

Name: _____

Period _____

Date: _____

America in the 20th Century: The Cold War - Video Notes

Directions: *As you watch the documentary, fill in the blanks noted in the video clips.*

PART 1 – From World War to Cold War, 1945

1. At the _____ Conference, President Truman and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill were on one side of the divide – determined to secure political freedom and democratic governments throughout post-war Europe. Their partner, the dictator of the Soviet Union, Joseph _____, had other plans. He was determined to dominate all of Europe and impose communism on its nations.
2. Russia's flirt with democracy would be short-lived. In Switzerland, an exiled Russian named Vladimir _____ was planning his own revolution—based on the writings of the German philosopher, Karl _____ [referencing the Russian Revolution].
3. Living in 19th century England, Marx witnessed firsthand the growing disparity between the rich and the poor. He predicted that the inequities of the capitalist system would inspire a spontaneous revolution of the modern working class—the proletariat. Capitalism would be replaced by a system of social and economic equality called _____.
4. In the United States, President Woodrow Wilson followed events in Russia with growing unease. He had committed his nation to World War I "...in order that the world "be made safe for democracy." In his _____ Points address to Congress, he outlined how to achieve his lofty goals based on the principals of national self-determination, free trade and international cooperation. But the President's vision for the future did not include the Bolsheviks. Instead, when civil war broke out in Russia in 1919, Wilson sent troops to fight against Lenin's government.
5. On the day Truman arrived in Potsdam, a blinding flash seared the New Mexico desert, ushering in the Atomic Age. The _____ Project had produced the world's first nuclear explosion.

PART 2 – Containment, 1946-1949

6. Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Eastern zone of Germany...had come under the Soviet Union's so-called "Sphere of _____." This was Stalin's "buffer zone," insurance against future invasions.
7. George F. Kennan's idea of _____ formed the basis of American Cold War policy for the next fifty years.
8. The Truman administration responded decisively. On March 12th 1947, the President went before a joint session of Congress to request aid for the countries of Greece and Turkey...The President's appeal was quickly dubbed the _____ Doctrine. It represented a dramatic change in US foreign policy, but it merely laid the groundwork for what followed.
9. A month later, Secretary of State George C. Marshall traveled to Europe. He witnessed firsthand the physical ruin, social disintegration and economic collapse left by the war. Marshall warned that under these conditions Europeans would turn to communism as an alternative to starvation and death. Two months later, Marshall proposed a program of massive economic assistance to rebuild Europe: the _____ Plan.
10. On June 24, 1948, Stalin ordered all land access into the city of West Berlin to be sealed-off beginning the _____ Blockade.
11. Roads and railways were shutdown. Shipments of goods languished at border crossings. The power to the city was turned off. Stalin was determined to force the Western Allies out of West Berlin and starve its people into submission. The German capital symbolized American commitment to Europe, but was saving West Berlin worth the risk of war with the Soviets? Within days, the United States and Great Britain orchestrated the Berlin _____ to re-supply the beleaguered city.
12. The blockade underscored the need for a united defense against Soviet aggression. In 1949, the United States and Canada joined with ten European nations to form a military alliance: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—or _____. A rebuilt, rearmed West Germany joined the alliance in 1955. In response, the Soviet Union and its satellites formed a competing alliance—the _____ Pact.

13. But, the red star was rising, and 1949 would be an explosive year for world communism. In August, the Soviets stunned the world by exploding their own atomic bomb...years ahead of expert predictions. And, in China, communist revolutionary _____ Zedong prevailed in a decades long civil war against the Chinese nationalist government. Nearly 500 million Chinese fell under communist rule. For decades to come, Mao would be the linchpin of communist revolution in Asia—supporting fledging governments in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaya...and in Korea, where the Cold War Superpowers drew perilously close to World War III.

PART 3 – Red Star Rising, 1949-1953

14. Following World War II, Korea was temporarily divided at the ____th parallel and jointly occupied—by the United States, in the South, and the Soviet Union, in the North.
15. Kim finally convinced Joseph Stalin to support his invasion of South Korea. Kim would provide the troops, Stalin would supply the military hardware, and Mao Zedong, if it became necessary, would provide Chinese reinforcements. The U.S. acted through the United Nations. Their mandate was explicit: repel the attack and restore peace to the area. A coalition of fifteen countries agreed to send troops. But the overwhelming majority of fighting men were American, fighting under General Douglas _____, to defend American interests in the region.
16. Korea is often called the “forgotten war,” but it dramatically changed America’s sense of security. For many, it reinforced the belief in “_____ communism,” the assumption that all communist movements were orchestrated from Moscow. The idea poisoned American politics for decades and set the stage for the disaster in Vietnam. Korea also put the country on a permanent war footing—leading to spiraling defense spending and greatly increasing the Pentagon’s influence. By the end of his term in 1960, President Eisenhower warned of a growing threat to the nation from within.

