

Chapter 26 The Cold War Begins

After World War II, tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union increased. This led to the Cold War. In the United States, President Truman and Congress created policies to help soldiers who were returning from war. In 1950 the United States tried to prevent the spread of communism to Asia by getting involved in the Korean War. Fears of communism at home sparked a Red Scare. As you study this chapter, consider why one country might give economic aid to another nation, how deep-seated political differences might cause conflict and competition between two countries and how fears of international conflict might affect civil rights at home.

Chapter 26

Section 1: The Roots of the Cold War

In this section you will learn that after World War II, tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union increased, leading to the Cold War. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Yalta Conference

Potsdam Conference

United Nations

Nuremberg Trials

Cold War

Truman Doctrine

Marshall Plan

containment

Berlin Airlift

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Warsaw Pact

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- What steps did the Allies take to prevent another world war?
- What events signaled the growth of a Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union from 1945 to 1950?
- What were the major U.S. foreign-policy strategies after World War II?

Chapter 26.1 Section Summary

Leaders from the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union met at the **Yalta Conference** in 1945. They agreed to create a world peace-keeping organization and to support free elections.

In July 1945 Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union, Harry Truman of the United States, and Winston Churchill of Great Britain met at the **Potsdam Conference**. They divided Germany and Austria into four occupied zones. They also hoped to prevent Germany from starting another war.

World leaders met to plan a new organization in 1944 to work for world peace—the **United Nations** (UN). In 1945 representatives from 50 nations gathered to write the UN charter.

The Allies held war crimes trials in Germany in 1945. They hoped to continue to encourage world peace. At the **Nuremberg Trials**, 19 Nazi leaders were found guilty of war crimes.

After World War II, tensions increased between the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States favored democracy and capitalism. The Soviet Union, however, practiced communism. Soviet leaders established and controlled communist governments in Eastern Europe. Over time, many people used the term **Cold War** to describe the two nations' struggle for global power.

President Truman wanted to stop the growth of communism in Europe. He announced that the United States would give money to help foreign countries fight communism. This policy became known as the **Truman Doctrine**.

Europe was still having trouble rebuilding after the war. In 1948 Congress approved the **Marshall Plan**, an economic aid package to help European countries rebuild.

As the Cold War deepened, the United States adopted a new foreign policy against communism. Called **containment**, this policy sought to prevent the Soviet Union from expanding into areas that were strategically important to the United States.

In 1948 the Soviets blocked all traffic leading into West Berlin, Germany. The city's food supply would only last 36 days. The United States began the **Berlin Airlift**. U.S. and British planes dropped food and supplies for the more than 2 million people living in West Berlin.

In 1949 several western nations formed the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** (NATO). The member nations promised to defend the others if they were attacked. The Soviet Union responded to NATO by creating its own military union with other Eastern European nations. This was known as the **Warsaw Pact**.

Chapter 26

Section 2: The Truman Era

In this section you will learn that after World War II, President Truman took several steps to keep the country's economy strong. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

GI Bill of Rights

United Mine Workers

Taft-Hartley Act

Dixiecrats

Fair Deal

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- How did the U.S. government try to ease the transition to peacetime?
- What were the major issues of the 1948 presidential election?
- What did President Truman hope to accomplish with his Fair Deal?

Chapter 26.2 Section Summary

After World War II, President Truman was worried that the nation might fall into another depression. People were not spending as much money as they had been before the war, and defense contracts were coming to an end.

The government asked women to stop working so that returning veterans could take their jobs. The **GI Bill of Rights** gave educational benefits and business loans to veterans. The government also issued unemployment pay and insurance benefits to veterans.

High prices caused workers to strike for higher wages. In 1946 members of the **United Mine Workers**, a national union of people who worked in mines, went on strike. Railroad workers also went on strike. Some in Congress felt the unions were too powerful. As a result, the government moved to control the unions. In 1947 Congress studied the **Taft-Hartley Act**, which allowed the president to call off strikes and order an 80-day “cooling off” period. President Truman vetoed the act, but Congress passed it anyway.

Because of the labor unrest, many thought that Truman would not be able to win the election in 1948. Some southern Democrats split from the party to join the newly formed States’ Rights Party. They

were known as the **Dixiecrats**. Dixiecrats supported racial segregation and opposed African American voting rights.

Truman campaigned all over the country. He supported civil rights and attacked Congress for not getting anything done. Truman also had the trust of the unions, since he had vetoed the Taft-Hartley Act. Truman surprised a lot of people when he won the election.

