**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HW#10 - Cold War Conflicts**

**Origins of the Cold War**

***MAIN IDEA*** *The United States and the Soviet Union*

*emerged from World War II as two "superpowers" with*

*vastly different political and economic systems.*

The Cold War was the state of hostility without

direct military confrontation between the

United States and the Soviet Union. The formation

of the United Nations (UN) in 1945, which was

intended to keep peace, did not succeed in stopping

the conflicts between these two superpowers.

One reason for the start of the Cold War was

the conflicting political and economic systems of

the United States and Soviet Union. In the U.S.

system of democracy and capitalism, citizens elect

their political leaders and are free to buy and sell

products in an open market. However, in the Soviet

Communist system, the leaders of the Communist

party chose the nation’s leaders, and government

officials decide what products are available to buy.

Another reason for the outbreak of the Cold

War was the disagreement over the future of

Europe after World War II. The Truman administration

wanted strong, stable democracies in

Europe to prevent totalitarianism and to provide a

market to sell U.S. products. Soviet leader Joseph

Stalin, on the other hand, wanted control of

Eastern Europe to protect against another invasion

from the west and to rebuild the Soviet Union’s

own war-damaged economy.

To achieve his goals, Stalin set up Communist

governments in Eastern Europe. Because these

new Communist countries were dominated by the

Soviet Union, they were called satellite nations. In

1946 Winston Churchill announced that Europe

had been divided by an “iron curtain” into East and

West, communism and capitalism.

To stop further Soviet influence in Europe, the

Truman administration adopted a policy of containment.

Under the Truman Doctrine, the United

States could send military and economic aid to any

country trying to prevent a Communist takeover.

To rebuild Europe after the war and encourage

capitalism, the Marshall Plan provided billions of

dollars to those nations that cooperated with U.S.

economic goals. Germany was split in two—West

Germany and the Soviet-dominated East Germany.

The United States also formed a defensive military

alliance with its European allies called the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The

members of NATO pledged that an attack on one

country was an attack on all.

**The Cold War Heats Up**

***MAIN IDEA*** *After World War II, China became a*

*Communist nation and Korea was split into a Communist*

*North and a democratic South.*

After defeating the Japanese in World War II,

the U.S. supported Chinese Nationalist Army

lead by Chiang Kai-shek fought Mao Zedong’s

Communist forces. Mao won this civil war in 1948

and made China a Communist country. Chiang and

his followers fled to Taiwan, an island off China’s

southeast coast.

At the end of World War II, Korea was divided

along the 38th parallel into two separate countries:

the Communist North and the capitalist South.

When the North Korean army invaded South

Korea in 1950 to unify the country, the United

States called on the members of the United

Nations to help.

Under the command of U.S. General Douglas

MacArthur, troops from 21 UN countries—about

90 percent of them American—fought with the

South Korean army. MacArthur was able to push

the North Koreans toward the Chinese border, but

then, Communist Chinese troops attacked, driving

MacArthur and his troops back into South Korea.

Although the fighting remained fierce, neither side

gained much ground.

MacArthur wanted to use nuclear weapons to

invade China, but Truman opposed this expansion

of the war. When MacArthur continued to argue

for his plan in the press, Truman fired him as commander.

Finally, after three years, the war ended in

a stalemate with North and South Korea honoring

the 38th parallel as the border dividing them.

**The Cold War at Home**

***MAIN IDEA*** *During the late 1940s and early 1950s, fear*

*of Communism led to reckless charges against innocent*

*citizens.*

Many Americans felt threatened by the rise of

Communist governments in Europe and Asia.

Some even felt that Communists could threaten

the U.S. government from within.

Pressured by his Republican critics to do something,

President Truman set up a Loyalty Review

Board to investigate government employees. This

board questioned more than 3 million people and

removed about 200 from their jobs.

In 1947, a Congressional committee called the

House Committee on Un-American Activities

(HUAC) began an investigation of Communist

influence in the movie industry. Although most

people brought before the committee cooperated,

ten men refused. These men, known as the

Hollywood Ten, felt that the committee’s questions

were unconstitutional, and they went to prison for

refusing to answer. Their careers were ruined.

In 1950, over Truman’s veto, Congress passed

the McCarran Act that outlawed the planning of

any action that might lead to the subversion, or

overthrow, of the U.S. government.

Two spy cases in the late 1940s increased fears

of communism. The first involved a State

Department official named Alger Hiss, who was

accused of spying for the Soviet Union. In the second

case, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, members of

the American Communist Party, were convicted of

helping to give the Soviets information about the

atomic bomb. The Rosenbergs were executed for

their crime.

In the early 1950s, Republican Senator Joseph

McCarthy claimed that hundreds of Communists

had infiltrated the State Department. McCarthy

never actually produced any evidence to prove his

accusations, but his Republican colleagues in the

Senate encouraged his bullying tactics, known as

McCarthyism.

McCarthy’s unsupported charges violated the

constitutional rights of the people he accused and

often ruined their careers. Then in 1954, during

televised hearings into the U.S. Army, McCarthy’s

vicious behavior was revealed to American viewers.

As a result, he lost public support, and the Senate

voted to condemn him for improper conduct.

**Two Nations Live on the Edge**

***MAIN IDEA*** *During the late 1950s, the United States and*

*the Soviet Union came to the brink of nuclear war.*

By 1953, the United States and the Soviet Union

had developed both the atomic bomb and the

hydrogen bomb, or H-bomb. The administration of

President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced that,

if necessary, it was prepared to use all of its nuclear

weapons against the Soviet Union. The Soviets

responded by building more nuclear bombs, thus

starting an arms race with the United States. This

willingness of the U.S. to go to an all-out war was

known as brinkmanship.

Other developments also increased hostilities.

In the early 1950s, the United States used the

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to interfere with

some foreign governments through covert operations,

or secret activities. Meanwhile, in response to

the growth of NATO, the Soviets formed a military

alliance with their Eastern European satellites

called the Warsaw Pact.

In 1956, the new head of the Soviet Communist

Party, Nikita Khrushchev, crushed a growing

reform movement in Hungary by sending in Soviet

tanks. That same year, the Soviets threatened to

launch a missile attack against British, French, and

Israeli troops who had seized control of the Suez

Canal, an international waterway located in Egypt.

The United States and the Soviet Union fought

the Cold War in the skies. The Soviets shocked the

world in 1957 by launching *Sputnik I,* the first

unmanned artificial satellite. In 1960 the Soviets

shot down a CIA spy plane, the U-2, over its territory

and captured the pilot. Although the pilot was

eventually returned to the United States, the U-2

incident further damaged U.S.-Soviet relations.

**Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. What was the Cold War and how did it start?

2. Why did the United States get involved in the Korean War?

3. Why did fear of communism sweep the nation in the late 1940s and 1950s? What were some direct effects of this fear?

4. List some events of the 1950s that increased hostilities between the United States and the Soviet Union.

**3 4**