

O LEVEL ELECTIVE HISTORY NOTES SYLLABUS 2261

All points taken from the textbook, all bullet points are my work. This document covers the entire syllabus.

Key Knowledge	Learning Outcomes (Knowledge and Skills)	Key Concepts
<p>After World War I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of World War I <i>[Non-examinable]</i> • Aims and terms of the Paris Peace Conference and its immediate impact on Europe in the 1920s – Aims of the Big Three <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Woodrow Wilson: build a more peaceful world with his 14 pts, main pts being self-determination, that countries should rule themselves (unfair as France and Britain had colonies), and that Germany should be punished but not destroyed • Britain David Lloyd George: best possible outcome for Britain (middle ground), wanted protection, recovery and maintenance of the British Empire. Wanted Germany to recover economically to act as a buffer against communism in Europe • France Georges Clemenceau: Punish Germany for the losses France suffered, wanted to ensure that Germany would not be able to wage another war against France, wanted to weaken Germany as much as possible. – Treaty of Versailles and its immediate impact on Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ War Guilt Clause, reparations, demilitarisation, territorial reductions <p><u>Reasons for German resentment for TOV (later exploited by Hitler)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War guilt clause: Germans did not feel like they alone started the war, they were only helping their ally (Austria-Hungary) • Reparations: Germany already had huge debts from the war effort and the reparations would ruin the economy (heavy taxes on Germans, govt. printed money to pay, led to hyperinflation) • Demilitarisation/ disarmament: An army of 100 000 was very small for a country of Germany's size, was a insult to German pride, no other country was disarmed to the same extent • Territorial reductions: Major blow to German pride and economy, Many Germans would have to live under the rule of Czechoslovakia and Poland; Germany had no more colonies – Re-drawing of national boundaries and the creation of new nation-states <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Breakdown of old empires (Eg breaking of Austria-Hungary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the impact of post-war peace settlements on Europe. • Assess the attempts at collective security in the 1920s and its outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective security • Self-determination • Balance of power

- Self-determination
- Attempts at collective security in the 1920s
 - Successes and failures of the League of Nations at peacekeeping in the 1920s
 - Failures:
 - Member countries were reluctant to disarm due to protect themselves
 - Member countries were reluctant to stop trade with aggressor countries when economic sanctions were put in place for the benefit of their own economy; LON did not have an army to take action against the aggressor
 - US congress did not allow US to join the LON and USSR was also not in the LON, which meant that they could still trade with aggressor countries and render the economic sanctions imposed useless/ hard to enforce, was also difficult for the LON to take strong action against aggressor countries as US was not part of LON
 - Corfu 1923: Mussolini blamed Greeks for killing 3 Italian officials on the border of Albania and Greece, and demanded compensation. Greece appealed to the LON, Britain wanted to help, but France was busy. In the end, Greece was forced to apologise and pay Italy. If Britain and France had come together, Musolini probably would not have gotten his way.
 - Success:
 - Greek- Bulgarian border 1925: Greek soldiers killed on Greece's border with Bulgaria, Greece invaded Bulgaria, Bulgaria appealed to LON. LON told both sides to stand down and had Greece withdraw. Britain and France supported, and Greece withdrew.

Rise of Authoritarian Regimes

- Overview of the attempts at establishing viable political systems after World War I [Non-examinable]

Case Study of Nazi Germany*

- Circumstances leading to the rise and establishment of authoritarian rule in Germany
 - Weaknesses of the Weimar government: problems of the Weimar constitution, unpopularity of the Weimar government
 - Political-Proportional Representation: any party taking part will get seats proportional to number of votes received. Most views and interests were represented, but made it hard for one party to gain a majority which led to the formation of weak, short-lived coalitions (made it difficult for the Reichstag (Parliament) to pass laws.)
 - Political-Article 48: stated that the president could rule the country during times of emergency, effectively as a dictator for a certain period of time. This could be misused and exploited and threaten the constitution. (Hitler convinced Hindenburg to pass the Decree for the Protection of People and the State, giving him sweeping emergency powers)
 - Social-Unpopularity: The Weimar government signed the Treaty of Versailles that was not negotiated upon with Germany, and was called a diktat, meaning a dictated peace forced on Germany; Led to German resentment for TOV. Weimar govt. politicians were called the “November Criminals” for signing the TOV.

