening
- ② not actually authorized by JCS message until Saturday, 1 July
- ③ ② Airia units, + combat units in Pusan area authorized Thurs evening;
- ④ 1 RET to combat area authorized in early Friday telecon;
- ⑤ 2 Div to Japan authorized by JCS message of 1:22 pm EDT. 30 June.

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source C

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel. That was the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War (1945-1991). The Cold War was a larger conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. It was called "cold" because the U.S. and Soviet Union didn't fight each directly, but instead engaged in a war of threats.

By July, American troops and their allies, working with the United Nations, had entered the war to help South Korea. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against international communism led by the Soviet Union. Communism is a system where one political party controls all aspects of a country's government and society. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them. Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with the Soviet Union and China – or even, as some warned, World War III.

The Two Koreas

Since the early 1900s, Korea had been a part of the Japanese empire. After Japan lost World War II (1939-1945), it fell to the Americans and the Soviets to decide what should be done with it. In August 1945, the U.S. divided the Korean peninsula in half along the 38th parallel, giving the Soviets the area north of the line and the Americans the area to its south.

By the end of the decade, two new countries had formed on the peninsula. In the south, the anti-communist dictator Syngman Rhee enjoyed the reluctant support of the American government. In the north, the communist dictator Kim Il Sung enjoyed the slightly more enthusiastic support of the Soviets. Neither dictator was content to remain on his side of the 38th parallel, and fighting had already taken place along the border – resulting in more than 10,000 deaths.

The Korean War And The Cold War

Even so, the North Korean invasion came as a surprise to American officials. To them, this was not simply a border dispute on the other side of the globe. They saw it as the first step in a communist campaign to take over the world, so they believed that staying out of the war was not an option.

At first, the U.S.-led war effort in Korea was designed simply to get the communists out of South Korea – and it went badly for the U.S. and its allies. The North Korean army was well-disciplined, well-trained and well-equipped; Rhee's forces, by contrast, were frightened, confused and seemed inclined to flee the battlefield at any provocation.

By the end of the summer, President Harry Truman and General Douglas MacArthur, the military commander in charge, had decided on a new set of war aims. Now, for the U.S. and its allies, the Korean War was an offensive war to "liberate" the North from the communists.

Initially, this new approach was a success. An amphibious assault at Inchon pushed the North Koreans back to their side of the 38th parallel. American troops crossed the boundary and headed north toward the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and Communist China. The Chinese started to worry about protecting themselves. Chinese leader Mao Zedong sent troops to North Korea and warned the United States to keep away from the Yalu boundary unless it wanted full-scale war.

"No Substitute For Victory"

This was something that President Truman and his advisers decidedly did not want. They were sure that such a war would lead to Soviet attacks in Europe, the deployment of atomic weapons and millions of senseless deaths. Yet General MacArthur believed anything short of this wider war meant knuckling under to the communists. As President Truman looked for a way to prevent war with the Chinese, MacArthur did all he could to provoke it. In March 1951, MacArthur sent a letter to Joseph Martin, a Republican leader in Congress, who leaked the letter to the press. "There is," MacArthur wrote, "no substitute for victory" against international communism.

On April 11, President Truman fired the general for insubordination.

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The Korean War Reaches A Stalemate

In July 1951, President Truman and his new military commanders started peace talks at Panmunjom. Still, the fighting continued along the 38th parallel as negotiations stalled. Both sides were willing to accept a ceasefire that maintained the 38th parallel boundary, but they could not agree on whether prisoners of war should be forcibly sent back home. (The Chinese and the North Koreans wanted prisoners forcibly sent home; the United States said no.) Finally, after more than two years of negotiations, the different sides signed an armistice on July 27, 1953. The agreement allowed the POWs to stay where they liked; drew a new boundary near the 38th parallel that gave South Korea an extra 1,500 square miles of territory; and created a 2-mile-wide “demilitarized zone” that still exists today.

Casualties Of The Korean War

The Korean War was relatively short but exceptionally bloody. Nearly 5 million people died. More than half of these – about 10 percent of Korea’s prewar population – were civilians. (This rate of civilian casualties was higher than that of World War II.) Almost 40,000 Americans died in action in Korea, and more than 100,000 were wounded.

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source D

What is a Proxy War?

A proxy war is a conflict instigated by opposing powers who do not fight against each other directly. Instead, they uses third parties to do the fighting for them.

Opposing powers are usually core countries who have conflicting ideologies and interests with each other. However, a direct large-scale war between them would cause enormous damage to all belligerent powers. Therefore, they rather conduct proxy wars in developing countries in order to avoid loss and achieve some certain interests at the same time.

Third-parties can be local governments built or supported by opposing powers or armed forces, mercenaries and terrorist groups who could strike an opponent without leading to full-scale war.

