

US Unit 6  
The Cold War: Triumph and Tragedy

Key Question

- What factors have prevented Great Power war for the last 75 years? What have been the costs of that long peace?

Major Assessments

- 5 Quizzes
- One written exam (400 points - short answer + essay)

**Section 1 Origins of the Cold War**

Readings:

*The Americans* pp. 602-608

**Terms:**

Great power conflict  
“The Long Peace”  
Joseph Stalin  
Soviet Union  
“The Long Russian Memory”  
Yalta Conference  
Harry Truman  
Potsdam Conference  
Soviet policy in Eastern Europe and southwest Asia  
The division of Germany/Berlin Airlift  
Conflicting ideologies

**Question:**

How were US aims different from the Aims of the Soviet Union in Europe after World War II?

**Section 2 - The American Cold War Mindset:**

**Stability and Fear**

**Readings:**

*The Americans* pp. 602-608  
NSC - 68

**Terms:**

The Bretton Woods Conference  
The World Bank  
The International Monetary Fund  
United Nations  
Marshall Plan  
NATO  
“The Cold War Mindset”  
Containment  
Iron Curtain  
Truman Doctrine  
NSC-68

**Question:**

How did the American mindset emerging out of the early Cold War both help America create a stable world order and lead to decisions that would have negative consequences for American and the world?

**Section 3 - Living in the Shadow of Annihilation:**

**Nuclear Weapons and the Cold War**

**Readings:**

*The Americans* pp. 622-623  
Downwind Radiation exposure document  
Atomic Cafe (video)

**Terms:**

Arms Race  
Nuclear weapons (A Bombs and H bombs)  
Mutually Assured Destruction

Brinksmanship

Sputnik

Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

Distant Early Warning Line

Nuclear Triads

Kilotons and megatons

Ground zero

Radiation

Fallout

Nuclear testing

Arms control agreements from 1962-2011

\*Modern nuclear arsenals

**Question:**

How did living under the threat of nuclear war shape how people lived in Cold War America?

**Section 4**

The Cold War at home

**Readings:**

*The Americans* pp. 616-621  
Murrow and McCarthy Documents

**Terms:**

Loyalty Review Board

HUAC

Hollywood Ten

Blacklisting

The McCarran Act

Alger Hiss

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

Joseph McCarthy/McCarthyism

\*Edgar R. Murrow

**Question:**

How did the Cold War mindset impact Americans at home?

**Section 4**

Cuba and the Cold War

**Readings:**

*The Americans* pp. 673-677  
Cuban missile crisis documents

**Terms:**

Fulgencio Batista

Fidel Castro

Bay of Pigs

Nikita Khrushchev

John F. Kennedy

Cuban Missile crisis

**Question:**

How did the Cold War Mindset shape how the US responded to Fidel Castro's Revolution in Cuba?

## **Section 5**

The Vietnam War

### **Readings:**

*The Americans* pp. 730-763

Johnson "Why we are in Vietnam" document

Letters from Vietnam - Video

### **Terms:**

Ho Chi Minh

Vietnamese Declaration of Independence, 1945

Battle of Dienbienphu

Domino theory

Geneva Peace Conference, 1954

No Dinh Diem

Tonkin Gulf Incident/Resolution

Operation Rolling Thunder

William Westmoreland

Robert McNamara

The Draft

"Escalation"

Mai Lai Massacre

The Tet Offensive

Richard Nixon and Vietnamization

Anti-war protests

Kent State

### **Questions:**

How did the Cold War Mindset shape US policy in Vietnam?

Why was fighting in Vietnam particularly difficult for American soldiers?

## **Section 6**

The End of the Cold War

### **Readings:**

Operation Able Archer article

### **Terms:**

Operation Able Archer

Ronald Reagan

Mikhail Gorbachev

The End of the Soviet Union

A second Cold War?

### **Questions:**

What are the lessons of the Cold War?

## **Lecture Outline**

- I. The Long peace and the costs of great power conflict
- II. The Origins of the Cold War: The establishment of the post war world order
  - A. The Division of Europe
  - B. The Cold War Mindset
  - C. Institutions of the post war order: Political, Economic and Military
    1. The UN
    2. The Bretton woods conference
      - a. The International Monetary Fund
      - b. The World Bank
    3. The Marshall Plan
    4. NATO
  - D. NSC 68 and the dangers of the Cold War Mindset
- III. Nuclear Weapons and the Cold War
  - A. Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the beginning of the nuclear age
  - B. How nuclear weapons work
  - C. US nuclear strategy
  - D. The effects of nuclear weapons
  - E. Nuclear weapons testing
  - F. Arms control and the effort to reduce the likelihood of nuclear catastrophe
- IV. The Cold War at Home
  - A. The Red Scare
  - B. Joseph McCarthy and McCarthyism
- V. Cuba and the Cold War
  - A. The US and Cuba before the Cold War
  - B. Fulgencio Batista, US Cuba policy and the Cold War mindset
  - C. The Cuban Revolution
  - D. The Cuban Missile Crisis
- F. Vietnam and the Cold War
  - A. Vietnam before World War II
  - B. The French Indo-China War
  - C. The US, Vietnam and the Cold War mind set
  - D. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution and escalation
  - E. A guerilla war
  - F. Tet/1968
  - G. Protest Movements and opposition to the War
  - H. Nixon and Vietnam
- G. The End of the Cold War
  - A. Close calls
  - B. Gorbachev and Reagan
  - C. The Collapse of the Soviet Union
- H. A second Cold War?