

Unit 8: Cold War and Decolonization

C. 1900 - present

AP Exam Weighting: 8-10%

Topic 8.1 Setting the Stage for the Cold War and Decolonization

Thematic Focus - Governance (GOV)

A variety of internal and external factors contribute to state formation, expansion, and decline. Governments maintain order through a variety of administrative institutions, policies, and procedures, and governments obtain, retain, and exercise power in different ways and for different purposes.

Learning Objective A

Explain the historical context of the Cold War after 1945.

Historical Developments

Hopes for greater self-government were largely unfulfilled following World War I; however, in the years following World War II, increasing **anti-imperialist sentiment** contributed to the dissolution of empires and the restructuring of states.

Technological and economic gains experienced during World War II by the victorious nations shifted the global balance of power.

Topic 8.2 The Cold War

Thematic Focus - Cultural Developments and Interactions (CDI)

The development of ideas, beliefs, and religions illustrates how groups in society view themselves, and the interactions of societies and their beliefs often have political, social, and cultural implications

Learning Objective B

Explain the causes and effects of the ideological struggle of the Cold War.

Historical Developments

The global balance of economic and political power shifted during and after World War II and rapidly evolved into the **Cold War**. The democracy of the United States and the authoritarian communist Soviet Union emerged as superpowers, which led to ideological conflict and a power struggle between **capitalism** and **communism** across the globe.

Groups and individuals, including the **Non-Aligned Movement**, opposed and promoted alternatives to the existing economic, political, and social orders.

Non-Aligned Movement:

- Sukarno in Indonesia
- Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana

Topic 8.3 Effects of the Cold War

Thematic Focus - Governance (GOV)

A variety of internal and external factors contribute to state formation, expansion, and decline. Governments maintain order through a variety of administrative institutions, policies, and procedures, and governments obtain, retain, and exercise power in different ways and for different purposes.

Learning Objective C

Compare the ways in which the United States and the Soviet Union sought to maintain influence over the course of the Cold War.

Historical Developments

The Cold War produced new military alliances, including **NATO** and the **Warsaw Pact**, and led to nuclear proliferation and **proxy wars** between and within postcolonial states in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Proxy wars:

- Korean War
- Angolan Civil War
- Sandinista-Contras conflict in Nicaragua

Topic 8.4 Spread of Communism After 1900

Thematic Focus - Economics Systems (ECN)

As societies develop, they affect and are affected by the ways that they produce, exchange, and consume goods and services.

Learning Objective D

Explain the causes and consequences of China's adoption of communism.

Historical Developments

As a result of internal tension and Japanese aggression, Chinese communists seized power. These changes in China eventually led to communist revolution.

In communist China, the government controlled the national economy through the **Great Leap Forward**, often implementing repressive policies, with negative repercussions for the population.

Thematic Focus - Social Interactions and Organization (SIO)

The process by which societies group their members and the norms that govern the interactions between these groups and between individuals influence political, economic, and cultural institutions and organization.

Learning Objective E

Explain the causes and effects of movements to redistribute economic resources.

Historical Developments

Movements to **redistribute land** and resources developed within states in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, sometimes advocating communism or socialism.

Land and resource redistribution:

- Communist Revolution for Vietnamese independence
- Mengistu Haile Mariam in Ethiopia
- Land reform in Kerala and other states within India
- White Revolution in Iran

Topic 8.5 Decolonization After 1900

Thematic Focus - Governance (GOV)

A variety of internal and external factors contribute to state formation, expansion, and decline. Governments maintain order through a variety of administrative institutions, policies, and procedures, and governments obtain, retain, and exercise power in different ways and for different purposes.

Learning Objective F

Compare the processes by which various peoples pursued independence after 1900.

Historical Developments

Nationalist leaders and parties in Asia and Africa sought varying degrees of autonomy within or independence from imperial rule.

Nationalist leaders and parties

- **Indian National Congress**
- Ho Chi Minh in French Indochina (Vietnam)
- Kwame Nkrumah in British Gold Coast (Ghana)
- Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt

After the end of World War II, some colonies negotiated their independence, while others achieved independence through armed struggle.

Negotiated independence:

- India from the British Empire
- The Gold Coast from the British Empire
- French West Africa

Independence through armed struggle:

- Algeria from the French empire
- Angola from the Portuguese empire
- Vietnam from the French empire

Regional, religious, and ethnic movements challenged colonial rule and inherited imperial boundaries. Some of these movements advocated for autonomy.

