# Unit Organizer: The Cold War & the 1950s (1945-1960)

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| The Big Picture: When World War II ended in 1945, the United States emerged as a superpower. However, America’s rivalry with the Soviet Union began a new era known as the Cold War. The U.S. used economic aid, formed military alliances, built up nuclear weaponry, and fought proxy wars in an attempt to contain the growing spread of communism in Europe and across the globe. At home, the post-war economy boomed and the U.S. standard of living increased. In the 1950s, America experienced a surge in consumer spending, a baby boom, growth in suburbs, an independent youth culture, the emergence of rock ‘n’ roll and TV, and the beginning of the Civil Rights movement for African-Americans | | | | | |
| Last Unit: World War II  (1939—1945) | Current Unit: **The 1950s and the Cold War**  (1945—1960) | | Next Unit: Kennedy, & Johnson  (1960—1968) | | |
| **Assessments** : | | **Key Terms and Phrases:** | | | |
| 1. Vocabulary 2. Sequence and Chronology 3. Political Cartoon Analysis 4. Primary Sources 5. Graphs/Charts Analysis 6. Maps/Photos Analysis 7. CER Writing 8. Unit Summative Assessments |  | 1. JOSEPH STALIN  2. HARRY TRUMAN  3. GEORGE MARSHALL  4. COLD WAR  5. TRUMAN DOCTRINE  6. MARSHALL PLAN  7. BERLIN AIRLIFT  8. NATO  9. COMMUNISM  10. CAPITALISM  11. U. N.  12. SATELLITE NATIONS  13. CONTAINMENT  14. IRON CURTAIN  15. CHIANG KAI-SHEK  16. MAO ZEDONG  17. KOREAN WAR  18. 38TH PARALLEL  19. TRUCE  20. THE ROSENBERGS  21. ALGER HISS  22. JOSEPH MCCARTHY  23. BLACKLISTED  24. HUAC  25. LOYALTY REVIEW BOARD  26. McCarthyism  27. DWIGHT EISENHOWER  28. NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV  29. U-2 INCIDENT/FRANCIS GARY POWERS  30. WARSAW PACT  31. SPUTNIK  32. H-BOMB  33. BRINKMANSHIP  34. CIA | | 35. EISENHOWER DOCTRINE  36. -HARRY TRUMAN  37. JACKIE ROBINSON  38. DIXIECRATS  39. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER  40. RICHARD NIXON  41. GI BILL  42. CHECKERS SPEECH  43. SUBURBS  44. FAIR DEAL  45. JONAS SALK/POLIO  46. DR. SPOCK  47. BABY BOOM  48. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY ACT  49. BLUE COLLAR/WHITE COLLAR  50. CONGLOMERATE  51. FRANCHISE  52. CONSUMERISM  53. PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE  54.ROCK ‘N’ ROLL/ -ALAN FREED/ELVIS PRESLEY  55.-BEAT MOVEMENT/ BEATNIK/JACK KEROUAC  56. MASS MEDIA  57. FCC  58. WHITE FLIGHT  59. TERMINATION POLICY  60. POVERTY LINE  61. URBAN RENEWAL  62. HUD | |
| **Essentials Questions:**  1. Was the Cold War inevitable?  2. Was containment an effective policy to thwart communist expansion?  3. Should the United States have fought “limited wars” to contain communism?  4. Should the United States have feared internal communist subversion in the 1950s?  5. To what extent were the 1950s a time of great peace, progress, and prosperity for Americans?  6. Was 1950s America a boom time for all Americans? | | | | | **Pages:**  **600-665** |

**USHG ERA 8 – POST-WORLD WAR II UNITED STATES (1945 -1989)**

**8.1 Cold War and the United States**

*I can identify, analyze, and explain the causes, conditions, and impact of the Cold War Era on the United States.*

**8.1.1 Origins and Beginnings of Cold War** – I can describe the factors that contributed to the Cold War, including:

• differences in the civic, ideological and political values, and the economic and governmental institutions of the U.S. and U.S.S.R.

