**World History**

**Measurement Topic 5: The Cold War**

**Level 3: Learn it, study it**, and then test it

**Learning Target #2: Explain the Reasons for the development of the Cold war**

**Learning Target #3: Explain the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan**

**Learning target #4: Understand the United Nation and various Treaties/ Agreements**

**The origins (start) of the cold war**

At the end of World War II the world was left with two main super powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Tensions between these two super powers started at the Yalta conference held in Moscow in February of 1945. All the major nations were in attendance, USA, Great Britain, Soviet Union and France. They met to formulate a plan for Germany, since they did not want to be face with another war twenty years later because they had not planned Germany’s fate. Issues arose soon at the meeting because the four nations could not agree on how to truly deal with Germany. One thing they agreed on was to divide Germany into four military zones controlled by the USA, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and France; however this was the last thing they agreed on. The Soviet Union wanted to punish Germany and weaken them, whereas the other nations wanted to rebuild Germany and help them become a democratic nation.

**Communism Spreads**

After the fall of Germany and Italy, the Soviet Union was the only totalitarian nation remaining, since the Soviet Union was communist. As a precaution, the Soviet Union wanted a buffer zone for its protection between itself and Germany therefore they “encouraged” nations just east of Germany such as Poland, and others to become communist. This encouragement came in the form of forbidding elections, threating the people, and putting communist leaders into leadership roles. The Soviet Union took over several Eastern European nations such as Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Albania, isolating it from Western Europe through control of their governments, leaders, police and media. This isolation was so strong that it was called the **“iron curtain”.** The iron curtain were the nations controlled by the Soviet Union, located in-between Germany and the Soviet Union.

**USA Contains communism**

The United States was concerned about the spread of communism therefore it began to get very involved in world issues which leds to t**he USA from being isolationist to very involved in the issues of the world with a new foreign policy called containment. Containment was the plan to contain communism in its current location and not let it spread.** As a result of this involvement, President Truman created his plan of action, called the Truman doctrine to “contain” communism in Europe and other places in the world. In order to achieve this goal, President Truman asked congress for 400 million to fight the spread of communism. The USA also went on to create the Marshall plan, which was a financial plan to help European nations recover after World War 2. This plan allowed the USA to give billions to European nations with the purpose of aiding recovery and keep Western Europe from becoming communist. In order to receive funding from the USA’s Marshall plan, nations needed to not be communist or turn away from communism.

**Domino Theory**

So to get buy in from the American people, a new theory about communism was created called the Domino Theory. **The domino theory stated that if one nation were to fall to communism, then other nearby nations would also fall to communism,** eventually leading to the United States falling to communism. This theory gained popularity when **Chile, a nation in South America, elected a Marxist/Communist leader.** Chile’s communist government influenced other South American nations, which soon became communist. The USA was very involved in containing communism in Latin America as well.

**Military Actions**

The idea of containment was put into action during **the Korean War** (not an official war since congress did not vote on it) in 1950. This altercation began when Korea was taken from Japan at the end of WW2 and divided up into North and South, with the Soviet Union controlling the North and the United States controlling the South. In theory Korea was to be brought back together, however the Soviet Union spread communism into North Korea and attempted to make South Korea communist as well. By the nature of the theory containment the USA could not allow South Korea to become communist, therefore a military altercation (fighting between the USA and the Soviet Union in Korea) took place for 3 years to keep South Korea free from communism.

The second **military confrontation (battle)** occurred 57 miles from the USA in the small island nation of Cuba, known as the Cuban missile crisis. Cuba became communist when Fidel Castro took over. The Soviet Union and Cuba became very friendly. Cuba allowed the Soviet Union to place long range nuclear missiles on the island pointed at the USA. The missiles had the power and range to reach Washington D.C. and destroy the USA capital. The USA was not about to allow this “threat” to go unnoticed, therefore President Kennedy ordered any Soviet Ship near Cuba to be destroyed. A last minute deal kept the world out of WW3. Had either nation fired upon the other world war 3 would have taken place.

