Disagreements began to grow between the Allies not long after World War II ended. Conflicting ideologies soon led to a Cold War. This refers to the state of tension and hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union from 1946 to 1990. Soviet leader Stalin wanted to spread communism into Eastern Europe. He also wanted to create a buffer zone of friendly countries as a defense against Germany. By 1948, pro-Soviet communist governments were in place throughout Eastern Europe, behind what Winston Churchill referred to as the “Iron Curtain.”

When Stalin began to threaten Greece and Turkey, the United States outlined a policy called the Truman Doctrine. This policy meant that the United States would resist the spread of communism throughout the world. To strengthen democracies in Europe, the United States offered a massive aid package, called the Marshall Plan. Western attempts to rebuild Germany triggered a crisis over the city of Berlin. The Soviets controlled East Germany, which surrounded Berlin. To force the Western Allies out of Berlin, the Soviets blockaded West Berlin, but a year-long airlift forced them to end the blockade.

However, tensions continued to mount. In 1949, the United States and nine other nations formed a new military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Soviets responded by forming the Warsaw Pact, which included the Soviet Union and seven Eastern European nations.

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as superpowers. They each created military alliances made up of nations they protected or occupied. The United States helped form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), an alliance of Western European allies. The Soviet Union signed the Warsaw Pact with Eastern European countries. The line between the democratic West and communist East was called the Iron Curtain. Many revolts challenging Soviet domination were suppressed with military force.

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Lesson Vocabulary

superpower  a nation stronger than other powerful nations
The superpowers also engaged in a weapons race—both developed nuclear weapons. To reduce the threat of war, the two sides held several disarmament talks. Agreements limited the number of nuclear weapons that nations could maintain, which eased Cold War tensions. This period was called the era of détente. It ended, however, when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

During the 1950s, Fidel Castro led a revolution in Cuba and became its leader. To bring down Castro’s communist regime, U.S. President John F. Kennedy supported an invasion of Cuba, but the attempt failed. One year later, the Soviets sent nuclear missiles to Cuba. Many feared a nuclear war. After the United States blockaded Cuba, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles.

The Soviets wanted to spread communist ideology around the globe. When Khrushchev came to power, he eased censorship and increased tolerance. However, repression returned under Leonid Brezhnev. American leaders followed a policy of containment. This was a strategy of keeping communism from spreading to other nations. In addition, a “red scare” in the United States resulted in Senator Joseph McCarthy leading an internal hunt for communists in the government and military. The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) also sought out communist sympathizers.

Lesson Vocabulary

détente the relaxation of Cold War tensions during the 1970s
ideology system of thought and belief
containment the U.S. strategy of limiting communism to the areas already under Soviet control
During the postwar period, U.S. businesses expanded into the global marketplace, and *interdependence* increased. Other nations needed goods and services to rebuild. This led to a period of economic success that changed life in the United States. During the 1950s and 1960s, *recessions* were brief and mild. As Americans prospered, they left the cities to live in the suburbs. This trend is called *suburbanization*. Also, job opportunities in the Sunbelt attracted many people to that region. By the 1970s, however, a political crisis in the Middle East made Americans aware of their dependence on imported oil. The price of oil and gas rose substantially, which meant that people had less money to buy other products. The decades of prosperity ended in 1974 with a serious recession.

During the period of prosperity, African Americans and other minorities faced *segregation* in housing and education. They suffered from *discrimination* in jobs and voting. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., emerged as the main civil rights leader in the 1960s. The U.S. Congress passed some civil rights legislation. Other minority groups were inspired by the movement’s successes. For example, the women’s rights movement helped to end much gender-based discrimination.

Western Europe rebuilt after World War II. The Marshall Plan helped restore European economies by providing U.S. aid. After the war, Germany was divided between the communist East and the democratic West, but reunited at the end of the Cold War in 1990. Under Konrad Adenauer, West Germany’s chancellor from 1949 to 1963, Germany built modern cities and re-established trade. European governments also developed programs that increased

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**Lesson Vocabulary**

*interdependence*  mutual dependence of countries on goods, resources, labor, and knowledge from other parts of the world

*recession*  period of reduced economic activity

*suburbanization*  the movement to build up areas outside of central cities

*segregation*  forced separation by race, sex, religion, or ethnicity

*discrimination*  unequal treatment or barriers
government responsibility for the needs of people. These welfare states required high taxes to pay for their programs. During the 1980s, some leaders, such as Britain's Margaret Thatcher, reduced the role of the government in the economy. Western Europe also moved closer to economic unity with the European Union, an organization dedicated to establishing free trade among its members.

Japan also prospered after World War II. Its gross domestic product (GDP) soared. Like Germany, Japan built factories. The government protected industries by raising tariffs on imported goods. This helped create a trade surplus for Japan.