Threats/ Challenges to the Weimar Republic

- Spartacist Uprising 1919: communist Spartacists fought for power, defeated by anti-communist WWI veterans, Freikorps.
- Kapp Putsch 1920: Wolfgang Kapp led 5000 Freikorps to Berlin rebellion, German army refused to act against the Freikorps. In the end Trade Unions and 12M industrial workers declared a strike. There was no transport, power, or water; Kapp realised he could not win and fled.
- Appeal of Hitler and the Nazi Party
 - Role of Hitler (social)
 - Hitler’s charisma: Hitler was persuasive and addressed people’s concerns (appeared as a man of the people, like he understood their problem). He won over important business owners and they funded his party.
 - Methods of Nazi Party (use of propaganda and force, participation in elections) (political/ social)
 - Propaganda: Joseph Goebbels was in charge of propaganda. The propaganda promised strong decisive actions, such as rebuilding Germany’s armed forces, creating millions of jobs, and Jews were

- Demonstrate awareness of political developments after World War I.
- Examine the rise of authoritarian regimes and evaluate their impact on the political, economic and social context of countries.
- Evaluate the roles of key players in the establishment of authoritarian rule.

- Communism
- Nationalism
- Authoritarianism
- Militarism
- Parliamentary rule

offered as scapegoats to blame for problems. The propaganda appealed to the people, and was communicated through leaflets, newspapers and radio broadcasts, blaming the economic problems on the Treaty of Versailles, and blaming the Weimar politicians for being too selfish and divided to take the actions necessary to get people back to work.

- Use of force: SA were prepared to fight the communists and were better organised (appealed to the people). The SA had the support of the police and army when they beat up opponents and disrupted meetings and rallies of opposing parties. (reduce opposition)
- Participation in elections: Hitler ran for president against Hindenburg in 1932. He lost, but the campaign raised his profile.

– Economic challenges

- Inflation, unemployment and Great Depression

- Occupation of the Ruhr and Hyperinflation: Germany failed to make payment, so French and Belgian troops occupied the Ruhr Valley and took what was owed to them in the form of raw materials and goods (legal under TOV). The German govt. asked workers to go on a strike and not cooperate, but this led to the collapse of the German currency since industrial production halted. The government continued to print bank notes, which made money worthless and wiped out the personal savings of many Germans.

GREAT DEPRESSION 1929/ Wall Street Crash

- Led to unemployment: workers were laid off, led to hunger, illness, and homelessness/ increase in slums.
- Parties in German government were so divided (coalitions failed) that President Hindenburg had to rule by decree (under Article 48)
- Led to the rise in Communism, which led to the rise of the Nazi Party: workers looked to communist party (KPD) rather than the moderate SPD. Business Leaders feared the communists and had little trust in the Weimar Republic's ability to deal with the threat communism seemed to pose, so they turned to the Nazi party, which they thought could control the situation.

• Consolidation of Nazi rule in Germany (political)

– Establishment of Hitler's dictatorship and one-party rule

- Hitler becomes Chancellor in 1933 and Fuehrer in 1934 (aft Hindenburg died)
- Reichstag Fire: Hitler declared that the fire was the start of a communist uprising and convinced Hindenburg to pass the Decree for the Protection of People and State, granting Hitler sweeping emergency powers. The police, SA and SS arrested 4000 communists and banned opposition party meetings, newspapers, and radio broadcasts, making it difficult for opposing parties to campaign
- Enabling Act: Hitler had gotten rid of opposition, and had a majority. He passed the Enabling Act, which allowed him to make and pass laws without consulting the Reichstag. (effectively a dictator)
- Co-ordination (Gleichschaltung): All aspects of the state were brought under

Nazi control. No trade unions, all local councils had to have a Nazi majority, and banned all other political parties.

