

**Final Exam**

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HIS 1103 World History

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### Final Exam

The end of WWII brought many conflicts to the surface. They were worsening the state of many, and creating friction between more people. The result of the ending of WWII brought the Cold War ahead and produced domination on a political and global scale. Individually, each country suffered, having fought amongst one another, and the results differ for each nation. Some gained positive impacts while others dealt with the negative effects. Nationalism and its movements could be the blame for much of this. Still, events such as the NATO/Warsaw pact, The Berlin Airlift, the Cuban Missile Crisis/Bay of Pigs, and the relationship between the US and USSR, all were the during, and after-effects of the Cold War and resulted from the ending of WWII. Globally, understanding everything and its importance can help recognize the repercussions of War.

The Cold War brought a lot of struggle for authority and nationalism. When it came to The Soviet Union and The United States, their difference and disagreements caused much tension, and their restrictive rivalry only grew. From Allies to Adversaries, the USSR and the US both being allies and fought against Nazi Germany during World War II, but their support faded once their tensions widen. (Week 8: The Cold War). This shift caused a division, having communism spreading, the Soviet Union was determined in holding a tight grip on Eastern Europe, while the United States created a policy to contain the spread such as The Truman Doctrine in 1947 and The Marshall Plan in 1947, (Week 8: The Cold War). Both the USSR and the US contributed to the rise of the Cold War, although not battling physically; politically, both nations were determined to seek superior power.

The uprise and tension of the USSR and the US can be seen through the division between Germany. The Berlin Airlift was a major event during the Cold War that helped show us how the

United States acts during a crisis, and even during the Cold War and in the midst of all the political rivalry, The Berlin Airlift allowed there to be some unity and ease the issues of the cold war more. (Week 8: The Cold War). This brings us to the NATO/Warsaw Pact where in 1949, The United States joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). NATO was one of the first peacetime military alliances created by The US, Canada, and many Western European nations. It was to provide security, protection, and unity against the Soviet Union in case of an attack (Week 8). This caused The Soviet Union to create its own alliance called The Warsaw Pact where the communist governments of Eastern Europe formalized a pact in which if NATO were to attack, they too would come together in an alliance to defend themselves (Week 8). For Europe, the Cold War created them to be in the middle of the ideological division between the United States and The Soviet Union. This caused a division into two sides within the East and West of Europe, having their resources divided and used. With the conflict spreading to Asia, Africa, and Latin America, The struggle to overthrow colonial regimes frequently became entangled in Cold War tensions (Week 8: The Cold War).

With the pride of each nation, the main issue the United States had was the spread of communism. The Cold War brought on a failed attempt to attack Cuba and put a stop to Fidel Castro's power. In 1959, Fidel Castro, a known communist dictator, overthrew Fulgencio Batista. The president of Cuba at the time, and a very Pro-American anti-communist ally to America. This act caused the United States to become anxious and with the Cold War on edge, this revolution of power Fidel Castro had in converting Cuba into a very Anti-American sanction, anticipated the plans of the Kennedy administration to overthrow Castro. In 1961, The United States, CIA used obsolete World War II B-26 bombers and painted them to look like Cuban air force planes (Week 8: The Bay Of Pigs). This became a failed attempt as Castro ordered roughly

20,000 troops to advance toward the beach, and the Cuban air force continued to control the skies (Week 8: The Bay Of Pigs). Abandoning the communist in Cuba in order to not create WWII.

When it comes to Nationalism, it played a huge role having affected many countries outside of the USSR and the US, having their pride in fighting and defending their country. With the Cold War, The Cold War affected Latin America by creating political instability in which many countries in Latin America either became allies with the US or fell into communism such as Cuba (Week 8). In Week 6: Nationalism in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, we dived deep into discussing and understanding what Nationalism is, and a nationalist movement is a political and social movement for obtaining and maintaining national identity. Throughout Latin America, Africa, and Asia they each developed their revolutions even before the Cold War. When comparing their nationalist movements, we can see the want for power and feel the pride these regions had. In South Africa, Prime Minister Botha saw the global war as a chance for South African expansion and suppressed the 1914 Afrikaner rebellion. South Africa occupied German South West Africa and was proactive in German East Africa. (Week 6). Where they devoted themselves to creating independence and a reformed society. Much like South Africa though, the most influenced by relationships with Westerners was West Africa, where their nationalism was developed due to colonialism. Much of this caused their movements to be influenced mostly by the Westerners during the Great War and helped them during World War I. Moving forward now, With the Cold War, this nationalist pride came within each region and continued to influence many of the political conflicts afterward.

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This leads us to the Cuban Missile Crisis, in 1962 an American U-2 spy plane secretly photographed nuclear missile sites being built by the Soviet Union on the island of Cuba. President Kennedy and his administration did not want the Soviet Union and Cuba to know that he had discovered the missiles, so he set up a secret meeting with his advisors for several days to discuss the problem (Week 8: The Cuban Missile Crisis). These missiles were a direct threat and during Cold War was seen as two over superior nations trying to over power one another. Kennedy and his administration demanded for the removal of the missiles and recognizing that the crisis could easily escalate into nuclear war, Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles in return for an American pledge not to reinvade Cuba. (Week 8: The Cold War). In the end, this did help ease the tensions of the Cold War and helped strength the views of President Kennedy and America as a whole.

With the United states combating the ideology of communism taking over, and the overall fighting for freedom and peace, The Civil Rights movement became and is one of the

most important events that has taken place during the Cold War. Having many countries fight for power after WWII, during the 1950s-1960s The Cold War allowed all eyes to be on the United States, allowing for many to see the race and segregation issues the country had. Many protests and policies took place during this time, including Martin Luther Kings famous "I Have a Dream" Speech, Brown v. Board of Education, The March on Washington, and the Presidential election of John F Kennedy. During the Cold War many had high expectations on how President Kennedy would manage, these expectations where not different when it came to the Civil Rights Act "Almost 70 percent of African Americans voted for Kennedy, and these votes provided the winning edge in several key states. When President Kennedy took office in January 1961, African Americans had high expectations for the new administration." (Week 8: Civil Rights Movement). The Cold War helped facilitate social reforms.

Although the end of WWII brought many conflicts, The Cold War brought much positives as it did negatives. The breakdown of Berlin Wall, and the shedding of the iron curtain allowed for the end of The Cold War. (Week 14: The End of the Cold War and Soviet Perspectives) Having been able to understand the importance of the Cold War globally has helped recognize the repercussions of War and the many affects it has on not only one country such as The United States, but in others as well. The superior power that The Soviet Union felt was questioned once the demand for freedom spread to the Soviet Union. Having the Baltic States of Estonia Latvia, and Lithuania declared independence, and talks of similar processes were heard in Ukraine, the Caucasus, and the Central Asian states. (Week 14: The End of The Cold War and Soviet Perspectives). For the United States, many things were affected, but on a global scale, these events allowed for a comprehension and a grasp on what a War could do. Allowing for a different perspective and a learn from mistakes.

### Resources

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/hist1103boyleip/syllabus-2/>