SS5H5: Cold War Study Guide

Beliefs and Ideals

Why was the United Nations (UN) formed?

The United Nations was formed to keep peace in the world.

What was the Berlin Airlift and why did it happen?

The Berlin Airlift was an emergency airlift to provide food, fuel, and medications to West Berlin which was being blockaded by the Soviet Union. It brought hope to the tired, hungry people of the city.

What is NATO and why was it formed?

NATO stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It was formed to keep the Soviet Union from forcing communism on other countries.

What is communism?

Communism is when the government controls production and owns the nation's natural and capital resources. The government tells people where to live and work.

What is capitalism? Capitalism is when ordinary people and business control the production of goods and services.

Conflict and Change

What was the Iron Curtain? The iron curtain is a symbol of the difference between communist and noncommunist countries.

What is a cold war? A cold war is a war fought with words and ideas.

What caused the Korean War? What was the result?

North Korea had a communist government supported by the Soviet Union. In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. The United States convinced the United Nations to defend South Korea. After 3 years, thousands of American soldiers were dead and the two sides agreed to stop fighting. North and South Korea remain divided.

What caused the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Communists took power in Cuba. Nikita Khrushchev helped Fidel Castro set up this communist government. In 1962, the United States found out that the Soviet Union was hiding powerful missiles in Cuba. President JFK feared a surprise attack and ordered a blockade of Cuba.

Why is the Cuban Missile Crisis important?

The Cuban Missile Crisis is important because it was the closest two countries have ever come to nuclear war.

What caused the Vietnam War?

A group of communists in South Vietnam began trying to overthrow the government. North Vietnam supported the Vietcong (the communist fighters in South Vietnam). The United States began to send advisors and supplies to help South Vietnam. In 1965, the United States began sending soldiers to fight. Many Americans strongly disagreed about the United States interfering in a war between North and South Vietnam.

What was the result of the Vietnam War?

Richard Nixon started bringing troops home from Vietnam in 1969. In 1973, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the United States signed a cease-fire.

Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Who is Joseph Stalin?

Joseph Stalin was a dictator who ruled the Soviet Union during WWII and the beginning of the Cold War. His government arrested people who spoke out against communism.

Who is Senator Joseph McCarthy?

Senator Joseph McCarthy was an anti-communist who believed that secret communists worked in the United States Government. He claimed they were spying for the Soviet Union. This was called the "Red Scare".

Who is Nikita Khrushchev?

The leader of the Soviet Union after Stalin died. He was the leader during the Cold War who wanted to establish bases for nuclear missiles in Cuba.

Production, Distribution, and Consumption

How did television change communication in the world?

Television changed the way people learned about the world around them. People could watch world events as they happened.