**World History Mr. Sadow Notes that will help you in American History**

**Section 1- The Birth of America**

By 1750, the British empire included 13 colonies along the eastern coast of North America. People from many religions and backgrounds made their home there. The colonies were part of a trade network linking North America, the West Indies, Africa, and Europe.

After 1763, serious problems developed between Britain and her colonies in America. The British wanted to control colonial trade and manufacturing as well as raise taxes. This made the colonists angry. The colonists felt that the King was taking away their rights as British citizens to control themselves. Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet, ***Common Sense***, urging the colonists to fight for their freedom and independence from Britain.

In 1775, war broke out between the colonists and Britain and the **American Revolution** (the American fight for freedom from Britain) began. The following year, the colonists declared their independence from Britain. Using Enlightenment ideas, the writers of the **Declaration of Independence** (America’s document stating they were free from Britain and their own separate country) stated that the colonists had the right to revolt against an unfair government. They called their new nation the United States of America. **Patriots** supported America in the American Revolution. **Loyalists** supported Britain.

In 1781, the colonists defeated the British, but only with the help of French money, troops, and naval ships. The leaders of the United States of America set up a **republic** (government ruled by elected representatives) and adopted a constitution in 1787. The Constitutional government (a government whose power is defined and limited by laws) included many Enlightenment ideas. Among these ideas were separation of powers and checks and balances. The Constitution stated that the duty of the government was to protect the rights of the people. The **U.S. Constitution** (the name of the group of America’s basic laws and principles that created how America runs her government) created a federal republic (a government where power is divided between the federal government and the states). The federal republic was based on the idea of **popular sovereignty/self-government** (the belief that power comes from the people).

**Section 2- The Industrial Revolution**

From the mid-1800s, industrialism spread rapidly across Europe to North America and beyond. This second Industrial Revolution transformed the economies of the world and solidified patterns of life familiar to us today.

Britain, with its steam-powered factories, once stood alone as the leader of industry. However, by the mid-1800s, the Industrial Revolution had spread to other nations. Germany and the United States had more coal and iron than Britain. Both nations made use of British technology. By the late 1800s, they led the world in production.

Political and social problems slowed the growth of industry in the South and East of Europe. In East Asia, Japan (island nation in the western Pacific Ocean east of China) industrialized rapidly after 1868. This was remarkable since it had few natural resources or capital (money to invest). By 1900, nations of the West had a great amount of economic power.

Factories used new ways to produce goods. The invention of the **assembly line** (the movement of products being built on a moving belt) greatly speeded up production, which **Henry Ford** (an American inventor) perfected and used to increase the speed of his car factories. The creation of **interchangeable parts** (identical parts that can be used in place of another) also increased factory speed and production numbers.

**Steel** (a very hard type of iron used for building), **electricity** (a form of energy created from the existence of charged particles), and advances in communications and transportation marked the second Industrial Revolution. In the mid-1800s, companies hired scientists to improve technology. A new form of power, electricity, changed industry significantly.

Inventions were also a big part of the Industrial Revolution. **Samuel Morse** (an American inventor) invented the **telegraph** (a system for transmitting messages along a wire by making and breaking an electrical connection) in the early 1840s and **Alexander Graham Bell** (an American inventor) invented the **telephone** (a system for transmitting voices over a distance) in 1876. The airplane was perfected by the Wright brothers in 1903. **Thomas Edison** (an American inventor) invented the record player in 1878 and the light bulb in 1880.

New ways to send messages and move goods linked cities and nations. New equipment was costly. To get enough capital, owners began selling **stock** (share/ownership of a company) in their companies. The late 1800s brought the rise of “big business.” Huge **corporations** (businesses that are owned by many investors who own stock in the company) soon ruled industry. Then, some corporations became even more powerful by combining with other corporations. They were called **trusts**. Companies that controlled markets or areas of the economy were **cartels** (companies that control through illegal means) and **monopolies** (companies that control by controlling most or all of the economic area). Workers often suffered from business owners more concerned about profits. In politics, groups were created to control entire areas of towns and cities and even states. These **political machines** gave power to only a few.

To lessen the power of “big business” and political machines in America during the late 1800s, the **Populist Party** rose up. The political group wanted higher taxes for those who made more money, the direct election of senators, more say in what ideas became laws, and the ability to recall (vote out of office) any politician, if necessary. Over time, laws were created to decrease the power of “big business.” The **Interstate Commerce Act** of 1887 set rules for products that were sold between states and the **Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890** outlawed monopolies and trusts and began to take away power from corrupt businesses.

## Section 3- Expansion of the United States in the 1800s

The United States grew and changed greatly in the 1800s, expanding from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans by war, making treaties, purchasing, and taking land. Many Americans felt it was their right to settle all the land between the **Atlantic Ocean** and the **Pacific Ocean**, a belief called **manifest destiny**. They moved west, taking lands from the **Native Americans** (the Americans who were in America before the Europeans came), who they then put on **reservations** (land controlled by the government). America’s growth in industry, communication, and transportation coupled with the massive numbers of immigrants and the growth of its cities made America boom.

In 1803, President Jefferson bought land from France. His **Louisiana Purchase** almost doubled the size of the United States and moved the western boundary from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. In 1848, Mexico was forced to give up California and much of the Southwest after losing the **Mexican-American War** (war between Mexico and America from 1846-1848 started by America).

