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# 37

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## The Cold War Begins, 1945–1952

### PART I: Reviewing the Chapter

#### A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to

1. describe the economic transformation of the immediate post–World War II era.
2. describe the postwar migrations to the “Sunbelt” and the suburbs.
3. explain changes in the American population structure brought about by the “baby boom.”
4. explain the growth of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union after Roosevelt’s death and Germany’s defeat.
5. describe the early Cold War conflicts over Germany and Eastern Europe.
6. discuss American efforts to “contain” the Soviets through the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and NATO.
7. describe the expansion of the Cold War to Asia and the Korean War.
8. analyze the postwar domestic climate in America and explain the growing fear of internal communist subversion.

#### B. Glossary

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

1. **gross national product** The total value of a nation’s annual output of goods and services. “Real gross national product (GNP) slumped sickeningly in 1946 and 1947. . . .” (p. 858)
2. **agribusiness** Farming and related activities considered as commercial enterprises, especially large corporate agricultural ventures. “. . . consolidation produced giant agribusinesses able to employ costly machinery.” (p. 862)
3. **population curve** The varying size and age structure of a given nation or other group, measured over time. “This boom-or-bust cycle of births begot a bulging wave along the American population curve.” (p. 866)
4. **precinct** The smallest subdivision of a city, as it is organized for purposes of police administration, politics, voting, and so on. “He then tried his hand at precinct-level Missouri politics. . . .” (p. 866)
5. **protégé** Someone under the patronage, protection, or tutelage of another person or group. “Though a protégé of a notorious political machine in Kansas City, he had managed to keep his own hands clean.” (p. 866)
6. **superpower** One of the two overwhelmingly dominant international powers after World War II—the United States and the Soviet Union. “More specific understandings among the wartime allies—especially the two emerging superpowers—awaited the arrival of peace.” (p. 870)
7. **exchange rates** The ratios at which the currencies of two or more countries are traded, which express their values relative to one another. “. . . the International Monetary Fund (IMF) [was established] to encourage world trade by regulating currency exchange rates.” (p. 871)

8. **underdeveloped** Economically and industrially deficient. "They also founded the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development . . . to promote economic growth in war-ravaged and underdeveloped areas." (p. 871)
9. **military occupation** The holding and control of a territory and its citizenry by the conquering forces of another nation. ". . . Germany had been divided at war's end into four military occupation zones. . . ." (p. 873)
10. **containment** In international affairs, the blocking of another nation's expansion through the application of military and political pressure short of war. "Truman's piecemeal responses . . . took on intellectual coherence in 1947, with the formulation of the 'containment doctrine.'" (p. 874)
11. **communist-fronter** One who belongs to an ostensibly independent political, economic, or social organization that is secretly controlled by the Communist party. ". . . he was nominated . . . by . . . a bizarre collection of disgruntled former New Dealers . . . and communist-fronters." (p. 881)
12. **Politburo** The small ruling executive body that controlled the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party, and hence dictated the political policies of the Soviet, Chinese, and other Communist parties (from "Political Bureau"). "This so-called Pied Piper of the Politburo took an apparently pro-Soviet line. . . ." (p. 881)
13. **perimeter** The outer boundary of a defined territory. ". . . Korea was outside the essential United States defense perimeter in the Pacific." (p. 883)

## PART II: Checking Your Progress

### A. True-False

Where the statement is true, mark T. Where it is false, mark F, and correct it in the space immediately below.

- \_\_\_ 1. The American consumer economy began to grow dramatically as soon as the war ended, during the years 1945 to 1950.
- \_\_\_ 2. The postwar economic boom was fueled by military spending and cheap energy.
- \_\_\_ 3. Labor unions continued to grow rapidly in the industrial factories throughout the 1940s and 1950s.
- \_\_\_ 4. The economic and population growth of the Sunbelt occurred because the South relied less than the North did on federal government spending for its economic well-being.
- \_\_\_ 5. After World War II, American big cities became heavily populated with minorities, while most whites lived in the suburbs.
- \_\_\_ 6. Government policies sometimes encouraged residential segregation in the cities and new suburbs.
- \_\_\_ 7. Harry S Truman brought extensive experience and confidence to the presidency he assumed in April 1945.
- \_\_\_ 8. The growing Cold War broke down the strong bonds of trust and common ideals that America and Russia had shared as World War II allies.