• diplomatic and political actions by both the U.S .and U.S.S.R. in the last years of and years following WWII.

**8.1.2 Foreign Policy during the Cold War** – I can compare the causes and consequences of the setbacks and successes of the American policy of ‘containing’ the Soviet Union, including:

• the development of a U.S. national security establishment

• the direct and/or armed conflicts with Communism

• indirect (or proxy) confrontations within specific world regions

• the arms race

**8.2 Domestic Policies**

*I can examine, analyze, and explain demographic changes, domestic policies, conflicts, and tensions in Post- WWII America.*

**8.2.1 Demographic Changes** – I can use population data to produce and analyze maps that show the major changes in population distribution, spatial patterns and density, including the Baby Boom, new immigration, suburbanization, reverse migration of African Americans to the South, and the flow of population to the “Sunbelt.”

**8.2.2 Policy Concerning Domestic Issues** – I can analyze major domestic issues in the Post-World War II era and the policies designed to meet the challenges by:

• describing issues challenging Americans such as domestic anti-communism (McCarthyism), labor, poverty, health care, infrastructure, immigration,

and the environment

• evaluating policy decisions and legislative actions to meet these challenges (e.g., G.I. Bill of Rights (1944), Taft-Hartley Act (1947), Twenty-Second

Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1951), Federal Highways Act (1956), National Defense Act (1957)

***Unit Reading Guide: The Cold War & 1950s***

**CHAPTER 18 SECTION 1 GUIDED READING: ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR**

1. WHICH 2 COUNTRIES WERE THE LONE SUPERPOWERS AFTER WWII?
2. EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMMUNISM & CAPITALISM.
3. DESCRIBE HOW THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S. & THE SOVIET UNION WERE DIFFERENT.
4. WHAT CAUSED THE SOVIETS TO DISLIKE AMERICA?
5. WHAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 1945?

-WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE?

1. WHAT 2 QUALITIES MADE TRUMAN A GOOD PRESIDENT?
2. WHAT DID TRUMAN WANT THE SOVIETS TO AGREE TO AT POTSDAM?
3. LIST THE 4 GOALS OF THE U. S. & SOVIET UNION IN EUROPE AT THE END OF WWII.
4. WHAT WERE SATELLITE NATIONS? WHY WERE THEY IMPORTANT?
5. EXPLAIN THE POLICY OF CONTAINMENT.
6. DESCRIBE THE MEANING OF THE “IRON CURTAIN”.
7. WHAT WAS THE COLD WAR?
8. EXPLAIN HOW THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE WORKED.
9. DESCRIBE HOW THE MARSHALL PLAN HELPED THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE.

-WHICH COUNTRIES RECEIVED THE MOST AID?

-WHY DO YOU THINK THEY DID?

1. EXPLAIN HOW GERMANY WAS DIVIDED AFTER WWII.
2. WHAT WAS THE BERLIN AIRLIFT?
3. WHAT 2 NEW COUNTRIES WERE CREATED IN 1949?
4. DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF NATO & LIST THE COUNTRIES IN NATO.
5. WHAT AMERICAN POLICY WAS ENDED BY THE COLD WAR? WHY?

**CHAPTER 18 SECTION 2 GUIDED READING: THE COLD WAR HEATS UP**

1. WHERE DID THE U.S. GO TO WAR AFTER WWII?
2. WHAT POLICY LED AMERICA INTO WAR? WHY?
3. DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHINA’S 2 LEADERS FOLLOWING WWII.
4. WHO DID THE U. S. SUPPORT DURING THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR? WHY?
5. WHERE DID THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS FLEE TO IN 1949?

-WHY IS THIS STILL IMPORTANT TODAY?

6. EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 38TH PARALLEL.

1. WHAT FACTORS CAUSED THE KOREAN WAR?

-WHO DID THE U. S. SUPPORT

-WAS THIS A GOOD DECISION FOR AMERICA? EXPLAIN.

1. WHY DID CHINA CHOOSE TO INTERVENE IN THE KOREAN WAR?
2. WHAT DID MACARTHUR WANT TO DO TO PREVENT FURTHER CHINESE INVOLVEMENT IN KOREA?
3. DESCRIBE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN MACARTHUR & TRUMAN OVER WAR WITH CHINA.
4. DESCRIBE THE 2 POINTS REACHED IN THE KOREAN TRUCE.
5. WHAT WAS THE END RESULT OF THE KOREAN WAR?

-DO YOU THINK THE WAR COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED? EXPLAIN.

**CHAPTER 18 SECTION 3 GUIDED READING: THE COLD WAR AT HOME**

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BLACKLISTED?

2. WHAT HYSTERIA GRIPPED THE COUNTRY IN THE 1940’S & 1950’S?

-HAVE WE GONE THROUGH ANY SIMILAR SITUATIONS CURRENTLY?

- EXPLAIN.

3. WHY WERE AMERICANS SO CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THE

U. S. DURING THE COLD WAR?

4. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE LOYALTY REVIEW BOARD?

-DO YOU THINK THIS BOARD WAS A GOOD IDEA? EXPLAIN.

5. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE?

-WHO WAS ITS MAIN TARGET? WHY?

6. WHAT HAPPENED TO PEOPLE WHO WERE BLACKLISTED?

7. SUMMARIZE THE EVENTS OF THE ALGER HISS CASE.

8. WHAT DID THE SOVIETS DO ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1949?

9. EXPLAIN WHY ETHEL & JULIUS ROSENBERG WERE EXECUTED?

10. WHAT ISSUE MADE JOSEPH MCCARTHY’S CAREER?

11. WHAT WAS MCCARTHYISM?

-HOW IS THIS TERM STILL USED TODAY?

12. WHY DID MCCARTHY ONLY GIVE THE NAMES OF SUSPECTED COMMUNISTS

WHILE HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE SENATE FLOOR?

13. WHAT FINALLY ENDED MCCARTHY’S CAREER?

14. DESCRIBE HOW FAR REACHING THE FEAR OF COMMUNISM WAS IN

AMERICAN SOCIETY.

-DO YOU THINK THIS WAS JUSTIFIED? EXPLAIN.

**CHAPTER 18 SECTION 4 GUIDED READING: TWO NATIONS LIVE ON THE EDGE**

1. WHAT WAS THE GREATEST FEAR OF THE PEOPLE DURING THE COLD WAR?
2. WHAT RACE BEGAN DURING THE TRUMAN PRESIDENCY?
3. WHAT DRILLS WERE COMMON DURING THE EISENHOWER PRESIDENCY?
4. WHAT BOMB WAS MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN THE ATOMIC BOMB?

-DESCRIBE THE BOMB & ITS POTENTIAL DESTRUCTIVENESS.

5. WHAT HAPPENED ON NOV. 1 , 1952?

6. EXPLAIN HOW THE POLICY OF “BRINKMANSHIP” WORKED.

7. DESCRIBE THE WORK DONE BY THE CIA.

8. EXPLAIN WHY THE CIA HELPED RETURN THE SHAH OF IRAN TO POWER.

9. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE WARSAW PACT?

10. WHAT HAPPENED ON MAY 14, 1948?

11. WHAT ISSUE DID THE U. S. & SOVIET UNION AGREE UPON? WHY?

12. WHAT WAS THE EISENHOWER DOCTRINE?

13. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED IN HUNGARY IN NOV. 1956.

14. EXPLAIN HOW THE U. N. FAILED IN HUNGARY.

15. DESCRIBE KHRUSHCHEV’S PLAN TO SPREAD COMMUNISM.

16. WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPUTNIK?

17. HOW DID AMERICANS RESPOND TO THE LAUNCHING OF SPUTNIK?

18. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF U-2’S?