During the 1800s, two movements brought greater democracy. **Abolitionists** worked to end slavery. Women who worked in the abolitionist movement began to organize a women’s rights movement. They called for equality under the law, at work, and in schools, and eventually won the right to vote (**suffrage**) under the **19th Amendment**.

By 1860, economic conflicts split America in two. The **South** relied on farming. The **North** was more industrialized. The regions also disagreed on the issues of power in government and slavery. Southern plantations felt they needed slave labor. The South worried when newly elected President Abraham Lincoln opposed extending slavery into new **territories** (land not yet states). Ultimately, more laws made in Washington benefitted the North then the South, and the South began to believe that their way of life was being threatened by those in Washington D.C. In 1860 and 1861, eleven southern states **seceded**, or separated, from the United States. The **Civil War** (war between the Northern and Southern states in America from1861-1865) began shortly after.

The **Union**’s (the North) advantages during the war were 1) a white population over 19 million, the **Confederacy** (the South) only 5.5 million, 2) better transportation (railroads and roads), 3) better industry, and 4) it could raise money because it had a central government vs. the South’s weak central government. The South’s advantages were 1) they only had to hold out until the North got tired of fighting to win, 2) most of the battles were fought in the South, so they not only knew the land better but were fighting for their land, and 3) they had better military training and officers at first. The North won the war in 1865, mainly because the North surrounded and suffocated the South on land with troops and on sea with warships (on the sea, it’s called a **blockade)**. The plan was called the **Anaconda Plan**, named after the snake. The nation was reunited, and slavery was outlawed. It had been the bloodiest war in United States history, a war that President Lincoln continued to fight until the country was one single nation again.

During and after the war, the U.S. passed **Homestead Acts** (laws that sold land in America’s west very cheaply) to encourage Americans to move west. At the same time, some Republicans in Congress wanted to make the South suffer for the war and also give African Americans the same rights as white people had. These **Radical Republicans** in worked to pass the **13th Amendment** (the outlawing of slavery), the **14th Amendment** (making African Americans U.S. citizens with rights), and the **15th Amendment** (giving African-Americans the right to vote).

The time after the Civil War (1865-1876), when the North and South began to work together again as one nation again, was called **Radical Reconstruction**. Ulysses S. Grant was President for most of that time. However, **segregation** (the separation of people by race or ethnicity) continued after the war, and in the South, **Jim Crow** **laws** (laws specifically targeting African Americans) were created to keep African Americans from gaining power and rights. The **Ku Klux Klan** (a white terrorist group against African Americans) also rose up at that time in the South and began its open discrimination of African Americans.

Still, American began to move towards greater equality. The term carpetbagger refers to Northerners who moved to the South after the Civil War, during Reconstruction. Many carpetbaggers moved south for their own financial and political gains. Scalawags were white Southerners who cooperated politically with black freedmen and Northern newcomers. After Radical Reconstruction ended in 1876, to protect itself from the outside world, America became more isolated (limited involvement) with the rest of the world.

In 1867, the United States bought **Alaska** from Russia. The **United States** after became an imperialist nation by reaching into the Pacific. In 1878, it gained rights in Samoan Islands. In 1898, America became involved in Cuba’s fight for independence from **Spain** (peninsula country southwest of France). America’s success in the **Spanish-American War** (war between those two countries in 1898) gave the United States **Cuba** (island nation 90 miles south of Florida), **Puerto Rico** (another island southeast of Florida and today controlled by America), the **Philippines** (island nation in the western Pacific Ocean south of Japan), and **Guam** (an island in the central Pacific). In 1893, the queen of **Hawaii** (island chain in the central Pacific Ocean) tried to reduce foreign involvement in her kingdom. American sugar planters and those who wanted the islands for a naval base in **Pearl Harbor** (a large port in Hawaii that is sheltered from the Pacific Ocean) led a revolt. The United States annexed Hawaii in 1898. By 1900, the United States had become the world’s leading industrial giant, a global power, and a magnet for immigrants seeking freedom and opportunity.

**Section 4- American Economic Imperialism in Latin America in the 1800s and Early 1900s**

Most of **Latin America** (the area south of America, Central and South America) gained independence in the 1800s. Yet, life did not improve for most people. There were revolts, civil wars, **economic dependency** (when a country is dependent on another country’s money), military rule, unsuccessful reforms, and inequality among its people. Prejudice and poverty continued. A ruling class and the Catholic Church still controlled lands. Local strongmen, known as **caudillos**,put together armies and made themselves dictators. Revolts often overthrew the caudillos. Still, power stayed with a small ruling class.

Colonial economies had depended on Spain and Portugal. The colonies sent raw materials to their ruling lands. They bought finished goods from them. Later, Britain and the United States became trading partners with the freed nations. They took control of prices and set rules regulating trade. Latin America came to depend on them.

British and American companies wanted to guard their employees and investments in Latin America. They claimed the right to act when events threatened their interests. In 1823, United States **President Monroe** (American President from 1821-1825) issued the **Monroe Doctrine**, setting up America’s own **sphere of influence** (an area controlled by a county) in the Western Hemisphere backed by its industry and military. It said that the Americas were closed to further colonization and that the United States would oppose any European efforts to reestablish colonies. In 1846, America went to war with Mexico in order to gain more land.

