

The Cold War

TOPIC SUMMARY

The Cold War began with the end of World War II. The roots of the conflict can be traced to the fact that the Soviet system was diametrically opposed to the democratic and capitalist governments of the West. The initial disputes were over the fate of Eastern European nations, where the Soviets demanded control. For almost 50 years, the war continued as the Soviets' attempted to strengthen and expand communism while the United States directed its foreign policy at containing that expansion.

Analyzing Democracy and Communism

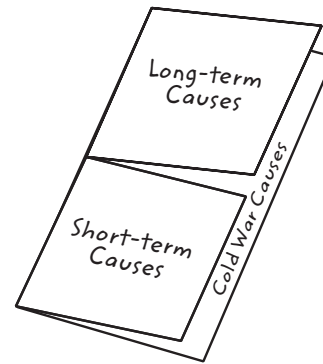
COLD WAR CONTRASTS	Political Differences	Economic Differences
United States		
Soviet Union		

Folded Table

Students can create a Foldable to represent the important differences between the world's two superpowers between roughly 1945 and 1991. Students should focus their text review on the political and economic systems of the United States and the Soviet Union at that period. In a Folded Table, they can list specific characteristics of those systems for each nation.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 8.5" by 11" paper.

Analyzing Causes

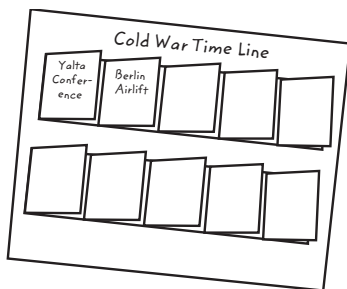


Two-Tab Book

Encourage students to review their textbook to find long-term and short-term causes of the Cold War. For example, remind them that a long-term cause would include an event such as American intervention in the Russian Civil War of 1918–1921, while a short-term cause would include the dispute over Poland at the Yalta Conference.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 8.5" by 11" paper.

Sequencing Cold War Effects



Billboard Project

Students can make this Foldable in order to have an annotated time line for reviewing major events of the Cold War. On each billboard section, a significant event of the Cold War era can be named—for example, the Berlin airlift, the founding of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the Korean War, and the Cuban missile crisis.

Inside each section, students can write a short bulleted list with a) the date of the event; b) a brief description of it; and c) its significance for U.S.-Soviet relations.

Materials Needed: poster board, four or five half-sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper, glue.