



The Postwar Era

Timeline Cards

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Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)



After World War II ended in 1945, the United States and the Soviet Union (U.S.S.R) emerged as the world's two superpowers.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)



In 1946, George Kennan authored the U.S. policy of containment, which guided U.S. foreign policy for four decades.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)



The 1947 Truman Doctrine said that the United States would “support free peoples” around the world.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)



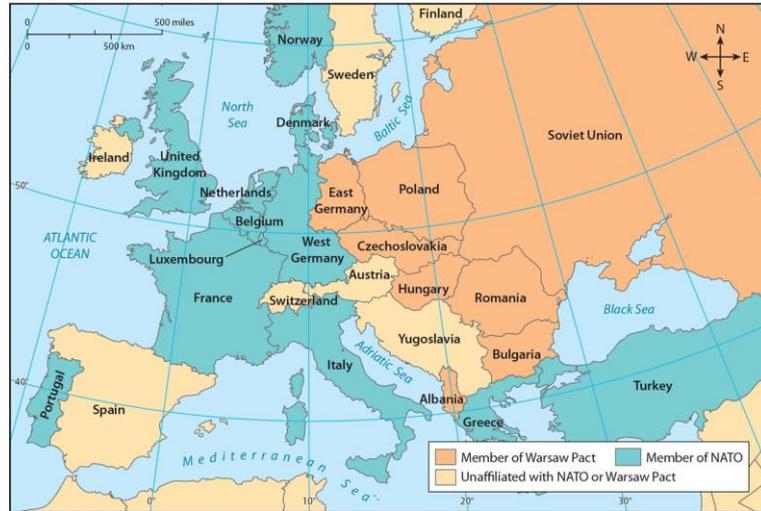
The Marshall Plan (1948–51) helped western and southern Europe rebuild after World War II.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)

The Cold War in Europe (1960)



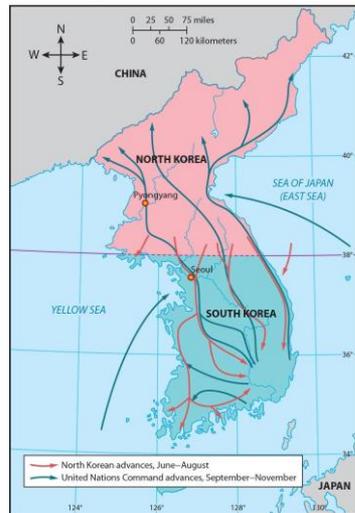
In 1949, the United States and countries in Europe formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a defensive alliance that still exists today.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)

Korean War, 1950



The Korean War (1950–53) left the Korean peninsula divided into communist North Korea and democratic South Korea.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)



The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and Senator Joseph McCarthy helped fuel a Second Red Scare in the 1940s and 1950s.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)

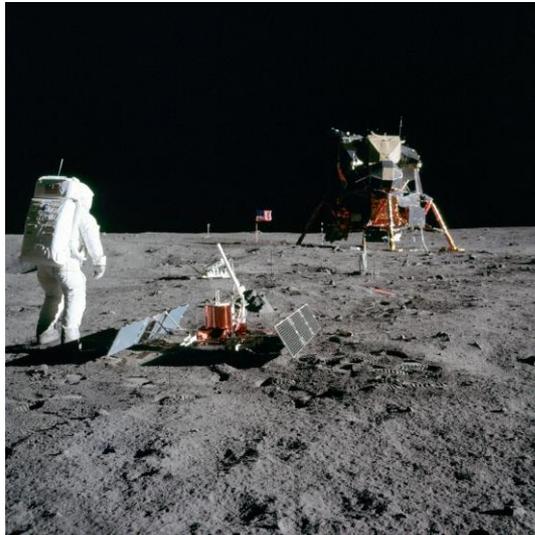


The Soviet Union's 1949 nuclear bomb test launched the Cold War nuclear arms race.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)



The Soviet Union's launch of *Sputnik I* in 1957 began the space race.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)



The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis was the closest the United States and Soviet Union came to nuclear war during the Cold War.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 1: Post–World War II United States and the Early Cold War (1945–1960s)



In 1954, the United States became militarily involved in Vietnam.

