CHAPTER 36

The Cold War Begins, 1945–1952

PART I: REVIEWING THE CHAPTER

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Explain the causes and consequences of the post–World War II economic boom.
2. Describe the large postwar migrations to the Sunbelt and the suburbs.
3. Explain changes in American society and culture brought about by the baby boom.
4. Explain the origin and causes of the emerging conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union after Germany’s defeat and Truman’s accession to the presidency.
5. Describe the early U.S.-Soviet Cold War conflicts over Germany and Eastern Europe, and explain why the United Nations proved largely ineffectual in addressing them.
6. Discuss the American theory and practice of containment, as reflected in the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and NATO.
7. Describe the concern about Soviet spying and communist subversion within the United States and the increasing climate of fear it engendered.
8. Describe the expansion of the Cold War to East Asia, including the Chinese communist revolution and the Korean War.

B. Glossary

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

1. gross national product  The total value of a nation’s annual output of goods and services. “Real gross national product (GNP) slumped sickeningly in 1946 and 1947. . . .”
2. agribusiness  Farming and related activities considered as commercial enterprises, especially large corporate agricultural ventures. “. . . consolidation produced giant agribusinesses able to employ costly machinery.”
3. population curve  The varying size and age structure of a given nation or other group, measured over time. “This boom-or-bust cycle of births begot a bulging wave along the American population curve.”
4. precinct  The smallest subdivision of a city, as it is organized for purposes of police administration, politics, voting, and so on. “He then tried his hand at precinct-level Missouri politics. . . .”
5. protégé  Someone under the patronage, protection, or tutelage of another person or group. “Though a protégé of a notorious political machine in Kansas City, he had managed to keep his own hands clean.”
6. superpower One of the two overwhelmingly dominant international powers after World War II—the United States and the Soviet Union. “More specific understandings among the wartime allies—especially the two emerging superpowers—awaited the arrival of peace.”

7. exchange rates The ratios at which the currencies of two or more countries are traded, which express their values relative to one another. “. . . the International Monetary Fund (IMF) [was established] to encourage world trade by regulating currency exchange rates.”

8. underdeveloped Economically and industrially deficient. “They also founded the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development . . . to promote economic growth in war-ravaged and underdeveloped areas.”

9. military occupation The holding and control of a territory and its citizenry by the conquering forces of another nation. “. . . Germany had been divided at war’s end into four military occupation zones. . . .”

10. containment In international affairs, the blocking of another nation’s expansion through the application of military and political pressure short of war. “Truman’s piecemeal responses . . . took on intellectual coherence in 1947, with the formulation of the ‘containment doctrine.’”

11. communist-fronter One who belongs to an ostensibly independent political, economic, or social organization that is secretly controlled by the Communist party. “. . . he was nominated . . . by . . . a bizarre collection of disgruntled former New Dealers . . . and communist-fronters.”

12. Politburo The small ruling executive body that controlled the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party, and hence dictated the political policies of the Soviet, Chinese, and other Communist parties (from “Political Bureau”). “This so-called Pied Piper of the Politburo took an apparently pro-Soviet line. . . .”

13. perimeter The outer boundary of a defined territory. “. . . Korea was outside the essential United States defense perimeter in the Pacific.”

PART II: CHECKING YOUR PROGRESS

A. True-False

Where the statement is true, circle T; where it is false, circle F.

1. T F The American consumer economy began to grow dramatically as soon as World War II ended, during the years 1945 to 1950.

2. T F The postwar economic boom was especially fueled by military spending and cheap energy.

3. T F The enormous American population migrations of the immediate postwar era strengthened the traditional family and inter-generational forms of child-rearing.

4. T F The economic and population growth of the Sunbelt occurred because the South relied less than the North did on federal government spending for its economic well-being.

5. T F In the decades after World War II most big American cities became heavily populated by minorities, while the new suburbs were almost entirely white.

6. T F Government housing policies played a role in creating a high degree of residential segregation in the cities and new suburbs.

7. T F The inexperienced new president Harry S Truman relied heavily on his advisors and often dodged responsibility for difficult decisions.
8. T F The new United Nations proved more effective than the old League of Nations because its effective power was concentrated in the Security Council, made up of the great powers.

9. T F The Soviet Union wanted to build a strong, neutral German state after World War II, while the Western Allies feared a Nazi revival and sought a weak or divided Germany.

10. T F The Truman Doctrine was initiated in response to threatened Soviet gains in Iran and Afghanistan.

11. T F The Marshall Plan was developed primarily as a response to the possible Soviet military invasion of Western Europe.

12. T F The fundamental purpose of NATO was to end the historical feuds among the European nations of Britain, France, Italy, and Germany.

13. T F The postwar hunt for communist subversion was supposedly aimed at rooting out American communists from positions in government and teaching.