Cold War

Although the first recorded proxy war happened as early as in 1529, it was not common until the Cold War set off by the ideological and political differences between the two victors of the World War II. During the Cold War, the two nuclear-armed superpowers did not wish to exchange blows directly since that would have led to a devastating nuclear war. Instead, both the U.S. and particularly the Soviet Union sought to spread their own spheres of influence all over the world, leading to many proxy wars such as one in Greece, Korea, Afghanistan and notably Vietnam.

Vietnam War

Vietnam War is a typical proxy war during the Cold War under the influence of the U.S., Soviet Union and, to a large extent, China.

American involvement in Vietnam began the same way as most proxy wars do with U.S. President Truman and then Eisenhower sending military and economic aid to the French and South Vietnamese respectively in their wars against the North communists.

More aid and military advisers were poured into South Vietnam under President Kennedy who thought Vietnam was the place to restore U.S. “credibility”. Eventually U.S. troops were dispatched to Vietnam under President Johnson who escalated the war further to North Vietnam with amassive air bombardment. However, the bombing campaign turned out to be ineffective due to some restrictions imposed on the U.S. and its allies as well as the assistance of the Soviet Union and China for North Vietnam.

Although the Soviet Union and China actively supplied North Vietnam with financial aid, military training, materiel and logistics, unlike the United States and their allies, they fought the war through their proxies and did not enter the conflict directly.

For the first time in the Cold War, public opinions had affected proxy war policy. The Vietnam War had become

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so unpopular in the U.S. that Richard Nixon managed to get elected with the promise that he could end the war in Vietnam “honorably”. He then came up with the so-called “Vietnamization” in contrast to “Americanization” policy under President Johnson. His “peace with honor” plan ended with the signing of Paris Peace Accords in 1973. The U.S. was now able to get out of the costly battlefield of Vietnam but their ally South Vietnam eventually fell into the hands of the North communists in 1975.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. policy during the Vietnam War went through an arch. It began with pure military aid and non-combat role then evolved to front-line engagement and finally de-escalated back to support role.

While there are distinct differences in how proxy wars are conducted nowadays, the Cold War in general and the Vietnam War in particular still inform U.S. proxy war policies in modern world. The U.S. is now more likely to provide aid and assistance rather than sending ground forces to “proxies” as historically this policy has not worked out well. In fact, the most successful proxy wars that the U.S. has involved are those where only assistance was provided as in Greece and Afghanistan as opposed to direct involvement on the ground as in Korea and Vietnam. This is illustrated by the U.S. reluctance to send troops to Syria in during its Civil War started since 2011.

Although the political situation has changed, it is important for U.S. policymakers to take the Cold War into account when handling modern-day proxy wars.

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source E

Fifty-two years ago, in 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson made the decision to involve the United States in the Vietnam War. In 1954 Vietnam had been split into two countries, North and South Vietnam. The North was communist, and since the late 1950s it had been seeking to reunify Vietnam by seizing control of the South. At the time, the United States and its allies were engaged in a global struggle with the communist bloc, a group of countries led by Russia and China. Johnson felt he needed to prevent South Vietnam from falling to communist forces.

Johnson's vice president, Hubert Humphrey, advised him against entering the war. So did Undersecretary of State George Ball and Johnson's longtime friend, Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia.

The war effort, they all said, would have to be limited. The job, therefore, couldn't be finished quickly and, indeed, the war was probably not winnable.

Communist China made it clear that it would not permit a direct assault on North Vietnam by U.S. troops. For fear of provoking an all-out war with the communist superpowers, the Johnson administration quickly dropped that option.

George Ball predicted that if the United States did enter the war, it would eventually have to put half a million troops in South Vietnam. That prediction was strongly rejected by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. During the spring and summer of 1965, there was an intense debate over the wisdom of entering the war. Johnson was frequently the leading voice arguing against involvement.

"I don't think it's worth fighting for," he said of Vietnam. "And I don't think that we can get out. It's just the biggest damned mess." Entering the war, he said, would be "a terrible thing."

But in February 1965, Johnson approved Operation Rolling Thunder, the aerial assault on North Vietnam. And in July he agreed to send two combat divisions to Vietnam.

Operation Rolling Thunder was a bombing campaign during the Vietnam War. Photo from U.S. Navy. [click to enlarge]

Why?

Combating communism posed difficult task

In April 1964 U.S. intelligence reported that large numbers of North Vietnamese troops were slipping into South Vietnam.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said that if the United States and its allies did not act, South Vietnam would fall within the year.

Johnson feared that if he permitted South Vietnam to fall, other countries would soon fall to the communists as well. Johnson believed the spread of communism had to be contained at all costs.

There also were other reasons for entering the war that had more to do with Johnson's political ambitions. At home in the United States, Johnson was pushing for some major civil rights reforms.