- \_\_\_ 9. The Western Allies pushed to establish a separate nation of West Germany, while the Russians wanted to restore a unified German state.
- \_\_\_ 10. The Truman Doctrine was initiated in response to threatened Soviet gains in Iran and Afghanistan.
- \_\_\_ 11. The Marshall Plan was developed primarily as a response to the possible Soviet military invasion of Western Europe.
- \_\_\_ 12. The fundamental purpose of NATO was to end the historical feuds among the European nations of Britain, France, Italy, and Germany.
- \_\_\_ 13. The postwar hunt for communist subversion was supposedly aimed at rooting out American communists from positions in government and teaching.
- \_\_\_ 14. Truman defeated Dewey in 1948 partly because of the deep splits within the Republican party that year.
- \_\_\_ 15. Truman fired General MacArthur because MacArthur wanted to expand the Korean War into China.

### B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

- \_\_\_ 1. Besides giving educational benefits to returning veterans, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (the GI Bill of Rights) was partly intended to
  - a. prevent returning soldiers from flooding the job market.
  - b. provide the colleges with a new source of income.
  - c. keep the GIs' military skills in high readiness for the Cold War.
  - d. help to slow down the inflationary economy that developed at the end of World War II.
- \_\_\_ 2. Among the greatest beneficiaries of the post-World War II economic "boom" were
  - a. the industrial inner cities.
  - b. farm laborers.
  - c. labor unions.
  - d. women.
- \_\_\_ 3. Among the causes of the long postwar economic expansion were
  - a. foreign investment and international trade.
  - b. military spending and cheap energy.
  - c. labor's wage restraint and the growing number of small businesses.
  - d. government economic planning and investment.

- 4. The two regions that gained most in population and new industry in the postwar economic expansion were
  - a. the Northwest and New England.
  - b. the Northeast and South.
  - c. the Midwest and West.
  - d. the South and West.
  
- 5. The federal government played a large role in the growth of the Sunbelt through
  - a. federal subsidies to southern and western agriculture.
  - b. its policies supporting civil rights and equal opportunity for minorities.
  - c. housing loans to veterans.
  - d. its financial support of the aerospace and defense industries.
  
- 6. Among the federal policies that contributed to the postwar migration from the cities to the suburbs were
  - a. housing-mortgage tax deductions and federally built highways.
  - b. public housing and Social Security.
  - c. military and public-works spending.
  - d. direct subsidies to suburban homebuilders.
  
- 7. The postwar “baby-boom” population expansion contributed to
  - a. the sharp rise in elementary school enrollments in the 1970s.
  - b. the strains on the Social Security system in the 1950s.
  - c. the popular “youth culture” of the 1960s.
  - d. the expanding job opportunities of the 1980s.
  
- 8. Among President Harry Truman’s most valuable qualities as a leader were
  - a. his considerable experience in international affairs.
  - b. his personal courage, authenticity, and sense of responsibility for big decisions.
  - c. his intolerance of pettiness or corruption among his subordinates.
  - d. his patience and willingness to compromise with honest critics.
  
- 9. The primary reason that Franklin Roosevelt made concessions to Stalin at the Yalta Conference was that
  - a. he sympathized with the Soviet need to dominate Eastern Europe.
  - b. he wanted the Soviet Union to enter the war against Japan.
  - c. he wanted the Soviets to agree to American domination of Central America and the Caribbean.
  - d. he was afraid of a postwar confrontation with the Soviet Union over China.
  
- 10. Before World War II, both the United States and the Soviet Union
  - a. had competed with Germany for the role of leading power in Europe.
  - b. had concentrated on practical achievements rather than ideological issues.
  - c. had attempted to build powerful armies and navies in order to gain global power.
  - d. had been largely inward-looking and isolated from international affairs.

- \_\_\_\_ 11. A crucial early development of the Cold War occurred when
- a. Germany was divided into an East Germany under Soviet control and a pro-American West Germany.
  - b. American and Soviet forces engaged in armed clashes in Austria.
  - c. the Soviets crushed anticommunist rebellions in Poland and Hungary.
  - d. the French and Italian Communist parties attempted revolutions against their governments.
- \_\_\_\_ 12. The NATO alliance represented an historic transformation in American foreign policy because
- a. it departed from the principles of the Monroe Doctrine.
  - b. it put the United States into the position of guaranteeing the permanent subordination of Germany.
  - c. it committed the United States to a permanent peacetime alliance with other nations.
  - d. it meant establishing military bases outside the territory of the continental United States.
- \_\_\_\_ 13. The Truman Doctrine originally developed because of the communist threat to
- a. Turkey and Greece.
  - b. France and West Germany.
  - c. Iran and Afghanistan.
  - d. Poland and Hungary.
- \_\_\_\_ 14. The crusade of Senator Joseph McCarthy was first directed especially at
- a. the Soviet Union
  - b. potential communist takeovers of Western Europe.
  - c. Republicans who refused to support Dwight Eisenhower.
  - d. alleged communists inside the United States government.
- \_\_\_\_ 15. The Korean War broke out in 1950 when
- a. Chinese communists invaded South Korea.
  - b. the Soviet Union threatened to blockade Japan and South Korea.
  - c. South Korea invaded North Korea.
  - d. North Korea invaded South Korea.