19. WHY WERE U. S. OFFICIALS NERVOUS ABOUT THE U-2 PROGRAM?

20. EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO FRANCIS GARY POWERS.

21. WHAT HAPPENED AS A RESULT OF THE U-2 INCIDENT?

**CHAPTER 19 SECTION 1 GUIDED READING: POSTWAR AMERICA**

1. WHAT WAS THE GOAL OF MOST AMERICANS AFTER WWII?

2. WHAT DID CONGRESS PASS TO HELP EASE THE VETERAN’S RETURN TO

CIVILIAN LIFE?

-DESCRIBE WHAT THE ACT DID.

3. DESCRIBE THE NEW SUBURBS BUILT AFTER WWII.

-WHY WERE THEY BUILT & DESIGNED AS THEY WERE?

4. DESCRIBE SOME OF THE CHANGES THE WAR BROUGHT TO MARRIAGE &

THE ROLES OF MEN & WOMEN.

5. LIST & DESCRIBE 3 ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACED AFTER WWII.

6. WHAT FACTORS LED TO THE ECONOMIC BOOM THAT FOLLOWED WWII?

7. WHAT DID THE PLAQUE ON PRESIDENT TRUMAN’S DESK READ? WHY?

8. WHAT 2 CHALLENGES DID TRUMAN FACE AS PRESIDENT AFTER WWII?

9. HOW DID TRUMAN BREAK STRIKES?

10. WHAT WAS ONE OF THE CAUSES THAT TRUMAN FOUGHT FOR AS PRESIDENT?

11. HOW DID TRUMAN FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL?

12. WHO WAS JACKIE ROBINSON AND WHY WAS HE SO IMPORTANT TO

AFRICAN-AMERICANS?

13. WHO WERE THE DIXIECRATS?

-WHY DID THE DIXIECRATS BREAK FROM TRUMAN & THE

DEMOCRATIC PARTY?

14. WHO DID TRUMAN DEFEAT IN THE 1948 ELECTION?

15. WHAT WAS THE “FAIR DEAL”?

16. WHO RAN FOR PRESIDENT IN 1952? WHO WON?

17. WHAT WAS THE “CHECKERS SPEECH”?

18. DESCRIBE EISENHOWER'S “MODERN REPUBLICANISM”.

19. WHAT 2 MAJOR CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES DID EISENHOWER HAVE TO DEAL WITH?

20. LIST THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION.

**CHAPTER 19 SECTION 2 GUIDED READING:**

**THE AMERICAN DREAM IN THE FIFTIES**

1. DESCRIBE WHAT THE AMERICAN DREAM OF THE 1950’S.

-DO YOU THINK IT IS THE SAME TODAY? EXPLAIN.

2. EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BLUE COLLAR WORKERS & WHITE

COLLAR WORKERS.

3. WHAT ARE CONGLOMERATES? PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF ONE.

-DESCRIBE HOW FRANCHISING WORKS.

-WHY IS RAY KROC CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL AT FRANCHISING?

4. DESCRIBE THE SOCIAL CONFORMITY OF THE 1950’S.

-DO YOU THINK THIS STILL EXISTS TODAY? EXPLAIN.

5. EXPLAIN HOW SUBURBAN LIFE EMBODIED THE AMERICAN DREAM.

6. WHAT WAS THE BABY BOOM?

-WHEN DID IT OCCUR?

-WHAT CAUSED THE BABY BOOM?

7. HOW DID DR. SALK CONTRIBUTE TO POPULATION GROWTH?

8. WHY WAS DR. SPOCK SO LOVED BY PARENTS? WHAT DID HE WRITE?

9. WHAT CAUSED AMERICANS TO HAVE MORE LEISURE TIME IN THE 1950’S?

-WHAT DID AMERICANS DO WITH THEIR NEW LEISURE TIME?

