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Checking for understanding

*Read through these questions – can you answer them quickly? If you can, then you understand the key concepts in this video. If not, go back and watch it again. Don’t forget to check your answers with the answer key (don’t peek – the whole point of this is to see if YOU understand the key ideas).*

The Cold War – Video #1 Introduction to the Cold War

1. Why do we use the term Cold War to refer to this conflict between the USA and USSR?
2. Why was Germany a source of conflict that contributed to the Cold War?
3. What is a sphere of influence, and how was Europe divided?
4. What is the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan?
5. Why did the Cold War have such an impact on society?
6. What was McCarthyism?

The Cold War – Video #2 Expansionism and Containment

1. How is the conflict over Berlin an example of expansionism? (try to include specific examples from the event).
2. How is the conflict over Berlin an example of containment? (try to include specific examples from the event).

The Cold War – Video #3 Proxy Wars

1. What is a proxy war?
2. How does the Korean War fit the definition of a proxy war (try to be specific)?
3. How does the Vietnam War fit the definition of a proxy war (try to be specific)?
4. How does the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan fit the definition of a proxy war (try to be specific)?

The Cold War – Video #4 Brinkmanship and Deterrence

1. What does brinkmanship mean?
2. What does deterrence mean?
3. How did Canada get pulled into the nuclear arms race between the Americans and Soviets?
4. Why is the Cuban Missile Crisis a good example of brinkmanship and deterrence?
5. There is a brief mention of détente relating to this event – what is détente and what actions from the Cuban Missile Crisis relate to this?

The Cold War – Video #5 Non-alignment and Liberation Movements

1. Summarize the non-alignment movement.
2. What made Yugoslavia unique?
3. Summarize the events relating to the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.
4. Summarize the events relating to the 1968 Prague Spring.
5. Explain the Solidarity Movement in Poland.

The Cold War – Video #6 Détente

1. What does détente mean?
2. How do the nuclear treaties relate to détente?
3. What is ping-pong diplomacy?
4. How did American military spending contribute to the end of the Cold War?
5. How did perestroika and glasnost contribute to the end of the Cold War?
6. How is the end of the Cold War like Eisenhower’s Domino Theory, but only in reverse?
7. What was the peace dividend, and did it become a reality?

Answer Key – Video #1

1. Why do we use the term Cold War to refer to this conflict between the USA and USSR? They never actually fought – not “hot”; instead an “iron curtain” descended to keep the two sides suspicious of each other due to their differing ideologies.
2. Why was Germany a source of conflict that contributed to the Cold War? Both former allies wanted to control that strategic area – mostly to create a buffer zone to keep themselves away from the opposing superpower’s sphere of influence, the division created friction.
3. What is a sphere of influence, and how was Europe divided? It’s an area that is under the control of another nation-state, whether that be direct control, or other influences such as economic, political or social. Europe was divided with the East in the Soviet sphere and the west in the American sphere.
4. What is the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan? Programs intended to stop the spread of communism through economic means.
5. Why did the Cold War have such an impact on society? Baby boomers grew up in this atmosphere of mistrust and started to question authority – this led to dramatic changes with increasing individualist attitudes towards human rights.
6. What was McCarthyism? Using fear of communist spies, Senator McCarthy creates the House Un-American Activities Commission that investigates anyone even suspected of ties to communism – illustrates the hype and heightened sense of fear being experienced during the Cold War.

Answer Key – Video #2

1. How is the conflict over Berlin an example of expansionism? (try to include specific examples from the event). Both the Soviets and Americans wanted to establish a sphere of influence that would support their ideological viewpoints. When Stalin tried to block the access to Berlin, or when the Americans created West Germany and encouraged East Germans to migrate, that is expansionism.
2. How is the conflict over Berlin an example of containment? (try to include specific examples from the event). Both sides wanted to prevent the other from expanding their influence, for example when the East German government built the wall around West Berlin, or when the Americans used the airlift to demonstrate to Stalin that they would not back down to him.