### C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Popular name for the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, which provided assistance to former soldiers
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Shorthand name for the southern and western regions of the U.S. that experienced the highest rates of growth after World War II
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. New York suburb where postwar builders pioneered the techniques of mass home construction
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Term for the dramatic rise in U.S. births that began immediately after World War II
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Big Three wartime conference that later became the focus of charges that Roosevelt had "sold out" Eastern Europe to the Soviet communists

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The extended post-World War II confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union that stopped just short of a shooting war
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Meeting of Western Allies during World War II that established the economic structures to promote recovery and enhance FDR's vision of an "open world"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. New international organization that experienced some early successes in diplomatic and cultural areas but failed in areas like atomic arms control
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Term for the barrier that Stalin erected to block off Soviet-dominated nations of Eastern Europe from the West
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. American-sponsored effort that provided funds for the economic relief and recovery of Western Europe
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The new anti-Soviet organization of Western nations that ended the long-time American tradition of not joining permanent military alliances
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Jiang Jieshi's (Chiang Kai-shek's) pro-American forces, which lost the Chinese civil war to Mao Zedong's (Mao Tse-tung's) communists in 1949
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Key U.S. government memorandum that militarized American foreign policy and indicated national faith in the economy's capacity to sustain large military expenditures
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. U.S. House of Representatives committee that took the lead in investigating alleged procommunist agents such as Alger Hiss
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The dividing line between North and South Korea, across which the fighting between communists and United Nations forces ebbed and flowed during the Korean War

#### D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Benjamin Spock     | A. Top Nazi official who committed suicide after being convicted in war-crimes trials   |
| _____ 2. Hermann Goering    | B. Physician who provided advice on child rearing to baby-boomers' parents after World War II.  |
| _____ 3. Joseph Stalin      | C. Young California congressman whose investigation of Alger Hiss spurred fears of communist influence in America                       |
| _____ 4. Berlin             | D. Oil-rich Middle Eastern nation that became an early focal point of Soviet-American conflict  |
| _____ 5. Iran               | E. Originator of a massive program for the economic relief and recovery of devastated Europe  |
| _____ 6. George F. Kennan   | F. American military commander in Korea fired by President Harry Truman   |
| _____ 7. Greece             | G. Former vice president of the United States whose 1948 campaign as a pro-Soviet liberal split the Democratic party                    |
| _____ 8. George C. Marshall | H. Site of a series of controversial war-crimes trials that led to the execution of twelve Nazi leaders                                 |
| _____ 9. Japan              | I. Wisconsin senator whose charges of communist infiltration of the U.S. government deepened the anti-red atmosphere of the early 1950s |
| _____ 10. Nuremberg         |   |

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| ___ 11. Richard Nixon     | J. Nation that was effectively converted from dictatorship to democracy by the strong leadership of General Douglas MacArthur          |
| ___ 12. Joseph McCarthy   | K. The tough leader whose violation of agreements in Eastern Europe and Germany helped launch the Cold War                             |
| ___ 13. Henry A. Wallace  | L. Southern European nation whose threatened fall to communism in 1947 precipitated the Truman Doctrine                                |
| ___ 14. Strom Thurmond    | M. Territory deep inside the Soviet zone of Germany that was itself divided into four zones of occupation                              |
| ___ 15. Douglas MacArthur | N. Southern segregationist who led "Dixiecrat" presidential campaign against Truman in 1948  |
|                           | O. Brilliant U.S. specialist on the Soviet Union and originator of the theory that U.S. policy should be to "contain" the Soviet Union |

### E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- \_\_\_ The threatened communist takeover of Greece prompts a presidential request for aid and a worldwide effort to stop communism.
- \_\_\_ The collapse of Jiang Jieshi's (Chiang Kai-shek's) corrupt government means victory for Mao Zedong's (Mao Tse-tung's) communists and a setback for U.S. policy in Asia.
- \_\_\_ A new president takes charge of American foreign policy amid growing tension between America and its ally the Soviet Union.
- \_\_\_ A "give-'em-hell" campaign by an underdog candidate overcomes a three-way split in his own party and defeats his overconfident opponent.
- \_\_\_ Communists go on the offensive in a divided Asian nation, drawing the United States into a brutal and indecisive war.

