Ap euro identifications

Chapter 21: the cold war era, decolonization, and the emergence of a new Europe

Section I. *Identify* and state the *Historical Significance* of the following:

1. Nikita Khruschev (Secret Speech)
2. Leonid Brezhnev (Brezhnev Doctrine)
3. Ronald Reagan
4. Mohandas Gandhi
5. Mikhael Gorbachev
6. Boris Yeltsin
7. Vladimir Putin

Section II. *Define* and state the *General Significance* of the following:

1. Containment
2. Jihad

Section III: *Describe* and state the *Historical Significance* of the following:

1. Cold War
2. NATO
3. Warsaw Pact
4. Truman Doctrine
5. Warsaw Pact
6. Cominform
7. Marshall Plan
8. Division of Germany
9. British Balfour Declaration
10. Israel
11. The Korean War
12. The Three Crises of 1956
13. Berlin Wall
14. Cuban Missile Crisis
15. Dêtente
16. Invasion of Afghanistan
17. Decolonization:
    1. India
    2. Algeria
    3. Vietnam
18. Vietnam War
19. Perestroika
20. Glasnost
21. 1989 Revolutions
22. Collapse of the USSR
23. Collapse of Yugoslavia
24. Radical Islamism and 9/11
25. Arab Nationalism
26. Iranian Revolution
27. The Taliban
28. Al-Qaeda

**CHAPTER 21 – THE COLD WAR ERA, DECOLONIZATION,**

**AND THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW EUROPE**

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter discusses the internal political developments in Western Europe, as well as the radical changes of the Gorbachev era, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the political transformation of Eastern Europe. It also surveys the decades since the end of World War II, years that witnessed extraordinary changes both in Europe and the world it once dominated. By 1950, the continent seemed permanently divided into two spheres, each dominated by a peripheral power: the west by the United States and the east by the Soviet Union. European countries that had held colonial empires since the Renaissance lost their overseas possessions, apparently for good. But the period has also witnessed new European initiatives. Nations began to cooperate economically and politically with one another to an unprecedented degree, which helped bring Europe the most extensive material prosperity in its history. Moreover, although the relative power of Europe has clearly declined since 1939, its influence overseas has continued.

World War II left a power vacuum in Europe. Previously, Britain, France, and Germany had not only been Europe’s leaders, but world powers. Their weakness after 1945 left them subordinate to the United States and Soviet Union. The continent became an arena for the rivalries of the two superpowers. The two sides played out their hostilities in all measures short of actual fighting—hence the term Cold War. It became clear that the United Nations would not solve the world’s problems. In the Truman Doctrine of 1947, the United States promised to support any nation resisting Communist subversion. Its Marshall Plan pumped new life into the war-shattered economies of western Europe. The Soviet Union responded with a new revolutionary organization called Cominform, and replaced multi-party regimes in eastern Europe with thoroughly Communist ones. The United States, in turn, decided to set up an anti-Soviet state in the western zones of Germany. Despite Soviet pressure on Berlin in 1948 and 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany was created in the latter year. With the establishment of NATO in the west in 1949 and COMECON and then the Warsaw Pact in the east, the division of Europe into two was complete. The first round of the Cold War, however, saw the United States confronting armed aggression in Asia as a part of a United Nations police action from 1950–1953, better known as the Korean War.

In the Soviet Union, Stalin’s imprint of secret police and centralized bureaucracy continued to dominate domestic policy under Khrushchev and Brezhnev long after the death of the dictator. The year 1956 increased Cold War tensions, while revealing Europe’s weakness. Neither Western Europe, as the Franco-British Suez invasion showed, nor Eastern Europe, as the abortive Polish and Hungarian revolts showed, could break from dependence on the superpowers. In Europe and the world, the Cold War continued unabated until the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. American-Soviet rivalry then centered around such events as the Vietnam War (1961–1975), the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the invasion of Czechoslovakia (1968) and Afghanistan (1979) by the Soviet Union.

The chapter next details the European retreat from empire and surveys in particular French and American involvement in Vietnam. Internally, most of Western Europe’s nations have been liberal democracies. In addition to political freedom, they placed a new emphasis on economic prosperity, social security, and the Welfare State. Interestingly, the vehicles of reform have not been democratic socialist parties, in the main, but the various Christian Democrats. Although early post-World War II attempts at achieving political or military unity did not prove very successful, moves toward unification have been related primarily to economic integration. The Marshall Plan of the United States created the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC). Other cooperative organizations included the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community (EEC), or the Common Market as it came to be called. It sought the eventual elimination of tariffs, free flow of capital and labor, and similar wage and social benefits in participating countries. The year 1992 was the target date for achieving a virtual free-trade zone throughout the Community. The plan stalled, but it was eventually implemented by the turn of the century, as several European nations adopted the Euro as the common currency of exchange and linked their economies.

Developments in the post-war history of the Soviet Union are also detailed. In addition to tensions with the United States, the Soviets had to contend with tensions in Eastern Europe and world Communism since 1945. In their relations with the Soviet Union, the countries of Eastern Europe passed first through a period of Stalinist control, then one of insurrection, and finally peaceful revolution as Gorbachev’s liberalized policies took hold. Soviet domination of the internal affairs of their own republics was tested (especially in Azerbaijan and Lithuania) and ultimately failed. The section ends with a detailed narration and analysis of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the fall of Gorbachev, and the political and economic dilemmas of the Yeltsin presidency during the 1990s.