PART 4 – Reds under the Bed, 1947-1954

17. Beginning in 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee, or _____, investigated communist influence in Hollywood. The committee was concerned with the power of movies to persuade audiences with subversive messages.
18. Most witnesses cooperated with the committee. However a small group, who became known as the “Hollywood _____,” refused to answer questions, citing protection under the First Amendment.
19. In 1948, the Red Hunt struck at the very center of government when ex-communist Whitaker Chambers accused a former State Department Employee named Alger _____ of spying for the Soviet Union.
20. Within months, Julius and Ethel _____ were arrested in connection with a plot to pass U.S. bomb secrets to the Soviets.
21. Of all the demagogues who exploited the red scare for political gain, no one matched the Senator from Wisconsin—who’s namesake—_____—would come to define the entire era of political persecution.

PART 5 – Confrontation, 1952-1960

22. The White House adopted a policy of _____ retaliation to deter Soviet aggression. It stated that if the Soviet Union invaded Western Europe, the U.S. would respond by launching more than 3,000 nuclear missiles against every major urban, industrial and military target throughout the Communist world.
23. At the Paris summit two weeks later, Krushchev, turned the U-2 incident into a crisis... The captured U-2 pilot, Francis Gary _____, was convicted of espionage against the Soviet Union and sentenced to ten years in prison. It was August 17, 1960. That very same day, in the skies over the Pacific Ocean, an Airforce pilot snatched a falling capsule from midair. The event marked a breakthrough in the top secret project to develop _____—the world’s first earth orbiting reconnaissance satellite.

PART 6 – Crack in the Curtain, 1953-1956

24. When the blood-letting was over, a single man stood at the pinnacle of Soviet government—Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev... The impact of the “secret speech” was immense. It ushered in a period of relative liberalization known as “Khrushchev’s _____”.

PART 7 – Third World Wars, 1953-1975

25. During the decades following World War II, dozens of colonies defied colonial rule by declaring their independence. Each had to choose a method of government...and most faced severe economic challenges. Many new nations were forced to choose sides in the Cold War—leading to internal divisions, authoritarian governments and anarchy. But a coalition of poor African and Asian states sought to avoid this fate. They banded together to gain more influence in global affairs. When leaders of the “Non-_____” movement met in Bandung Indonesia in 1955, they represented 2/3 of the world’s population.
26. Vietnam and its neighbors in Southeast Asia were colonized by the French in the 19th century. “_____ Indochina,” as it was known, was the crown jewel in France’s vast empire until the beginning of World War II when Japan invaded the region and seized control of Vietnam. When the war ended, in 1945, France sought to reclaim its colony. They were opposed by a communist organization called the Viet Minh. Their leader was a Vietnamese nationalist named Ho Chi Minh. Ho dreamed of uniting his country under one, independent government.
27. Vietnam itself was not strategically important. But, American leaders feared that if Vietnam fell to communism other countries in the region would follow. This became known as the _____ Principle.
28. In the 1970s, the United States endured a crisis of self-confidence that came to be known as the “Vietnam Syndrome”. Americans lost faith in their government. Political leaders lost faith in their military. The country questioned its role in foreign affairs. No one had any taste for another Vietnam. This view contributed to an easing of international relations known as _____.

PART 8 – Kennedy and Crises, 1958-1969

29. But, U.S. leaders feared the worst. Fidel Castro looked like a communist and talked like a communist. He was a liability. In April 1961 plans were set in motion for an armed invasion of Cuba. The covert mission took its name from the main landing ground—on the “Bay of _____.”
30. War did not come to Berlin, but the _____ Wall did.
31. In the summer of 1962, Khrushchev’s hedgehog triggered the gravest confrontation of the Cold War—the Cuban _____ Crisis. Soviet ships crossed the Atlantic, bound for Cuba. They carried military hardware, Soviet troops....and nuclear missiles capable of striking nearly anywhere in the United States.
32. The missile crisis caused the President to reconsider his assumption that a nuclear war was winnable. He now understood that destroying the Soviet Union would mean sacrificing the United States to the same fate. This premise became the basis of new Kennedy defense strategy—Mutual Assured Destruction, _____. The idea was that, if no one stood a chance of surviving a nuclear war, no one would start one.

PART 9 – Détente, 1969-1980

33. The Superpowers had reached a crossroads. They could continue the saber rattling and confrontations that threatened to plunge the world into nuclear war, or they could agree to disagree and seek areas of mutual interest. In 1969, they chose the latter and a decade of relative calm in the Cold War began... In the United States, Nixon and his National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger, called it _____.

PART 10 – The Evil Empire, 1980-1988

34. Gorbachev vowed immediate and radical change...The Soviet leader introduced _____ - a move away from government secrecy toward openness...and Perestroika: a dramatic economic, political and social restructuring of the Soviet Union itself.