

Student Handout: Unit 3 Lesson 3



The Cold War

Suggested time: 1 Hour

What's important in this lesson:

With the end of the Second World War, a new international tension between Western Democratic countries and the Communist Soviet Union grew. The added ingredient to this tension was the presence of a new weapon of mass destruction known as the Atomic Bomb. In order to deal with this new reality, new alliances and international protocols were developed during this period of time known as the Cold War. You will become familiar with the terms, concepts, and alliances developed during this time period.

Complete these steps:

1. Read "The Cold War", Handout 1, answer and hand them in to your teacher for evaluation.

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. Answers to questions on "The Cold War", Handout 1

Questions for the teacher:

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The Cold War

Read the following sections below and then answer the questions that follow each section. Each multiple choice question is worth 1 mark. (10x1=10 marks), each definition 2 marks. (2x4=8 marks)

During World War II the Soviet Union and the United States fought together against Germany. Though it was hoped that the alliance between the Soviets and the democratic allies would last, shortly after the war ended it was clear that this alliance would not continue.

The United States, Canada and other democratic countries had very different views of how their government, economies and society should be organized. The Soviet's view was called **Communism**. This view is that the government should control private property and private businesses and that the government should control and limit human rights and freedoms.

The United States and Canada have a system which is called **Democratic**. Democratic nations believe in greater freedom for their citizens who are not controlled by the government. The democratic perspective is that people should own their own property and businesses. With such different views it did not take long before the democratic countries like the United States and Canada began to have serious conflicts with the Communist-based Soviet Union (Russia).

1. In World War II the United States, Canada and Russia fought together against:
 - a) France
 - b) England
 - c) Germany
 - d) Canada

2. The basic difference in outlook between the U.S. and Russia is:
 - a) The democratic countries want to rule Russia
 - b) Russia is communist, the United States is a democracy
 - c) Russia is democratic and the United States is communist.
 - d) All of the Above

3. A communist country is a country where:
 - a) People have unlimited freedom
 - b) The government owns private property
 - c) The government does not own private businesses
 - d) None of the Above

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4. A democracy is a country where:
- a) People have greater freedoms and civil liberties
 - b) People are poor
 - c) The government controls everything and everybody
 - d) People must serve two years in the army

The Russian army invaded and occupied many countries of Eastern Europe during World War II. Stalin, the leader of Russia, had promised to withdraw these troops from these countries when the war ended. Stalin refused to do this after World War II ended. Instead, he forced a communist government on these occupied Eastern European countries.

The countries which Russia occupied and forced to become communist were called "satellites." Russia cut these countries off from all contact with democratic countries. There was no news or trade from these satellite communist countries. The border between these satellite countries and the rest of Europe was known as the "Iron Curtain."

5. After World War II ended many countries became communist because:
- a) They chose to be communist
 - b) They feared the United States
 - c) They were poor and needed money
 - d) Russia forced them to turn Communist by occupying them.
6. A Russian satellite country refers to:
- a) The Russian space program
 - b) A communist country which has been occupied and controlled by Russia
 - c) A enemy of the Soviet Union
 - d) None of the Above
7. The Iron Curtain is:
- a) A set of diplomatic dispatches during the Cold War
 - b) An area mined for iron ore
 - c) A line drawn around Canada
 - d) A border dividing communist and non-communist nations

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After World War II a new type of warfare broke out between democratic countries like Canada and the United States and Communist Russia. Both the United States and the Soviet Union knew that an all out war would destroy both countries. Instead of fighting an open battle using all available weapons, both sides began using other methods. This new type of struggle became known as the "Cold War." Three tactics became important in fighting the Cold War: spying, propaganda and the arms race. Propaganda involved each side trying to convince people that their side was better than the other. The expensive arms race which focused on building more nuclear weapons and advanced military technology.

8. The Cold War refers to:

- a) A war fought in winter
- b) The struggle between democratic countries and communist countries
- c) A battle fought in the far north
- d) None of these

9. Propaganda is:

- a) A new type of weapon developed during World War II
- b) Government attempt to persuade they country is better
- c) A Russian world for attack
- d) An American code word for attack

10. The arms race is:

- a) A race between Russia and the U.S. to build more weapons
- b) A race between Russia and the U.S. to build advanced weapons
- c) A and B.
- d) none of these

By 1949 democratic nations in Europe and North America became afraid of attack by Russia. To protect themselves they formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Canada was part of this organization. It was a military alliance in which all members promised to come to the aid of any member of NATO who was being attacked by Russia.

By 1955 the communist countries being led by Russia created their own military alliance called the Warsaw Pact. NATO Warsaw Pact countries promised to come to another member's aid if that country were attacked by a NATO country.

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In 1957, Canada and the United States entered into an agreement called the North American Air Defense System (NORAD). The aim was to protect North America from a nuclear or air attack from Russia. NORAD joined Canadian and American fighters, missiles and radar units under one command, which is situated deep in a mountain in Colorado. An American General is the commander and a Canadian General is the Deputy commander. In the same year, Americans and Canadians built the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning). This was a series of radar stations along the American and Canadian border to monitor air space.

11. Define the following terms; (2x4=8)

DEW Line -

NATO –

NORAD –

Warsaw Pact –

12. Using the websites listed below and your own internet search, select 3 examples of cold war flashpoints in which Canada was involved, e.g., Korea, Kosovo, and Suez. Describe each event and Canada's role. Note: you will have to go to more than one website to do that!

www.coldwar.org

www.archives.cbc.ca

13. When and how did the cold war end?