In 1903, the United States wanted to build a canal (later the Panama Canal) across the Central American land of **Colombia** (northeastern nation in South America bordering the Caribbean Sea and extending into Central America) in order to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Specifically, the canal was created in order to cut transportation time and business costs and to open up new markets for trading. Colombia refused to grant land for the canal. Using President Theodore Roosevelt’s **Big Stick policy** (the use of force to get what America wanted in Central and South America), the United States backed a revolt against Colombia. A piece of Colombia broke away (Panama) and won freedom from Colombia. Panama then gave the United States land to build the canal. Many Latin Americans saw the United States actions as interference and an example of **Yankee imperialism** (actions taken by the United States that only benefitted America at the expense of other Central and South American nations) especially after America told the world that it would start “**policing**” (to look after and protect, but done so as to only benefit the country “policing”) the **Western Hemisphere** (half of the Earth; land from vertical prime meridian in England and Africa and east of the antemeridian in the Pacific Ocean).

**Section 5- World War I: The Causes**

In the early 1900s the world seemed at peace. People joined anti-war groups. Leaders met to talk. At the same time, however, other forces pushed Europe toward war. One of these forces was **nationalism** (to love your country; sometimes to where what you think is best for your country is ok even if it is bad for others). Pride of country and fierce racial bonds divided much of Europe.

Nations also wanted economic power. Britain had been a leader of industry. Now it had to keep up with modern German factories. Industrialized countries needed raw materials. France, Britain, and Germany all competed for lands in **Africa** (continent south of Europe and east of the Atlantic Ocean).

Fearful of losing their colonies, nations built up military power. This **militarism**,or glorification of the military, led to an **arms race** (a weapons race). No one wanted war, but everyone was getting ready to fight just in case.

Fear and distrust grew. Nations formed alliances, promising to protect each other against attack. By 1914, there were two big alliances. One was the **Central Powers**, including **Germany**, (the most powerful country in Europe in 1914) **Austria-Hungary**, (country southeast of Germany), and, for a short time, **Italy** (peninsula country southeast of France). The other group was the **Allies**, consisting of **Britain**, **France**, and **Russia**. More nations soon joined the alliances. Each country promised to help its friends if war broke out in Europe. The stage was set so that a small conflict could easily become a huge war.

**Section 6- World War I Begins: 1914**

By June of 1914, Europe was tense. In an area east of Italy known as the **Balkans**, things were about to explode. **Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary** (future king of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire) was going to visit the province of Bosnia. Many Serbs lived there. Some thought Bosnia should belong to **Serbia** (country in the Balkans in southeastern Europe) rather than to Austria-Hungary.

As the archduke planned his trip, Serb terrorists made plans too. **Gavrilo Princip** (one of over 20 terrorists in the attack to assassinate Archduke Ferdinand) was part of a terrorist group known as the Black Hand. Their goal was to join all South Slavic people in one nation. Now they plotted to kill the archduke. On June 28, the archduke and his wife drove through the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. Acting on a Black Hand plan, Gavrilo Princip **assassinated** (to kill) them.

Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for the murders and gave Serbia an **ultimatum** (a set of final demands). When Serbia didn’t give in to the demands, Austria-Hungary declared war on July 28, 1914.

Alliances came into play. Germany stood by Austria-Hungary. Russia, a Slavic nation, backed Serbia. France came to the aid of Russia. On August 3, 1914, Germany attacked Belgium as a path to France. An angry Britain declared war on Germany. World War I had begun.

The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand sparked trouble. However, most historians agree that all the nations involved must share the blame for the war no one wanted.

**Section 7- World War I: A New Kind of War**

Some have called World War I “**The Great War** (name given to World War I because of the incredible amount of death and destruction).” More troops fought and died than ever before in history.

Heavy fighting took place on the **Western Front**,a 600-mile stretch from the English Channel to Switzerland. The Germans hoped for an early victory there. However, French and British troops stopped them. For four years, neither side advanced.

Troops dug **trenches** (holes in the ground that are connected) along the front. When they came out to fight, many were killed. Neither side won much ground.

There was also an **Eastern Front** in Europe. One part ran from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. The other part ran between Italy (which joined the Allies in 1915) and Austria-Hungary.

Much of World War I was fought using **trenches** (attached holes in the ground that were dug to provide each side protection because of the deadly firepower both sides had). This was the first war to make use of modern technology and machinery. **Warplanes** flew the skies. **Submarines** sailed under the sea. Machine guns, tanks, and **poison gas** made battles deadly. World War I became a global conflict. Its effects were felt worldwide.

The powers of Europe looked to their colonies for soldiers, workers, and supplies. In the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers. Japan, allied to Britain, took German colonies in China and islands in the Pacific. The United States would soon join the battle as well.

## Section 8- World War I Ends: 1918

## World War I was what we call a total war. In a total war, all of a nation’s resources go into the war effort. Governments drafted men to fight the war. They raised taxes to pay the costs of fighting. They rationed, or limited the supply of goods, so that they could supply the military. They used the press to publish propaganda that made the enemy look bad. Propaganda is the spreading of ideas to promote a cause or damage an opposing cause.

## Women played a major part in total war. Many took jobs that soldiers left behind. Some joined the armed services. Others went to the fronts as nurses.