- Night of the long Knives: Hitler saw the SA leader Rohm as a threat and was suspicious of him since SA members were fiercely loyal to Rohm, who supported taxing elite groups. Hitler was put into power by these groups, so Hitler accused him of plotting to overthrow and murder him, allowing Hitler to get rid of Rohm and other potential internal threats to Hitler
- The army and the Oath of Allegiance: The entire army swore an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler (not Germany)

– Economic policies

- Re-employment and improvement of working conditions and move towards war economy
 - Re-employment: The Reich Labour Service sent men on public works projects to build a network of highways. (created jobs), and conscription was reintroduced and the move to war economy created jobs
 - Improvement of working conditions: Initiatives like Strength Through Joy (KdF) gave them cheap cinema tickets, organised trips, courses and sports events, and discounted cruises on luxury liners. The Beauty of Labour scheme improved working conditions in factories, like adding washing facilities and low-cost canteens.
 - Move towards war economy: Conscription was reintroduced (which reduced unemployment), and the Four-Year Plan was created to get ready for war in four years. Rearmament was the priority. This boosted Hitler's popularity and national pride as it felt like Germany was on equal footing with other great powers.

– Social policies

- German nationalism and persecution of ethnic and minority groups
 - Women had less rights; they were excluded for politics, academics, and had little employment opportunities
 - Jews, gypsies, homosexuals and the mentally insane were persecuted and sent to concentration camps.
- Control of and responses by German society
 - Control of workers: Workers lost their main political party, SDP and trade unions. They had to join the DAF, where they could not strike, sometimes even prevented from moving to better paying jobs. Wages remained low; Prices of goods were strictly controlled and many workers thought the standard of living was still lower than it was before the Great Depression
 - Control and Fear of people: The Gestapo could arrest citizens with no explanation and send them to concentration camps (most feared by citizens)
 - Control of Youth: Hitler Youth influenced German youths through education that stressed Nazi values and ideology, patriotism, physical education, anti-seminism (anti-jews), and used

- textbooks that were strictly controlled.
- Control of others: propaganda and censorship was used and opponents of Nazism rarely received a fair trial.

Case Study of Militarist Japan, 1920s–1930s

- Circumstances leading to the rise and establishment of authoritarian regime in Japan
 - Weaknesses of the democratic government in Japan (political/ social)
 - Prime ministers and their cabinets did not remain in power for long as it was challenging for the prime minister to win the support of the majority
 - Decline in overseas demand for Japanese goods led to loss of jobs and resentment towards the government
 - Social
 - Large population growth led to lack of land for farmers and stagnation as technological advancements did not spread to the countryside quickly enough. Many tenant farmers struggled to pay their rent and keep enough to eat
 - Rural-urban divide as government supported the wealthy
 - Economic challenges
 - Inflation, unemployment, landlord-tenant disputes, Great Depression – Appeal of ultranationalist faction
 - Banking crisis of 1927: Banks did not have enough money due to bad debts. People panicked and tried to withdraw their savings and led to the collapse of banks. Many lost their savings. The government tried to resolve it, but by the time the policy was introduced, most of the problem was already resolved
 - Unemployment (result of GD): 15-20% of workforce lost their jobs, labour laws were not generous
 - Landlord-tenant disputes (result of GD): Japanese exports fell and there was a lower demand for farmer's produce. Tenant farmers tried to get their landlord to reduce rent, but they disagreed and tried to evict tenant farmers. Many resisted and organised themselves into unions, protesting and taking landowners to court.
 - Great Depression: demand for Japanese exports fell. Resentment towards the government grew. Great Depression led to unemployment, landlord-tenant disputes, attraction to communism (increasing unemployment, communism seemed attractive, government feared threat of communism), and growing distrust in the government (Japanese believed that the civilian government only cared about the elites eg. banks, landowners and zaibatsu)
 - Military successes and political assassinations

- Increased influence of the militarists in Japan from the 1930s
 - Mukden incident 1931: Kwantung army blew up railway tracks at Mukden and blamed it on the Chinese government and used it as an excuse to invade and take over Manchuria. This was extremely popular with the Japanese public as Manchuria was seen as a solution to Japan's economic problems. The victory was celebrated in Japan through songs, plays, newsreels and radio broadcasts. The Japanese press also played a key role in turning public opinion in favor of the invasion.
 - Political assassinations: When Zhang Zuolin was assassinated by the Kwantung army, the Emperor criticized them and demanded the Prime Minister discipline them. The PM was unable to force military leaders to punish those responsible, showed that the Emperor failed to control the military and that the military could defy the government. Other political assassinations (PM, finance minister, May 15 incident PM Inukai) intimidated civilian politicians that caused them to stop opposing the military, and created a sense of instability.
- Consolidation of military power in the government
 - Economic policies
 - Increased government control over industry and campaign for economic revitalisation
 - Control over industry: Principle Industries Control Law 1931, made it legal for zaibatsu to form cartels to limit competition and regulate production and product prices to protect their industries.
 - Campaign for economic revitalisation: mix of propaganda and practical proposals to strengthen the countryside. It encouraged the use of scientific farming methods and farmers received guidance on how to better manage crops to increase their income. However, conditions did not improve significantly as the government was focused on industrialisation
 - Social policies
 - Militarisation of education
 - Sought to instill a sense of patriotism centred on ultranationalist and militarist ideals, included physical exercise, military-style drilling and technical lessons designed to prepare youths for war
 - Control of labour unions
 - Control of labour unions: Militarist government forced thousands of workers to withdraw from the union of government employees