14. T F Truman defeated Dewey in 1948 partly because of the deep splits within the Republican party that year.

15. T F Truman fired General MacArthur because MacArthur wanted to expand the Korean War and publicly criticized the president for refusing to use nuclear weapons against China.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and circle the corresponding letter.

1. Besides giving educational benefits to returning veterans, the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (the GI Bill of Rights) was partly intended to
   a. prevent returning soldiers from flooding the job market.
   b. provide American colleges with a new source of income.
   c. keep the GIs’ military skills in high readiness for the Cold War.
   d. help to slow down the inflationary economy that developed at the end of World War II.
   e. make sure that veterans’ benefits were spent on education rather than on scarce housing.

2. Perhaps the greatest beneficiaries of the post–World War II economic boom were
   a. the industrial inner cities.
   b. farm laborers.
   c. labor unions.
   d. women.
   e. Mexican Americans.

3. Among the primary causes of the long postwar economic expansion were
   a. foreign investment and international trade.
   b. military spending and cheap energy.
   c. labor’s wage restraint and the growing number of small businesses.
   d. government economic planning and investment.
   e. low bank interest rates and foreign investment.
4. The two regions that gained most in population and new industry in the postwar economic expansion were the
   b. Northeast and South.
   c. Midwest and West.
   d. Southeast and Appalachia.
   e. South and West.

5. The federal government played a large role in the growth of the Sunbelt through
   a. federal subsidies to southern and western agriculture.
   b. its policies supporting civil rights and equal opportunity for minorities.
   c. its lower-costs housing loans to veterans who would settle in that region.
   d. its financial support of the aerospace and defense industries.
   e. its promotion of high energy costs that drove people away from the cold-weather North.

6. Among the federal policies that contributed to the huge postwar migration from the inner cities to the suburbs were
   a. civil rights laws guaranteeing integrated housing in the suburbs.
   b. public housing and Social Security.
   c. military and public-works spending.
   d. direct subsidies to homebuilders for planned suburban communities.
   e. housing-mortgage tax deductions and federally built highways.

7. The postwar baby-boom population expansion contributed to the
   a. sharp rise in elementary school enrollments in the 1970s.
   b. strains on the Social Security system in the 1950s.
   c. popular youth culture of the 1960s.
   d. expanding job opportunities of the 1980s.
   e. more rapid growth of multi-unit rental housing compared with home ownership.

8. Among President Harry Truman’s most valuable qualities as a leader was his
   a. considerable experience in international affairs.
   b. personal courage, authenticity, and sense of responsibility for big decisions.
   c. intolerance of pettiness or corruption among his subordinates.
   d. patience and willingness to compromise with honest critics.
   e. willingness to hand over responsibility for big decisions to his cabinet members.

9. Which of the following was not among the causes of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union?
   a. The Americans and Soviets had both been relatively isolated from world affairs before World War II.
   b. The U.S. call for an open world clashed with the Soviets’ insistence on controlling a sphere of interest in Eastern Europe.
   c. The Soviets supported an end to European colonialism in the Third World, while the Americans helped their Allies put down colonial rebellions.
   d. The Americans and Soviets both had a missionary ideology that tried to spread their ideas to other nations.
   e. The Soviets were resentful of America’s slowness in opening a second front and abrupt cancellation of lend-lease.
10. Which of the following was not among the successful achievements of the new United Nations?
   a. Preserving peace in Iran, Kashmir, and other world places of crisis
   b. Guiding former European colonies to independence
   c. Creating the new Jewish state of Israel
   d. Controlling atomic energy and containing the spread of nuclear weapons
   e. Promoting international health, science, and education

11. A crucial early development of the Cold War occurred when
   a. Germany was divided into an East Germany under Soviet control and a pro-American West Germany.
   b. American and Soviet forces nearly engaged in armed clashes in Austria.
   c. the Soviets crushed anticommmunist rebellions in Poland and Hungary.
   d. the pro-Soviet French and Italian Communist parties attempted revolutions against their own governments.
   e. the Soviet Union announced that it would seek to develop atomic bombs and nuclear missiles.

12. The NATO alliance represented an historic departure from traditional American foreign policy because it
   a. departed from the principles of the Monroe Doctrine.
   b. committed the United States to guaranteeing the permanent subordination of Germany.
   c. gave command of American soldiers to officers from other countries.
   d. meant establishing military bases outside the territory of the continental United States.
   e. committed the United States to a permanent military alliance with other nations.

13. The Truman Doctrine originally developed because of the dangerous communist threat to
   a. Turkey and Greece.
   b. France and West Germany.
   c. Iran and Afghanistan.
   d. Poland and Hungary.
   e. Korea and Japan.

