

Unit 8: Cold War and Decolonization (1900-Present)

Topic 8.1: Setting the Stage for the Cold War and Decolonization

Learning Objective 1: Explain the historical context for the Cold War after 1945.

A. In the years following World War II, increasing anti-imperialist sentiment contributed to the dissolution of empires and the restructuring of states.

B. Technological and economic gains experienced during World War II by the victorious nations shifted the global balance of power.

Topic 8.2: The Cold War

Learning Objective 1: Explain the ideological causes of the Cold War.

A. The United States and the Soviet Union emerged from World War II as superpowers, which led to ideological conflict and a power struggle between capitalism and communism across the globe.

Learning Objective 2: Explain the ideological effects of the Cold War.

A. Groups and individuals opposed and promoted alternatives to the existing economic, political, and social orders.

Topic 8.3: Effects of the Cold War

Learning Objective 1: Compare the ways in which the United States and the Soviet Union sought to maintain influence over the course of the Cold War.

A. The Cold War produced new military alliances and led to nuclear proliferation and proxy wars between and within postcolonial states in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Topic 8.4: Spread of Communism After 1900

Learning Objective 1: Explain the causes and consequences of China's adoption of Communism.

A. As a result of internal tension and Japanese aggression, Chinese communists seized power.

B. In communist China, the government controlled the national economy through the Great Leap Forward.

C. In communist China, the government attempted to repress dissent through the Cultural Revolution.

Learning Objective 2: Explain the causes and effects of movements to redistribute economic resources.

A. Movements to redistribute land and resources developed within states in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, sometimes advocating communism or socialism.

Topic 8.5: Decolonization After 1900

Learning Objective 1: Compare the processes by which various peoples pursued independence after 1900.

A. Nationalist leaders and parties in Asia and Africa sought varying degrees of autonomy or independence from imperial rule.

B. After the end of World War II, some colonies negotiated their independence.

C. After the end of World War II, some colonies achieved independence through armed struggle.

D. Regional, religious, and ethnic movements challenged colonial rule and inherited imperial boundaries.

Topic 8.6: Newly Independent States

Learning Objective 1: Explain how political changes in the period from 1900 to the present led to territorial, demographic, and nationalist developments.

A. The redrawing of political boundaries after the withdrawal of former colonial authorities led to the creation of new states.

B. The redrawing of political boundaries in some cases led to conflict as well as population displacement and/or resettlements.

Learning Objective 2: Explain the economic changes and continuities resulting from the process of decolonization.

A. In newly independent states, governments often took on a strong role in guiding economic life to promote development.

B. The migration of former colonial subjects to imperial metropolises maintained cultural and economic ties between the colony and the metropole even after the dissolution of empires.

Topic 8.7: Global Resistance to Established Power Structures After 1900

Learning Objective 1: Explain various reactions to existing power structures in the period after 1900.

A. Groups and individuals challenged the many wars of the 20th century, and some individuals promoted the practice of nonviolence as a way to bring about political change.

B. Militaries and militarized states often responded to the proliferation of conflicts in ways that further intensified conflict.

C. Some movements used violence against civilians in an effort to achieve political aims.

Topic 8.8: End of the Cold War

Learning Objective 1: Explain the causes of the end of the Cold War.

A. Advances in U.S. military and technological development, the Soviet Union's costly and failed invasion of Afghanistan, and public discontent and economic weakness in communist countries led to the end of the Cold War.

