Focus Question: What were the military and political consequences of the Cold War in the Soviet Union, Europe, and the United States?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to summarize the consequences of the Cold War in the Soviet Union, Europe, and the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consequences of the Cold War</th>
<th>Soviet Union</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>United States</th>
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After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as superpowers. They each created military alliances made up of nations they protected or occupied. The United States helped form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which comprised Western European allies. The Soviet Union signed the Warsaw Pact with Eastern European countries. The line between the democratic West and communist East was called the Iron Curtain. Many revolts challenging Soviet domination were extinguished with military force.

The superpowers also engaged in a weapons race—both developed nuclear weapons. To reduce the threat of war, the two sides held several disarmament talks. One agreement was intended to limit the use of anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs). These weapons were designed to shoot down missiles launched by hostile nations. The ABMs were considered a threat because they could give one side more protection, which might encourage it to attack. Then during the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan proposed a missile defense program called “Star Wars.” Other agreements limited the number of nuclear weapons that nations could maintain, which eased Cold War tensions. This period was called the era of détente. It ended, however, when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

During the 1950s, Fidel Castro led a revolution in Cuba and became its leader. To bring down Castro’s communist regime, U.S. President John F. Kennedy supported an invasion of Cuba, but the attempt failed. One year later, the Soviets sent nuclear missiles to Cuba. Many feared a nuclear war. After the United States blockaded Cuba, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles.

The Soviets wanted to spread communist ideology around the globe. When Khrushchev came to power, he eased censorship and increased tolerance. However, repression returned under Leonid Brezhnev. American leaders followed a policy of containment. This was a strategy of keeping communism from spreading to other nations. In addition, a “red scare” in the United States resulted in Senator Joseph McCarthy leading an internal hunt for communists in the government and military. The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) also sought out communist sympathizers.

Review Questions
1. What did the two superpowers do to reduce the threat of war during the Cold War?

2. What ended the period of détente between the United States and the Soviet Union?
**Focus Question:** How did the United States, Western Europe, and Japan achieve economic prosperity and strengthen democracy during the Cold War years?

As you read this section in your textbook, use the chart below to categorize economic and political changes in the industrialized democracies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic and Political Changes in the Industrialized Democracies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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During the postwar period, U.S. businesses expanded into the global marketplace. Other nations needed goods and services to rebuild. This led to a period of economic success that changed life in the United States. During the 1950s and 1960s, recessions were brief and mild. As Americans prospered, they left the cities to live in the suburbs. This trend is called suburbanization. Also, job opportunities in the Sunbelt attracted many people to that region. By the 1970s, however, a political crisis in the Middle East made Americans aware of their dependence on imported oil. The price of oil and gas rose substantially, which meant that people had less money to buy other products. The decades of prosperity ended in 1974 with a serious recession.

During the period of prosperity, African Americans and other minorities faced segregation in housing and education. They suffered from discrimination in jobs and voting. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., emerged as the main civil rights leader in the 1960s. The U.S. Congress passed some civil rights legislation. Other minority groups were inspired by the movement’s successes. For example, the women’s rights movement helped to end much gender-based discrimination.

Western Europe rebuilt after World War II. The Marshall Plan helped restore European economies by providing U.S. aid. After the war, Germany was divided between the communist East and the democratic West, but reunited at the end of the Cold War in 1990. Under Konrad Adenauer, West Germany’s chancellor from 1949 to 1963, Germany built modern cities and re-established trade. European governments also developed programs that increased government responsibility for the needs of people. These welfare states required high taxes to pay for their programs. During the 1980s, some leaders, such as Britain’s Margaret Thatcher, reduced the role of the government in the economy. Western Europe also moved closer to economic unity with the European Community, an organization dedicated to establishing free trade among its members.

Japan also prospered after World War II. Its gross domestic product (GDP) soared. Like Germany, Japan built factories. The government protected industries by raising tariffs on imported goods. This helped create a trade surplus for Japan.

Review Questions
1. What caused a U.S. recession in 1974?

2. Explain how Germany rebuilt its economy after World War II.
Focus Question: What did the Communist victory mean for China and the rest of East Asia?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the flowchart below to help you summarize the effects of the Communist Revolution on China and the impact of the Cold War on China and Korea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact of Communism and the Cold War in East Asia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korea in the Cold War</td>
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<tr>
<td>China in the Cold War</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Communist Revolution</td>
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</tbody>
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After World War II, Mao Zedong led communist forces to victory over Jiang Jieshi’s Nationalists, who fled to Taiwan. Then Mao began to reshape China’s economy. First, he gave land to peasants, but then called for **collectivization**. Under this system, Mao moved people from their small villages and individual farms into communes of thousands of people on thousands of acres. Known as the **Great Leap Forward**, the program was intended to increase farm and industrial production. Instead, it produced low quality, useless goods and less food. Bad weather also affected crops, and many people starved.

To remove “bourgeois” tendencies from China, Mao began the **Cultural Revolution**. Skilled workers and managers were removed from factories and forced to work on farms or in labor camps. This resulted in a slowed economy and a threat of civil war.

At first, the United States supported the Nationalist government in Taiwan. The West was concerned that the Soviet Union and China would become allies, but border clashes led the Soviets to withdraw aid and advisors from China. U.S. leaders thought that by “playing the China card,” or improving relations with the Chinese, they would further isolate the Soviets. In 1979, the United States established diplomatic relations with China.

