

IMPORTANT TERMS

BI-POLAR WORLD

The division of the world into a struggle between two superpowers, The United States and The Soviet Union.

COLD WAR

Bernard Baruch coined the phrase "Cold War," denoting the struggle between the Eastern and Western Blocs that commenced with the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 and lasted until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

DETENTE

The easing of tension between the Eastern and Western Blocs brought about by Richard Nixon's trips to Beijing and Moscow in 1972.

CONTAINMENT

The policy proposed by George Kennan to contain Communism where it currently existed. This policy led to the Korean War(1950) and the Vietnam War(1964)

MONOLITHIC COMMUNISM

Theory that all Communists are the same ideologically whether in Russia, China, Cuba or Laos. In other words, Communism is one "solid block of stone"(mono-lithic) ready to crush all in its path. This theory fell into disrepute during the 1960s

DOMINO THEORY

Theory alluded to by Dwight Eisenhower referring to a "falling domino effect" concerning the dangers of a Communist take-over.

eg., Vietnam would fall, then Laos, then Cambodia, then Thailand, then Malaysia, etc.

COLD WAR RHETORIC

Terms that were meant to scare the opposition such as "brinkmanship," "First-strike capability," "Mutual Assured Destruction(MAD)," etc. Eisenhower's Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, was a leading exponent of this rhetoric.

COVERT OPERATIONS

The CIA(Central Intelligence Agency) in foreign affairs
The FBI(Federal Bureau of Investigation) in domestic affairs

DEMOGOGUERY

The arousing of people's passions, prejudices, emotions, and fears instead of appealing to logic and reason.

eg., Joe McCarthy and Richard Nixon red-baiting during the late 1940s and 1950s