**Aim:**

**Topic: Beginning of the Cold War**

**Document #1: Introduction to the Cold War**

During World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were **allies** (military partners). Even though their political, economic and social systems were very different, they cooperated to defeat Germany. America was based on **capitalism** (people control their own businesses and produce to create a profit; and prices and production are based on people’s demand), while the Soviet Union was based on **Communism** (where the government controls the businesses and wages). As World War II was ending, the Soviets were marching to Germany from the East, and the Americans from the West. At the **Yalta Conference (**February 1945), the **Big Three (**America, Great Britain and Russia) agreed to let all of the countries they liberated from the Nazis stay free and Stalin tentatively (loosely) agreed to allow democratic elections in Eastern Europe (especially Poland).

However, after Franklin Roosevelt died in April of 1945, Joseph Stalin (leader of the USSR) broke the deal and at the **Potsdam Conference (May 1945)** whenhe told British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and new **U.S. President Harry S. Truman** that he will keep his soldiers in the Eastern European countries and they will become **satellite nations (nations under the Soviet Unions protection and to also protect the Soviets from invasion)** as part of a new **Soviet Empire**. Stalin had become agitated (angry) over the fact that Truman had only notified Churchill of the atomic bomb, and thus saw Truman as an untrustworthy ally. This motivated Stalin to also engage in an arms race to a more sophisticated nuclear weapon (which the Russians develop in 1948). Truman desire to appease Stalin was far less than Roosevelt’s, which led to further complications between the United States and Russia. Churchill named this division of Europe **“The Iron Curtain”** and tension would exist for the next 50 years.

When the war was over, the world was transformed into a **bipolar (two centers of power and influence) world --** the United States and Russia were the only two great powerful countries left in the world, or **Superpowers.**

After World War II, these two countries started a competition and conflict in order to shape the post-war world into what would be best for each; spreading their governments, economic systems, ideas and values across the world. The Soviet Union wanted to spread Communism across the world, but the United States knew that if Communism spread across the world, the United States’ power and economy would become very weak. Communism was also based on dictatorships and control, and the United States wanted to protect freedom around the world. This conflict became known as **The Cold War.** The **Cold War** was called this because the two countries never confronted each other directly in war – the United States and Soviet Union never directly fought each other or had any physical battles with each other. While they didn’t directly fight any battles between each other, the Cold War led to conflicts between the two countries in other countries in other continents (such as **The Korean War and the Vietnam War)** – these were known as **proxy wars (side wars).**

**1) Identify:**

**Capitalism:**

**Communism:**

**Yalta Conference:**

**Potsdam Conference:**

**Super Powers:**

**Proxy Wars:**

**Harry S. Truman:**

**Joseph Stalin:**

**Iron Curtain:**

**Answer the questions on the following page:**

**1) How did World War II shape the Cold War?**

**2) Why was the post-WW2 world considered a bipolar world? What kind of world do you think we live in today (bi-polar, uni-polar (one power), multi-polar (many powers) Why?**

**3) Why was their so much tension between America and Russia? Who would you blame this tension on? Why?**

**4) Why was the competition between the countries known as the Cold War? Do you agree with this name? Why/why not? If you could call it something else, what would you call this 50 year time period?**

**Document #2 – Cold War “Hotspot #1” - Germany**

When the Allied Powers conquered Germany, it was divided into four different zones overseen by the United States, England, France and the Soviet Union. However, Stalin wanted to dominate post-war Germany and tried to block-off the capitol city of Berlin (which was also divided into a free West and a Communist East, although it was located in the East). Stalin created the **Berlin Blockade** **(1948-1949)** – blocking all major roads to the city from the West to allow the Soviets to dominate the city. In response, America led a **coalition** (group of nations) to create the **Berlin Airlift –** dropping supplies and food into the city of Berlin from air -- to support the citizens of West Berlin. The Airlift proved very successful and the Soviets were forced to end the blockade. In 1961, new Soviet leader **Nikita Khrushchev erected a wall through the city of Berlin (The Berlin Wall) to separate East and West Berlin and prevent the emigrating of people of the East to the West. The Berlin Wall became the symbol of a divided Europe and Cold War and created a physical “iron curtain” until its downfall in 1989.**

**1) What was the Berlin Blockade? Why was it created?**

**2) What was the Berlin Airlift? Why was it created?**

**3) Should the Berlin Blockade and/or Berlin Airlift be seen as acts of war? Why/why not?**

**4) Why do you think each nation did not go to war over the Blockade and Airlift?**

**5) Why can the Berlin Wall be called a physical “iron curtain?”**

**Task: For each Cold War Policy: a) explain how each policy will contribute to America’s goal of Containment.**

**Document #1 – Truman Doctrine (President’s speech to Congress, 1947)**

*“I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation* (control) *by armed minorities or by outside pressures.”*

- Truman Doctrine 1947

*Result:* **The US sent $400 million in military aid to Greece and Turkey**

**Answer:**

***Document #2 – Marshall Plan – Secretary of State George C. Marshall’s strategic plan***

*.... Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.*

- George Marshall explains the Marshall Plan, 1947

**Result:** Congress approves 12 billion dollars in economic aid to Western European nations

**Answer:**

**Document #3 – Creation of NATO (April 4, 1949)**

In order to protect the Western Nations of Europe, the **United States created the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**; which meant that all of the nations in the organization would come to each other’s aid if they were attacked by Russia.

**Result:** Russia created a rival to NATO with the Eastern European nations it controlled, known as the **Eastern Bloc or Warsaw Pact**. U.S. sends billions of dollars to NATO allies to build up their military.

**Answer:**

**Document #4 – NSC-68, April 14, 1950**

In this report, the National Security Council (NSC), the Presidents’ military advisors, recommended an offensive policy to Cold War. It advocated for a policy that is known as **“containment”** – containing the spread of Communism by not allowing it spread into other countries. The council wanted the government to increase military spending at home in order to stockpile weapon and to develop new technology to scare the Soviet Union. The NSC also wanted to send money and if necessary soldiers to free nations that the Soviets are trying to spread Communism into.

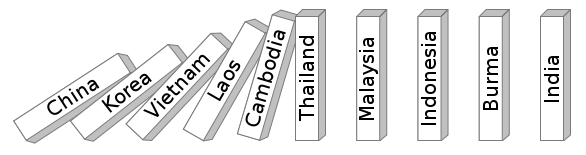
**Answer:**

**Document #5 – President Eisenhower’s Domino Theory and Eisenhower Doctrine– 1950’s**

This policy was created by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in regards to South East Asia because he was worried about China and Korea already falling to Communism.

***“****Finally, you have broader considerations that might follow what you would call the "falling domino" principle. You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you could have a beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences.”* - Eisenhower explains Domino Theory

The Eisenhower Doctrine applied the Domino Theory and Truman Doctrine to the Middle East and President Eisenhower stated to Congress that he would use military and economic power to stop the spread of Communism into the Middle East.



**Answer:**