**The Cold War**

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| **Aim:** | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:**  **1.**  **2.** |  |

**A.** **Former Allies Start Fighting**

Even before WWII ended the political power of the world had changed. The United States and the Soviet Union became more powerful than any other countries in the world. For this reason, we call them superpowers. During the war there had been an alliance between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. But after the war they had grown apart, and began to see each other as enemies.

*The U.S. and the Soviet Union were the world’s first 2 “superpowers”. List three (3) things below that you think make country a “superpower”.*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

**B. Conferences**

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| Yalta Conference (February 1945) | Potsdam Conference (July 1945) |
| Before WWII ended – the Yalta Conference brought together the three Allied leaders: Roosevelt from the U.S., Stalin from the Soviet Union, and Churchill from Great Britain. During this conferenced Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin discussed what should be done in Europe after the war was over.  “To encourage the conditions in which free people may exercise their rights, the three governments will assist the people of Europe to:  1. Establish conditions of peace  2. Provide emergency aid for distressed people  3. Form Democratic governments based on the will of the people.” | After WWII ended – European nations also met in Potsdam (Germany) to discuss what would happen to Germany. They agreed to divide Germany between the United States, the UK (Britain), France and the USSR. Each part of Germany that they all controlled was called their own zone of occupation. The USSR spread communism to all of the countries that they controlled and to their zone of occupation in Germany. |

*What was the overall goal of the Yalta Conference?*

*What was the overall goal of the Potsdam Conference?*

**C. Two Sides of the Story**

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| Winston Churchill – “Iron Curtain Speech” March 1946  An Iron Curtain has fallen across the continent of Europe. Behind that line, all of the countries of Eastern Europe and all of the people who live in them now lie in what I call the Soviet Sphere. They are all under the control of the Soviet Union and take their orders from Joseph Stalin. The communists are trying to establish totalitarian control over all of Europe. There is no true democracy in Eastern Europe. What right do Stalin and the Soviet Union have to do this? | Joseph Stalin – Reply to Churchill March 1946  The Russian people have lost millions of people in the war and in the Holocaust. Why should we not try to protect ourselves and make our border countries Communist countries? We want them similar to us in government and to protect us. We did not force Communism on them. Communism offers hope to those without money, food, or shelter. It is perfectly normal that these countries have accepted communism. |

*Pick one speech - Is the speech excerpt bias or neutral? Find examples in the quote.*

*Who do you agree with more – Churchill or Stalin? Explain.*

**D. Containment of Communism**

President Truman (USA) and Prime Minister Churchill (Great Britain) saw communism as an evil force spreading across Europe that threatened countries around the world. Truman felt that the goal of the Soviet Union was to take over the world. Truman thought that the people of the world would lose their freedom and rights if they fell under the control of communism. He wanted to contain communism, which means that he wanted to keep it in one place, and to stop it from spreading.

*How did the U.S. and Britain view communism?*

1. Truman Doctrine

“Communism can only spread to countries that are poor and weak. I believe that the United States should support countries who want to be free. I believe that we should give them money and supplies. Then they can be strong again... We can also help them set up democratic (free) governments.”

*How does President Truman plan to stop Communism?*

2. Marshall Plan

Much of Western Europe was destroyed during WWII. Europe had many problems – unemployment, lack of food, no money, and unstable governments. The US was scared that these countries might turn into communism. In 1947 US Secretary of State George Marshall came up with an idea to help European countries that needed it. His idea was called the Marshall Plan. It would give European countries food, machines, money, and other supplies. The plan was very successful in doing two things: (1) helping to rebuild Europe, and (2) preventing Communism from spreading to Western Europe.

*Why did the U.S decide to give so much money to European countries?*