Cold War Unit

Begins at end of WWII

Ends with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989

(Berlin Wall also comes down)

**Comparison**

United States Soviet Union

Democracy Totalitarian Gov’t Communism)

Free Market Economy Communist (Socialist)

(Capitalism) economic system

Truman Doctrine

* “*Containment* of Communism”
* Foreign Policy throughout Cold War
* *Not* to push communism back where it already existed
* Rather, keep it from spreading
* Resist communist aggression into other countries

Cold War Alliances

NATO Warsaw Pact

(North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

* Defensive alliance Among Soviet Union

And allies in eastern Europe

* Among U.S. and

Western European

Countries

* Goal: to prevent a

Soviet invasion of

western Europe

One Result of Defense Alliances

* Large military forces facing each other in Europe

Communism in China

* America fears that communism will dominate most of the world
* This eventually changes, as the U.S.S.R. and China become rivals, not allies
* U.S.S.R. & China become rivals for territory and diplomatic influence
* President Nixon successfully takes advantage of rivalry in 1970s

Nuclear Weaponry

* Soviet Union matches U.S. nuclear weaponry in the 1950s
* Threat of nuclear warfare always present during the Cold War
* As a result, President Eisenhower adopted a policy of “massive retaliation” to deter any nuclear strike by the Soviet Union

Korean War

During the 1950s

American involvement

America follows the Policy of Containment (Truman Doctrine)

North Korea South Korea

Communist Democratic principles

Invades S. Korea U.S. Support

China supports N. Korea

(after U.S. supports S. Korea) Initially, U.S. pushes

Communism back

In a counterattack

Result of Korean War

* Stalemate: North Korean remains communist

South Korean remains democratic

* Same today

Cuba

Time period: Late 1950s

Event: Communist revolution ends in Cuba

Communist control of Cuba

Communist Cuba: Fidel Castro

Bay of Pigs

* Some Cubans flee to Florida
* They attempt to invade Cuba & overthrow Castro
* This event is called the Bay of Pigs
* U.S. supports attempt
* Failed attempt, Castro stays in power

Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

Soviet Union (SU) U.S. Response

S.U. sends missile Cuba Kennedy orders the

Soviets to remove

Missiles

Soviets make Americans

wait several days Americans & world

brace for a nuclear

Soviets “blinked” and Kennedy had agreed

removed their missiles to remove American

missiles in Turkey

Vietnam War

American involvement: Policy of Containment

Time Frame: 1950s to early 1960s for invasion

What happened?

* Communist North Vietnam tries to install, by force,

A communist gov’t in South Vietnam

American Response to North Vietnam’s Aggression

* U.S. helps South Vietnam
* American military build-up begins
* President Kennedy is president
* Kennedy is assassinated
* President Lyndon Johnson continues plan, in fact, intensifies the war
* Scale of combat in Vietnam grew larger in 1960s

War in Vietnam

* American military repeatedly defeated the N. Vietnamese in the field
* Nonetheless, American forces cannot force a favorable end to the war
* Problem: Americans fighting a limited war

American Reaction at Home

(country becomes bitterly divided)

* Supporters Those Opposed

Actively showed opposition

College campuses very active with anti war demonstration

Veterans of Vietnam Return Home

* Return often to indifference or outright hostility
* Not hailed like WWII veterans who were received by a grateful & supportive nation
* Not until several years after war that the “wounds” of the war begin to heal
* Vietnam veterans recognized & honored for service & sacrifices a little late

Kennedy

* Is president for beginning of Vietnam War

Kennedy’s Inaugural Address

* The U. S. would “pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”
* “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

Kennedy’s Assassination

* Kennedy was a WWII veteran
* Assassinated in Dallas, TX in 1963
* Impact on Americans:
  + Shakes nation’s confidence
  + Begins a period of internal strife & divisiveness over U.S. involvement in Vietnam

Change of Presidents

* Johnson (LBJ) takes over as president
* Declines to seek reelection to second full term
* President Nixon is next president

Vietnamization

* Nixon pledges to end war if elected
* Institutes “Vietnamization”
  + Withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam
  + Replace them with South Vietnamese troops
  + Also, continuing military aid to South Vietnam

End of Vietnam War

* Vietnamization fails
* North invades the South
* Soviet Union supplying the North
* By 1975, North and South Vietnam become one country: communist country

Watergate Scandal

* Nixon is forced from office (he resigns)
* Watergate scandal

Impact of the Cold War at Home

Fear of Communism & Threat of Nuclear Attack

Schools ran drills in 1950s and 1960s in case of attack

American citizens were urged by the gov’t to build bomb

shelters (basements)

Conviction of Spies for Soviet Union

* Alger Hiss
* Julius & Ethel Rosenberg
* Accused of providing the S. U. with info
* Increase fear of communism

McCarthyism

* Joseph McCarthy leads campaign against communism
* Recklessly accusing people:
  + Educators
  + Actors
  + Government Officials
* No evidence or flimsy evidence
* McCarthyism comes to mean the making of false accusation based on rumor or guilt by association

Military Impact

* Cold war major topic for foreign policy for every president
* Heavy military expenditures benefited
  + Virginia in general more than other state
  + Hampton Roads: naval bases and air
  + Northern VA: Pentagon & private companies contracting with military