LBJ needed South's support for Great Society to succeed

In the spring and summer of 1965, Johnson was trying hard to get Congress to approve his Great Society programs aimed at helping the poor: the Voting Rights Act, federal money for schools, job training programs and Medicare, among others. Medicare was to be a program giving health care to the elderly.

The education bills and Medicare were also civil rights measures. They made federal funding to schools and hospitals dependent on desegregation. In those years, many schools, hospitals and other institutions were still segregated, or separated by race. Johnson wanted to use government funding as a way to end whites-only schools and hospitals.

As for the Voting Rights Act, its main purpose was to do away with racist laws and practices that often kept African Americans from voting. President John F. Kennedy had promised to sign the Voting Rights Act, but then he was killed. Johnson wanted to continue JFK's legacy.

Many white Southerners were against the reforms Johnson wanted to achieve. Yet Johnson needed to win over southern congressmen and senators to ensure his reforms would win approval.

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The South was both the most segregationist region of the country and the most strongly anticommunist. Johnson believed he could not ask the region to accept both the end of segregation and the loss of South Vietnam to the communists.

The gamble

In the end, Johnson did win passage of his Great Society reforms. Together, they totaled more than 1,000 new laws that forever changed America for the better.

However, this victory came at a great cost. The Vietnam War proved impossible to win, as Ball and Humphrey had predicted.

Out of fear of a great power confrontation with Russia or China, the United States fought a limited war. The North Vietnam Army and the underground communist Vietcong forces in South Vietnam were free to move in and out of their sanctuaries in Laos and Cambodia.

Meanwhile, South Vietnam never had a government that seemed worthy of its people. The country's leaders were mainly interested in becoming rich, making it easy for the North to describe them as puppets of the United States.

In the end, Johnson understood that he had made a mistake.

What if he had heeded Humphrey's advice and his own doubts?

South Vietnam would have fallen to the communists much sooner than it did, saving thousands of American and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese lives.

However, there is another side to the coin. If Johnson had chosen to stay out of the war, segregationists might well have blocked the civil rights achievements of the Great Society, prompting terrible racial conflict at home. There are no easy choices when you are the leader of a nation that is both a democracy and the most powerful nation on Earth.

Randall B. Woods is a professor of history at the University of Arkansas.

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source F

The Cold War was a nearly 50-year-long political, ideological, and military struggle for global power that was waged between the United States and the Soviet Union. From the end of World War II until the early 1990s, the Cold War was the United States' preeminent international concern, directing all of the nation's major foreign policy decisions.

Origins of the Cold War

Immediately after the Soviet Union rose out of the ashes of the Russian Empire in 1917, tensions began as the U.S. feared the spread of communism, a governmental system antithetical to its capitalist ideology. Tensions temporarily eased when the nations became unlikely allies in World War II, but reemerged with a vengeance as the U.S. demonstrated its nuclear power and the Soviet Union swallowed up Eastern European nations into its "bloc." The former allies quickly became enemies again.

The Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, and Containment

By 1947, the U.S. had developed a clear policy of containment toward the Soviet Union, striving to prevent the spread of communism through economic, diplomatic, and military measures. Through the Marshall Plan the U.S. used nearly \$13 billion in aid to fight communism by helping war-torn Europe return to prosperity. Similarly, during the struggle over Germany's capital, Berlin, the U.S. airlifted over 2.5 million tons of supplies to West Berlin until the Soviet Union lifted its blockade. The U.S. also established NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization), a diplomatic and military alliance with Western European nations. NATO members pledged mutual protection against the communist threat and military cooperation to contain communism. Additionally, the Truman Doctrine promised monetary and military aid to support any "free peoples" resisting "subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures." The doctrine helped relieve conflict in Greece and Turkey (1947) and justified U.S. military intervention in Korea starting in 1951.

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Containment and the Flexible Response

Succeeding Truman, President Eisenhower initially adopted a tough stance against the Soviet Union and dramatically increased the U.S.'s stockpile of nuclear weapons. The U.S. likely never intended to use these weapons. Rather, they served as a deterrent to future military conflict between the two superpowers -- both sides possessed them but their use would mean total destruction. The Kennedy and Johnson administrations advocated a "flexible response" to containing communism, supporting a failed attempt by Cuban exiles to overthrow Fidel Castro, issuing a naval blockade with the threat of nuclear weapons during the Cuban Missile Crisis and deploying troops to prevent the spread of communism in South Vietnam, a decade-long struggle that caused domestic turmoil in the U.S. Containment also took place in more subtle ways. True to the adage "The enemy of my enemy is my friend," CIA covert operations assisted in the overthrow of socialist-leaning leaders in countries including Iran (1954) and Chile (1973), only to replace them with U.S.-friendly military governments.

