

Review Session #9  
20<sup>th</sup> Century (1945 to the Present)  
(Chapters 30 & 31)

- I. Cold War (1945-1991)
  - A. Overview: By far, the most important development during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the ideological conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. After WWII, these two nations emerged as the two dominant powers in the world. The schism was most apparent in Europe where the continent was divided by the Iron Curtain. The United States influenced the West and the Soviet Union dominated the East. The broader conflict between democracy/capitalism and Communism essentially created a bi-polar world. Often, these two Superpowers became involved in regional conflicts throughout the world. Two areas where they were most involved were the Middle East and Asia.
  - B. Iron Curtain: NATO, Warsaw Pact
  - C. United Nations: Security Council, permanent members, China, Taiwan, General Assembly, Baruch Plan
  - D. Western Successes: Containment, Monolithic Communism, Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Berlin Airlift
  - E. “Three Shocks of 1949”: China falls to Communism, Soviets get the A-Bomb (Mutually Assured Destruction), Trial of Alger Hiss
  - F. Easter Europe: Poland (1956), Hungary (1956), Czechoslovakia and the the “Prague Spring” (1968), Brzhnev Doctrine, Poland and Solidarity (1981)
  - G. “After Shocks of 1957”: *Sputnik*, Soviets develop I.C.B.Ms.
  - H. Collapse of the 1960 Peace Summit, Berlin Wall (1961), Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)
  - I. Détente: Nixon, Helsinki Accords (1975)
  - J. Star Wars
  - K. Outside of Europe: Israel, Palestine, Nasser, Suez Canal, Anwar el-Sadat, Camp David Accords, PLO, China, Mao Tse Tung, Korea, Kim Il Sung, Cuba, Castro, Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, Afghanistan
  
- II. Political Developments
  - A. Overview: Again, the dominant political development was the Cold War and the eventual collapse of Communism
  - B. Cold war
  - C. Soviet Union: Stalin, Krushchev, Brezhnev, Gorbachev, Yeltsin
  - D. Decolonization
  - E. Western Europe: Welfare State, Christian Democratic Parties, Labour Party, Atlee, Thatcher, Fourth Republic De Gaulle, Fifth Republic
  - F. Collapse of the Soviet Union: Gorbachev, *Perestroika* (economic and political), *Glasnost*, Revolutions of 1989, Velvet Revolution, Fall of the Berlin Wall, Unification of Germany, August 1991 Coup, Commonwealth of Independent States.

- III. Economic Development
  - A. Overview: Aside from the Communist experiment, the most important economic development of the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is the movement toward economic unification in Western Europe.
  - B. Marshall Plan
  - C. Economic Unification: Organization for Economic Cooperation (OECE), European Coal and Steel Community (1950), European Economic Community (Treaty of Rome-1957), “Common Market”, European Union (Treaty of Maastricht – 1993)
  - D. Collapse of Communism
  
- IV. Social, Intellectual, Cultural Developments
  - A. The “Americanization” of Europe
  - B. Consumer Society
  - C. Welfare State
  - D. New Patterns of Work and Expectations of Women