By 1917, Europe had seen too much death and ruin. In Russia, low morale,or spirits, led to the **Russian Revolution** (a revolution in Russia in 1917 led by unhappy common people) which made the democracy a **communist** (a country where the government owns everything for the good of its people and where classes of society do not exist) country. Russia changed its name to the **Soviet Union**. Early in 1918, the new leader signed a treaty with Germany that took Russia out of the war.

Russia’s withdrawal was good news for the Central Powers. However, there was good news for the Allies too. From 1914-1917 America remained **neutral** (to not take sides), at least on paper. But in 1917, the United States entered the war, mainly due to attacks on American shipping by German **U-boats** (submarines) and President Woodrow Wilson’s desire to make the world safe for democracy.

By 1917 the war had become a **stalemate** (when no one is winning or losing). With new soldiers and supplies from the United States, the Allies gained control. American ships were only able to cross the **Atlantic Ocean** (body of water between America and Europe) safely after the introduction of the **convoy** (ships that travel together for protection). By 1918, America’s industrial strength, fresh manpower, and financial aid allowed the Allies to win the war. The other Central Powers had given up, and the Germans stood alone. They asked for an end to the fighting. On November 11, 1918, an **armistice** (an agreement to end fighting) was declared and the “**war to end all wars**” (name given to World War I because if was so terrible everyone believed there would never be a war again) was over.

**Section 9- World War I: Making the Peace**

As World War I ended, Europe faced huge losses. Millions had died. More had been wounded. Hunger threatened many lands. In addition, a deadly epidemic of influenza swept the world in 1918.

Much of the European continent was in ruins. Cities had to be rebuilt. Governments had fallen in Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire and most European governments were in massive debt.

United States President Wilson and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George joined French leader Georges Clemenceau in Paris. They were the “Big Three” of the peace conference in Paris, France. Each had his own goals. Wilson stressed **self-determination**, by which people choose their own government. Wilson also proposed the **Fourteen Points**, his ideas that he thought would prevent future wars. Britain and France wanted to punish Germany.

By June 1919, the conference had drawn up the **Treaty of Versailles** (peace treaty that officially ended World War I). The document blamed the Germans for the war. They had to pay over $30 billion in **reparations** (payment for war damages), give up colonies and some European lands, and cut back their military. The treaty also redrew the map of Eastern Europe, all which led to World War II.

There were other changes as well. New nations formed on land that had belonged to Russia, Austria-Hungary, and

Germany. The treaty also set up the **League of Nations**. This group of over 40 countries hoped to settle problems between countries without war. Though the league was Wilson’s plan, the United States never joined.

**Section 10- Between World War I and World War II: 1919-1938**

In 1919, **Britain**, **France**, and the **United States** were major world powers, but they and other nations faced serious problems. Soldiers returning from World War I needed jobs. Nations had war debts to pay and cities to rebuild.

Nations had seen the horrors of war. Now they looked for ways to keep peace. During the 1920s, the **League of Nations** (group of over 40 countries that hoped to settle problems between countries without war) worked hard to resolve conflicts. In 1925, treaties signed in Locarno, Switzerland settled German borders. The **Kellogg-Briand Pact**, signed in 1928, tried to limit the number of weapons that countries could have. Sadly, these efforts could not protect the peace.

The United States was the leading economic power of the 1920s. America boomed during the “**Roaring Twenties**” (right after World War I, the time during the 1920s when America’s economy and amount of jobs grew a lot) while the rest of the world struggled to get back on its feet after the war. When things began to go wrong in America, the whole world was affected. In 1929, many Americans lost money in the **stock market crash** (when America’s confidence in its economic future decreased a lot and the value of companies decreased because people sold their stock many companies) because of **easy credit** (when people get loans from banks that most people can’t afford to pay back) and the overproduction of goods. The U.S. economy plummeted and banks failed. Businesses closed. America’s economy became so bad that the time was called the **Great Depression** (1929-1939). As a result, foreign trade almost stopped. The United States demanded that nations repay loans. The worldwide depression of the 1930s created financial turmoil and widespread suffering throughout the industrialized world.

Worldwide depression left millions out of work. Across Europe, people lost faith in their governments. Continued money problems made many people in democratic countries think that maybe democracy wasn’t the best form of government. The fear of Socialism and Communism grew. In France and Britain, democracy survived. In other nations, hungry, hopeless people turned to leaders who demanded absolute power.

# Section 11- World War II Starts: 1939

In the 1920s and 1930s many nations were hit by political and financial problems created by **World War I** that led to **Benito Mussolini** becoming the dictator of **Italy** in 1925, **Adolf Hitler** becoming the dictator of **Germany** in 1933, and **Japan** becoming openly aggressive in 1931 against **China**. The **U.S.** didn't like what was happening around the world but was still an **isolationist** (a country that keeps to themselves and stays out of world affairs) nation. To stay neutral, she passed **neutrality acts** (laws against getting involved with any nation at war) in the 1930s.

A **civil war** (a war within a country between its own people) in **Spain** in the late 1930s involved Germany and Italy and was the prelude to World War II. In 1935 Italy invaded **Ethiopia** (very poor country on the eastern coast of Africa) and no countries protested. Hitler learned from Italy's action that no one would stand in Germany's way if Germany wanted more land. In 1936 Germany started taking over new lands, no one stopped her, and on September 1, 1939, she invaded **Poland** (country in Europe between Germany and Russia) and started World War II.