Regional, religious, and ethnic movements:

- **Muslim League** in British India
- Québécois separatist movement in Canada
- Biafra secessionist movement in Nigeria

Topic 8.6 Newly Independent States

Thematic Focus - Governance (GOV)

A variety of internal and external factors contribute to state formation, expansion, and decline. Governments maintain order through a variety of administrative institutions, policies, and procedures, and governments obtain, retain, and exercise power in different ways and for different purposes.

Learning Objective G

Explain how political changes in the period from c. 1900 to the present led to territorial, demographic, and nationalist developments.

Historical Developments

The redrawing of political boundaries after the withdrawal of former colonial authorities led to the creation of new states.

States created by redrawing of political boundaries:

- Israel
- Cambodia
- Pakistan

The redrawing of political boundaries in some cases led to conflict as well as population displacement and/or resettlements, including those related to the **Partition of India** and the creation of the state of Israel.

Thematic Focus - Economics Systems (ECN)

As societies develop, they affect and are affected by the ways that they produce, exchange, and consume goods and services.

Learning Objective H

Explain the economic changes and continuities resulting from the process of decolonization.

Historical Developments

In newly independent states after World War II, governments often took on a strong role in guiding economic life to promote development.

Governments guiding economic life:

- Gamal Abdel Nasser's promotion of economic development in Egypt
- Indira Gandhi's economic policies in India
- Julius Nyerere's modernization in Tanzania
- Sirimavo Bandaranaike's economic policies in Sri Lanka

The migration of former colonial subjects to **imperial metropolises** (the former colonizing country), usually in the major cities, maintained cultural and economic ties between the colony and the metropole even after the dissolution of empires.

Migrations:

- South Asians to Britain
- Algerians to France
- Filipinos to the United States

Topic 8.7 Global Resistance to Established Power Structures After 1900

Thematic Focus - Cultural Developments and Interactions (CDI)

The development of ideas, beliefs, and religions illustrates how groups in society view themselves, and the interactions of societies and their beliefs often have political, social, and cultural implications

Learning Objective I

Explain various reactions to existing power structures in the period after 1900.

Historical Developments

Although conflict dominated much of the 20th century, many individuals and groups— including states—opposed this trend. Some individuals and groups, however, intensified the conflicts.

Responses that intensified conflict:

- Chile under Augusto Pinochet
- Spain under Francisco Franco
- Uganda under Idi Amin
- The buildup of the military–industrial complex and weapons trading

Groups and individuals challenged the many wars of the century, and some, such as **Mohandas Gandhi**, **Martin Luther King Jr.**, and **Nelson Mandela**, promoted the practice of nonviolence as a way to bring about political change.

Militaries and militarized states often responded to the proliferation of conflicts in ways that further intensified conflict.

Some movements used violence against civilians in an effort to achieve political aims.

Movements that used violence:

- Shining Path
- Al-Qaeda

Topic 8.8 End of the Cold War

Thematic Focus - Governance (GOV)

A variety of internal and external factors contribute to state formation, expansion, and decline. Governments maintain order through a variety of administrative institutions, policies, and procedures, and governments obtain, retain, and exercise power in different ways and for different purposes.

Learning Objective J

Explain the causes of the end of the Cold War.

Historical Developments

Advances in U.S. military and technological development, the Soviet Union's costly and ultimately failed invasion of Afghanistan, and public discontent and economic weakness in communist countries led to the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Topic 8.9 Causation in the Age of the Cold War and Decolonization

The final topic in this unit focuses on the skill of argumentation and so provides an opportunity for your students to draw upon the key concepts and historical developments they have studied in this unit. Using evidence relevant to this unit's key concepts, students should practice the suggested skill for this topic.

Learning Objective K

Explain the extent to which the effects of the Cold War were similar in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

- Peoples and states around the world challenged the existing political and social order in varying ways, leading to unprecedented worldwide conflicts.
 - Hopes for greater self-government were largely unfulfilled following the World War I; however, in the years following the World War II, increasing anti-imperialist sentiment contributed to the dissolution of empires and the restructuring of states.
 - The Cold War conflict extended beyond its basic ideological origins to have profound effects on economic, political, social, and cultural aspects of global events
- The role of the state in the domestic economy varied, and new institutions of global association emerged and continued to develop throughout the century.
 - States responded in a variety of ways to the economic challenges of the 20th century.