War in Europe and the Asia-Pacific

- Key developments leading to the outbreak of World War II in Europe*
- Ineffectiveness of the League of Nations in the 1930s
 - Failure of at disarmament in the 1930s
 - World Disarmament Conference 1932-1934:
 - Limiting offensive weapons: LON wanted to control the destructive power of offensive weapons like prohibiting the bombing of civilian populations and use of chemical warfare. Leaders could not agree on what were offensive and defensive weapons. The resolutions passed did little to ensure how the limitations would be achieved, and countries used the conference to raise their own issues.
 - Germany: have every country disarm to the same level as Germany, or let Germany rearm to a level closer to other powers? Countries failed to agree, and Germany left the LON
 - Abyssinian Crisis (1935) and its implications
 - Abyssinian Crisis: Mussolini invaded Abyssinia, the Abyssinian Emperor asked the league for help, but was unsuccessful (France and Britain could have sent troops to defend, but chose not to)
 - Other: The LON lost credibility as German troops marched into the Rhineland in 1936 against the TOV and LON did nothing to stop it. LON lacked authority in enforcing its measures, resulting in the show of its ineffectiveness.
- Germany's aggressive foreign policy
 - Plebiscite in the Saar region, 1935
 - 90% of people in the Saar voted to join Hitler's Germany
 - Remilitarisation of the Rhineland, 1936 (undo TOV)
 - Britain, France and LON were busy with the Abyssinian crisis. The LON condemned his actions but did not take action.
 - Anschluss with Austria, 1938 (undo TOV)
 - Political union with Austria
 - The Munich Agreement and the invasion of Czechoslovakia, 1938–1939
 - Munich Agreement 1938 (not discussed with Czechoslovakia): Czechoslovakia to give Sudetenland (lots of Germans there) to Hitler, and Hitler will stop making anymore territorial demands. Signed by Chamberlain and Hitler. Hitler later invades and occupies all of Czechoslovakia 1939
 - Nazi–Soviet Non-Aggression Pact and the invasion of Poland, 1939
 - Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact: Hitler did not want to fight a two-front war, Stalin wanted to ensure the USSR was not invaded, or to buy time to prepare for war. Both countries agreed not to attack one another, and divide Poland between them.

- Evaluate the reasons for the outbreak of World War II in Europe and the Asia-Pacific.
- Evaluate the roles played by individuals and groups in developments leading to the outbreak of World War II.

- Appeasement
- Theatres of war
- Alliances
- Expansionism
- Militarism

- Invasion of Poland 1939: Trigger of outbreak of WWII in Europe (Britain and France previously threatened to declare war on Germany if Hitler invaded Poland)

– Policy of appeasement

Reasons it was justified:

1. Prevent war
2. Public opinion was against war
3. Not ready for war (could buy time)
4. Trusted Hitler
5. Hitler claimed to be anti-communist (Brit+France wanted ally against communists)

• Key developments leading to the outbreak of World War II in the Asia-Pacific

– Ineffectiveness of the League of Nations in the 1930s

- When Manchuria was invaded, China turned to LON for help. The League's council, with the exception of Japan, all voted for Japan to withdraw its troops. Japan claimed they were acting in self-defense to keep peace as China was in a state of anarchy (disorder because no leader). The LON later presented the Lytton Report concluding that Japan had acted unlawfully and Manchuria should be returned to the Chinese. However, Japan announced that they intend to occupy more of China, rejected the report and left the LON. The LON could not ban arms sales to Japan as member countries did not agree. (Britain and France did not want to risk confrontation, and only the US and USSR had the resources to remove Japan from Manchuria) This tarnished the prestige of the LON and encouraged Japan to expand further into Asia.