By that late date Britain and France realized that Germany would not be stopped with anything except armed force. Germany and Italy were the **Axis Powers** and **Britain** and **France** were the **Allied Powers**. By late 1940 Germany had overrun all of **Europe** and Japan had increased her war in China which she attacked in 1937. The Axis' actions worried the U.S. and made her realize that she no longer could remain neutral. In 1940 the U.S. repealed (took away) her neutrality acts, started arming herself, started **drafting** (to bring someone into the military without them volunteering) soldiers, and began changing her industry over to war production.

By mid 1941, Germany had given up trying to bomb Britain (called the **Battle of Britain**) into surrendering and instead invaded the **Soviet Union** (the name of Russia while it was communist from 1917-1991) in June of 1941. By June of 1941 America had set up a “**cash and carry**" (system by which a country can help other countries by allowing other countries to pay cash for goods and carry the goods away on their own; meant to keep the “helping” country from being attacked while helping) and "**lend-lease plan**" (system by which a country can help other countries by lending or leasing goods to other countries that do not have cash or transportation to carry away purchased goods) that allowed the Allied Powers to use American goods to fight the Axis Powers. When America became involved in selling her goods to the Allies German **U-boats** (submarines) started sinking U.S. ships in the Atlantic. The U.S. then started to arm her ships in the Atlantic to protect them from the Germans. An "**undeclared war**" (a war that exists, just not officially) existed from mid 1941 on between Germany and the U.S.

By mid 1941 Japan had joined the Axis and had further increased her war in China. America disliked Japan's actions and stopped selling goods, such as metal and oil, to her. The U.S. thought that Japan would have to stop her war in China since Japan relied on American metal and oil. Instead of stopping their attacks, Japan attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at **Pearl Harbor** (America’s main naval base in the Pacific Ocean) in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, at 7:55am. Japan wanted to cripple the U.S. fleet so she could expand further to get her own supply of metal and oil in Asia. The U.S. declared war on Japan on Dec. 8.

# Section 12- The United States and World War II: 1941-1945

On Dec. 11 Germany and Italy declared war on America so the U.S. declared war on them. The war against Germany, Italy, and Japan was a **total war** effort by the U.S. Their war industry went on 24hrs a day, 7 days a week and the U.S. produced more of everything than every other nation at war combined.

It was decided that Germany was the strongest of the 3 Axis Powers so she would have to be defeated first while stalling the others. American **General Dwight D. Eisenhower** was the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe against Germany. The first step to beat Germany was to take control of the Atlantic from the German U-Boats (called the **Battle of the Atlantic**). This was done by mid 1943. The second step was to soften Germany up in the south, in Italy and **North Africa** (northern dessert part of the continent of Africa). This was done by Sept. of 1943. The invasion of North Africa in 1942 was the turning point of the war against Germany. The Allies invaded Italy in Sept. of 1943 forcing Italy to surrender. The last step was to invade Germany and destroy her this phase began on June 6, 1944, at the **Normandy** (northern part of France directly across from England) invasion in France and ended with the German surrender on May 8, 1945. Paris was retaken in August and the German border was crossed in October. The Germans counterattacked in December of 1944 at the Battle of the Bulge but were turned back by the Allies. The Soviet Union began attacking Germany from the east in 1942 while the other Allies attacked Germany from the west.

In the war against Japan, it was fought on land and sea in the Pacific Ocean. **General Douglass MacArthur** and **Admiral Chester Nimitz** were the top army and navy commanders. On the sea it was an **aircraft carrier** war. On land the U.S. **bypassed** (went around) strong Jap targets and let them die off when they were surrounded and "**island hopped**," taking an island then moving on to another.

The naval **Battle of Midway** in June 1942 was the turning point of the Pacific War. The U.S. sunk four Japanese aircraft carriers and killed hundreds of trained pilots. As the U.S. moved closer to Japan and as the U.S. fleet grew American land and carrier planes began to bomb Japan in late 1944. The naval Battles of the Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf in June and Oct. of 1944 were the final battles that destroyed the Japanese fleet. Naval battles were so

important in the Pacific War because without control of the sea and air you could not move troops.

Although America knew that Japan wanted to surrender by early 1945, Japan refused to surrender **unconditionally** (to have no say when you surrender) which the Allies wanted. This led to the first atomic bomb attack on **Hiroshima** on Aug. 6, 1945, and second on **Nagasaki** on Aug. 9, 1945. They were the first atomic bomb attacks ever and forced Japan to surrender, but they were also dropped to scare the Soviets of American military power in order to influence them. They were a factor in starting the **Cold War** (from 1945-1990 when America and the Soviet Union were very unfriendly towards each other but didn’t directly go to war vs. each other, which would then be a “hot war”) with the Soviets because we didn't tell her, our ally, that we had it.

**13- The Cold War (1945–1991): Part 1**

Even though America began to demobilize (to decrease the size of your nation’s military) after World War II as it had after World War I, the **United States** and the **Soviet Union** (name of Russia when it was communist from 1917-1991) emerged as the world’s only **superpowers** (the most powerful countries on Earth).Both nations created military alliances made up of nations they protected or occupied, which pledged to help each other in peace and war. The United States helped form the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** **(NATO)**, made up of America and its Western European allies.

