**US History**

**Measurement Topic 7: The Cold War**

**Level 3: Learn it, study it**, and then test it

Learning Target #3: Explain how the cold war began. Explain the effects of the Cold War.

**Origins of the Cold War**

The cold war started right after WW2 and lasted from 1946 to 1990, 54 years. The hostilities between the United States and the Soviet Union began soon after WW2. Each nation had different goals regarding how to deal with the rebuilding of Europe after WW2. The USA wanted to rebuild the economies in Europe, increase trade worldwide and help create more democratic nations. However, the Soviet Union wanted to punish Germany for WW1 and WW2. The Soviet Union’s wanted security from Germany therefore they wanted Germany to pay high restitutions, they wanted to control all the nations in between Germany and the Soviet Union. The USA and the Soviet Union did not see eye to eye on how to deal with Europe, so when they met, a lot of negations had to take place.

**Yalta Conference**

In 1945, both nations met at Yalta in the Soviet Union along with Churchill to plan the rebuilding of Europe after WW2. The first plan developed, dealt with Poland. Poland is the largest nation separating Germany from the Soviet Union and it had been taken over by both Germany and the Soviet Union, so both nations claimed control over Poland. Stalin wanted Poland as a buffer zone between it and Germany; therefore he encouraged Poland to become a communist nation; however the USA and England wanted Poland and other nations to develop into democratic nations. All three nations agreed to allow Poland and other nations to choose their own governments when they created and signed the *“Declaration of Liberated Europe”.* The second plan involved Germany. The nations agreed to divide Germany into four zones, each controlled by different nations. The Soviet Union also required Germany to pay high reparations in cash or goods for the damage they had inflicted during the war. The USA was not happy with this because their main goal was to help build Germany up economic and they felt that the Soviet Union was deliberately keeping Germany from recovering.

**Communist Iron Curtain is created**

When Truman takes over as President of the USA after Roosevelt dies he held very strong anti-communist views. He was not willing to negotiate with Stalin because he felt that if he appeased Stalin like England had done to Hitler, there would be a world war III. Truman and Stalin agreed to meet at Potsdam to settle some issues regarding Germany, but neither could come to an agreement regarding Germany. Truman happened to mention that the USA had just successfully dropped the Atomic Bomb. Stalin agreed to allow Germany to rebuild economically by not forcing them to pay but he felt that he had bullied. Stalin went on a rampage, forcing Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia to accept Communist governments. Churchill called it an Iron curtain of Communism he was building. All nations directly connected to the Soviet Union physically became communist.

**Containment**

USA created a ***foreign policy titled containment***. The USA refused to deal with Communist Soviet Union since Stalin had failed to keep his promise by honoring the “Declaration of liberated Europe” when he forced all the nations to become communist. The containment policy meant that the USA would do all in its power to contain or keep communism from spreading any further in the world.

**Truman Doctrine:** Under the foreign policy of containment the USA to create the ***Truman Doctrine*** in response to Stalin attempting to take over Iran and Turkey. Truman asked congress march 1947 to provide $400 million to help fight to contain communism. Truman’s goal with the Truman doctrine was to free all people in the world from communism, fight communism worldwide with a ***pledge/promise to end the spread of communism.***

**Marshal Plan:** Secretary of State George Marshall also created a plan to help contain communism called the Marshall Plan in June of 1947. The Marshall plan’s goal was to help all European nations recover from WW2 and fight communism. The USA ended up giving billions to European nations to recover from war, keep western European nations from becoming communist since the USA would only give funds to non-communist nations. The Marshal plan encouraged nations to not become communist if they wished to receive funds.

**Asia falls to Communism**

While the USA was focused on keeping Communism from spreading in Europe, China felt to communism. Prior to WW2 communist rebels had been fighting for control of China. In 1949, communist leader Mao Zedong took over China. This takes over shocked the USA. It seemed that communism was spreading and would soon take over the world. It made the USA take a harder stance against communism and really fight to contain communism from spreading.

