

Name _____

Date _____

The Cold War

In the era after World War II, the Soviets occupied most of Eastern Europe. They occupied Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia. East Germany was also controlled by the Soviet Union. Stalin had promised to allow free elections in these countries, but he broke this promise. In addition to his failure to hold free elections, Stalin also cut off communication, trade, and travel between these satellite countries and other western countries.

During this time period, the term Iron Curtain was coined by Winston Churchill. Churchill said that an Iron Curtain of dictatorship had descended on Eastern Europe. Many world leaders were concerned about the Soviet dictatorship that had arisen.

President Truman decided to enact a policy of containment regarding communism. In other words, Truman wanted to prevent communism from spreading. He wanted to prevent the spread of communism without using military force.

George Marshall, the US Secretary of State came up with a plan. It was called the Marshall Plan. This plan called for the United States to provide billions of dollars in aid to European countries in order to speed the recovery of countries that suffered losses during World War II. Truman felt that an economic recovery in Europe would enable Europeans to have the strength to resist communism and the energy to maintain democratic governments.

There was much distrust and rivalry between communist countries and democratic countries after World War II. This led to the era known as the Cold War. The Cold War was not an actual war. There were some conflicts as both sides fought for control, but these conflicts were more political, as opposed to being physical battles.

In order to prevent this struggle from turning into a real war, the United Nations was formed by more than fifty countries in 1945.

In 1949, the United States, France, and Great Britain formed an alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also known as NATO. NATO was the result of the democratic nations' fear of Soviet aggression. The members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization all agreed to treat an attack against any one of their countries as an attack against all of them.

Up until 1949, the US was the only country with the technology and knowledge to use a nuclear weapon. This changed in September of 1949. In September, the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb. There were now two countries with nuclear weapons capabilities. This began the arms race, wherein both countries sought to build more weapons and better weapons than their counterpart.

Since the United States had recently dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world had witnessed the devastation of nuclear warfare. As a result, it became increasingly important that countries attempt to solve their differences peacefully. The memory of the destruction caused by World War II and the atomic bombs most likely prevented the Cold War from turning into a true war.

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The Cold War Questions

Fill In:

1. In the era after World War II, the _____ occupied most of Eastern Europe.
2. President Truman decided to enact a policy of _____ regarding communism to prevent it from spreading.
3. _____ coined the term Iron Curtain to describe the dictatorship that had fallen on Eastern Europe during that time.
4. In 1949, the United States, France, and Great Britain formed an alliance called the _____.

List three things Stalin did in the era after World War II so that his dictatorship could prevail:

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Multiple Choice:

8. By the end of 1949, the following had nuclear capabilities:
 - a. The U.S.
 - b. The Soviet Union
 - c. The U.S. and the Soviet Union
 - d. The U.S., France, and Great Britain
9. NATO was the result of:
 - a. The formation of the United Nations
 - b. The democratic nations' fear of Soviet aggression
 - c. The Marshall Plan
 - d. The atomic bombing of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

True or False:

- _____ 10. The Cold War was an actual war that took place with physical battles.
- _____ 11. The Marshall Plan called for the United States to provide billions of dollars in aid to European countries in order to speed the recovery of countries that suffered losses during World War II.

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The Cold War Answers

Fill In:

1. In the era after World War II, the Soviet Union occupied most of Eastern Europe.
2. President Truman decided to enact a policy of containment regarding communism to prevent it from spreading.
3. Winston Churchill coined the term Iron Curtain to describe the dictatorship that had fallen on Eastern Europe during that time.
4. In 1949, the United States, France, and Great Britain formed an alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

List three things Stalin did in the era after World War II so that his dictatorship could prevail:

Failed to hold free elections

Cut off communication between these satellite countries and other western countries

Cut off trade between these satellite countries and other western countries

Cut off travel between these satellite countries and other western countries

Multiple Choice:

8. By the end of 1949, the following had nuclear capabilities:

- a. The U.S.
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