Under **Joseph Stalin** (1924-1953), the Soviet Union created the **Warsaw Pact** with the eastern European countries that she controlled.  The differences between U.S. **democracy** (a system of government led by and for the whole population of a country, usually through representation) and **capitalism** (an economic system in a country where production and prices are controlled by buyers and sellers and ownership of businesses by citizens is possible) and Soviet **communism** (a country where the government owns everything for the good of its people and where classes of society do not exist) in addition to deep distrust between the two countries was the basis for the **Cold War** from 1945-1991.  The Cold War was called that because the two countries never went to war directly with each other, but they were continually unfriendly to each other, like giving someone the “cold shoulder.”

The line between the democratic West and communist East in Europe was called the **Iron Curtain**.  An iron curtain is like a curtain on your window that cannot be opened. Many revolts challenging Soviet domination in Europe were extinguished using military force.

The Soviets wanted to spread communist beliefs around the globe. When **Nikita Khrushchev** came to power after the brutal Joseph Stalin died, he eased censorship and increased tolerance. However, repression returned under the next Soviet leader, **Leonid** **Brezhnev**, when he came to power in 1964. U.S. President **Harry Truman** (1945-1953) presented what was referred to as the **Truman Doctrine** (America’s foreign policy to stop the spread of communism anywhere in the world). American leaders followed a policy of **containment**.This was a strategy of keeping communism from spreading to other nations.

The superpowers also engaged in an **arms race** (a weapons race) to develop the strongest and most nuclear weapons, especially after the Soviet Union detonated their first atomic bomb in 1949. To reduce the threat of war, the two sides held several disarmament talks. In addition, the “**red scare**” (scare of communism spreading to America) in the United States resulted in **Senator Joseph McCarthy** leading a hunt in America for communists in the government and military. The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) also sought out communist sympathizers. Eventually, McCarthy and his witch-hunt were stopped.

Then, in 1959, **Fidel Castro** led a communist revolution in **Cuba** (island nation 90 miles from the U.S.) and became its leader. To bring down Castro’s communist regime, U.S. President **John F. Kennedy** (1961-1963) supported an invasion of Cuba in 1961, but the attempt failed. One year later, in October of 1962, the Soviets sent nuclear missiles to Cuba. Many feared a nuclear war. This was called the **Cuban Missile Crisis**. After the United States blockaded Cuba with its navy, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchevagreed to remove the missiles.

The late 1960s to late 1970s was called the **era of** **détente** (a relaxing of tension, especially between nations, by using negotiations or agreements). **Richard Nixon**, U.S. President from 1969-1974, used détente very successfully when he began to decrease the tension with **China** (largest country in Asia then became communists in 1949) by going to that country, the first U.S. President to do so. Détente ended, however, when the Soviet Union invaded **Afghanistan** (country bordering the Soviet Union to its south) in 1979, when **Jimmy Carter** (1977-1981) was the U.S. President.

One issue that began to be discussed during the era of détente was intended to limit the use of **anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs)**.These weapons were designed to shoot down missiles launched by hostile nations.  The ABMs were considered a threat because they could give one side more protection, which might encourage it to attack another country since it could defend itself better if attacked.  Then, during the 1980s, U.S. President **Ronald Reagan** (1981-1989)proposed a missile defense program called “Star Wars.”  Other agreements limited the number of nuclear weapons that nations could maintain, which eased Cold War tensions.

# Section 14- Communism Spreads in East Asia

After World War II, **Mao Zedong** (communist Chinese dictator from 1949-1976) led communist forces in China to victory in 1949 over those who wanted democracy. Mao then began to reshape China’s economy. First, he gave land to peasants, but then called for **collectivization**. Under this system, Mao moved people from their small villages and individual farms into communes of thousands of people on thousands of acres. Known as the **Great Leap** **Forward**, the program was intended to increase farm and industrial production. Instead, it produced low quality, useless goods and less food, as many were unmotivated to do their best. Bad weather also affected crops, and many people starved.

To remove bourgeois beliefs (middle class materialistic values), Mao began the **Cultural Revolution**.Skilled workers and managers were removed from factories and forced to work on farms or in labor camps. This resulted in a slowed economy and a threat of civil war. Again, in an attempt to make everyone equal under the communist government, there was little ability or incentive to work harder since there was no individual benefit, no chance of ownership or increased pay.

At first, the United States supported those who fled communist China and escaped to **Taiwan** (a democratic island nation off the coast of China that China says it still controls). The West was concerned that the Soviet Union and China would become allies, but border clashes led the Soviets to withdraw aid and advisors from China. U.S. leaders thought that by “playing the China card,” or improving relations with the Chinese, they would further isolate the Soviets. In 1979, the United States established diplomatic relations with China.

**Korea** (a peninsula country in East Asia south of China) was an independent nation until **Japan** (island nation in the western Pacific Ocean east of China) invaded it in World War II. After the war, American and Soviet forces agreed to divide the Korean peninsula at the **38th parallel** (line of latitude between North and South Korea). Kim Il Sung, a communist, ruled **North Korea**, and Syngman Rhee**,** allied with the United States, controlled **South Korea**. In 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea, starting the **Korean War** (1950-1953). The United Nations forces stopped them along a line known as the Pusan Perimeter in southern South Korea, and then began advancing north. Mao sent Chinese troops to help the North Koreans. UN forces were pushed back south of the 38th parallel again.