Lesson Vocabulary

welfare state a country with a market economy but with increased government responsibility for the social and economic needs of its people

gross domestic product the total value of all goods and services produced in a nation within a particular year
After World War II, Mao Zedong led communist forces to victory over Jiang Jieshi’s Nationalists, who fled to Taiwan. Then Mao began to reshape China’s economy. First, he gave land to peasants, but then called for **collectivization**. Under this system, Mao moved people from their small villages and individual farms into communes of thousands of people on thousands of acres. Known as the **Great Leap Forward**, the program was intended to increase farm and industrial production. Instead, it produced low-quality, useless goods and less food. Bad weather also affected crops, and many people starved.

To remove **bourgeois** tendencies from China, Mao began the Cultural Revolution. Skilled workers and managers were removed from factories and forced to work on farms or in labor camps. This resulted in a slowed economy and a threat of civil war.

At first, the United States supported the Nationalist government in Taiwan. The West was concerned that the Soviet Union and China would become allies, but border clashes led the Soviets to withdraw aid and advisors from China. U.S. leaders thought that by “playing the China card,” or improving relations with the Chinese, they would further isolate the Soviets. In 1979, the United States established diplomatic relations with China.

Korea was an independent nation until Japan invaded it in World War II. After the war, American and Soviet forces agreed to divide the Korean peninsula at the 38th parallel. Kim Il Sung, a communist, ruled the North; and Syngman Rhee, allied with the United States, controlled the South. In 1950, North Korean troops attacked South Korea. The United Nations forces stopped them along a line known as the Pusan Perimeter, then began advancing north. Mao sent troops to help the North Koreans. UN forces were pushed back south of the 38th parallel.

In 1953, both sides signed an armistice to end the fighting, but troops remained on both sides of the **demilitarized zone (DMZ)**. Over time, South Korea enjoyed an economic boom and a rise in living standards, while communist North Korea’s economy declined. Kim Il Sung’s emphasis on self-reliance kept North Korea isolated and poor.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

**collectivization**  the forced joining together of workers and property into collectives, such as rural collectives that absorb peasants and their land

**bourgeois**  characteristic of the middle class

**demilitarized zone (DMZ)**  a thin band of territory across the Korean peninsula separating North Korean forces from South Korean forces; established by the armistice of 1953
In the 1800s, the French ruled the area in Southeast Asia called French Indochina. During World War II, Japan invaded that region, but faced resistance from guerrillas. After the war, the French tried to reestablish authority in Vietnam. However, forces led by communist leader Ho Chi Minh fought the colonialists. The French left Vietnam in 1954, after a Vietnamese victory at Dienbienphu. After that, Ho controlled the northern part of Vietnam while the United States supported the noncommunist government in the south.

Ho wanted to unite Vietnam. He provided aid to the National Liberation Front, or Viet Cong, a communist guerrilla organization in the south. American leaders saw Vietnam as an extension of the Cold War and developed the domino theory. This was the belief that if communists won in South Vietnam, then communism could spread to other governments in Southeast Asia. After a North Vietnamese attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer, Congress authorized the president to take military measures to prevent further communist aggression in Southeast Asia.

Despite massive American support, the South Vietnamese failed to defeat the Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese allies. During the Tet Offensive, the North Vietnamese attacked cities all over the south. Even though the communists were not able to hold any cities, it marked a turning point in U.S. public opinion. Upset by civilian deaths from the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, as well as growing American casualties, many Americans began to oppose the war. President Nixon came under increasing pressure to terminate the conflict. The Paris Peace Accord of 1973 established a ceasefire, and American troops began to withdraw. Two years later, communist North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam.

Neighboring Cambodia and Laos also ended up with communist governments. In Cambodia, guerrillas called the Khmer Rouge came to power. Led by the brutal dictator Pol Pot, their policies led to a genocide that killed about one third of the population. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia, the genocide ended. Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge were forced to retreat. Communism did not spread any farther in Southeast Asia.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

**guerrilla** a soldier in a loosely organized force making surprise raids

**domino theory** the belief that a communist victory in South Vietnam would cause noncommunist governments across Southeast Asia to fall to communism, like a row of dominoes
The Soviet Union emerged from World War II as a superpower, with control over many Eastern European countries. For many people, the country’s superpower status brought few rewards. Consumer goods were inferior and workers were poorly paid. Because workers had lifetime job security, there was little incentive to produce high-quality goods. Still, there were some important technological successes. One example was Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite. Keeping up with the United States in an arms race also strained the economy. Then, in 1979, Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan and became involved in a long war. The Soviets had few successes battling the mujahedin, or Muslim religious warriors, creating a crisis in morale in the USSR.

New Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urged reforms. He called for glasnost. He ended censorship and encouraged people to discuss the country’s problems. Gorbachev also called for perestroika, or a restructuring of the government and economy. His policies, however, fed unrest across the Soviet empire.

Eastern Europeans demanded an end to Soviet rule. Previous attempts to defy the Soviets had failed. When Hungarians and Czechs challenged the communist rulers, military force subdued them. By the end of the 1980s, a powerful democracy movement was sweeping the region. In Poland, Lech Walesa led Solidarity, an independent, unlawful labor union demanding economic and political changes. When Gorbachev declared he would not interfere in Eastern European reforms, Solidarity was legalized. A year later, Walesa was elected president of Poland.

