

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

The Cold War: Practice Worksheet

Answer all questions in complete sentences where appropriate.

Instructions: Read each question carefully. For multiple-choice questions, circle the letter of the best answer. For short-answer and essay questions, write your response on the lines provided. Use specific historical evidence to support your answers.

1. Explain the concept of “containment” as it was applied by the United States during the early Cold War. Provide one specific example of a policy or action that reflected this strategy.

2. Which of the following was a direct result of the Berlin Blockade (1948–1949)?
- A. The division of Germany into East and West
 - B. The formation of NATO
 - C. The creation of the Warsaw Pact
 - D. The construction of the Berlin Wall

3. Analyze the role of nuclear weapons in shaping Cold War foreign policy. How did the concept of mutually assured destruction (MAD) influence relations between the United States and the Soviet Union?

4. What was the primary purpose of the Marshall Plan?
- A. To provide military aid to anti-communist rebels
 - B. To rebuild Western European economies and prevent the spread of communism
 - C. To establish a system of collective security in Europe
 - D. To fund the development of nuclear weapons in allied nations

5. Describe the causes and outcomes of the Korean War (1950–1953). In your answer, explain how the war reflected the broader tensions of the Cold War.

6. The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) is often considered the closest the world came to nuclear war. Identify two key decisions made by either President John F. Kennedy or Premier Nikita Khrushchev that helped resolve the crisis.

7. Which event is most closely associated with the policy of *détente*?
- A. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
 - B. The signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I)
 - C. The construction of the Berlin Wall
 - D. The Cuban Missile Crisis

8. Evaluate the impact of the Vietnam War on American public opinion and foreign policy during the Cold War. Use specific examples to support your argument.

9. What was the significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989?
- A. It marked the end of the Cold War
 - B. It symbolized the collapse of communist control in Eastern Europe
 - C. It led to the immediate reunification of Germany
 - D. It caused the dissolution of the Soviet Union

10. Write a well-organized essay in response to the following prompt: *To what extent was the Cold War a conflict primarily driven by ideology, rather than by economic or geopolitical interests?* Support your thesis with specific evidence from at least three different events or policies discussed in this unit.

Answer Key

1. **Containment** was a U.S. foreign policy aimed at preventing the spread of communism beyond its existing borders. It was based on the idea that if the Soviet Union were contained, communism would eventually collapse. *Example:* The Truman Doctrine (1947) provided military and economic aid to Greece and Turkey to resist communist insurgencies.
2. **B. The formation of NATO** — The Berlin Blockade led to the Western Allies airlifting supplies into West Berlin, which deepened Cold War divisions and prompted the creation of NATO in 1949 as a collective security alliance.
3. Nuclear weapons created a balance of terror known as **mutually assured destruction (MAD)**, where both superpowers had enough nuclear capability to destroy each other. This deterred direct military conflict, as any attack would result in catastrophic retaliation. It also fueled an arms race and proxy wars, as both sides sought strategic advantages without direct confrontation.
4. **B. To rebuild Western European economies and prevent the spread of communism** — The Marshall Plan (1948) provided over \$12 billion in economic aid to Western Europe, stabilizing economies and reducing the appeal of communist parties.
5. **Causes:** The Korean War began when North Korea (backed by the Soviet Union and China) invaded South Korea in 1950. **Outcomes:** The war ended in a stalemate with an armistice in 1953, leaving Korea divided at the 38th parallel. It demonstrated that the Cold War could turn into a hot war in proxy regions and led to a permanent U.S. military presence in South Korea.
6. **Kennedy:** (1) Imposed a naval quarantine (blockade) around Cuba to prevent further Soviet shipments of missiles. (2) Agreed to remove U.S. Jupiter missiles from Turkey in a secret deal. **Khrushchev:** (1) Agreed to dismantle and remove Soviet missiles from Cuba. (2) Accepted a U.S. pledge not to invade Cuba.
7. **B. The signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I)** — Détente was a period of relaxed tensions in the 1970s, marked by arms control agreements like SALT I (1972) and increased diplomatic and economic exchanges.
8. The Vietnam War deeply divided American public opinion, leading to widespread protests and a loss of trust in government (e.g., the Pentagon Papers). It forced a shift in U.S. foreign policy toward the Nixon Doctrine, which emphasized that allies should take primary responsibility for their own defense, and contributed to a more cautious approach to military intervention (the “Vietnam Syndrome”).
9. **B. It symbolized the collapse of communist control in Eastern Europe** — The fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, was a powerful symbol of the end of communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the beginning of German reunification, though the Cold War officially ended later with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.
10. **Model Essay Thesis:** While ideology played a central role in shaping Cold War rhetoric and alliances, the conflict was equally driven by economic and geopolitical interests. **Evidence:** (1) The Marshall Plan combined economic aid with anti-communist ideology. (2) The Korean War was a geopolitical proxy war fought over strategic territory. (3) The Cuban Missile Crisis was rooted in both ideological competition and strategic military positioning. A strong essay would argue that ideology, economics, and geopolitics were deeply intertwined.