10. WHAT 2 FACTORS LED TO RECORD CAR SALES BY 1960?

11. WHAT FACTOR MADE OWNING A CAR A NECESSITY? WHY?

12. WHAT DID EISENHOWER SIGN IN 1956?

-WHAT DID THE ACT DO?

13. WHAT OPENED IN 1955?

14. DESCRIBE SOME OF THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE NEW

INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM.

15. WHAT NEGATIVE IMPACT DID THE AUTO BOOM HAVE ON SOCIETY?

16. WHAT IS CONSUMERISM?

17. LIST SOME OF THE NEW APPLIANCES INTRODUCED IN THE 1950’S.

18. WHAT WAS PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE & WHY DID MANUFACTURERS USE IT?

-HOW DID IT BENEFIT CONSUMERS?

19. DESCRIBE THE REASONS PRIVATE DEBT GREW DURING THE 1950’S.

20. WHAT SCIENCE WAS USED BY COMPANIES TO SELL THEIR PRODUCTS? HOW?

**CHAPTER 19 SECTION 3 GUIDED READING: POPULAR CULTURE**

1. WHAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES DID LITTLE RICHARD HELP BRING ABOUT?

2. WHAT MASS MEDIA APPLIANCE WAS THE MARVEL OF THE POSTWAR YEARS?

3. WHAT IS THE FCC? WHAT DOES IT DO?

4. DESCRIBE WHAT WAS MEANT BY THE “GOLDEN AGE” OF TELEVISION.

5. WHAT WAS INTRODUCED IN 1954?

6. WHO WAS CHARLES VAN DOREN AND HOW DID HE IMPACT TV QUIZ SHOWS?

7. WHY WERE SOME PEOPLE CRITICAL OF TELEVISION?

8. HOW DID RADIO PROGRAMMING CHANGE IN RESPONSE TO TELEVISION?

9. WHAT ADVANTAGES DID MOVIES HAVE OVER TELEVISION IN THE 1950’S?

-WHAT NOVELTY FEATURES DID MOVIE THEATERS TRY TO KEEP THEIR

AUDIENCES?

10. DESCRIBE THE BEAT MOVEMENT OF THE 1950’S.

-DESCRIBE THE LIFE OF THE BEATNIK.

-WHO WERE SOME OF THE BEAT WRITERS OF THE 50’S?

11. WHY IS CLEVELAND, OHIO AND ALAN FREED IMPORTANT IN THE HISTORY

OF ROCK ‘N’ROLL?

12. WHAT IS ROCK ‘N’ ROLL?

13. LIST THE NAMES OF SOME EARLY ROCK ‘N’ ROLL ARTISTS.

-WHO WAS THE BIGGEST STAR? WHY?

14. WHY WAS ROCK ‘N’ ROLL CRITICIZED BY SOME PEOPLE?

15. WHAT IS JAZZ? WHO WERE SOME OF THE EARLY JAZZ ARTISTS?

**CHAPTER 19 SECTION 4 GUIDED READING: THE OTHER AMERICA**

1. DESCRIBE THE “OTHER AMERICA” OF THE 1950’S.

2. DESCRIBE WHAT WAS MEANT BY “WHITE FLIGHT”.

-HOW DID THIS EVENT CHANGE INNER CITIES?

3. WHAT IS THE POVERTY LINE?

-WHAT WAS THE LINE IN 1950 IN COMPARISON TO TODAY?

-DO YOU THINK A FAMILY OF 4 COULD LIVE ON THIS? EXPLAIN.

4. WHAT DOES HUD STAND FOR?

-WHAT IS THE JOB OF HUD?

5. WHAT WAS URBAN RENEWAL?

-WHY WAS URBAN RENEWAL CRITICIZED BY SOME PEOPLE?

6. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LONGORIA INCIDENT?

7. EXPLAIN WHY THE TERMINATION POLICY FAILED NATIVE AMERICANS.