14. Senator Joseph McCarthy’s anticommmunist crusade was first directed primarily against
   a. Soviet spies inside the United States.
   b. potential internal Communist party takeovers of France and Italy.
   c. the Chinese communists.
   d. the alleged employment of American communists by the United States government.
   e. local school boards that employed atheist and homosexual teachers.

15. President Harry Truman fired General Douglas MacArthur from his command of American forces in East Asia because
   a. MacArthur had bungled the invasion of Inchon.
   b. MacArthur refused to accept the idea of American forces being under United Nations control.
   c. MacArthur wanted to widen the Korean War by bombing Communist China and publicly criticized the president.
   d. MacArthur was effectively seizing power as the military dictator of South Korea.
   e. Truman learned that MacArthur was planning to run against him for the presidency in 1952.

C. Identification
Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

1. ___________ Popular name for the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act that provided education and economic assistance to former soldiers
2. ________ Shorthand name for the southern and western regions of the United States that experienced the highest rates of growth after World War II

3. ________ New York suburb where postwar builders pioneered the techniques of mass home construction

4. ________ Term for the dramatic rise in U.S. births that began immediately after World War II

5. ________ Big Three wartime conference that later became the focus of charges that Roosevelt had sold out Eastern Europe to the Soviet communists

6. ________ The extended post–World War II confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union that stopped just short of a shooting war

7. ________ Meeting of Western Allies during World War II that established the economic structures to promote recovery and enhance FDR’s vision of an open world

8. ________ New international organization that experienced some early successes in diplomatic and cultural areas but failed in areas like atomic arms control

9. ________ Allied-organized judicial tribunal that convicted and executed top Nazi leaders for war crimes

10. ________ American-sponsored effort that provided substantial funds for the economic relief and recovery of Western Europe

11. ________ The new anti-Soviet organization of Western nations that ended the long-time American tradition of not joining permanent military alliances

12. ________ Jiang Jieshi’s (Chiang Kai-shek’s) pro-American forces, which lost the Chinese civil war to Mao Zedong’s (Mao Tse-tung’s) communists in 1949

13. ________ Key U.S. government memorandum that militarized American foreign policy and indicated national faith in the economy’s capacity to sustain large military expenditures

14. ________ U.S. House of Representatives committee that took the lead in investigating alleged procommunist agents such as Alger Hiss

15. ________ The dividing line between North and South Korea, across which the fighting between communists and United Nations forces ebbed and flowed during the Korean War

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

1. ___ Benjamin Spock
2. ___ Hermann Goering
3. ___ Joseph Stalin
4. ___ Julius and Ethel Rosenberg
5. ___ Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)
6. ___ George F. Kennan

a. Top Nazi official who committed suicide after being convicted in war-crimes trials

b. Physician who provided advice on child rearing to baby-boomers’ parents after World War II

c. Young California congressman whose investigation of Alger Hiss spurred fears of communist influence in
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td></td>
<td>J. Robert Oppenheimer e. Originator of a massive program for the economic relief and recovery of devastated Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reinhold Niebuhr f. American military commander in Korea fired by President Harry Truman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Nixon g. Former vice president of the United States whose 1948 campaign as a pro-Soviet liberal split the Democratic Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph McCarthy h. Leading American theologian who advocated Christian realism and the use of force if necessary to maintain justice against Nazi or Stalinist evil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Henry A. Wallace i. Wisconsin senator whose charges of communist infiltration of the U.S. government deepened the anti-red atmosphere of the early 1950s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Strom Thurmond j. Former scientific director of the Manhattan Project who joined Albert Einstein in opposing development of the hydrogen bomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Douglas MacArthur k. The tough leader whose violation of agreements in Eastern Europe and Germany helped launch the Cold War</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

l. Leader of the Chinese Communists whose revolutionary army seized power in China in 1949

m. Americans convicted and executed for spying and passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union

n. Southern segregationist who led Dixiecrat presidential campaign against Truman in 1948

o. Brilliant U.S. specialist on the Soviet Union and originator of the theory that U.S. policy should be to contain the Soviet Union
E. Putting Things in Order
Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

1. ________  The threatened communist takeover of Greece prompts a presidential request for aid and a worldwide effort to stop communism.
2. ________  The collapse of Jiang Jieshi’s (Chiang Kai-shek’s) corrupt government means victory for Mao Zedong’s (Mao Tse-tung’s) communists and a setback for U.S. policy in Asia.
3. ________  A new president takes charge of American foreign policy amid growing tension between America and its ally, the Soviet Union.
4. ________  A “give-'em-hell” campaign by an underdog candidate overcomes a three-way split in his own party and defeats his overconfident opponent.
5. ________  Communists go on the offensive in a divided Asian nation, drawing the United States into a brutal and indecisive war.

