

# The Cold War (1945 – 1991)

## Allies Become Enemies

<b>The United States</b>		<b>The USSR (Soviet Union)</b>
<b>Democracy</b>	<b>Type of Government</b>	<b>Communism</b>
<b>Capitalism</b>	<b>Type of Economy</b>	<b>Communism</b>

**Review:** Before WWII, how did Americans feel about the Russian Revolution and Communism?



**As you take notes on the early years of the Cold War, be sure to include the following vocabulary:**

- Potsdam Conference
- Arms Race
- Central Intelligence Agency

- Iron Curtain
- McCarthyism
- Blacklisting



At the **Potsdam Conference** Germany was divided into 4 zones. The Soviet Union, US, Britain and France each controlled a zone.

Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain, declared that the “**Iron Curtain**” had descended on Europe. This meant that the Soviets had cut off Eastern Europe from the West.

Arms Race:

Competition to have more, bigger and stronger nuclear weapons.

McCarthyism:

Senator accused people of being Communist, often without proof.

Blacklisting:

Barring people from jobs because they might be communists.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA):

Collected information about other countries (spying)

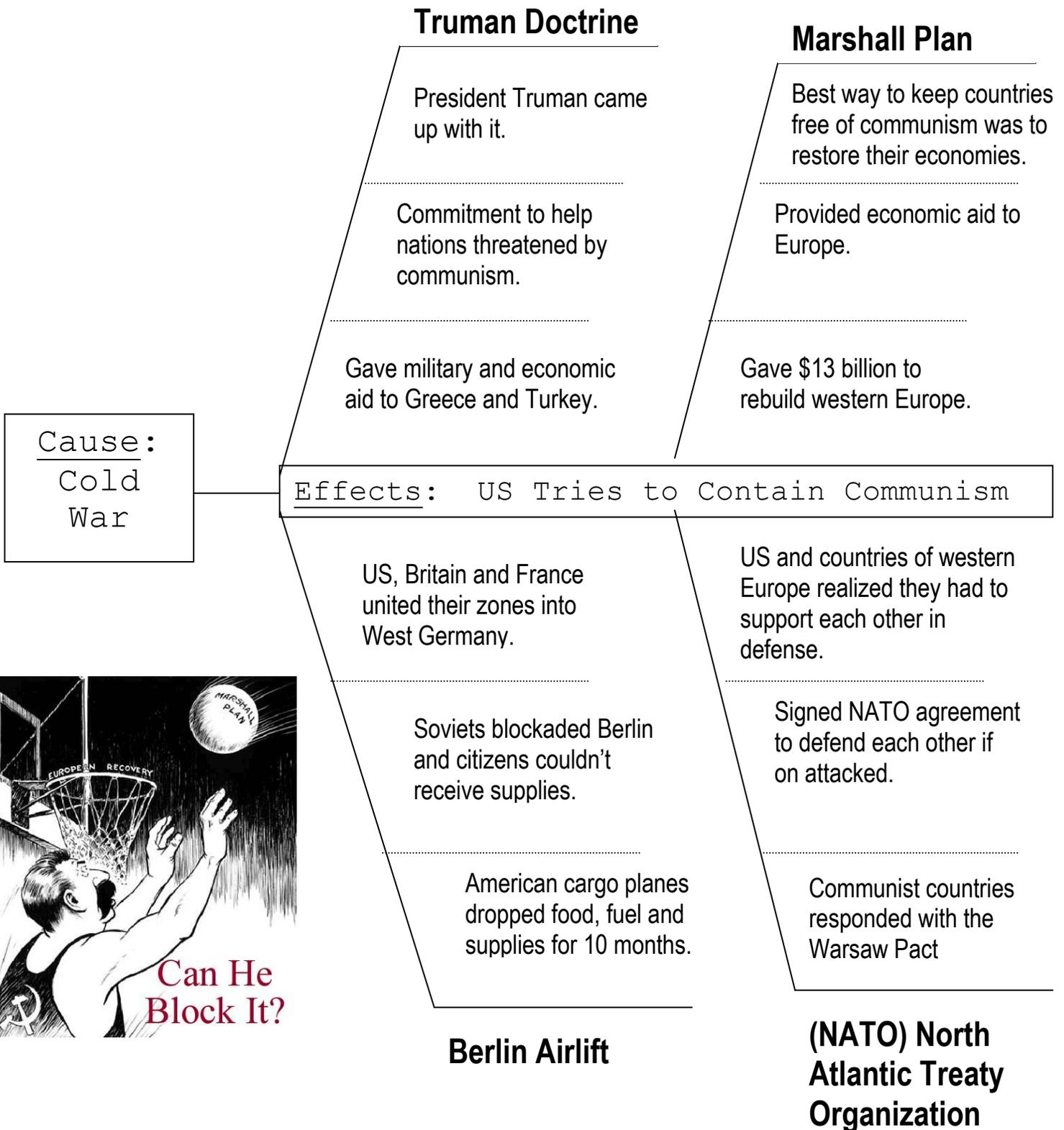
## **What is a Cold War?**

**A period of tension between the US and the Soviet Union. Many feared it would result in a war using nuclear weapons.**

# How did the US try to stop the spread of Communism?

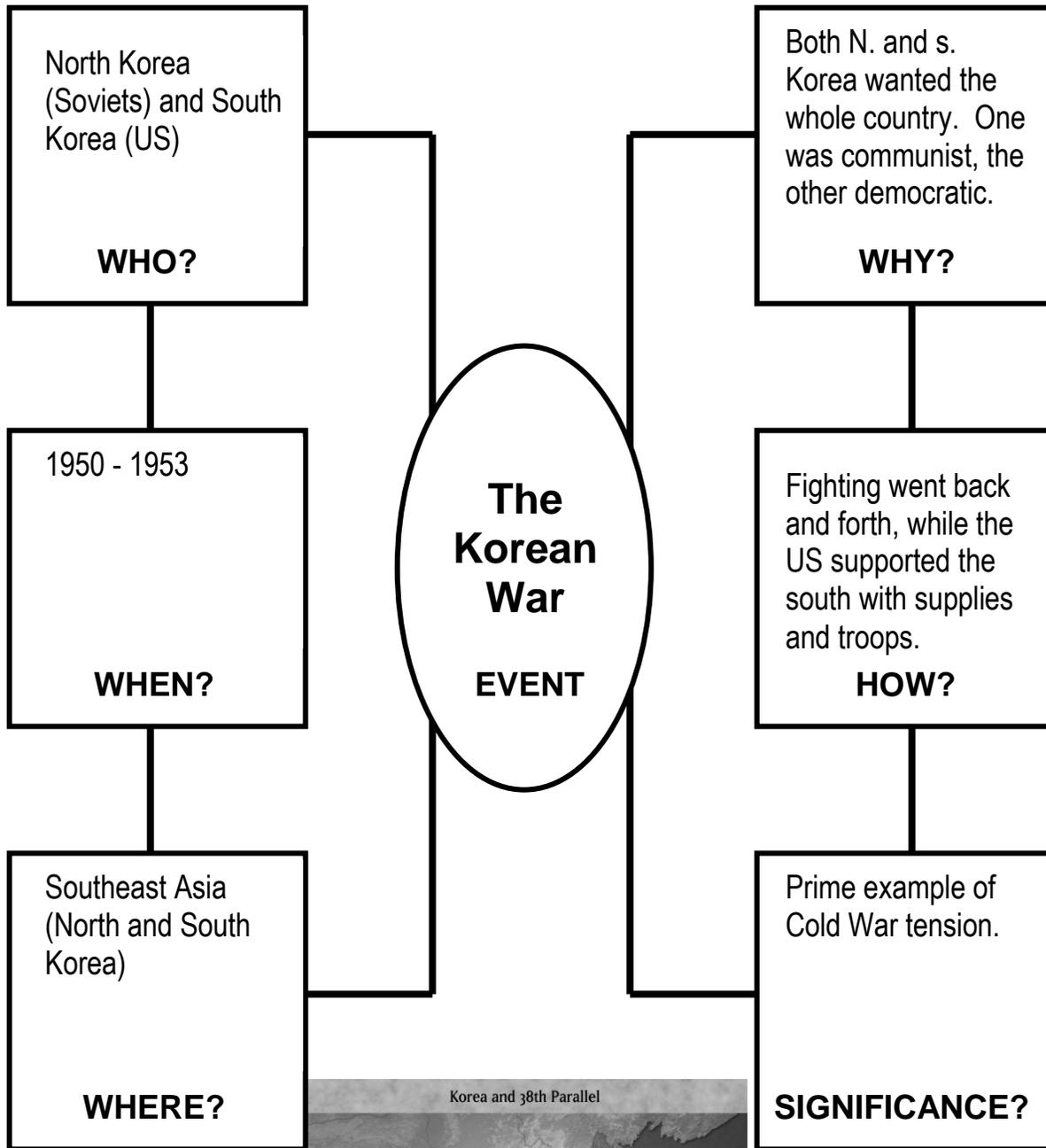
## **Containment: Limiting the spread of communism**

Directions: Read the assigned passage. As you do, complete the graphic organizer below.