**World Reacts**

Western Europe also became worried about the spread of communism by the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe. World leaders held various meetings to try and solve the communist threat. As a result of all the concerns over the spread of communism, in 1945 the UN (United Nations) was created. The UN is a group of nations that was created to “police”/ protect the world. The UN started with only 51 members, however **membership doubled after African nations gained their independence (**decolonization) and joined the UN. To also insure more protection the western democratic nations (England, France, USA, etc.) created NATO (North Atlantic treaty Organization) in 1949 to provide additional security against the communist nations. To counter the new alliance of the western nations the **Warsaw Pact (agreement) was created to help limit the threat created by the western democratic nations.** The Soviet Union forced all the nations under its control to join the Warsaw Pact and stand against the nations in the NATO alliance.

**The End of the Cold War**

Eventually the cost of the cold war to many nation’s resources, time and people resulted in many nations falling away from communism and adopting other forms of governments. The cold war officially came to end in December 1991.

Answer the following questions with complete sentences.

1. Explain what the cold war was and why the cold war started?
2. Identify the two main nations involved in the Cold War.
3. What was a direct military confrontation of the Cold War?
4. Explain the Domino Theory.
5. What South American nation was the first to become communist?
6. Explain containment.
7. What was the Marshall plan?
8. What happened in 1950?
9. Why was the Warsaw Pact created?
10. What is the UN?
11. Why did the Korean war start?

**Directions: The following questions are based on the accompanying documents/graphs/maps/quotes. As you read and analyze (think about) each document/graph/map/quote be sure to:**

1nd - Independently read the chart, passage, and/or map

2nd- Circle words you don’t know. Predict or find the meaning of the words.

3rd- Read the chart, passage and/or map a second time with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

4th- Answer the questions in complete sentences.

**Document 1:**

This is an excerpt from Secretary of State Marshall’s speech explaining his plan for European recovery, June 5, 1947 I need to say that the world situation is very serious. . . . Europe must have a great deal of additional help, or face heavy economic, social, and political damage. This would have a harmful effect on the world at large. There are also possibilities of disturbances because of the desperation of the people concerned. The effect on the economy of the United States should be clear to all. So the United States should do whatever it can to help restore normal economic health to the world. Without this there can be no political stability or peace. Our policy is directed . . . against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos [disorder]. Its purpose is to revive a working economy in the world.

1. Why did Secretary of State Marshall suggest this plan for European recovery?

**Document 2:**

This is an excerpt from the North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed by the United States, Canada, and ten nations of Western Europe in 1948. The parties agree than an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or in North America shall be considered as an attack against them all. They agree that if such an armed attack occurs, each of them will assist the party or parties so attacked. Each will immediately take whatever action it considers necessary to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. It will, if necessary, use armed force.

1. What is the purpose of NATO?

**Document 3:**

The threat of nuclear was obvious in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. This excerpt, from President John F. Kennedy’s speech to the American people, explains the U.S. position. . . . We have unmistakable evidence that a series of offensive missile sites is now being built on that island. . . . Cuba has been made into an important strategic base by the presence of these long-range offensive weapons of sudden mass destruction. This is an open threat to the peace and security of all of the Americas. Our objective must be to prevent the use of these missiles against this or any other country. We must secure their withdrawal from the Western Hemisphere. . . . I call upon Chairman Khrushchev to halt and eliminate this secret and reckless threat to world peace.

1. What is the basis for President Kennedy’s demand that the missiles be removed from Cuba?

**Document 4:**



1. What does the information on the above map indicate about the governments of Western and Eastern Europe following WW2?

**Document #5**

1. According to the political cartoon above, how did the Marshall plan from the USA differ from Stalin’s plan?

Using the information from your PowerPoint notes, and handout #2.

**Choose one of the following prompts**.

Prompt 1: Summarize what the cold war was, who was involved, the idea of containment and identify an example of containment as well as any other major event that took place during the cold war.

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