Framing Question: How did the Cold War shape domestic and foreign policy?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



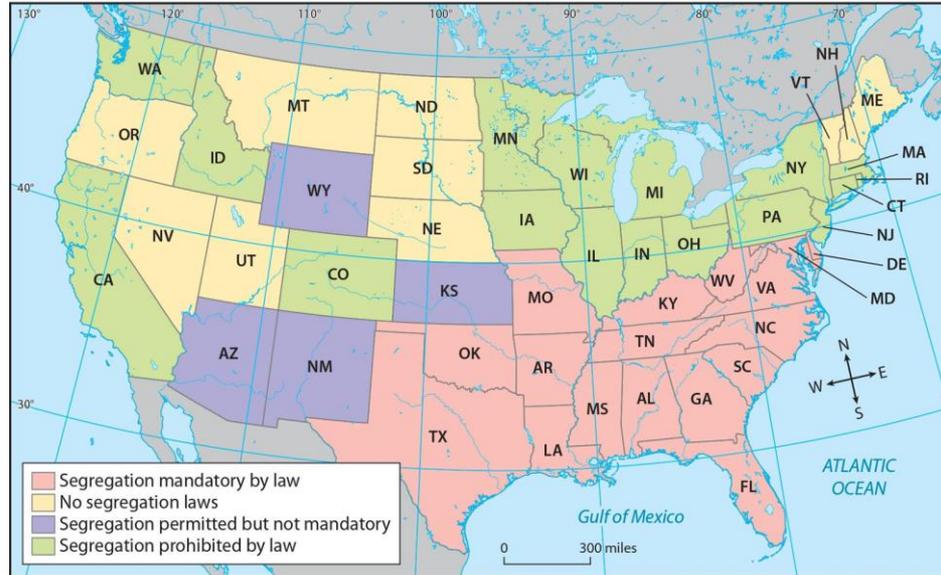
In 1948, President Truman's Executive Order 981 desegregated the U.S. armed forces.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement

Segregation in U.S. Public Schools Before *Brown v. Board of Education*



The Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* mandated the desegregation of U.S. public schools.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



In 1957, U.S. troops protected the Little Rock Nine as they integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges integrated William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



The murder of Emmett Till in 1955 drew attention to the violence against African Americans in the South.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



In 1953, Reverend T. J. Jemison organized the Baton Rouge bus boycott, the first major boycott of a segregated bus system.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



Rosa Parks's refusal to vacate her seat led to the year-long Montgomery bus boycott (1955–56).

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



In the Freedom Rides of 1961, groups of African American and white civil rights activists protested discrimination against interstate bus travelers.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders led the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and gave the federal government the power to desegregate public spaces.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



The goal of 1964's Freedom Summer was to register as many African American voters as possible in Mississippi.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



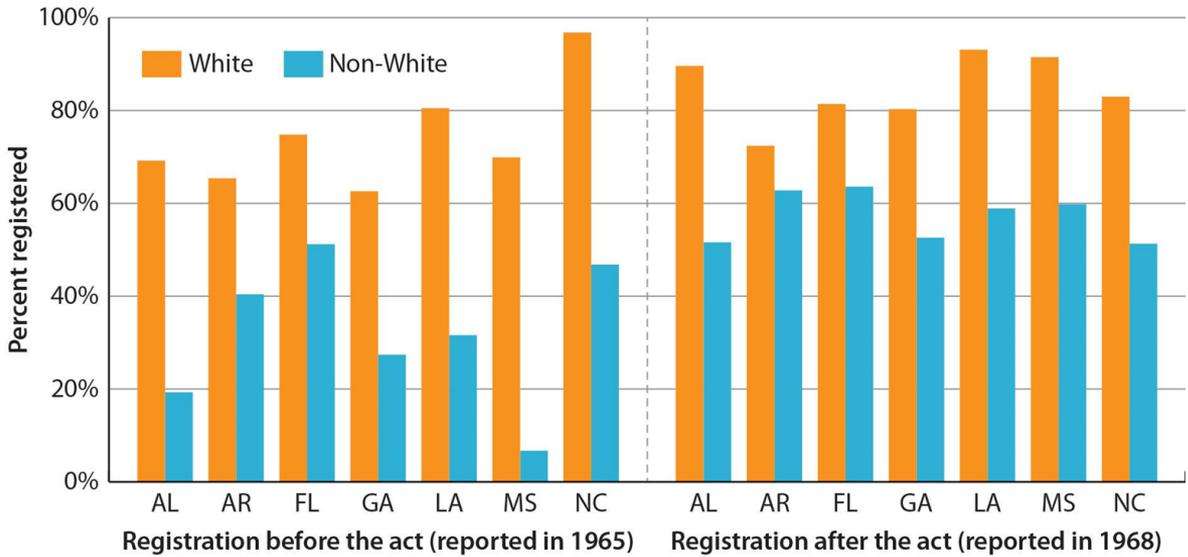
The first attempt at the Selma to Montgomery voting rights march in 1965 was met with violence. A later attempt succeeded, under the protection of the National Guard.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement

Voter Registration Before and After the Voting Rights Act of 1965



The Voting Rights Act of 1965 abolished the use of literacy tests to prevent people from voting and established federal oversight of specific voting jurisdictions in the South.