Truman began his new term with the **Fair Deal**, a reform program. The main goals of the Fair Deal were jobs for everyone, a higher minimum wage, a national health insurance plan, civil rights, and aid for farmers. Congress approved some of the Fair Deal reforms but rejected others.

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Section 3: The War in Korea

In this section you will learn that communism spread in Asia and, as a result, the United States became involved in the Korean War. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Long March

38th parallel

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- Why did the United States back the Nationalists in China?
- In what Asian nations were new governments created after World War II?
- What were the main events of the Korean War, and how did the war end?

Chapter 26.3 Section Summary

After China's monarchy fell, a power struggle developed between the Chinese Nationalist Party and the Chinese Communists. The two groups began a civil war. In 1934 the Nationalists forced some 100,000 Communists to move to northwest China. This 6,000-mile-long journey is known as the **Long March**.

Fearing a communist government in China, the United States supported the Nationalists. Despite U.S. support, the Communists forced the Nationalists to move to the island of Taiwan in 1949.

After World War II, the United States occupied Japan. The Allies divided Korea to prevent the country from becoming too powerful. The Soviet Union occupied northern Korea, while the United States occupied southern Korea. When the two countries pulled out of Korea in 1949, both the North and South Korean governments laid claim to the entire country.

In 1950 North Korean forces crossed the **38th parallel**, the line dividing the two Koreas. They began to attack South Korea. President Truman and the UN decided to send troops into Korea.

UN troops took the city of Pyongyang [pyuhng-YANG], North Korea's capital. They then moved forward to the Yalu [YAH-loo] River, the border between China and North Korea. Chinese forces

later joined the North Koreans. Together they pushed UN forces back below the 38th parallel. President Truman did not want the fighting to go beyond Korea. Ignoring Truman's wishes, General Douglas MacArthur called for air strikes on Chinese cities. Truman fired MacArthur.

By the spring of 1951, it seemed clear that neither side in Korea was going to win on the battlefield. However, peace talks saw little progress. The presidential election of 1952 approached. Truman decided not to run again, because he knew that many Americans blamed him for the war. The Democrats nominated Adlai [ADD-lye] Stevenson; the Republicans nominated General Dwight Eisenhower. Eisenhower made a campaign promise to end the war in Korea. He won the election easily.

Shortly after he was elected, Eisenhower flew to Korea to meet with U.S. commanders. After peace talks stalled, Eisenhower threatened to use atomic weapons in Korea. The two sides agreed to a cease-fire on July 27, 1953.

Chapter 26

Section 4: Cold War Fears

In this section you will learn that growing fears of communism caused a Red Scare in the United States during the 1930s and 1940s.

As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

House Un-American Activities Committee

blacklisting

Internal Security Act

McCarthyism

Army-McCarthy hearings

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- What caused the new Red Scare?
- What role did Senator Joseph McCarthy play in the Red Scare?
- How did popular culture after World War II reflect Cold War fears?

Chapter 26.4 Section Summary

During the late 1930s, fear of communism sparked a new Red Scare. Several factors caused it. The growth of communist organizations in the United States worried many Americans. People were also concerned about the Soviet Union gaining control of Eastern Europe and about the Communists' takeover of China.

In May 1938 Congress established the **House Un-American Activities Committee** (HUAC) [HEW-ack] to investigate disloyalty and harmful foreign influences in the United States. In 1947 HUAC held hearings to prove that there were Communists in both Hollywood and the State Department.

The committee often ignored people's civil rights in the rush to expose Communists. In Hollywood, studios began **blacklisting**, or refusing to hire, suspected Communists. The most famous of those blacklisted were the so-called Hollywood Ten. These were a group of writers who refused to cooperate with HUAC.

In 1950 Congress passed the **Internal Security Act**. This act required organizations thought to be communist to register with the government. The law also allowed suspected Communists to be arrested in times of national emergency. In the late 1940s and 1950s, several suspected spies were also tried and executed.

In 1950 Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin began to stir up Cold War fears even more. McCarthy claimed to know of several Communists who were actually shaping U.S. foreign policy. His method of accusing people without offering proof became known as **McCarthyism**.

In 1953 McCarthy claimed that the U.S. Army included Communists. A group of senators held televised hearings on the matter, which were known as the **Army-McCarthy hearings**. The army's lawyer exposed McCarthy's lies. Viewers across the nation finally saw McCarthy for what he was—a bully.

Popular culture also reflected Cold War concerns. Magazines ran articles that fed communist fears. Hollywood produced more than 40 anticommunist movies. Science fiction films like *Forbidden Planet* combined anxiety over new forms of technology with the fear of communism.