

**STUDY GUIDE Ch. 36****AP US HISTORY***The Cold War Begins, 1945-1952*

**Theme:** America emerged from World War II as the world's strongest economic power, and commenced a postwar economic boom that lasted for two decades. A bulging population migrated to the suburbs and Sunbelt, leaving the cities increasingly to minorities and the poor.

**Theme:** The end of World War II left the United States and the Soviet Union as the two dominant world powers, and they soon became locked in a Cold War confrontation. The Cold War spread from Europe to become a global ideological conflict between democracy and communism. Among its effects were a nasty hot war in Korea and a domestic crusade against "disloyalty."

**Summary:** In the immediate postwar years there were widespread fears of a return to depression. But fueled by cheap energy, increased worker productivity, and government programs like the GI Bill of Rights, the economy began a spectacular expansion that lasted from 1950 to 1970. This burst of affluence transformed American industry and society, and particularly drew more women into the work force.

Footloose Americans migrated to the Sunbelts of the South and West, and to the growing suburbs, leaving the northeastern cities with poorer populations. Families grew rapidly, as the "baby boom" created a population bulge that would last for decades.

The Yalta agreement near the end of World War II left major issues undecided and created controversy over postwar relations with the Soviet Union. With feisty Truman in the White House, the two new Superpowers soon found themselves at odds over Eastern Europe, Germany, and the Middle East.

The Truman Doctrine announced military aid and an ideological crusade against international communism. The Marshall Plan provided economic assistance to starving and communist-threatened Europe, which soon joined the United States in the NATO military alliance.

The Cold War and revelations of spying aroused deep fears of communist subversion at home that culminated in McCarthy's witch-hunting. Truman overcame Democratic divisions to win an underdog victory in 1948.

The Communist Chinese won a civil war against the Nationalists. North Korea invaded South Korea, and the Americans and Chinese joined in a seesaw war that ended in a bloody stalemate.

**Identify and state the historical significance of each of the following:****For Day One**

Taft-Hartley Act

GI Bill of Rights

"Fair Deal"

Dr. Spock

"Sunbelt"

Suburbs

Levittown

White Flight

baby boom

**For Day Two**

Harry S Truman

Yalta

Cold War

Bretton Woods

United Nations Conference

Security Council

Baruch Plan

"satellite" states

"iron curtain"

Berlin airlifts

Iran

Truman Doctrine

Marshall Plan

Israel

National Security Act

CIA

"Voice of America"

NATO

Mao Zedong

H-bomb

Loyalty Review Board

HUAC

Alger Hiss

Joseph McCarthy

McCarran Internal Security

Bill

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg

Election of 1948

"Point Four"

NSC-68

"police action"

thirty-eighth parallel

Gen. Douglas MacArthur

**Thought Provokers on next page**

### Thought Provokers

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. 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?
4. Was the early Cold War primarily an ideological crusade of democracy against "international communism" and its totalitarian ideas, or was it essentially an American defense of its national security and economic interests against the direct threat of the Soviet Union? Support your answer by considering some of the key events of the early Cold War, including the Korean War.

### IDENTIFICATION

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Popular name for the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, which provided assistance to former soldiers
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The rate of worker output per hour, which grew in the United States from 1950 to 1970 and then stagnated
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The sector of the economy that grew most rapidly in the postwar era, surpassing the manufacturing and agricultural sectors
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Major U.S. corporation that symbolized the economic direction of the new "information society"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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 to provide funds for the economic relief and recovery in 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

## PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER

\_\_\_ 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) communist 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.

## MATCHING PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EVENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ___ 1. Baby boom  | B. The cause of the dramatic population increase of the 1940s and 1950s   |
| ___ 2. Sunbelt  | C. Young California congressman whose investigation of Alger Hiss spurred fears of communist influence in America                                   |
| ___ 3. Joseph Stalin  | D. Oil-rich Middle Eastern nation that became an early focal point of Soviet-American conflict  |
| ___ 4. Berlin   | E. Originator of a massive program for the economic relief and recovery of devastated Europe  |
| ___ 5. Iran   | F. American military commander in Korea fired by President Harry Truman   |
| ___ 6. George F. Kennan   | G. Former vice president of the United States whose 1948 campaign as a pro-Soviet liberal split the Democratic party                                |
| ___ 7. Greece   | H. Site of a series of controversial war-crimes trials that led to the execution of twelve Nazi leaders   |
| ___ 8. George C. Marshall   | I. Wisconsin senator whose charges of communist infiltration of the U.S. government deepened the anti-red atmosphere of the early 1950s             |
| ___ 9. Japan  | J. Nation that was effectively converted from dictatorship to democracy by the strong leadership of General Douglas MacArthur                       |
| ___ 10. Nuremberg   | K. The tough leader whose violation of agreements and insistence on establishing a sphere of influence in Eastern Europe helped launch the Cold War |
| ___ 11. Richard Nixon   | L. Southern European nation whose threatened fall to communism in 1947 precipitated the Truman Doctrine   |
| ___ 12. Joseph McCarthy   | M. Territory deep inside the Soviet zone of Germany that was itself divided into four zones of occupation   |
| ___ 13. Henry A. Wallace  | N. Southern segregationist who led "Dixiecrat" presidential campaign against Truman in 1948   |
| ___ 14. J. Strom Thurmond   | 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              |
| ___ 15. Douglas MacArthur   |   |
| A. The states of the South and West that became the focus of the economic boom after 1950 |   |

## MATCHING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Cause	Effect
_____ 1. Cheap energy, military spending, and rising productivity	A. Caused an 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 and 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”
_____ 7. The British withdrawal from communist-threatened Greece	G. Broke a Soviet ground blockade and established American determination to resist further Soviet advance
_____ 8. The threat of Soviet invasion or U. S. isolationist withdrawal from Europe	H. Left America’s cities heavily populated by racial minorities
_____ 9. General MacArthur’s reform-oriented rule of occupied Japan	I. Led to the firm establishment of Japanese democracy and the beginnings of a great Japanese economic advance
_____ 10. Mao Zedong’s (Mao Tse-tung’s) defeat of Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)	J. Caused much school-building in the 1950s, a “youth culture” in the 1960s, and a growing concern about “aging” in the 1980s

### ANSWERS

#### Identification

1. G. I. Bill of Rights
2. Productivity
3. Service sector
4. IBM
5. Yalta
6. Cold War
7. Bretton Woods
8. U. N.
9. Iron curtain
10. Marshall Plan
11. NATO
12. Nationalists
13. NSC-68
14. HUAC
15. 38<sup>th</sup> parallel

#### People, Places, and Events

1. B
2. A
3. K
4. M
5. D
6. O
7. L
8. E
9. J
10. H
11. C
12. I
13. G
14. N
15. F

#### In Order

- 2, 4, 1, 3, 5

#### Cause and Effect

1. A
2. E
3. B
4. H
5. J
6. G
7. C
8. D
9. I
10. F