### F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

- | Cause  | Effect   |
|--|--|
| ___ 1. Cheap energy, military spending, and rising productivity      | A. Caused an era of unprecedented growth in American prosperity from 1950 to 1970  |
| ___ 2. The mechanization and consolidation of agriculture            | B. Drew millions of white and black Americans to the Sunbelt after World War II  |
| ___ 3. Job opportunities, warm climates, and improved race relations | C. Led to the proclamation of the Truman Doctrine and hundreds of millions of dollars in aid for anticommunist governments |
| ___ 4. "White flight" to the suburbs                                 | D. Led to organization of the permanent NATO alliance  |
| ___ 5. The post-World War II "baby boom"                             | E. Caused the rise of big commercial agribusiness and spelled the near-disappearance of the traditional family farm        |
| ___ 6. The American airlift to West Berlin                           | F. Aroused Republican charges that Democrats Truman and Acheson had "lost China"   |

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|--|--|
| <p>— 7. The British withdrawal from communist-threatened Greece</p> <p>— 8. The threat of Soviet invasion or U.S. isolationist withdrawal from Europe</p> <p>— 9. General MacArthur's reform-oriented rule of occupied Japan</p> <p>— 10. Mao Zedong's (Mao Tse-tung's) defeat of Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)</p> | <p>G. Broke a Soviet ground blockade and established American determination to resist further Soviet advance</p> <p>H. Left America's cities heavily populated by racial minorities</p> <p>I. Led to the firm establishment of Japanese democracy and the beginnings of a great Japanese economic advance</p> <p>J. Caused much school-building in the 1950s, a "youth culture" in the 1960s, and a growing concern about "aging" in the 1980s</p> |
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## G. Developing Historical Skills

### Reading a Bar Graph

Read the bar graph of *National Defense Budget* on p. 861 and answer the following questions.

1. In what census year after World War II did the defense budget first decline as a percentage of the federal budget and a percentage of GNP?
2. In what census year after 1960 was the defense budget the same fraction of GNP as it was in 1950?
3. Which decade after World War II saw the largest increase in actual dollar outlays for defense?
4. By approximately what percentage of the federal budget did the defense budget increase from 1950 to 1960? By roughly what percentage did it decrease from 1970 to 1980? By what percentage did it increase from 1980 to 1990? By about what percentage did it decrease from 1990 to 1999?



## H. Map Mastery

### Map Discrimination

Using the maps and charts in Chapter 37, answer the following questions.

1. *Postwar Partition of Germany*: Which of the Big Four had the smallest occupation zone in postwar Germany?
2. *Postwar Partition of Germany*: Which of the three *Western* occupation zones was closest to Berlin?
3. *Postwar Partition of Germany*: Which two other nations did the American occupation zone border on?
4. *The Shifting Front in Korea*: When General MacArthur attacked at Inchon, did he land above or below the thirty-eighth parallel?
5. *The Shifting Front in Korea*: Besides China, what other nation bordering North Korea presented a potential threat to American forces?
6. *The Shifting Front in Korea*: After the armistice—signed on July 27, 1953—which of the two Koreas had made very slight territorial gains in the Korean War?

### Map Challenge

Using the map of *Population Increase, 1950–2000* on p. 863, write an essay explaining the differences in the regional impact of post–World War II migration and population growth from 1950 to 1998. What states and regions exhibited exceptions to the general patterns of growth?

### **PART III: Applying What You Have Learned**

1. How and why did the American economy soar from 1950 to 1970?
2. How have economic and population changes shaped American society since World War II?
3. What were the immediate conflicts and deeper causes that led the United States and the Soviet Union to go from being allies to bitter Cold War rivals?
4. Explain the steps that led to the long-term involvement of the United States in major overseas military commitments, including NATO and the Korean War. How did expanding military power and the Cold War affect American society and ideas?
5. Discuss President Harry Truman's role as a leader in both international and domestic affairs from 1945–1952. Does Truman deserve to be considered a “great” president? Why or why not?
6. Why did World War II—unlike World War I—lead to a permanent end to American isolationism? (See Chapter 31.) How did the long American tradition of isolation from permanent foreign entanglements create tensions in U.S. policy during the early Cold War?