– Worsening of US-Japan relations

- During Great Depression, US introduced tariffs to protect its own economy
- In 1937, the US condemned the Japanese invasion of China and provided financial and military aid to the Chinese leader. The US also imposed economic sanctions, reducing Japan's growth.
- An embargo was placed on raw materials such as steel and iron
- Later on an oil embargo was imposed and Roosevelt resurrected a law from WWI, Trading with the Enemy Act, which seized Japanese assets in the US, making Japan unable to buy essential goods. (bc Japan refused to withdraw from China)

– Japan's expansionist foreign policy

- Aggression towards China from 1937 (Invasion of Manchuria)
- Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere
 - Aimed to rid Asia of the influence of the US and other Western powers. The message was that people of Asia should unite behind Japan which would lead this campaign to drive foreigners out of

<p>Asia. In reality, the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was more of a program for Japan to use the massive resources of its Empire in Asia to prepare for war</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bombing of Pearl Harbour, 1941 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trigger of outbreak of WWII in Asia-Pacific ● Japan wanted to deliver a quick knockout blow to the US in order to buy time to conquer new territories and build up its economic resources. However they failed to destroy American repair shops, fuel-oil tanks, and other crucial navel installations, which allowed the US to recover quickly and declare war on Japan. In addition, US aircraft carriers were not at Pearl Harbour. 		
<p>War in Europe and the Asia-Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for end of World War II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strengths of the Allies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Britain: Able to resist the German invasion, refused any kind of deal. During the Battle of Britain, Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) was able to defeat the German air force (Luftwaffe). Developed radar technology, became a substantial military base, was a base for massive US army presence, made the D-Day landings 1944 and allied bombing campaigns possible. Huge colonial powers (Australia, New Zealand, Africa, India) were also utilised to fight in Asia against the Japanese. ○ American entry into the war (economic resources and manpower) ● USA: not in the front of the war, had vast economic power, lots of resources and manpower, huge war production capacity (produced almost half the weapons made globally and supplied them to allies. Became known as the "Arsenal of Democracy"). Gained control of shipping routes to Britain and USSR during the Battle of the Atlantic (British intelligence broke German submarine (U-boat) codes and allowed the US to gain control of shipping routes in the Atlantic) in order to extend the Lend-Lease scheme (\$11.1B aid in food, supplies, and munitions to the allies). Military and economic powers were mobilised fully after Pearl Harbour. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allied strategies (D-Day, island hopping, dropping of the atomic bomb) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D-Day/ Operation Overlord 1944: Allies aimed to open a second front of the war through France. D-Day was successful because of the combination of overwhelming resources and effective planning. The Allies brought many troops, tanks, weapons, aircraft, and ammunition, and cut off German forces in Normandy from reinforcements by destroying radar installations, rail links and bridges. ● Island hopping strategy: The Allies used air attacks and submarines to isolate Japanese held areas instead of trying to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the reasons for the end of World War II. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict

capture them. They would then conquer the islands which were poorly defended and use them to cut off ships that supplied the well-defended islands. This allowed the Allies to incur fewer financial and human losses and advance towards Japan faster.

- Atomic bomb: To save American lives, US president Truman decided to use the Atomic bombs without warning and dropped the 2 bombs in quick succession to convince the Japanese that the US had a large stockpile of the Atomic bombs (it did not). On 6 August, "Little Boy" was dropped over Hiroshima and on August 9, "Fat Man" was dropped on Nagasaki, leading to the Emperor surrendering Japan on 14 August 1945

- Role of the Soviet Union

- USSR: Reformation of the Red Army during the Winter
 - Harsh discipline used, "Not a step back", had to fight and die for every bit of Soviet land
 - Radios were adopted
 - Officers in the Red Army were given more freedom to act, Stalin banned communist officials from interfering with military decisions
 - Major industrial complexes and workers were moved away from the front of the war to the Urals, Siberia and Kazakhstan.
 - T-34 tank was developed, it was effective and able to be mass produced. The impact of this is seen in the Battle of Kursk where Soviets had 10 times as many tanks as Germans. Soviets won and continued to push back until they reached Berlin in 1945, where facing imminent defeat, Hitler committed suicide (30 April) and Germany formally surrendered on 8 May 1945.