Framing Question:
What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 2: The Civil Rights Movement



The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. fueled support for the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Framing Question: What were the causes and effects of the Civil Rights Movement?



Chapter 3: The Later Cold War (1960s–1991)

U.S. involvement in Vietnam increased after 1964.



Framing Question: What factors contributed to the end of the Cold War?



Chapter 3: The Later Cold War (1960s–1991)



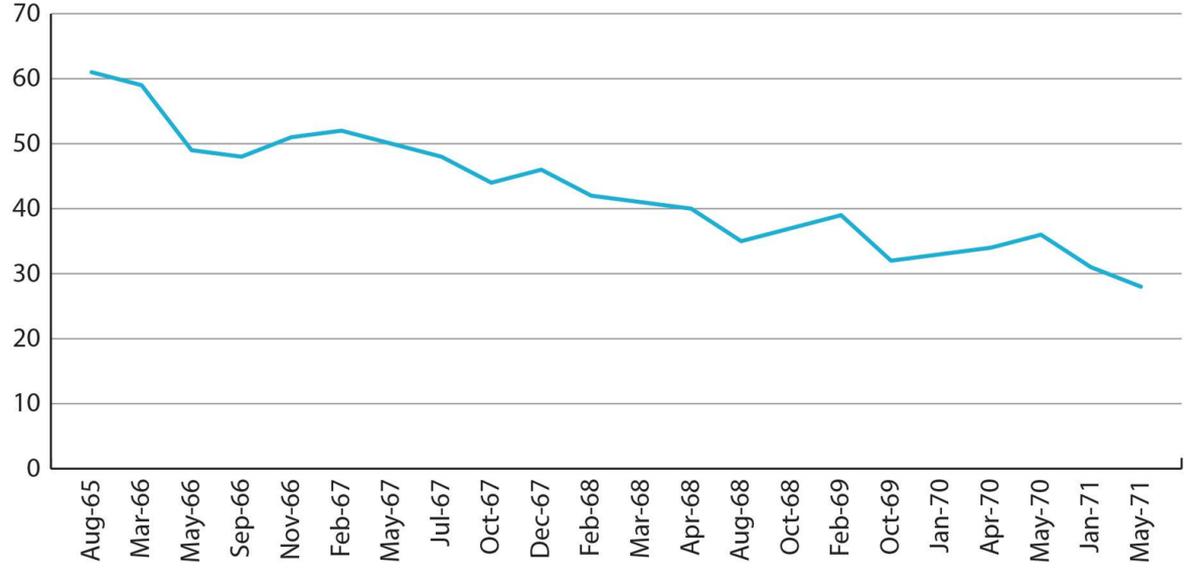
The debate over U.S. involvement in Vietnam intensified after the 1970 Kent State massacre and the 1971 release of the Pentagon Papers.

Framing Question: What factors contributed to the end of the Cold War?



Chapter 3: The Later Cold War (1960s–1991)

Support for the War in Vietnam



After Richard Nixon became president in 1969, the United States began withdrawing troops from Vietnam.

Framing Question:
What factors contributed to the end of the Cold War?



Chapter 3: The Later Cold War (1960s–1991)



The 1972 SALT I nuclear arms treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union was the first of its kind.

Framing Question: What factors contributed to the end of the Cold War?



Chapter 3: The Later Cold War (1960s–1991)



In 1974, President Nixon resigned as a result of the Watergate scandal.

Framing Question: What factors contributed to the end of the Cold War?



Chapter 3: The Later Cold War (1960s–1991)

Presidents Ford and Carter both struggled to address the stagflation of the 1970s.



Framing Question: What factors contributed to the end of the Cold War?



Chapter 3: The Later Cold War (1960s–1991)



Ronald Reagan won the 1980 presidential election with support from the “New Right” movement.

Framing Question: What factors contributed to the end of the Cold War?



Chapter 3: The Later Cold War (1960s–1991)



The Cold War came to an end in 1991, during the administration of President George H. W. Bush.

Framing Question: What factors contributed to the end of the Cold War?



Subject Matter Expert

Dr. Mark G. Spencer, Professor of History, Brock University

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