In 1953, both sides signed an armistice to end the fighting, but troops remain on both sides of the **demilitarized zone (DMZ)** (area between North and South Korea on the 38th parallel where no military can be) even today. Over time, South Korea enjoyed an economic boom and a rise in living standards, while communist North Korea’s economy declined. Kim Il Sung’s emphasis on self-reliance kept North Korea isolated and poor.

**Section 15- The Cold War (1945–1991): Part 2 and Racism and Equality in America**

During the post-World War II period, American businesses expanded into the global marketplace. **Globalization** became normal as more and more countries bought and sold goods with other countries and began to rely on each other more and more. Other nations needed goods and services to rebuild. This led to a period of economic success that changed life in the United States. During the 1950s and 1960s, **recessions** (a slowing down of a nation’s economy)were brief and mild. As Americans prospered, they left the cities to live in the suburbs. This trend is called **suburbanization** and is the opposite of **urbanization** (when people move to cities from the countryside).Also, job opportunities in the **Sunbelt** (the southern U.S) attracted many people to that region. By the 1970s, however, a political crisis in the Middle East made Americans aware of their dependence on imported oil. The price of oil and gas rose substantially, which meant that people had less money to buy other products. The decades of prosperity ended in 1974 with a serious recession.

During the period of prosperity in America after World War II, African-Americans and other minorities continued to face **segregation** (separation of groups in society based on race or ethnicity). This was common in America; even the U.S. Supreme Court, the country’s top court, stated in the famous 1898 case ***Plessy v. Ferguson*** that it was ok to separate African-Americans and other races (the idea of separate but equal), thus leading to non-whites being treated differently. But in 1947, **President Truman** (1945-1953) began a trend in government when he announced that the U.S. military would no longer be segregated. A few years later, in 1954, the ***Brown v. Board of Education*** Supreme Court case overturned the *Plessy* case (saying separation is inherently (automatically) unequal), but discrimination continued.

Then, in 1955, **Rosa Parks**, an African-America woman and “mother of the Civil Rights movement”, refused to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. What followed was the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**. Led by **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, the boycott was a 13-month protest and boycott of the Montgomery bus system. It finally ended with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional, and also when Montgomery, Alabama realized it needed African-American but riders to make a profit.

In 1957, nine African-American students tried to enroll in an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. Called the “**Little Rock Nine**,” **President Dwight Eisenhower** (1953-1961) initially tried to stay out of the situation and allow states to handle their own segregation problems. Ultimately, because of increasing tension and violence, he reluctantly used the U.S. Army to help enroll the students and keep them safe.

African-Americans also suffered from discriminationin jobs and voting. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.emerged as the main civil rights leader in the 1960s. King preached and used nonviolent protests as his way of educating Americans about the injustice of discrimination. He utilized **Freedom Rides** (people who rode buses into the segregated southern U.S. from 1961 on to protest segregation). In the summer of 1963, King led more than 200,000 Americans to Washington, D.C. for a rally as a form of protest. At the Lincoln Memorial, speaker after speaker spoke of an America that not only spoke of freedom and liberty for all but a country that followed its beliefs. This **March on Washington** awoke many Americans to the continued injustice suffered by non-whites. The next year, 1964, during **Freedom Summer**, several groups tried to register African-Americans in the south during the summer in order to give them more say in the government and in their lives. Violence ensued. Because of **President Lyndon Johnson** (1963-1969), the U.S. Congress passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** and 1965, further eliminating discrimination against African-Americans. Other minority groups were inspired by King’s successes. For example, the women’s rights movement helped to end much gender-based discrimination. Other civil rights groups did not preach nonviolence, such as the Black Panthers, and after King’s assassination in 1968, “Black Power” replaced the civil rights movement, stressing the need for African-Americans to do whatever was necessary to achieve equality.

Western Europe rebuilt after World War II. The **Marshall Plan**, named in 1948 after its creator, U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall, helped restore European economies by providing U.S. aid. Part of the aim of the Marshall Plan was to keep **democracy** (a system of government led by and for the whole population of a country, usually through representation) alive in Europe and prevent **communism** (a country where the government owns everything for the good of its people and where classes of society do not exist) from spreading there. The goal was to allow **capitalism** (an economic system in a country where production and prices are controlled by buyers and sellers and ownership of businesses by citizens is possible) and **free market economies** (an economic system based on buyers and sellers with little or no government control) to grow.

After the war, Germany was divided into two different countries, the communist **East Germany** and the democratic **West Germany**, but reunited at the end of the Cold War in 1990. Under Konrad Adenauer,West Germany’s chancellor from 1949 to 1963, Germany built modern cities and re-established trade with the world, while communist East Germany stayed isolated and increasingly had economic problems.

European governments also developed programs that increased government responsibility for the needs of people. These **welfare states** required high taxes to pay for their programs. During the 1980s, some leaders, such as Britain’s Margaret Thatcher, reduced the role of the government in the economy. Western Europe also moved closer to economic unity with the establishment of the **European Union**, an organization dedicated to establishing free trade among its members and a common currency called the Euro.