– Military weaknesses of Germany and Japan

- Germany

- Ineffective command structure

- German commanders constantly had to report back to Hitler who regularly intervened in military decisions even though he had little military command experience
- Hitler ordered to halt the advance of German forces towards Dunkirk in May 1940, where he did not allow German forces to encircle and Destroy British troops, allowing the British to escape.
- During the siege of Stalingrad in 1942. Most German commanders wanted to withdraw as Stalingrad was not particularly valuable from the strategic point of view. However Hitler overruled them as taking Stalingrad was a matter of pride since it was named after Stalin.
- Hitler decided to declare war on the US with no obligation to do so and brought the US, which had been neutral, into the European theatre of war. Germany would now have to contend with the immense amount of resources and military might brought by the US

- War on two fronts
- In 1940, Hitler fought a single-front war against Britain and France, but failed to defeat Britain. He then invaded the USSR in 1941, which placed Germany in a two-front war. This prevented him from concentrating his efforts and resources on a single front, causing the military to be gradually worn down by Allied forces.
- Japan
 - Inter-service rivalry between army and navy: Japanese Army and Navy had a long-term conflict with each other as they had different strategic goals and ideas. Their rivalry prevented them from sharing resources and exchanging military intelligence, making it impossible for them to coordinate their attacks and defenses against the allies. For example, when the Navy asked the Army to provide troop support for an invasion of Australia, the Army refused and remained unresponsive throughout the Pacific War.
 - Overextension of empire
 - The Japanese empire was very spread out. Road and rail communications were poor and it was difficult to deliver raw materials and workers efficiently to the places where they were needed. Large quantities of raw materials and finished goods, such as weapons and vehicles had to be transported by sea (dependent on sea power, that's why Island hopping worked).
 - Inability to access raw materials from empire
 - It was difficult to deliver raw materials, and transporting the materials relied on sea power. Japan also did not have as many resources and raw materials as the Allies.

Note: Teachers should note that, although detailed study of the military campaigns of World War II is not required, students will need to be aware of the major turning points of the war leading to the defeat of Germany and Japan.

The Cold War

- Origins and development of the Cold War in Europe*
 - End of World War II and its impact on Europe
 - Circumstances in post-war Europe
 - Many had been killed, infrastructure had been destroyed, there was no gas, electricity or even running water in many areas, disease and malnutrition were widespread, there were shortages of food and medicine, and homelessness was a huge problem
 - Emergence of the USA and USSR as superpowers
 - Growing mistrust between USA and USSR
 - Differences in ideology (completely opposite)
 - The US believed in Democracy where individual freedoms and rights were protected, and wanted to sustain the capitalist economy and prevent countries from becoming communist.
 - The USSR believed that all people are equal and work and property must be shared with equality. Individual freedoms were less important than protecting the interests of society, and wanted to destroy capitalism through class struggles and communist revolutions.
 - Breakdown of wartime alliances
 - Tehran conference 1943: Stalin felt that the Allies were delaying the opening of the second front to minimise their own losses and even weaken the USSR. (second front was only opened years later in 1944 through D-Day)
 - Yalta conference 1945: US wanted economic recovery and USSR wanted security through buffer states. They agreed on the division of Germany and Berlin into four zones, countries liberated from German occupation to be allowed to hold free elections and choose their own governments (Stalin went against it by establishing communist govt. in Poland), and Eastern Europe to be a Soviet sphere of influence.
 - Potsdam conference: Change in leadership (except Stalin), Soviet had more control in Eastern Europe (Stalin established a communist government in Poland and encouraged communists in other states to take power).
 - The Manhattan Project: When the US were developing the atomic bomb, they decided to keep it from the USSR, but it was leaked to Stalin. When Truman informed Stalin the USA had the atomic bomb, Stalin was suspicious why he was not told about the bomb earlier, and if it would be used against the USSR. The USSR lost military advantage.
 - Major disagreements: Stalin wanted to cripple Germany and wanted reparations. Truman agreed, then changed his mind. This made Stalin think that the US wanted to protect Germany and increased his suspicions. Truman suspected Stalin of wanting to control all of Europe, but to Stalin,

- Assess the immediate impact of World War II on Europe.
- Examine how Cold War tensions were manifested in Europe.
- Assess the impact of rivalry between the USA and USSR in the aftermath of World War II.
- Assess the impact of the emergence of Communist China on Cold War tensions.
- Assess the reasons for the outbreak of the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and their aftermath.
- Evaluate the extent and impact of superpowers involvement in civil wars with reference to the Korean War and the Vietnam War.
- Examine the immediate aftermath of the Korean War and the Vietnam War on Cold War developments.

