

# SSWH19: DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II.



***ELEMENT D: Explain Post-WWII policies and plans for economic recovery, include: the Marshall Plan for Europe, Macarthur's Plan for Japan, and the United Nations.***

# Post WWII Europe: Marshall Plan

- ❑ World War II left much of Europe in ruins, areas that were not physically destroyed suffered from economic hardship and political distrust.
  - In this environment of economic and political instability many Europeans turned to the Communist Party.
- ❑ President Harry Truman declared in the Truman Doctrine in March of 1947 that the United States would work to prevent the spread of communism.
  - To this end, the US Secretary of State, George Marshall proposed a \$12.5 billion plan to rebuild Europe.
    - Congress approved the plan after the fall of Czechoslovakia to Communism in 1948.
  - The plan was a great success, the European economy recovered quickly and Communist Parties declined in popularity across Western Europe.



# Post WWII Japan: MacArthur Plan

- ❑ Like Europe, Japan was also in ruins after the war.
- ❑ The United States took responsibility for the post-war occupation and administration of Japan.
  - This occupation was overseen by General Douglas MacArthur.
- ❑ MacArthur designed a plan that would democratize Japan, stimulate economic growth and prevent future Japanese aggression.
  - The wartime leaders of Japan were arrested and put on trial for war crimes.
    - Seven of the most egregious offenders were put to death.
  - The emperor was spared from trial and allowed to remain on the throne.
    - MacArthur's investigators claimed that Emperor Hirohito was only a figurehead and did not direct the Japanese government during the war.
    - Hirohito's innocence is still a matter of debate among historians.
  - MacArthur did substantially decrease the Japanese emperor's influence in Japanese life and government however.
    - Hirohito had to renounce both his claim to divinity and all rights to direct the actions of government.
  - MacArthur and his advisors wrote a new constitution for Japan that made it into a constitutional monarchy like Britain.
    - A two house legislature elected by all citizens over the age of 20 would run the country.
    - A bill of rights protected the basic freedoms of the Japanese people.



# Post WWII Japan: MacArthur Plan

- ❑ To stimulate economic growth and opportunity in Japan, MacArthur developed a plan to redistribute land.
  - Large landholders were required to sell their holdings to the government who in turn sold it at low cost to former tenant farmers.
  - MacArthur also allowed factory workers to create independent labor unions.
- ❑ Japan was permanently demilitarized.
  - The Japanese armed forces was disbanded immediately after the war and a provision was written into the constitution forbidding offensive war and the maintenance of a military with offensive capabilities.



# Post WWII: United Nations



- ❑ The failure of the League of Nations to prevent World War II led to it being disbanded and replaced by the United Nations in 1946.
  - The United Nations was chartered in 1945 and like the League was designed to prevent war.
  - The founders of the United Nations attempted to remedy some of the weaknesses of the League of Nations by giving the United Nations the power to enforce its decisions.
- ❑ The UN was organized into two bodies, the General Assembly in which all member countries were given an equal vote and the Security Council.
  - The principle role of the General Assembly included wielding international opinion.
  - The Security Council was given the power to issue enforceable directives.
  - The Council included eleven members, six elected by the General Assembly and five permanent members with veto power.
    - The five countries given permanent seats in the Security Council were the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Chinese Republic.
- ❑ Today the seat of the USSR is held by Russia and the seat of the Chinese Republic is held by the People's Republic of China.



# Beginnings of Cold War: NATO & Warsaw Pact

- ❑ The post war tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union came to a head in June of 1948.
  - The Soviet Union responded to the American, British and French decision to allow West Germany to reunite and become an independent country by blockading West Berlin.
    - Berlin was located inside of the Soviet occupied zone of Germany.
- ❑ In June of 1948 the Soviet Union attempted to force the United States, Britain and France into allowing the USSR to take control of West Berlin.
  - They did this by closing off all land access to the city.
    - The US and Britain responded by airlifting supplies into the city.
    - The airlifts lasted until May of 1949 when the Soviet Union finally backed down and reopened land access.
- ❑ The tension caused by the blockade of Berlin resulted in the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
  - Ten western European nations plus the US and Canada formed a military alliance in which they agreed that an attack on one would be considered an attack on all.
    - The NATO alliance went far in mitigating the threat of Soviet aggression in Europe but also increased Cold War tensions.
- ❑ In 1955 the Soviet Union formed its own military alliance known as the Warsaw Pact.
  - Seven Eastern European countries joined with the USSR in this alliance.