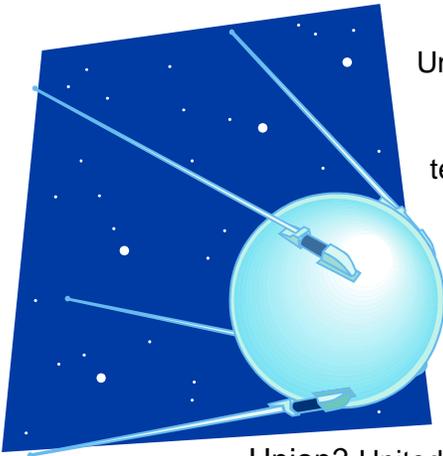
## How was the Korean War part of the Cold War?

Directions: As you complete the reading, think about all of the key parts of the Korean War. After you have marked the text, complete the graphic organizer below.



**38<sup>th</sup> Parallel:**  
Line of latitude  
dividing north and  
South Korea

# *THE SPACE RACE*



What was the space race? A competition between the US and Soviet Union for space technology.

Why was the satellite *Sputnik* so scary to Americans? The same technology could be used to launch a nuclear weapon at the US.

Which country launched the first man into space – the US or Soviet Union? Soviet Union

Which country landed the first man on the moon – the US or Soviet Union? United States

What were some of the benefits of the space race (beyond one country winning or losing)? Funding for research and education grew; many technologies developed for space are used in civilian life (memory foam, freeze dried food, LEDs, satellites for GPS and cell phones)

## CUBA & THE COLD WAR

**Directions: Read *Should the US invade Cuba?* and answer the questions that follow. Stop when you get to the box.**

- 1. Why is the Cuban government unpopular in the US?** It is taking land and property that belongs to American companies.
- 2. What makes you believe that Cuba might become communist?** They have signed a trade agreement with the USSR.
- 3. Who made the plan to invade Cuba? Who supports this invasion?** President Eisenhower. Cuban exiles.
- 4. Why did some people leave Cuba?** The government took away land and property from the wealthy Cubans.
- 5. Were the exiles soldiers when they left Cuba?** No
- 6. The plan is ready to go. Do you believe the US should invade Cuba? Why or why not?**  
Opinion

**What really happened in the Bay of Pigs Invasion?** It failed. Many of the returning Cubans were killed or jailed. It was an embarrassment for Kennedy and the US.

**Directions: Read *What should the US do about the Soviet missiles in Cuba?* and answer the questions that follow. Stop when you get to the box.**

1. **How did you learn about the Soviet missile bases in Cuba?** From pictures that American spy planes took.
  
2. **What does Khrushchev want the US to do?** To remove our nuclear missiles from Turkey and to promise that we will not attack Cuba when they remove their missiles there.
  
3. **Why are nuclear missiles in Cuba dangerous for the US?** They are close enough that they could attack American cities.
  
4. **What are three different ideas that your advisors have about how to deal with the situation?**
  1. Surround and blockade Soviet ships so they do not deliver the missiles.
  2. Make a deal with the Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev.
  3. Order Soviet ships to return to the Soviet Union if they do not want war.
  
5. **What do you believe the US should do about the Soviet missiles in Cuba? Explain your answer!**

Opinion

**What really happened in the Cuban Missile Crisis?**

Kennedy ordered the navy to blockade Cuba until the Soviets removed the missiles. He threatened to destroy any ship that tried to break through the blockade. People all over the world waited nervously to see if nuclear war would break out. After five days, the Soviet ships turned back and they agreed to withdraw their missiles.

## The Vietnam Conflict

Read the "Background" section of *Vietnam Conflict* and answer the question below.