Meanwhile, East German leaders resisted reform, and thousands of East Germans fled to the West. In Czechoslovakia, Václav Havel, a dissident writer, was elected president. One by one, communist governments fell. Most changes happened peacefully, but Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu refused to step down and he was executed. The Baltic States regained independence. By the end of 1991, the remaining Soviet republics had all formed independent nations. The Soviet Union ceased to exist after 69 years of communist rule.

In 1992, Czechoslovakia was divided into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Additionally, some communist governments in Asia, such as China, instituted economic reforms.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

- mujahedin: Muslim religious warriors
- glasnost: “openness” in Russian; a Soviet policy of greater freedom of expression introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s
- perestroika: a Soviet policy of democratic and free-market reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s
Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

**Lesson 1: A New Global Conflict**
1. Who were the two superpowers during the Cold War?

2. **Summarize** What was the United States policy known as containment?

**Lesson 2: The Western Democracies and Japan**
3. What is suburbanization?

4. **Categorize** In what ways were minorities denied equality and opportunity?

**Lesson 3: Communism in East Asia**
5. What is the significance of the 38th parallel?

6. **Summarize** Summarize the effects of the Great Leap Forward on the Chinese people.

**Lesson 4: War in Southeast Asia**
7. What was significant about the Tet Offensive?

8. **Summarize** Summarize U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
Lesson 5: The Cold War Ends

9. How did the arms race affect the Soviet economy?

10. Categorize Which leaders mentioned in the summary supported reform and which leaders opposed reform?
Focus Question: What events followed independence in the former European colonies of Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and the Middle East?

As you read the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, complete the graphic organizer to identify the divisions between rival groups in the Indian subcontinent, Africa, and the Middle East and the impact of these divisions.
In the 1940s, tensions between Hindus and Muslims in India led to violence. The ruling British decided that the only solution was a partition, or division, into a Muslim-majority Pakistan and a Hindu-majority India. After Pakistan and India gained their independence in 1947, Hindus in Pakistan fled to India, while Muslims in India fled to Pakistan. As they fled, Muslims, Hindus, and another religious group called Sikhs slaughtered one another.

In 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru became India's first prime minister. He tried to improve living conditions and end discrimination against dalits, or outcasts. Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, became prime minister in 1966. While she was in office, Sikhs pressed for independence for the state of Punjab. In 1984, Sikh separatists occupied the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine. Gandhi sent troops to the temple, and thousands of Sikhs were killed. A few months later, Gandhi's Sikh bodyguards assassinated her.

In 1947, Pakistan was a divided country. A thousand miles separated West Pakistan from East Pakistan. West Pakistan dominated the nation's government. Most people in East Pakistan were Bengalis. They felt their government neglected their region. In 1971, Bengalis declared independence for East Pakistan under the name of Bangladesh. Pakistan tried to crush the rebels, but was eventually compelled to recognize the independence of Bangladesh.

Despite their differences, India and Pakistan helped organize a conference of newly independent states in 1955. This marked the birth of nonalignment, or political and diplomatic independence from the United States or the Soviet Union.

Mainland Southeast Asia is a region of contrasts. Thailand and Malaysia have prospered as market economies. In Malaysia, people of Chinese and Indian descent have made the nation a leader in profitable industries. However, the government has also tried to include the Malay majority in the country's prosperity. By contrast, Myanmar, or Burma, has suffered under an autocratic government—a government that has unlimited power. The government has limited foreign trade, and living standards remain low. In 1990, elections were held in Myanmar, and a party that opposed military rule won. It was led by Aung San Suu Kyi. However, the military rejected the election results, and Suu Kyi was put under house arrest. She was not released until November 2010.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

partition a division into pieces
dalits outcast or member of India's lowest caste
nonalignment political and diplomatic independence from both Cold War powers
autocratic having unlimited power
After World War II, Indonesia, formerly the Dutch East Indies, achieved its independence. Indonesia faced many obstacles to its unity. It consists of more than 13,000 islands. Javanese make up almost half of the population, but there are hundreds of ethnic groups. After independence, Indonesia formed a democratic, parliamentary government under its first president, Sukarno. In 1966, an army general, Suharto, seized power and ruled as a dictator until 1998.

In the Philippines, Catholics are the predominant religious group, but there is a Muslim minority in the south. In 1946, the Philippines gained freedom from United States control. Although the Filipino constitution established a democratic government, a wealthy elite controlled politics and the economy. Ferdinand Marcos, elected president in 1965, became a dictator and cracked down on basic freedoms. He even had Benigno Aquino, a popular rival, murdered. When Corazon Aquino was elected in 1986, Marcos tried to deny the results, but the people forced him to resign. Since then, democracy has struggled to survive in the Philippines. Communist and Muslim rebels continue to fight across the country.