

Our objectives

1. A. The fundamental purpose of the United States . . . to assure the integrity and vitality of our free society, which is founded upon the dignity and worth of the individual.

2. The free society attempts to create and maintain an environment in which every individual has the opportunity to realize his creative powers. It also explains why the free society tolerates those within it who would use their freedom to destroy it.

3. For the free society does not fear, it welcomes, diversity. It derives its strength from its hospitality even to antipathetic ideas.

4. If we do not in the application of force demonstrate the nature of our objectives we will, in fact, have compromised from the outset our fundamental purpose.

Soviet objectives

5. The fundamental design of those who control the Soviet Union and the international communist movement is to retain and solidify their absolute power, first in the Soviet Union and second in the areas now under their control. In the minds of the Soviet leaders, however, achievement of this design requires the dynamic extension of their authority and the ultimate elimination of any effective opposition to their authority.

6. The design, therefore, calls for the complete subversion or forcible destruction of the machinery of government and structure of society in the countries of the non-Soviet world and their replacement by an apparatus and structure subservient to and controlled from the Kremlin [the building that housed the Soviet leadership and the symbol of the USSR]. To that end Soviet efforts are now directed toward the domination of the Eurasian land mass.

7. The Kremlin's policy toward areas not under its control is the elimination of resistance to its will and the extension of its influence and control. It is driven to follow this policy because it cannot . . . tolerate the existence of free societies

The Threat

8. The gravest threat to the security of the United States within the foreseeable future stems from the hostile designs and formidable power of the USSR, and from the nature of the Soviet system.

9. The political, economic, and psychological warfare which the USSR is now waging has dangerous potentialities for weakening the relative world position of the United States and disrupting its traditional institutions by means short of war, unless sufficient resistance is encountered in the policies of this and other non-communist countries.

10. Soviet domination of the potential power of Eurasia, whether achieved by armed aggression or by political and subversive means, would be strategically and politically unacceptable to the United States.

11. A building up of the military capabilities of the United States and the free world is a pre-condition to the achievement of the objectives outlined in this report and to the protection of the United States against disaster.

12. The threat to the free world involved in the development of the Soviet Union's atomic and other capabilities will rise steadily and rather rapidly

13. For a free society there is never total victory, since freedom and democracy are never wholly attained, are always in the process of being attained. But defeat at the hands of the totalitarian is total defeat. These risks crowd in on us, in a shrinking world of polarized power, so as to give us no choice, ultimately, between meeting them effectively or being overcome by them.

14. It is quite clear from Soviet theory and practice that the Kremlin seeks to bring the free world under its dominion by the methods of the cold war. The preferred technique is to subvert by infiltration and intimidation. Every institution of our society is an instrument which it is sought to stultify and turn against our purposes. Those that touch most closely our material and moral strength are obviously the prime targets, labor unions, civic enterprises, schools, churches, and all media for influencing opinion.

15. [The Soviet Union takes advantage] of the fact that our means of prevention and retaliation are limited by those principles and scruples which are precisely the ones that give our freedom and democracy its meaning for us. None of our scruples deter those whose only code is "morality is that which serves the revolution."

Recommendations

16. A building up of the military capabilities of the United States and the free world is a pre-condition to the achievement of the objectives outlined in this report and to the protection of the United States against disaster

17. We should take dynamic steps to reduce the power and influence of the Kremlin inside the Soviet Union and other areas under its control. The objective would be the establishment of friendly regimes not under Kremlin domination. Such action is essential to engage the Kremlin's attention, keep it off balance, and force an increased expenditure of Soviet resources in counteraction.

Read the document and complete the following with your group:

How does this document help to create the cold war mindset? Identify a passage from the document that supports each element of the Cold War mindset. Be prepared to explain.

Element of Cold War mindset	Quote (use a keyed note)	Explanation of how the quote applies to this element
All issues (especially in foreign policy) are understood in the context of the competition between the US and the USSR		
This competition is viewed in absolute (zero sum) terms (our way of life and existence is at stake)		
Ethical questions are subordinated to "winning" the Cold War		
Winning the Cold War meant containing communism		

Is there anything in the document that warns against possible dangers of the cold war mindset? Identify and explain one passage.

This activity will be the basis for the quiz on this section.