- Cold War
- Bipolarity
- Containment
- Communism
- Command economy
- Democracy
- Capitalist economy
- Superpower rivalry
- Proxy war
- Civil War

having Eastern Europe as a Soviet sphere of influence (agreed at Potsdam) meant being able to set up Communist governments loyal to him and keeping them under close control.

○ Division of Europe after World War II

- Stalin established satellite states to be buffer states loyal to the USSR. In the buffer states, Stalin got rid of non-communist opposition using the salami tactics where he removed the opponents one by one to make sure that communist governments led by politicians loyal to him took power across Eastern Europe.
- Truman invited Churchill to give the Iron Curtain Speech. It alarmed many Americans and got Truman the attention and support needed to have the US more involved in international affairs. This speech drew angry responses from the Soviet media and Stalin.

– Intensification of superpower rivalry

○ American containment policy: Political, economic and military actions

- Political - Truman Doctrine: Stated that the US would provide money, military equipment, and advice to democratic countries perceived to be threatened by communist influence. Political stance against communism.
- Economic - The Marshall Plan: economic aid plan where the US would put US \$13B into helping Europe's shattered economies recover. Food, machinery, animals, and other items were shipped to democratic countries in Europe. Truman wanted them to feel good about capitalism so they would not be attracted to Communism. Additionally, the US passed the Greece and Turkey Aid Bill: US\$400M in aid to Greece and Turkey. This secured Turkey as a US ally and stopped the communists in Greece. But the exaggeration of the threat of the USSR worsened relations.
- Creation of the Trizone and Trizone currency: Truman saw Germany as a possible future against the USSR. In early 1948, the United States, France and Britain combined their zones into a single economic unit known as the Trizone. A Trizone currency was also introduced.
- Berlin airlift (response to Berlin Blockade): The US and its allies supplied West Berlin with coal, food and medicine by air. Truman and the USA seemed kind and humane. After this, West Germany and West Berlin were created. The Berlin Wall separated Berlin in two.
- Military - Creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO): All NATO members agreed to go to war if any member was attacked. NATO countries could provide US forces with secure bases in Europe (US presence in Western Europe). Split the world into two military blocs

○ Soviet responses: Political, economic and military actions

- Political - Cominform: Created to unite and support communist

countries. Cominform published propaganda that united the communist states and ensured that satellite states implemented a Soviet style communism, trading mainly with other cominform countries. Stalin used Cominform to further control the satellite states and ensure that the US could not gain any political influence in them. Cominform countries were not allowed to accept financial support from the Marshall Plan.

- Economic - Comecon: Comecon members would trade mostly with one another. Satellite States were promised benefits similar to the Marshall Plan (so they would not be attracted by the Marshall Plan). Comecon favored the USSR far more than any of its other members. Poland was forced to sell its coal to the USSR at 1/10 of the price it could have been sold on the open market.
- Berlin Blockade (response to creation of Trizone): The USSR cut the rail and road links from the Allied zones to West Berlin. Water and power supplies were also disrupted. Made Stalin seem inhumane. Eventually lifted a year later because of the Berlin Airlift. And in response to the creation of West Germany and Berlin, Stalin announced the creation of East Germany and East Berlin. The Berlin Wall separated Berlin in two.
- Military - Warsaw Pact: The Warsaw Pact was formed when West Germany was invited to join NATO (it was seen as a threat to the USSR). All communist states of Eastern Europe, except for Yugoslavia, joined the Warsaw Pact, and the members agreed that if one state was threatened they would help to defend it. The Warsaw Pact strengthened the USSR and gave the USSR command of all the armies of the satellite states. It also entrenched Soviet rule in Eastern Europe. Soviet troops dealt with protests and uprisings in Eastern Europe. For example, a revolt in Hungary was forcefully quelled by Soviet tanks and troops.

