

Cold War Conflicts**Lesson 1****Cold War: Superpowers Face Off****Key Terms and People**

United Nations world organization formed in 1945 to prevent war among nations

iron curtain division between Eastern and Western Europe during the Cold War

containment U.S. foreign policy aimed at preventing the spread of communism

Truman Doctrine policy of giving aid to countries threatened by communism

Marshall Plan U.S. plan to help European economies recover after World War II

Cold War state of tension and mistrust between the United States and the Soviet Union

NATO military alliance of the United States, Canada, and Western Europe

Warsaw Pact military alliance between the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

brinkmanship policy of threatening to go to war in response to an enemy's aggression

Before You Read

In the last lesson you learned about the war's effects on Europe and Japan.

In this lesson, you will learn about the international tensions that followed the war.

As You Read

Use a chart to record actions or policies that helped create the Cold War.

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF WORLD WAR II**What were some effects of World War II?**

World War II was the most destructive war in history. Over 60 million soldiers and civilians died during the war. After the war, hunger and disease killed many others. The destruction of land and property and new national borders forced millions of people to move to new areas. Economies were ruined and some countries had to

rebuild from almost nothing. Western European countries improved faster than countries under Soviet control.

1. What were some long-term consequences of World War II?

Lesson 1, *continued***ALLIES BECOME ENEMIES;
EASTERN EUROPE'S IRON
CURTAIN****What caused the Cold War?**

The United States and the Soviet Union were allies during World War II. In February 1945, they agreed to divide Germany into separate zones. The Allies also helped form the **United Nations** (UN). The UN pledged to prevent war.

After the war, there were striking differences between the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States suffered few casualties and was the richest nation in the world. The Soviet Union suffered enormous loss of life and damage to its cities. Politically, the United States wanted to encourage democracy. The Soviet Union wanted to set up Communist governments. These differences caused tensions.

At the end of World War II, the Soviets set up Communist governments in the occupied countries of Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland, and Yugoslavia. This divided Europe between East and West. Winston Churchill called this division the “**iron curtain**.”

- How did U.S. goals and Soviet goals differ after World War II?

**UNITED STATES TRIES TO
CONTAIN SOVIETS; THE COLD
WAR DIVIDES THE WORLD****Why did tensions between the
superpowers increase?**

Truman began a policy of **containment**—blocking the Soviets from spreading communism. Under the **Truman Doctrine**, the United States helped nations that were threatened by

communism. The United States also adopted the **Marshall Plan**, which gave food and other aid to European countries recovering from the war.

In 1948, the Soviets and Americans clashed over Germany. The Soviets cut off all transportation into Berlin, a divided city deep within the Soviet zone. The United States and Britain responded with the Berlin airlift. They flew supplies into the city for 11 months. Finally, the Soviets lifted the blockade.

The struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union was called the **Cold War**. Many countries supported one superpower or the other.

The United States, Canada, and several countries in Western Europe formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**), a military alliance. The Soviets and Eastern European countries made a similar agreement called the **Warsaw Pact**.

By 1953, both superpowers had an even more deadly weapon than an atomic bomb—a hydrogen bomb. Each nation produced more and more nuclear weapons. Both sides were willing to go to the brink, or edge, of war. This became known as **brinkmanship**.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik*, the world's first human-made satellite. The United States then began spending huge amounts of money to improve science education.

The U-2 incident brought more tension. The United States sent planes, called U-2 planes, to spy over Soviet territory. One was shot down in 1960.

- What are three developments or events that increased tensions during the Cold War?

Lesson 1, *continued*

As you read this lesson, take notes to explain how each of the following actions or policies led to the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

1. Meeting at Potsdam, Germany	2. Policy of containment
3. Truman Doctrine	4. Marshall Plan
5. Blockade of Berlin	6. Formation of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
7. Policy of brinkmanship	8. Launching of <i>Sputnik I</i>