

Name: Nano Jikhaia

Class: HIS 1103

Prof. S Boyle

Date: 12/16/2021

### **Final Exam**

From the age of the Empire to the Cold War, European and American countries had significant dominance globally, politically, economically, and culturally. They had control of power and authority over other nations. Countries in Latin America such as El Salvador, Argentina, Guatemala, Chile, Uruguay, and Brazil, and countries in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa have been subjected to European domination during the age of empire and world wars. However, the fights and conflicts were not just about gaining power; it was also an ideological and political war that affected individual experiences, politics, and political ideologies. Whether countries were directly engaged in the war, were allied, or had less to do with it had their interests and goals. From the age of the Empire, the world went through different horrible wars that left positive as well as negative changes.

The global war, also known as World War I, was a European war between western empires such as Great Britain, France, and Germany. Those empires were fighting for victory and political power. Their main interest was hegemony over the world. Great Britain was the most powerful Empire and the most politically and socially stable, which later turned out as the main power to survive the war. Moreover, its economic and diplomatic powers were essential to the allied victory. Politically, Great Britain arose from the war as a victorious empire and more powerful than it was before. Alongside Italy, the United States, and France, Great Britain was

one of the big four war winners (Great Britain, 2021). Germany survived a lot and made the world remember it as the name of the greatest empire.

The French Empire during the Global War was not the only country that went through the consequences of war and its horrible results. But, in contrast, it was distinctive since it was both one of the most important battlegrounds of the war and partly occupied by the opponent powers (Beaupré). France reached the most significant political power, especially in 1914.

The Cold War, which started shortly after World War II, was not just an ideological war between totalitarian regimes and liberal democracy. Still, it was an existential struggle filled with both superpowers' desire to increase their power of influence worldwide, which resulted in the collapse of the Soviet Union system. The United States and the Soviet Union started as allies while fighting against Nazi Germany, but they became adversaries as soon as World War II ended. Both of the countries had allied power which strengthened their backs. While the Soviet Union made its power stronger in Eastern Europe meanwhile, on the other hand, the United States tried to prevent spreading the ideology of communism in Western European countries such as Italy, Belgium, France, Portugal, Great Britain, and Greece (The Cold War, 2021). The ideological conflict of the Cold War was over communism that was coming from the titanic and relentless Soviet Union.

In addition to ideological and regional conflicts, another feature of the Cold War was the so-called enhanced armaments. The opposing sides tried their best to strengthen their military potential and political stability. Each opponent attempted to gain an advantage in this area. In 1900, the United States appeared to be a strong nation. During the second industrial revolution, America started to develop an overseas empire and global influence (ushistory.org). After the

Second World War, the United States found itself in an unprecedented opportunity and it benefited from the war economy.

The ideological conflict was a subject of ruling power that played out between the United States and The Soviet Union during the Cold War. The significant problem was that the Soviet Union communist ideology held that all countries must eventually fall to communism and there was no place for democracy and capitalism. As a result, they repeatedly backed rebellions in various countries to establish communist governance. These rebellions were invariably bloody and resulted in vast numbers of deaths, many innocent people were killed during the wartime period. The primary ideological tool of the United States was democracy and the choice of freedom, which responded to the spirit of nations liberated from fascism. One of the characteristics that made The Cold War distinctive from other wars was its lasting results on both nations. In terms of a great loss, the war not only affected the dominant countries but also claimed the lives of millions of people in many parts of the world, such as Korea, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East (Howard, 2011). The war intentionally or unintentionally got involved in countries worldwide, which once again emphasized the idea of war being global.

The Cold War was worldwide. The separating line between Eastern and Western Europe stayed nearly frozen for several decades. Nevertheless, war scattered throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Moreover, the struggle to destabilize colonial regimes was frequently intertwined with Cold War pressures, and superpowers competed to influence anti-colonial movements (The Cold War, 2021). As a result, the war went on a global scale, and not only the European but other nations got drawn into the war conflict. The Soviet Union had the opportunity to give Western European countries their freedom and withdraw to their borders,

which would turn the history of the Cold War in a completely different way. However, the different actions caused its destruction and subsided. In the end, the Soviet Union could not manage to defend its military power, which later became one of the main reasons for its collapse.

The global conflict has made different changes in different nations. Some benefited from it and some did not. War was accompanied by positive and negative effects and had major consequences for several countries.

The United States as a winner of the war greatly benefited from the war and its results. The country has significant technological advantages. America had considerable success in the technology field. American scientists further investigated nuclear technology, and there was a significant advancement in computer development and other major technological inventions (Howard). The economy was in good shape and a proper standing. The United States managed to strengthen its ideology over the world and used the war for its well-being.

While the United States benefited from the results of the Cold War, Latin American countries were left at a significant loss and after the war disaster. Even after the war came to an end, Cuba, an island in the Caribbean, was in total diplomatic and economic isolation and was left without any major support. Latin America completely disappeared from a geopolitical map, and the ideology of communism became a huge deal (Wells). While the war seemed to start between two nations, it drastically affected the world, whether positively or negatively.

The Cold War ended up with a collapse of communism ideology. The Soviet Union countries did not benefit from the war either. The collapse of the Soviet Union began in Poland. Polish voters chose a noncommunist government for their legislature regardless of Soviet military involvement in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland (The End of the Cold War, 2008). The collapse of the Soviet Union transformed and made a reformation of a whole world in economic,

political, and military sectors. Soviet Unions' enthusiasm for continuous battle with the West didn't play out well. The Union became unable to hold the unit together and keep the power of unity.

With other European countries, Germany got under the influence of global war as well. Germany was divided into two parts, East where the Soviet Union completely spread the ideology of communism, and West Germany, which was ruled by the power of capitalism and democracy. In terms of politics, west Germany got affected the most. The fall of the Berlin wall was one of the significant war results that left severe scars on the history of humanity. Psychologically, the Cold War ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall. The psyche of politicians and ordinary people has changed. Everyone seemed to have chosen their own path to a united Europe. Germany was divided into occupation zones. The Americans controlled the democratic western part, and the East was taken over by the Soviet Union (2008).

From the age of the dominant and powerful Empires to the global Cold War, European and American countries had significant dominance, whether it was political, economic, ideological, or cultural. Strong powers wanted hegemony and authority over the world. War was never the opposite worldwide. The war went on a global scale, and it caused major changes to the world. It didn't only cause harm to Europe but also brought significant negative and positive effects on Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. The conflicts were ideological and political wars that affected individual experiences, politics, and political ideologies.

The war changed the way of how humanity perceived the worth of democracy. The world learned how to go in the right direction and learned from its mistakes. The ideas of economic power, technological and military developments, and ideological powers were among those reasons that transformed the whole world.

## References

“The Cold War.” *The Cold War* | *JFK Library*,

<https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/the-cold-war>.

“Great Britain.” *New Articles RSS*,

[https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/great\\_britain](https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/great_britain).

“France.” *New Articles RSS*, <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/france>.

Beaupré, Nicolas. “France.” *New Articles RSS*, 8 Oct. 2014,

<https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/france>.

ushistory.org, shistory.org. “The End of the American Century.” *Ushistory.org*, Independence

Hall Association, Oct. 2008, <https://www.ushistory.org/us/60e.asp>.

*U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State,

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/foreword>.

“The End of the Cold War.” *Ushistory.org*, Independence Hall Association, 12 Dec. 2008,

<https://www.ushistory.org/us/59e.asp>.

Wells, Allen. “Latin America and the Cold War: Background Essay.” *LibGuides*, Mar. 2020,

<https://resources.primarysource.org/c.php?g=767969&p=5508129>.