

**APW: Unit VII: CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL
REALIGNMENTS Chapter 36: New Conflarations: World
War II**

1. Survey

2. Read chapter and do "New to you" vocab (5-15 words you are unfamiliar with that are not strictly "historical" terms). 3. Take notes on the chapter that thoroughly answer the study guide questions. Be organized and make them "studyable".

DUE: 5/4

Two superpowers emerged from the ashes of the Second World War, the United States and the Soviet Union. Former allies, the two were now actively hostile, but they repeatedly stopped short of a full-out war. The prospect of a nuclear confrontation was too awful to contemplate. The cold war was characterized by the following:

- The arms race. The logic of the cold war drove both superpowers to stockpile nuclear weapons in order to match one another's destructive capabilities. The two powers were evenly matched in the 1960s, but by the 1980s the effort had severely strained the Soviet economy.
- Bipolar alliances. The cold war saw new defensive alliances, NATO in the west and the Warsaw Pact of the Soviet satellites. The world was divided into two camps, and the "third world" nations were courted and pressured to join one or the other. Some states, such as France and Yugoslavia, demonstrated that it was possible to avoid such entanglements. The People's Republic of China turned briefly to the Soviet Union for support, but broke free after 1964.
- Aggressive saber-rattling. Although the superpowers avoided direct and full-scale war, a number of minor conflicts sapped their energies and resources: Berlin, Korea, Hungary, Cuba, and Czechoslovakia. The United States fought a long and ultimately futile war in Vietnam. The Soviet Union was likewise drawn into a civil war in Afghanistan. Both these campaigns failed.
- The failure of communism. As an economic system, Soviet communism provided a shabby equality for all, with few consumer goods and limited opportunities. In contrast, the postwar decades saw unprecedented prosperity in the United States, Europe, and Japan. Overall the standard of living in the capitalist societies improved dramatically, although there were greater extremes of wealth and poverty.
- The collapse of the Soviet Union. The breakdown of the Soviet Union, while a long time coming, was swift and unexpected when it came. Between 1989 and 1991, the Soviet Empire completely unraveled, and the cold war ended.

Historical Terms and Concepts to know - Who, What, Where, When, Why, and So What? (use the proper format)

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| 1. United Nations | 7. 38 th parallel | 14. Détente |
| 2. NATO/Warsaw Pact | 8. Cuban Missile Crisis | 15. Gorbachev |
| 3. Iron Curtain | 9. Nikita Khrushchev | 16. Perestroika/Glasnost |
| 4. OPEC | 10. de-Stalinization | 17. Velvet Revolution |
| 5. OEEC/EU | 11. Brezhnev Doctrine | |
| 6. Truman Doctrine/domino theory | 12. nonalignment | |
| | 13. Prague Spring | |

Study Guide:

1. What factors led to the division of Germany and Berlin at the end of World War II?
2. What factors led to the Korean War and how was that conflict resolved?
3. What were some of the concerns of modern feminists? In what ways did western feminists take inspiration from other revolutionary movements?
4. How did fears of communist infiltration affect American culture in the 1950s and early 1960s?
5. What factors led to the postwar civil rights movement in the United States? How did this movement reflect global events and concerns at the same time?
6. What technological achievements can be attributed to the rivalry of the cold war?
7. How did France and Yugoslavia escape from the bipolar alliances of the cold war?
8. In what specific ways did the Chinese Communist Party mount "a frontal attack on Chinese traditions" after 1949? What aspects of Chinese society were most dramatically affected?
9. Why were the two communist giants, China and the Soviet Union, unable to sustain an alliance?
10. Compare the American defeat in Vietnam with the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan. In what ways did each conflict reflect the limits of cold war bipolarism?
11. Why did communism fail to connect with nationalism? How did this failure lead to the collapse of the Soviet empire?
12. Discuss the efforts of Mikhail Gorbachev to restructure the Soviet economy. Why did these reforms fail?