1. Why was the country of Vietnam split into North Vietnam and South Vietnam?

It was agreed that communists would get half of the country and anti-communists given the other half.

2. Why did the US send supplies and advisors to South Vietnam?

So that they could resist the communists that were trying to overthrow the government.

Read each perspective (*Send US Troops to Save South Vietnam* and *Keep US Troops Out of South Vietnam*). In the organizer below, list at least five details from the text that support the author's argument. You may use bullets, but fully explain!

<i>Send US Troops to Save South Vietnam</i>	<i>Keep US Troops Out of South Vietnam</i>
<p>Reasons to send troops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communists have killed many innocent people. We must not let this happen in South Vietnam.</li> <li>• If one country falls to communism, it is used as a base from which to overthrow another. Countries will fall to communism like dominoes.</li> <li>• Many of the people of North Vietnam did not want to be communists, so they escaped to South Vietnam.</li> <li>• There are never fair elections in communist nations.</li> <li>• We must keep our commitment to South Vietnam in the treaty we signed.</li> <li>• No nation, once it has become communist, has ever returned to being a democracy.</li> <li>• Despite its imperfections, South Vietnamese are freer than North Vietnamese. If we defend them from communism, they will be even freer.</li> </ul>	<p>Reasons to not send troops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of Ho Chi Minh's followers didn't want communism; they just wanted to be free from the French. They will not support us because we are closely associated with the French.</li> <li>• We should get out now before we commit too much to this losing cause.</li> <li>• We will not be defending democracy because there is no democracy in South Vietnam. The elections are rigged. They have had dictators, not democracies.</li> <li>• We cannot win without also fighting China.</li> <li>• Vietnam has no economic or military value to us.</li> <li>• South Vietnam is not being invaded. Its government is being overthrown by its own people.</li> </ul>

Which do you think had a better argument? Why?

Opinion

## Timeline of the Vietnam War

1950s: After WWII, Communists in Vietnam fought France for independence and won. By the late 1950s, world powers split the country in two, a communist North Vietnam and a democratic South Vietnam, which led to Civil War.

1960s: The US became increasingly involved in the fighting in Vietnam, especially after a US Navy ship was allegedly attacked by North Vietnam. The **Tonkin Gulf Resolution** gives President Johnson the right to use military force to respond to attacks against the US.

Late 1960s: President Nixon promised to end the war, but he also sent troops into nearby countries to protect them from Communism.

1973: Nixon negotiated an agreement to remove all US troops from Vietnam, but it did not end the fighting there.

1975: In the end, the war that was fought to keep Vietnam from becoming Communist failed to achieve its goal.

If you had been alive during the Vietnam War, would you have been a hawk or a dove? Explain!

OPINION

**Domino Theory:** If one country fell to communism, the others around it would also do so.

**What was the fighting like for Americans in Vietnam?** Very difficult. The climate was very warm and humid and the fighting took place in rice fields and jungle. Many were taken as prisoners of war.

**This was the first televised war. What impact do you think this had on Americans?** Many Americans became opponents of the war when they saw the terrible images coming out of Vietnam.

**Hawks:** A supporter of the war.

**Doves:** An opponent of the war.

**Conscientious Objector:** A person who refuses to serve in the military for religious or moral reasons.

**What happened at Kent State University that showed how divided the country was over the Vietnam War?** Protests on campus became violent. Students burned down a military building on campus. The governor sent the National guard to the campus. When students met for a protest rally, the troops shot tear gas into the crowd, and for unclear reasons opened fire. Four students died and thirteen were wounded.

## The End of the Cold War

1. Describe how the relationship between the US and the Soviet Union improved during President Nixon's administration.

Both countries limited the number of weapons, they set up joint research in space exploration and increased trade.

2. How did President Reagan attempt to protect the US from nuclear attack? Did it work?

He expanded the military and tried to develop the Strategic Defense Initiative, which would give the US the ability to shoot down incoming missiles from space. It was never developed.

3. What are two examples from the 1980s that showed that Soviet power was decreasing?

The Soviet Union was more welcome to new ideas and freedom of expression (glasnost); they signed the INF Treaty limiting weapons; many Soviet republics began to break away.

4. What event occurred in 1989 that symbolized the end of the Cold War?

The fall of the Berlin Wall.



5. What event occurred in 1991 that officially ended the Cold War?

The end of the Soviet Union.

