**World History Mr. Sadow Chapter 23 Notes and All Work**

**Chapter 23- The Cold War (1945–1991)**

**Section 1- The Cold War Unfolds**

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 2- 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.

**World History Mr. Sadow Chapter 23 Homework Assignments**

**Section 1, Due by**

1. Define superpowers.

2. What was NATO? What was the Warsaw Pact? What was the goal of each?

3. What was the Iron Curtain?

4. What was the Truman Doctrine?

5. What is an arms race or weapons race?

6. Define detente.

7. Who was Fidel Castro?

8. Who was Nikita Khrushchev?

9. Define containment.

10. What was the red scare of the 1940s and 1950s?

**Section 2, Due by**

1. Who was Mao Zedong?

2. What was collectivization?

3. What was the Great Leap Forward in China? Why didn't it work?

4. Define bourgeois.

5. What was the Cultural Revolution in China? Why didn't it work?

6. Why was Korea divided after World War II?

7. What is the 38th parallel?

8. Why did the Korean War start in 1950?

9. What is the DMZ?

10 Why do you think troops are still stationed on both sides of the DMZ?