There is a section detailing the collapse of Yugoslavia and the civil war among Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Bosnians, and Albanians. After Tito’s death in 1980, old ethnic differences came to the fore in Yugoslav politics—with nationalist leaders like Slobodan Milosevic willing to escalate violence in order to expand his hold on political power. Pursuing a policy of “ethnic cleansing,” the Serbs forced NATO into a bombing campaign that resulted in a Serbian withdrawal from Sarajevo. The Dayton Accords in 1995 recognized an independent Bosnia, but by 1999, Serb forces were again on the move and began an aggressive campaign against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. A NATO air campaign in 1999 forced a withdrawal of Serb forces. Milosevic was arrested in 2000 and was charged with “crimes against humanity” by the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. The region remains politically unstable.

The chapter then turns to Russia under the leadership of Vladimir Putin. It details his renewal of the war in Chechnya and his drive to concentrate power in Russia’s central government. Putin both as president and now prime minister has been determined to use the nation’s economic recovery and new wealth to allow Russia to reassert its position as a major power on both the regional and world scene. It is noted, however, that the worldwide financial crisis that began in late 2008 threatens to undermine Russia’s economic stability, and with it the political and military plans of its leaders.

Finally, the chapter closes with a detailed analysis of the rise of radical political Islam. Attention is paid to the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which transformed the Middle East, challenging the Westernization of Iranian society. In addition, Afghanistan is highlighted as a major center of radical Islamism. The Taliban and Al Qaeda are identified as the groups emerging in opposition particularly to the United States. American foreign policy transformed into a “war on terrorism,” a war that is still being waged.

OUTLINE

I. The Emergence of the Cold War

A. Containment in American Foreign Policy

B. Soviet Domination of Eastern Europe

C. The Postwar Division of Germany

D. NATO and the Warsaw Pact

E. The Creation of the State of Israel

F. The Korean War

II. The Khrushchev Era in the Soviet Union

A. Khrushchev’s Domestic Policies

B. The Three Crises of 1956

III. Later Cold War Confrontations

A. The Berlin Wall

B. The Cuban Missile Crisis

IV. The Brezhnev Era

A. 1968: The Invasion of Czechoslovakia

B. The United States and Detente

C. The Invasion of Afghanistan

D. Communism and Solidarity in Poland

E. Relations with the Reagan Administration

V. Decolonization: The European Retreat from Empire

A. Major Areas of Colonial Withdrawal

B. India

C. Further British Retreat from Empire

VI. The Turmoil of French Decolonization

A. France and Algeria

B. France and Vietnam

C. Vietnam Drawn into the Cold War

D. Direct United States Involvement

VII. The Collapse of European Communism

A. Gorbachev Attempts to Reform the Soviet Union

B. 1989: Revolution in Eastern Europe

C. The Collapse of the Soviet Union

D. The Yeltsin Decade

VIII. The Collapse of Yugoslavia and Civil War

IX. Putin and the Resurgence of Russia

X. The Rise of Radical Political Islamism

A. Arab Nationalism

B. The Iranian Revolution

C. Afghanistan and Radical Islamism

XI. A Transformed West

XII. In Perspective

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. What were the origins of the Cold War?
2. How did the Berlin Wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis strain relations between the United States and the Soviet Union?
3. What impact did Brezhnev have on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe?
4. How did World War II serve as a catalyst for decolonization?
5. Why was France so reluctant to decolonize?
6. Why did European communism collapse?
7. How did ethnic tensions lead to civil war in Yugoslavia?
8. What vision does Putin have of Russia’s place in the world?
9. What forces gave rise to radical political Islamism?
10. How did the events of September 11, 2001, transform the West?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did the United States and the Soviet Union come to dominate Europe after 1945? How would you define the policy of *containment*? In what areas of the world did the United States specifically try to contain Soviet power from 1945 to 1982? Why were 1956 and 1962 crucial years in the Cold War?
2. How did Khrushchev’s policies and reforms change the Soviet state after the repression of Stalin? Why did many people consider Khrushchev reckless?
3. Why did the nations of Europe give up their empires? How did World War II affect the movement toward decolonization? How did Gandhi lead India toward independence? How did French decolonization policies differ from Britain’s? How did the United States become involved in Vietnam?
4. What internal political pressures did the Soviet Union experience in the 1970s and early 1980s? What steps did the Soviet government take to relieve these pressures? What role did Gorbachev’s attempted reforms play in the collapse of the Soviet Union? What were the major events in Eastern Europe—particularly Poland—that contributed to the collapse of communism? What are the major domestic challenges to the new Confederation of Independent States?
5. Was the former Yugoslavia a national state? Why did it break apart and slide into civil war? How did the West respond to this crisis?
6. What were the major difficulties that the Russian Federation faced in the 1990s and beyond? How did the policies of Yeltsin and Putin address them? How has Putin attempted to preside over a resurgence of Russian great power influence? How do his goals in part reflect concern over the example of the political disintegration of Yugoslavia?
7. How did the American response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, divide the NATO alliance? Why do some European nations feel able to dissent from the U.S. position in the Middle East when they rarely did so during the Cold War?
8. What were the major causes for the rise of radical political Islamism? In what ways is the present U.S. intervention in the Middle East a result of decolonization and in what ways are other factors at work?