**Japan** also prospered after World War II, mostly due to American assistance. Just like in Europe, America was concerned with keeping communism from spreading in Asia. Japan’s **gross domestic product (GDP)** (a measure of how much a country buys in a year) soared. Like Germany, Japan built factories. Thegovernment protected industries by raising **tariffs** (taxes) on importedgoods, making Japanese goods cheaper to buy than other countries’ goods sold in Japan. This helped create a trade surplus for Japan.

**Section 16- The Vietnam War: 1954-1975**

In the 1800s, France ruled the area in Southeast Asia called **French Indochina** (peninsula land directly south of China). During World War II, Japan controlled that region, but faced resistance from **guerrilla warfare** (those who use hit and run attacks against stronger forces).After the war, Japan left Vietnam and the French tried to reestablish its authority in Vietnam. However, forces led by communist leader **Ho Chi Minh** (North Vietnamese communist dictator from 1945-1969)fought the French. The French left Vietnam in 1954 after the Vietnamese victory at **Dienbienphu**. After that, Ho Chi Minh controlled communist **North Vietnam** with China’s support while the United States supported democratic **South Vietnam**.

Ho Chi Minh wanted to unite Vietnam. He provided aid to the National Liberation Front, or **Viet Cong (VC)**, which wasa communist guerrilla organization in South Vietnam that supported North Vietnam. American leaders saw Vietnam as an extension of the Cold War and developed the **domino theory**.This was the belief that if communists won in South Vietnam, then communism would spread to other governments in Southeast Asia. After a North Vietnamese attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer in 1964, Congress authorized the President to take military measures to prevent further communist aggression in Southeast Asia. The **Vietnam War** (1964-1975) began.

Despite massive American support, the South Vietnamese failed to defeat the South Vietnamese Viet Cong (VC) and their North Vietnamese allies. In addition, the American attempt to win over the minds and hearts of those in North Vietnam in order to have a better chance of winning the war failed. Then, in early 1968, the North Vietnamese attacked cities all over the south in a surprise offensive called the **Tet Offensive**. Even though the communists were not able to hold any cities, the Tet Offensive marked a turning point in U.S. public opinion. Upset by civilian deaths from the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam as well as growing American casualties, many Americans began to oppose the war and anti-war protests increased throughout America. **U.S. President Nixon** (1969-1974) came under increasing pressure to terminate the conflict. To meet this goal, America began to put more and more responsibility of the war in the hands of the South Vietnamese. Called **Vietnamization**, this policy allowed America to exit the war. The Paris Peace Accord of 1973 established a ceasefire and American troops began to withdraw. Two years later, in 1975, communist North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam. Today Vietnam is a single, communist country.

Neighboring **Cambodia** and **Laos** also ended up with communist governments. In Cambodia, guerrillas called the Khmer Rouge came to power. Led by the brutal dictator Pol Pot, their policies led to a genocide that killed about one third of the population. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia, the genocide ended. Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge were forced to retreat. Communism did not spread any farther in Southeast Asia.

**Section 17- The End of the Cold War: 1957-1991**

The **Soviet Union** (the name of Russia while it was communist from 1917-1991) emerged from World War II as a superpower with control over many Eastern European countries. For many people, the country’s superpower status brought few rewards. Consumer goods were inferior and workers were poorly paid. Because workers had lifetime job security, there was little incentive to produce high-quality goods. Still, the Soviet Union had some important technological successes. One example was **Sputnik**, the world’s first artificial satellite, launched into space in 1957. But keeping up with the United States for decades in an arms race strained the Soviet economy. Then in 1979, Soviet forces invaded **Afghanistan** (country in central Asia directly south of the Soviet Union) and became involved in a long war. The Soviets had few successes battling the mujahedin,or **Muslim** (followers of the religion of Islam) religious warriors, creating a crisis in morale of money in the USSR (the official name of the Soviet Union).

Then, new Soviet leader **Mikhail Gorbachev** (1985-1991)urged reforms. He called for **glasnost** (a policy within the Soviet Union of openly and frankly discussing economic and political realities). He ended censorship and encouraged people to discuss the country’s problems. Gorbachev also called for **perestroika**,or a restructuring of the government and economy. His policies, however, fed unrest across the Soviet empire.

Eastern Europeans demanded an end to Soviet rule. Previous attempts to defy the Soviets had failed. When Hungarians and Czechs challenged the communist rulers in the past, military force subdued them. By the end of the 1980s, a powerful democracy movement was sweeping the region. In **Poland** (country in Europe between Germany and the Soviet Union), **Lech Walesa** led Solidarity,an independent, unlawful labor union demanding economic and political changes. When Gorbachev declared he would not interfere in Eastern European reforms, Solidarity was legalized. A year later, Walesa was elected president of an independent Poland.

Meanwhile, East German leaders resisted reform, and thousands of East Germans fled to the West. In Czechoslovakia, Václav Havel, a dissident writer, was elected president. One by one, communist governments fell. Most changes happened peacefully, but Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu refused to step down and he was executed. Many states regained independence. By the end of 1991, the remaining Soviet republics had all formed independent nations. On Christmas Day, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist after 74 years of communist rule.

In 1992, Czechoslovakia was divided into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Additionally, some communist governments in Asia, such as China, instituted economic reforms.