# Opening: A Bipolar World

<http://bit.ly/2mo05wN>

The global economy was greatly affected by World War II but countries were affected differently. The U.S. emerged the richest of countries and, by 1950, its GDP per person was much higher than that of any other country. It dominated the world economy and also had a major baby boom.

Most of Europe suffered for years and then rebounded economically. The U.S.S.R., however, despite tremendous mortality rates and material losses during World War II, enjoyed a rapid increase in production in the years immediately after the war. After World War II, the United States and the U.S.S.R. emerged as the major world powers and split the world into two camps in the [**Cold War**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy540.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=4) of political tensions and military competition.

**View mini lesson and answer this question:**

**1. What were the causes of tension between the United States and the U.S.S.R.?**

The U.S. was the leading capitalist country and competed with the U.S.S.R., the leading communist country. These countries were involved in the political affairs and revolutions of many countries around the world, both directly and indirectly. The Cold War included a series of [**proxy wars**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy540.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=4) and an unprecedented [**arms**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy540.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=4) race.

# Activity 2: Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine

<http://bit.ly/2nAN9Ex>

Complete the activity on the website and make sure to check your answers

**2. Write two facts for each document after completing the activity**

# Activity 3: East vs West - NATO and the Warsaw Pact

<http://bit.ly/2mo0Dn3>

**Read the information below and complete the activities on the website and make sure to check your answers**

After World War II, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. had parted ways based on mutual suspicions of the actions and intentions of the other. A major objective of the United States was to contain the expansion of communist ideas and the Soviet government. Stalin and the U.S.S.R. repeatedly pursued aggressive policies of expansion that provoked the U.S. and the Western, democratic world.

In addition to the actions of the individual countries of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S., each of these countries contributed to and shaped international agreements around economic ideology, [**foreign policy**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy542.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=6), and national security that alienated the other superpower. The world was effectively divided into two camps, or the East and the West. In Europe, at least, this division largely followed the same lines as the countries that did and did not receive U.S. aid under the [**Marshall Plan**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy542.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=6).

Two international military [**alliances**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy542.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=6) formalized the post-war division of the world. One of these was [**NATO**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy542.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=6) or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which was a collective security system intended to offset Soviet forces through the use of both conventional armies and nuclear weapons. The [**Berlin Blockade**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy542.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=6) was the catalyst for the formation of NATO.

The other was the [**Warsaw Pact**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy542.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=6). Although standing in opposition to each other for nearly 40 years, the NATO and the Warsaw Pact member countries in Europe never directly waged war against each other. Nevertheless, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. and their respective allies implemented strategic policies aiming to contain each other’s spread in Europe, while also working and fighting for greater influence on the international stage.

**3. Write down two facts for each alliance.**

# Activity 4: The Chinese Communist Revolution AND

<http://bit.ly/2mnRLgk>

# Activity 5: China and the U.S.S.R.

<http://bit.ly/2mFEUYA>

**Read the information below and complete the activities on the websites and the graphic organizer below.**

Before laying aside their differences during World War II to focus on the common enemy of Japan, two rival parties in China were at war for leading the country. The civil war between the nationalist and communist forces resumed in June 1946. Mao Zedong led the communist revolution and had the backing of the U.S.S.R. Nationalist forces, under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, retreated to the island of Taiwan in 1949. The victorious Mao Zedong created a new government, with himself as leader, and established the People's Republic of China on the mainland.

China and the U.S.S.R. became close allies after the Chinese Revolution. These two countries shared a common border, had common political enemies, and both had communist governments. In 1950, China and the U.S.S.R. concluded a mutual defense [**treaty**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy545.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=9) against both Japan and the United States. This [**alliance**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy545.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=9) worried the United States and its democratic allies.

The Chinese/Soviet alliance shifted the focus of the [**Cold War**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy545.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=9) to Asia, and Asia became the new battleground between [**capitalism**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy545.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=9) and [**communism**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy545.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=9) in the Cold War. Relationships between the two countries appeared to be very close for many years, but difficult negotiations between the two communist countries made it clear that China, with its independent party and tremendous population, would not become a Soviet [**satellite state**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy545.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=9).

**The Chinese Communist Revolution Graphic Organizer**

**Directions:** Complete the following graphic organizer using information from the mini-lessons, “The Chinese Communist Revolution: Causes, Events, and Consequences,” and “China and the U.S.S.R.”

|  |
| --- |
| **The Chinese Communist Revolution**  |
| **Key Events** | **Key Consequences** |
| TYPE ANSWER HERE | TYPE ANSWER HERE |
| **China and the U.S.S.R.** |
| **Key Similarities** | **Key Differences** |
| TYPE ANSWER HERE | TYPE ANSWER HERE |

# Activity 6: The Cold War Expands

<http://bit.ly/2np5vZR>

The [**Cold War**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy546.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=10) was not an isolated event or a conflict simply between the United States and the U.S.S.R.; the Cold War enveloped many countries around the world. China was a major player in the Cold War and was an ally of the U.S.S.R. The events that followed illustrate the growing [**globalization**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy546.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=10) of the Cold War.

Both the United States and the U.S.S.R. had been interested in controlling Asia for reasons similar to Japan’s desire during World War II and the Sino-Japanese wars. Each wanted to tap the [**natural resources**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy546.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=10) of the region. The Cold War contenders also wanted to spread their respective economic ideologies and political structures as well, and, thereby spread their spheres of influence.

The U.S.S.R was aggressively pursuing a policy of support for national liberation movements across Asia, especially in Indochina and Malaya, which were still colonies of France and Great Britain, respectively.

**The Cold War Expands Graphic Organizer**

**Directions**: For each section, describe the influence that China, the U.S., and/or the U.S.S.R. had on the conflict.

**Topic 1: Korean War**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Summary of Event | Influence |
| TYPE ANSWER HERE | TYPE ANSWER HERE |

**Topic 2: Cuban Revolution**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Summary of Event | Influence |
| TYPE ANSWER HERE | TYPE ANSWER HERE |

**Topic 3: Vietnam War**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Summary of Event | Influence |
| TYPE ANSWER HERE | TYPE ANSWER HERE |

**Topic 4: Cambodian Wars**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Summary of Event | Influence |
| TYPE ANSWER HERE | TYPE ANSWER HERE |

**What influence did the U.S.S.R., China, and/or the United States have on countries during the**[**Cold War**](https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/spiffy546.php?unitNum=4&lessonNum=7&pageNum=10)**?**

TYPE ANSWER HERE