F. Matching Cause and Effect
Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ___</td>
<td>Cheap energy, military spending, and rising productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. ___</td>
<td>The mechanization and consolidation of agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. ___</td>
<td>Job opportunities, warm climates, and improved race relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. ___</td>
<td>White flight to the suburbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ___</td>
<td>The post–World War II baby boom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. ___</td>
<td>The American airlift to West Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. ___</td>
<td>The British withdrawal from communist-threatened Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. ___</td>
<td>The threat of Soviet invasion or U.S. isolationist withdrawal from Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. ___</td>
<td>General MacArthur’s reform-oriented rule of occupied Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. ___</td>
<td>Mao Zedong’s (Mao Tse-tung’s) defeat of Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Caused an era of unprecedented growth in American prosperity from 1950 to 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Drew millions of white and black Americans to the Sunbelt after World War II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Led to the proclamation of the Truman Doctrine and hundreds of millions of dollars in aid for anticommmunist governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>Led to the organization of the permanent NATO alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>Caused the rise of big commercial agribusiness and spelled the near-disappearance of the traditional family farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>Aroused Republican charges that Democrats Truman and Acheson had lost China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g.</td>
<td>Broke a Soviet ground blockade and established American determination to resist further Soviet advance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
h. Left America’s cities heavily populated by racial minorities
i. Led to the firm establishment of Japanese democracy and the beginnings of a great Japanese economic advance
j. Caused much school building in the 1950s, a youth culture in the 1960s, and a growing concern about aging in the 1980s

G. Developing Historical Skills

Reading a Bar Graph
Read the bar graph of National Defense Budget on p. 914 and answer the following questions.

1. In what census year, after World War II, did the defense budget first decline as a percentage of the federal budget and a percentage of GNP?

2. In what census year, after 1960, was the defense budget the same fraction of GNP as it was in 1950?

3. Which decade, after World War II, saw the largest increase in actual dollar outlays for defense?

4. By approximately what percentage of the federal budget did the defense budget increase from 1950 to 1960? By roughly what percentage did it decrease from 1970 to 1980? By what percentage did it increase from 1980 to 1990? By about what percentage did it decrease from 1990 to 1999?

H. Map Mastery

Map Discrimination
Using the maps and charts in Chapter 36, answer the following questions.

1. Postwar Partition of Germany: Which of the Big Four had the smallest occupation zone in postwar Germany?
2. *Postwar Partition of Germany:* Which of the three Western occupation zones was closest to Berlin?

3. *Postwar Partition of Germany:* Which two other nations did the American occupation zone border on?

4. *The Shifting Front in Korea:* When General MacArthur attacked at Inchon, did he land above or below the thirty-eighth parallel?

5. *The Shifting Front in Korea:* Besides China, what other nation bordering North Korea presented a potential threat to American forces?

6. *The Shifting Front in Korea:* After the armistice—signed on July 27, 1953—which of the two Koreas had made very slight territorial gains in the Korean War?

**Map Challenge**


**PART III: APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED**

1. Why did the American economy soar from 1950 to 1970? How did this new, widely distributed affluence alter the American way of life?

2. Describe how the population movements from the Northeast to the Sunbelt, and from inner cities to the suburbs, altered major features of American society as well as its center of gravity. Which of these two migrations do you regard as the more significant, and why?

3. What were the immediate conflicts and deeper causes that led the United States and the Soviet Union to go from being allies to bitter Cold War rivals?

4. Explain the steps that led to the long-term involvement of the United States in major overseas military commitments and expenditures, including NATO and the Korean War. How did expanding military power and the Cold War affect American society and its ideas?

5. Discuss President Harry Truman’s role as a leader in both international and domestic affairs from 1945 to 1952. Does Truman deserve to be considered a great president? Why or why not?

6. Why did World War II—unlike World War I—lead to a permanent end to American isolationism (see Chapter 30)?
7. Was the spread of nuclear weapons from the United States to the Soviet Union, and then to other nations, simply inevitable once the technology was known? How, if at all, could nuclear proliferation have been prevented?

8. Why did America’s growing international struggle against the Soviet Union so quickly lead to a fear of communist subversion within the United States. Would it have been possible to have rationally tried to stop Soviet spying without creating an indiscriminate witch hunt? To what extent was the anticomunist crusade really concerned about American national security, and to what extent was it simply persecuting people perceived as different?

9. Compared to the total victory and unconditional surrender of World War II, the Korean War led to a frustrating stalemate and armed hostile peace. What made Korea a different sort of war? Why was MacArthur’s claim that “there is no substitute for victory” problematic in the case of Korea?

10. Was the early Cold War primarily an ideological crusade of democracy against international communism and its totalitarian ideas, or was it essentially an American defense of its national security and economic interests against the direct threat of the Soviet Union? Support your answer by considering some of the key events of the early Cold War, including the Korean War.