

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Cold War outline

1. Adjusting to Peace
 - a. The Future of the Postwar World
 - i. The Big Three – Churchill (U.K.), Roosevelt (U.S.), Stalin (Soviet Union) met at the Yalta Conference to discuss the future of European governments in February 1945
 1. They wanted an international peacekeeping organization
 2. They agreed that Germany should have the right to “create democratic institutions of their own choice.”
 3. Stalin agreed to allow free elections in Soviet occupied countries in Eastern Europe
 - a. This did not happen, pro-Soviet governments were set up
 - ii. July 1945 - Potsdam Conference, Truman met with Soviet and British leaders near Berlin, Germany
 1. Germany was divided into 4 zones – American, Soviet, British and French
 - a. Berlin, Germany’s capital was also divided into 4 zones, even though it was located in the Soviet territories
 - iii. War Crime Trials
 1. November 1945
 - a. Nuremberg Trials – a tribunal put high ranking Nazi leaders on trial
 - i. Nazi officials were charged with ‘crimes against humanity’
 1. 19 Nazi leaders were found guilty, 12 of them were sentenced to death
 - b. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East held trials in Japan
 - i. Hideki Tojo was found guilty and executed
 1. 7 other Japanese leaders were sentenced to death
 - c. These trials set the precedent that individuals would be held accountable for war crimes, even if acting under orders from their government
 - iv. The United Nations
 1. During WW2 Roosevelt spoke about the need for an international peace keeping organization
 - a. In 1944 Soviet, Chinese, American and British representatives met to draft a plan for the United Nations
 - i. This would be an organization dedicated to resolving international conflicts
 - ii. In 1945, 50 countries sent representatives to write the UN Charter
 - b. One of the first actions by the UN was dealing with the Palestine Mandate, which Britain had occupied since the end of World War 1
 - i. It was divided into Jewish and Arab states
 - ii. On May 14, 1948 Jewish leaders announced the creation of Israel
 1. The U.S. recognized Israel almost immediately
 2. Arab states refused to recognize Israel, and 5 Arab nations attacked Israel, only to be defeated
 3. Israel joined the UN in 1949
 2. From Allies to Enemies
 - a. The Iron Curtain
 - i. The Soviet Union created “satellite states” in Eastern Europe
 1. These countries were totally controlled by the Soviets
 2. The Iron Curtain was a term coined by Churchill and described how Eastern Europe was now cut off from Western Europe
 - ii. This became the Cold War, the struggle for global power between the U.S. and the Soviet Union
 - b. Cold War Policies
 - i. U.S. foreign policy (how it dealt with other countries) was based on containment – preventing the Soviet Union from spreading its influence around the world
 1. In 1946 Communist rebels in Greece were threatening a rebellion
 - a. Truman requested that Congress send aid (money) to the Greek army, stopping the rebels
 - b. This led to the Truman Doctrine of providing aid to help foreign countries fight communism
 - ii. Europe was still devastated from WW2, and Secretary of State George C. Marshall saw this as a threat to stability

1. The Marshall Plan was developed – Western European countries received more than \$13 billion in U.S. loans and grants for economic recovery between 1948 and 1952
 - a. Soviet leaders rejected the plan and did not allow Eastern European countries to participate
 - iii. In 1948 the British, French, and U.S. joined their occupation zones into one unit
 1. In response the Soviets blocked all train, car and water traffic into Berlin, trapping West Berlin behind the Iron Curtain
 2. U.S. and British planes began air dropping supplies into West Berlin to help, while also not increasing military tensions. This continued for an entire year, ending the blockade by 1949
 - iv. In 1949 the U.S. joined with 9 Western European countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
 1. NATO members agreed to defend each other from Soviet attacks
 2. The Soviet Union responded with the Warsaw Pact in 1955, unifying military command between the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellite states
3. Postwar America
- a. The Postwar Economy
 - i. Women who had begun working during WW2 were encouraged by the government to give up their jobs so returning servicemen would be hired
 - ii. The GI Bill of Rights was passed, offering veterans money for school tuition, as well as loans for houses, farms and businesses
 - iii. Rationing was ended by Truman, increasing inflation, but allowing people to purchase things that they could not have purchased during the war
 - b. Labor Unrest
 - i. With inflation increasing, led by increasing prices for products, workers began to strike for higher wages
 - ii. Truman had a hard time handling these strikes (4.5 million strikers in 1946 alone)
 1. The Taft-Hartley act was passed in 1947
 - a. This limited the power of labor unions
 - b. Truman vetoed it, but his veto was overruled by Congress
 - c. Civil Rights
 - i. African American service men were demanding equal rights after their service in WW2
 - ii. Truman, in 1946, appointed the Committee on Civil Rights to investigate discrimination and propose solutions
 1. Truman suggested several anti-discrimination laws, but Congress refused to pass them
 2. In 1948 Truman issued an executive order ending segregation in the armed forces and ending discrimination in federal hiring
 - d. The Election of 1948
 - i. Truman had a hard time winning re-election in 1948
 1. Congress was controlled by Republicans in 1946 and they thought their candidate could beat him
 2. Democrats, Truman's own party, didn't fully support him, especially the Dixiecrats, in the South
 3. Truman won though, and in 1949 laid out his Fair Deal plan
 - a. This included a higher minimum wage, a national health insurance plan for all Americans and Social Security benefits for the elderly
 - b. Congress approved some parts, but denied other parts, including expanded civil rights.