Answer Key – Video #3

1. What is a proxy war? When two powerful nations use a conflict in another area as an excuse to express their tensions. A historical example would be when the British and French would fight over the colonies as a way to hurt each other back in Europe.
2. How does the Korean War fit the definition of a proxy war (try to be specific)? US got UN support to stop the spread of communism after North Korea invaded the south. While the USSR didn’t get directly involved, they supplied weapons to the North Koreans and later the Chinese. Therefore the battle over communism versus capitalism was fought in Asia, with the USA and USSR sacrificing to promote their ideology.
3. How does the Vietnam War fit the definition of a proxy war (try to be specific)? Similar to Korea, the north attempted to take over the south, so the US got involved. Again, the USSR did not get directly involved but provided supplies to cripple their superpower opponent. Not only were the Soviets able to ensure a defeat of the Americans in Asia, it also served to demoralize the Americans back home.
4. How does the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan fit the definition of a proxy war (try to be specific)? This was the American’s turn to become the force in the background that led to revolutionary change in the USSR. By using covert methods, the Americans helped the mujahedeen to push the Soviets out of Afghanistan – the cost of fighting the war was one of the causes for the collapse of the Soviet empire.

Answer Key #4

1. What does brinkmanship mean? Taking something to the edge and then backing off.
2. What does deterrence mean? To prevent or stop something, used here in relation to the possession of nuclear weapons to prevent someone from attacking you – a weapon of defense.
3. How did Canada get pulled into the nuclear arms race between the Americans and Soviets? Missiles would be flying over our airspace, so we signed the NORAD treaty with the Americans, allowing them to set up radar bases on our territory.
4. Why is the Cuban Missile Crisis a good example of brinkmanship and deterrence? Once the missiles were discovered, both the Americans and Soviets threatened each other, with the world on the brink of war, but at the last moment they both pulled back because of the fear of all out nuclear war (deterred the conflict from getting even worse)
5. There is a brief mention of détente relating to this event – what is détente and what actions from the Cuban Missile Crisis relate to this? An end to fighting or hostility – the signing of the Partial Test Ban Treaty and the establishment of the Hotline between Moscow and Washington would ensure that rhetoric would not get out of control again.

Answer Key – Video #5 Non-alignment and liberation movements

1. Summarize the non-alignment movement. Both the Soviets and Americans had many alliances and organizations to protect and expand their sphere of influence. But many newly independent nations did not want to trade their colonial rulers for ideological controls, so they established a conference where they all agreed to support each other in their quest to avoid being dragged into the conflict.
2. What made Yugoslavia unique? It was a communist country that was not directly under the control or within the sphere of influence of the USSR.
3. Summarize the events relating to the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. Freedoms started to be established; this was tolerated by the Soviet government until they requested to leave the Warsaw Pact, then the Soviet army was sent in to quash the revolution. Thousands were killed in the two weeks of fighting.
4. Summarize the events relating to the 1968 Prague Spring. Similar to the Hungarian Uprising, with freedoms being introduced. This time the fighting did not last as long, and Brezhnev passed the Brezhnev Doctrine that bound Warsaw Pact members to get involved if liberal revolutions started to spread within the Communist Bloc.
5. Explain the Solidarity Movement in Poland. Unrest led to strikes – organized in to the solidarity movement. Eventually they are able to make the government accept their demands, as the USSR was too busy to get directly involved.

**Answer Key – Video #6 Détente**

1. What does détente mean? An end to fighting or hostilities
2. How do the nuclear treaties relate to détente? It demonstrated a willingness of the superpowers to work together to prevent hostilities
3. What is ping-pong diplomacy? The use of totally unrelated events, like a ping-pong tournament, to provide the opportunity for diplomatic meetings.
4. How did American military spending contribute to the end of the Cold War? They had more capital to spend as the Soviet economy was seriously stagnating. The Soviet’s attempt to keep up ended up causing economic hardships.
5. How did perestroika and glasnost contribute to the end of the Cold War? Opening up opportunities for change meant that the people were able to demand a more liberal society. Once the satellite states and republics within the USSR start to break away, the USSR no longer has the power to threaten the USA (without the threat there is no Cold War)
6. How is the end of the Cold War like Eisenhower’s Domino Theory, but only in reverse? As one nation-state breaks away from communism, the other’s followed (the Domino Theory was the fear that as communism spread from China to Vietnam, the US would not be able to stop it from spreading throughout Asia)
7. What was the peace dividend, and did it become a reality? It was the hope that all of those millions of dollars spent on fighting the cold war could now be spent on humanitarian programs like feeding the poor. Instead civil wars started to spread around the world and the military industrial complex ensured that we all stay worried enough to keep spending.