**Korea War**

After World War 2 in order to kick Japan out of Korea, the USA and Soviet Union divide up control of Korea, making a North and South Korea. Korea was divided up at the 38 degree line. Soon after gaining control of Korea, the Soviet Union encouraged North Korea to become communist and they invaded South Korea. The USA saw the invasion of South Korea as a threat to their foreign policy of containment and the send troops to fight the North Korean communist invasion. ***The USA main goal was to get North Korea out of South Korea in order to contain communism and not let it spread.*** The general in charge was McArthur who was very successful. He pushed the North Korean all the way up into China, which caused another problem. China was upset that the USA was so close and was afraid the USA would invade them so the Chinese government pushed the USA back to the North and South Korean border. McArthur wanted to bomb the Chinese but President Truman was following the United Nations rules and did not allow him to bomb China. By 1953, 33,000 American soldiers had died fighting to keep South Korea free from communism. ***Containment of communism was successful but no clear winner came out of the Korean War***.

**Red Scare**

The red scare was a time in the USA that the fear of communism spreading caused the American public to become extremely suspicious of communist being everywhere. This red scare began in 1945 when Igor Gouzenko confessed to being a Russian Spy. He revealed that the Soviet Union had thousands of spies in the USA and that they were infiltrating the USA government. In 1947 Truman created the loyalty review program which questioned all federal employees had to prove their loyalty to the USA government. If it seemed that they were not loyal, they would be fired. This caused mass terror that **communist had gained access to USA state and federal departments in the government.** Senator Joseph McCarthy also spread the fear of terrorism, when he accused his opponent of being communist to win the senator seat. McCarthy became the head of the investigations department of the USA federal government. ***He used media (tv, radio) to create a “witch hunt” for communist.*** He accused people with false information and people were too afraid to stand up to him because they would be accused of being communist and lose their jobs and possibly freedom.

**The Arms Race**

The arms race was the buildup of military weapons and new technology over the course of the Cold War. Both the United States and Russia used technology to try and bet the other to being the best, and having the most weapons.

**Russia:** In 1949 the Soviet Union successfully tested their first atomic bomb; they shoot down a USA spy plane in 1952, on October 4, 1957 the Soviet Union became the first nation to put a satellite in space. It was called Sputnik and in 1961 the Soviet Union became the first nation to put a person into space to orbit the earth. It seemed like the Communist in the Soviet Union were much more advanced than the United States.

**USA:** in 1945 the USA tested the first every atomic bomb, in 1955 they build planes to drop the atomic bomb from long distances. Also in 1955 President Eisenhower orders new long range missiles to be created and built as well as submarines to launch the nuclear missiles. In response to sputnik, in 1958 NASA was created and in 1962 the USA sends a man to orbit the earth. In July, 1969 the USA put the first every person on the moon. This arms race between the Soviet Union and the USA had the world waiting daily if WW3 would start. People were terrified daily that a nuclear war would start and wipe out the entire world.

President Kennedy

**President Kennedy**

**Bay of Pigs/Cuban missile crisis:** Fidel Castro took over Cube, which was 57 miles from Florida. This in its self was not bad, but when Castro became communist and allowed the Soviet Union to place nuclear weapons on the island. This was one of the most terrifying events of the entire Cold war. The long range nuclear weapons were pointed at the USA and could reach Washington D.C. **Kennedy ordered a naval blockade to keep Soviet Ships from reaching Cube**. This event also caused the USA to give support to La Brigada a group who attempted to overthrow Castro at the Bay of Pigs. The group failed and it made the USA look bad. This event nearly sent the USA into war with the Soviet Union.

**Berlin Wall:** Khrushchev, ruler of the Soviet Union, wanted the USA, England and France out of Germany. When the nations refused he builds a wall through the city of Berlin to separate East Germany from the rest of Germany. He put the wall up overnight and would shoot anyone who attempted to flee. The wall became the visual of the Cold War.

The Cold war as this became to be known because no one really fought finally came to an end when the Soviet Union dissolved.

**Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

1. What was the goal of the Korean War? Why was the USA in Korea?
2. What was the goal of the Truman doctrine?
3. Who started a media witch hunt? Why did he start the “witch hunt”?
4. What is the foreign policy of containment? Why was it created?
5. What was the red scare and where did Senator McCarthy think communist were?
6. What was the conflict between General MacArthur and Truman?
7. What was the Cuban missile crisis? What started this crisis? Who did it involve?
8. What did President Kennedy to in response to the Soviets placing nuclear weapons on Cuba?
9. Which USA presidents were involved in the cold war? (From 1946 to 1990)
10. What was the Berlin Wall? Why was it put up?
11. What happened at the Bay of Pigs?
12. What was the arms race of the Cold war?
13. What was the iron curtain?