The Evil Empire

In the 1970s, President Nixon attempted detente, or easing of tensions with the Soviet Union. Nixon visited communist China and engaged in several diplomatic meetings with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in which the two leaders discussed nuclear arms reduction. By the end of the decade, tensions once again escalated as the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. When President Reagan took office he denounced the Soviet Union as the "Evil Empire" and dramatically increased military budgets in an attempt to "win" the Cold War.

Thawing Relations

Despite Reagan's bellicose rhetoric, tensions between the two superpowers thawed in the late 1980s. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev adopted friendly relations with the west and instituted liberal domestic reforms through

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glasnost and perestroika. Reagan, Gorbachev, and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher met repeatedly to find common ground as the decade came to a close. In the end, the struggling Soviet economy led to the end of the Cold War. Weakened, the Soviets lost control of much of Eastern Europe by 1990. The fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 amounted to the end of the Cold War.

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About the Author

Based in Dallas, Exa von Alt has been working in education and the social sciences for nearly 10 years. Her lesson plans are published on the University of Oklahoma's K20ALT website and she has written several entries in "American Centuries: The Ideas, Issues, and Trends that Made U.S. History"(MTM Publishing). Exa von Alt holds a Master of Arts in history from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source G

Postwar America: 1945 - 1960

The Truman Doctrine

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A presidential message to Congress in March 1947 proposed economic and military aid to countries threatened by a Communist takeover.

In February 1947, Britain informed the United States that it could no longer afford to provide aid to Greece and Turkey. The situation seemed urgent. The Greek monarchy was threatened by guerrilla warfare, and the Soviet Union was seeking to control the Dardanelles in Turkey, a water route to the Mediterranean. The U.S. government feared that the loss of Greece and Turkey to communism would open Western Europe and Africa to Soviet influence. The U.S. government also worried that if the Soviet Union gained control over the Eastern Mediterranean, it could stop the flow of Middle Eastern oil.

President Truman responded decisively. He asked Congress for \$400 million in economic and military aid for Greece and Turkey. This was an unprecedented amount of foreign aid during peacetime. He also declared that it was the policy of the United States "to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

Truman's overarching message described two ways of life that were engaged in a life-or-death struggle, one free and the other totalitarian. The United States would help free people to maintain their free institutions and their territorial integrity against movements that sought to impose totalitarian regimes.

The Truman Doctrine committed the United States to providing aid to countries resisting communist aggression or subversion and provided the first step toward what would become known as the Containment Policy.

Read: PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN'S ADDRESS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS, MARCH 12, 1947

Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source A

GLASNOST AND PERESTROIKA

In the 1980s, the Soviet Union was engulfed by a multitude of problems. The economy, especially the agricultural sector, began to fall apart. The country lacked technological advancements and used inefficient factories, all while consumers were buying low-quality products and suffered from a shortage of social freedoms. To reform the distraught Soviet Union, the democratization of the Communist Party was promoted through Party Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of "perestroika" and "glasnost."

Perestroika refers to the reconstruction of the political and economic system established by the Communist Party. Politically, contested elections were introduced to reflect the democratic practices of Western society and allow citizens to have a slight say in government. Economically, Perestroika called for de-monopolization and some semi-private businesses to function, ending the price controls established by the government for the past seven decades. The goal was to create a semi-free market system, reflecting successful capitalist practices in the economies of Germany, Japan, and the United States. Unfortunately, such an economy took time to thrive, and people found themselves stuck in a worn-out economy, which led to long-lines, strikes, and civil unrest.

The term "Glasnost" means "openness" and was the name for the social and political reforms to bestow more rights and freedoms upon the Soviet people. Its goals were to include more people in the political process through freedom of expression. This led to a decreased censoring of the media, which in effect allowed writers and journalists to expose news of government corruption and the depressed condition of the Soviet people. Glasnost also permitted criticism of government officials, encouraging more social freedoms like those that Western societies had already provided. Yet, the totalitarian state present since 1917 was difficult to dismantle, and when it fell apart, citizens were not accustomed to the lack of regulation and command. The outburst of information about escalating crime and crimes by the government caused panic in the people. This caused an increase in social protests in a nation used to living under the strictest government control, and went against the goals of Gorbachev.

These policies were in effect from 1985 to 1991, when Boris Yeltsin became Russia's first popularly elected president. He then formed the Commonwealth of Independent States. Reconstructing the organization of the Soviet Union proved difficult and the effects were mixed; while more social freedoms were permitted, the economy was in deterioration and social unrest was growing among the people. Glasnost and Perestroika eventually helped cause the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, which had lasted from 1945 to 1991.

Researched by Sasha Gitomirski
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Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source B



'Berlin Wall' Speech - President Reagan's Address at the Brandenburg Gate - 6/12/87

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