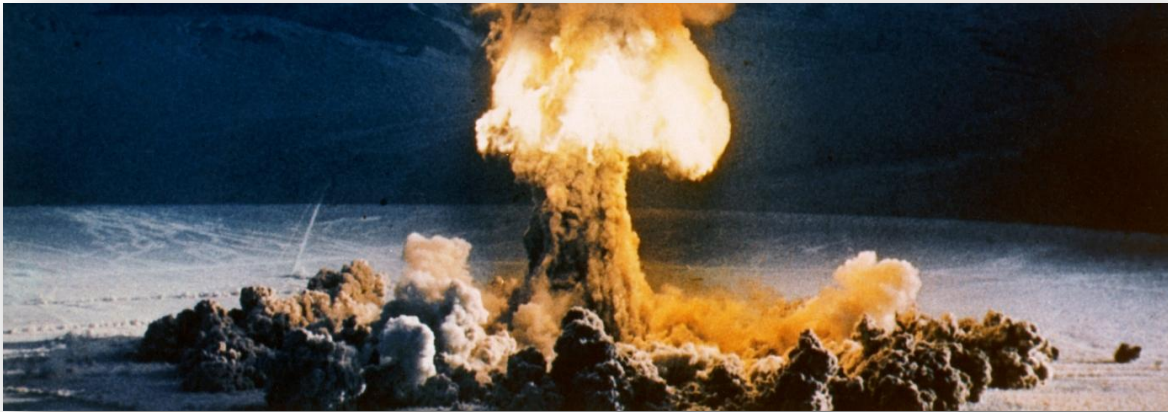


The Cold War - Webquest

Directions: Complete the following questions using the link listed below.

<http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history>



1. During the Cold War, America officials began following a strategy called "containment."
 - a. Briefly explain what is meant by "containment".

Containment was the American policy of trying to stop or contain the spread of communism around the world.

- b. What was the goal or purpose of the American strategy of "containment"?

To stop the spread of communism from spreading around the world.

- c. According to the website, what did the containment strategy provide a rationale for?

It led to the buildup of the "arms race".

2. In 1949, the Soviets tested an atomic bomb of their own. In response, President Truman announced that the United States would build an even more destructive atomic weapon: the hydrogen bomb, or “superbomb.”
3. Explain how the “arms race” impacted American citizens and culture in the early decades of the Cold War.

The ever-present threat of nuclear annihilation had a great impact on American domestic life as well. People built bomb shelters in their backyards. They practiced attack drills in schools and other public places. The 1950s and 1960s saw an epidemic of popular films that horrified moviegoers with depictions of nuclear devastation and mutant creatures. In these and other ways, the Cold War was a constant presence in Americans’ everyday lives.

4. On October 4, 1957, a Soviet R-7 intercontinental ballistic missile launched the satellite Sputnik (Russian for “traveler”) into orbit.
 - a. What was the significance of “Sputnik” in terms of the “space race”?

It was the world’s first artificial satellite and the first man-made object to be placed into the Earth’s orbit.

- b. How did the United States feel about the launching of “Sputnik”?

Sputnik’s launch came as a surprise, and not a pleasant one, to most Americans. In the United States, space was seen as the next frontier, a logical extension of the grand American tradition of exploration, and it was crucial not to lose too much ground to the Soviets.

5. What two things did the United States do in 1958 in relation to the “space race”?

In 1958, the U.S. launched its own satellite, Explorer I. That same year, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a public order creating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a federal agency dedicated to space exploration, as well as several programs seeking to exploit the military potential of space.

6. According to the website, who was leading the “space race” in April of 1961? Why?

The Soviet’s because they launched the first man into space in 1961.

7. Who was the first American in space? When did he go into space?

In May of 1961, Alan Shepard became the first American man in space.

8. Explain the event that effectively won the "space race" for the United States.

On July 20, 1969, when Neil Armstrong of NASA's Apollo 11 mission, became the first man to set foot on the moon, effectively winning the Space Race for the Americans.

9. What was the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)?

The committee began a series of hearings designed to show that communist subversion in the United States was alive and well.

10. Explain how the HUAC impacted Hollywood in the 1950's.

In Hollywood, HUAC forced hundreds of people who worked in the movie industry to renounce left-wing political beliefs and testify against one another. More than 500 people lost their jobs. Many of these "blacklisted" writers, directors, actors and others were unable to work again for more than a decade.

11. Who was Senator Joseph McCarthy?

A US Senator who led a movement to remove communists from the US State Department and the entire US Government.

12. According to the website, why did the United States go to war in Korea in the 1950's?

The Americans went to war in Korea in order to prevent the spread of communism in the area. It was believed that if communism spread to Korea, then this would be the first step to communism spreading throughout the region.

13. How and when did the Korean War end?

President Truman sent the American military into Korea, but the war dragged to a stalemate and ended in 1953.

14. In the early 1960s, President Kennedy faced a number of troubling situations in his own hemisphere. The Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis the following year seemed to prove that the real communist threat now lay in the unstable, postcolonial "Third World".

15. In what way was the Vietnam War an example of containment?

Vietnam like Korea was a war in which the USA attempted to stop the spread of communism in the region of the South Pacific. Therefore, the Americans were attempting to contain the spread of communism and Soviet expansionism.

16. Explain the two opposing sides in the Vietnam War.

In Vietnam, where the collapse of the French colonial regime had led to a struggle between the American-backed nationalist Ngo Dinh Diem in the south and the communist nationalist Ho Chi Minh in the north.

17. Explain the "Cold War" policy of "détente".

Detente means a relaxation or a reduction in tensions. It is referring to the period when the tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union reduced.

18. What was the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I)? In what way was it an example of "détente"?

In 1972, President Nixon and Soviet premier Leonid Brezhnev (1906-1982) signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I), which prohibited the manufacture of nuclear missiles by both sides and took a step toward reducing the decades-old threat of nuclear war.

19. What is meant by the "Reagan Doctrine"?

Like many leaders of his generation, Reagan believed that the spread of communism anywhere threatened freedom everywhere. As a result, he worked to provide financial and military aid to anticommunist governments and insurgencies around the world. This policy, particularly as it was applied in the developing world in places like Grenada and El Salvador, was known as the Reagan Doctrine.

20. What two policies did Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduce in the Soviet Union in the late 1980's? Why did he introduce these policies?

In response to severe economic problems and growing political ferment in the USSR, Premier Mikhail Gorbachev (1931-) took office in 1985 and introduced two policies that redefined Russia's relationship to the rest of the world: "glasnost," or political openness, and "perestroika," or economic reform.

21. Why do you think the fall of the Berlin Wall was important to the end of the overall Cold War?

The Berlin Wall was a symbolic representation of the divide between the USA and the Soviet Union. When it fell this was a strong symbolic representation of the end of the Cold War and the reduction in tensions between the two superpowers.