Korea was an independent nation until Japan invaded it in World War II. After the war, American and Soviet forces agreed to divide the Korean peninsula at the **38th parallel**. **Kim Il Sung**, a communist, ruled the North; and **Syngman Rhee**, allied with the United States, controlled the South. In 1950, North Korean troops attacked South Korea. The United Nations forces stopped them along a line known as the **Pusan Perimeter**, then began advancing north. Mao sent troops to help the North Koreans. UN forces were pushed back south of the 38th parallel.

In 1953, both sides signed an armistice to end the fighting, but troops remained on both sides of the **demilitarized zone (DMZ)**. Over time, South Korea enjoyed an economic boom and a rise in living standards, while communist North Korea’s economy declined. Kim Il Sung’s emphasis on self-reliance kept North Korea isolated and poor.

**Review Questions**

1. What was the effect of the Cultural Revolution?

2. How did the North Korean economy differ from the South Korean economy?

**READING CHECK**

What is the significance of the 38th parallel?

**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *commune* mean in the underlined sentence? The terms *group home*, *community*, and *collective farm* are all synonyms of *commune*. Use the synonyms to help you figure out the meaning of *commune*.

**READING SKILL**

**Summarize** Summarize the effects of the Great Leap Forward on the Chinese people.
Focus Question: What were the causes and effects of war in Southeast Asia, and what was the American role in this region?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the flowchart below to summarize the events in Southeast Asia after World War II.
Section Summary

WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

In the 1800s, the French ruled the area in Southeast Asia called French Indochina. During World War II, Japan invaded that region, but faced resistance from guerrillas. After the war, the French tried to reestablish authority in Vietnam. However, forces led by communist leader Ho Chi Minh fought the colonialists. The French left Vietnam in 1954, after a Vietnamese victory at Dienbienphu. After that, Ho controlled the northern part of Vietnam while the United States supported the noncommunist government in the south.

Ho wanted to unite Vietnam. He provided aid to the National Liberation Front, or Viet Cong, a communist guerrilla organization in the south. American leaders saw Vietnam as an extension of the Cold War and developed the domino theory. This was the belief that if communists won in South Vietnam, then communism could spread to other governments in Southeast Asia. After a North Vietnamese attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer, Congress authorized the president to take military measures to prevent further communist aggression in Southeast Asia.

Despite massive American support, the South Vietnamese failed to defeat the Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese allies. During the Tet Offensive, the North Vietnamese attacked cities all over the south. Even though the communists were not able to hold any cities, it marked a turning point in U.S. public opinion. Upset by civilian deaths from the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam as well as growing American casualties, many Americans began to oppose the war. President Nixon came under increasing pressure to terminate the conflict. The Paris Peace Accord of 1973 established a ceasefire and American troops began to withdraw. Two years later communist North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam.

Neighboring Cambodia and Laos also ended up with communist governments. In Cambodia, guerrillas called the Khmer Rouge came to power. Led by the brutal dictator Pol Pot, their policies led to a genocide that killed about one third of the population. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia, the genocide ended. Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge were forced to retreat. Communism did not spread any farther in Southeast Asia.

Review Questions

1. What was the domino theory?

2. Who were the Khmer Rouge and what role did they play in Cambodia?
Focus Question: What were the causes and effects of the end of the Cold War?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete this flowchart to help you categorize events connected to the end of the Cold War. Some events have been completed for you.
The Soviet Union emerged from World War II as a superpower, with control over many Eastern European countries. For many people, the country’s superpower status brought few rewards. Consumer goods were inferior and workers were poorly paid. Because workers had lifetime job security, there was little incentive to produce high-quality goods. Still, there were some important technological successes. One example was Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite. Keeping up with the United States in an arms race also strained the economy. Then in 1979, Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan and became involved in a long war. The Soviets had few successes battling the mujahedin, or Muslim religious warriors, creating a crisis in morale in the USSR.

Then, new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urged reforms. He called for glasnost. He ended censorship and encouraged people to discuss the country’s problems. Gorbachev also called for perestroika, or a restructuring of the government and economy. His policies, however, fed unrest across the Soviet empire.

Eastern Europeans demanded an end to Soviet rule. Previous attempts to defy the Soviets had failed. When Hungarians and Czechs challenged the communist rulers, military force subdued them. By the end of the 1980s, a powerful democracy movement was sweeping the region. In Poland, Lech Walesa led Solidarity, an independent, unlawful labor union demanding economic and political changes. When Gorbachev declared he would not interfere in Eastern European reforms, Solidarity was legalized. A year later, Walesa was elected president of Poland.

Meanwhile, East German leaders resisted reform, and thousands of East Germans fled to the West. In Czechoslovakia, Václav Havel, a dissident writer, was elected president. One by one, communist governments fell. Most changes happened peacefully, but Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu refused to step down and he was executed. The Baltic States regained independence. By the end of 1991, the remaining Soviet republics had all formed independent nations. The Soviet Union ceased to exist after 69 years of communist rule.

In 1992, Czechoslovakia was divided into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Additionally, some communist governments in Asia, such as China, instituted economic reforms.

Review Questions

1. What kinds of reforms did Gorbachev make?

2. What happened to the Soviet Union by the end of 1991?

Vocabulary Strategy

What does the word incentive mean in the underlined sentence? The words motivation and reason are synonyms of incentive. Use these synonyms to help you figure out the meaning of incentive.

Reading Skill

Categorize Which leaders mentioned in the summary supported reform and which leaders opposed reform?