ROOTS OF THE COLD WAR

★ Ideological Differences. The Soviet Union was Communist; the U.S. was a democracy based on the free enterprise system.
★ Soviet Occupation of Eastern Europe. The Soviet army occupied Eastern Europe at the end of World War II and set up local Communist governments.
★ Iron Curtain. The Soviets cut-off Eastern Europe from Western Europe.
  • Division of Germany into West and East.
  • Berlin Airlift. Soviets blockaded Berlin; U.S. sent in supplies; Soviets end blockade.

KOREAN WAR (1950–1953)

★ Cause. Communist North Korea invaded South Korea to reunify the country.
★ Highlights. U.S. enters war under U.N. resolution to defend South Korea.
  • MacArthur’s landing at Incheon in North Korea turned tide; fearing invasion, China entered the war.
  • War ended in a stalemate, as borders remained the same as before the war.
★ Truman-MacArthur Controversy. Truman dismissed General MacArthur for wanting to use atomic weapons against Communist China and for openly criticizing the President.

ATTEMPTS AT CONTAINMENT IN THE COLD WAR

★ Truman Doctrine, 1947: Sought to help Greece and Turkey; doctrine promised U.S. assistance to all free peoples resisting Communism.
★ Creation of NATO: Alliance of U.S., Canada, and Western Europe. Members pledged a common defense against aggression.
★ Warsaw Pact. Pact of Soviet satellites created to counter the threat of NATO.

ARMS AND SPACE RACE

★ Massive Retaliation. U.S. tries to rely mainly on nuclear weapons for defense.
  • Deterrent. Destructiveness of nuclear arms to act as deterrent to attack.
★ Sputnik (1957). Soviet launch of Sputnik sets off a “space race.”

COLD WAR AND AMERICAN SECURITY

★ House Un-American Activities Commission.
★ Julius and Ethel Rosenberg Trials.
★ Venona Papers. Confirmed the existence of some spies in American government.
★ McCarthy Hearings: “McCarthyism.”

TRUMAN AND EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATIONS (1945–1960)

★ Truman Presidency. Executive Order to desegregate armed forces and end unfair hiring practices for federal jobs (1948).
★ Domestic Policy Developments.
  • Housing boom. G.I. Bill provided loans to help returning veterans buy new homes and attend college.
  • Period of economic prosperity.
  • Move to suburbs by many Americans.
★ Foreign Policy Developments.
  • Eisenhower Doctrine. Extended U.S. containment policy to the Middle East.