

Bipolar World

Background

The international system was fundamentally changed at the close of the Second World War, but the struggle for power remained unchanged.

Global affairs were now dominated by two superpowers . . . America and the Soviet Union.

The world was bipolar, divided into two camps controlled by Washington and Moscow.

While the international system was changed, nothing changed the rules of engagement.

Big surprise . . . power stays the focus of History 12.

The Cold War was essentially a struggle for power and influence waged between competing ideologies.

America was centered on democracy and capitalism.

The Soviet Union centered on totalitarianism and communism.

While there was no direct military combat between America and the Soviet Union, these ideologies were mutually exclusive.

They were social, economic, and political enemies.

They were also unevenly matched.

America enjoyed massive economic and military advantages . . . essentially the Cold War was theirs to lose!

Assignment

1) Without several great powers, after the Second World War the world had two _____.

2) Describe America's economic strength after the Second World War.

3) Describe America's military strength after the Second World War.

4) What kind of new world order did the U.S.A. want to create?

5) Do you think that Henry Luce’s statement that “the American experience is the key to the future” applies to the world today? Explain.

6) The Soviets entered a period of _____ after the war.

7) After 1945, how did Stalin look to “purify” the Soviet Union and its satellite states?

8) What did the two superpowers struggle for throughout the Cold War?

9) How was the Cold War different from previous power struggles in the Twentieth Century?

10) Mind map the role of nationalism and imperialism during the Cold War.

<i>Nationalism</i>	<i>Imperialism</i>

11) Why did the western capitalists fear the Soviets?

12) Why did the Soviets fear the western capitalists?

13) Define the following terms . . .

Domino Theory - _____

Satellite States - _____

Iron Curtain - _____

14) Identify the Eastern European countries in which Stalin established a communist regime, and when applicable, note the year and the manner in which each country became communist.

15) Critical Thinking . . . What was the historic mission of Russia in the Balkans, and why would the Americans block this mission with the Truman Doctrine?

16) Define . . . Truman Doctrine.

17) Define . . . Marshall Plan.

18) In response to the Cold War, what actions were taken inside America?