- Extension of the Cold War outside Europe: Case study of Korean War, 1950–53*

– Post World War II developments in Korea

- Post-war occupation, partition of Korea, border clashes

- Partition and post war occupation:

- The dividing line would be at the 38th parallel
- North: Soviet troops to govern the North, Kim Il Sung (communist) recognised as leader. The USSR did not allow elections to take place. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was established in response to the establishment of the Republic of Korea (South Korea).
- South: US forces to govern the South, Syngman Rhee (anti-communist) as president of the Republic of Korea (South Korea).
- Border Clashes: Syngman Rhee initiated border clashes to

capture territory in the North. July 1949, South Korean warships attacked North Korea's military installations near the Taedong River, sinking most of North Korea's west coast fleet (Taedong incident 1949) from 1949 onwards fierce fighting and border skirmishes broke out frequently around the 38th parallel.

– Emergence of communist China

- Expansion of a communist bloc, Sino–Soviet Alliance
 - The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was victorious against the GMD and China became a communist state (October 1949).
 - Soviets had supported Mao Zedong during the Chinese civil war and were allies with communist China. They signed the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance (a month after US defensive perimeter speech, included a \$300M loan to rebuild China). This indicated the USSR's greater confidence in cooperating with China. It seemed likely that Mao would be responsible for supplying troops and support for North Korea (Mao wanted to show communist China was a force to be reckoned with).
 - US was fearful that communism might start spreading throughout Asia (domino theory).

– Outbreak of the Korean War

- Role of key players in the conflict: North Korea, South Korea, USA, UN, China and the USSR
 - Kim Il Sung and Syngman Rhee were both eager to reunify Korea under their rule
 - North: Had a large army of well-trained and experienced troops (fought alongside Mao's communists in the war against GMD) eager to reunify Korea. Kim Il Sung changed Stalin's mind about supporting an invasion of South Korea (Kim determined to advocate for it, USSR had atomic bomb, had China as an ally)
 - USSR: convinced to support invasion of South Korea, sent tanks and aircraft
 - China: IN 1950, 200 000 Chinese troops joined the North Koreans, equipped with Soviet tanks and aircraft.
 - US and South Korea: US did not include South Korea in the defensive perimeter speech, but later changed its mind after China fell to communism and the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual assistance was signed. The US was afraid that communism would spread through Asia, and drew up the National Security Council Paper No. 68 (NSC-68) which set out a more assertive, aggressive US foreign policy to deal with communist threat (military spending against the communists and financial support were increased. The US was inclined to intervene if a war broke out).
 - The US formed a UN Army led by US general Douglas MacArthur as the USSR was not present to veto the

<p>decision. UN forces included troops from other countries and they fought alongside thousands of South Korean troops.</p> <p>Overview of the war: from 1950-1953, the North Korean and Chinese forces and the South Korean and UN forces pushed back and forth across the 38th parallel, eventually leading to a stalemate. The armistice to end the fighting was signed in 1953, but the war has not officially ended (no peace treaty).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Korean Armistice Agreement and the immediate aftermath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demilitarised zone, impact on US policy in Asia, escalation of tension between NATO and Warsaw Pact • Demilitarised zone (DMZ): The DMZ was created to settle the border issues. Both sides agreed to move their troops about 2km back from the border, and the zone would be free of troops and any military presence. • Impact on US foreign policy: Determined to pursue policy of containment in Asia, US stationed troops and significant air power and naval ships in South Korea and Japan. US set up anti-communist alliances: Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) in SEA and the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) in Central Asia and the Middle East. The US gave money, advice and arms to these allies. In return, the leaders of these countries would suppress communist influence in their countries(the USSR saw these alliances as aggressive and escalated tensions). • Escalation of tension between NATO and Warsaw Pact: NATO had 15 divisions stationed in West Germany and NATO countries were spending more than 12% of their GDP on defense. The USSR responded to NATO by forming the Warsaw Pact, which included all communist Eastern European countries (except Yugoslavia). Europe was divided into Eastern and Western blocs (as seen from pic in Unit 2 TB Pg 95) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of the Cold War outside Europe: Case study of Vietnam War, 1954–75 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Key developments in North and South Vietnam in the 1950s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partition of Vietnam in 1954, consolidation of communist control in North Vietnam and instability in South Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partition of Vietnam in 1954: The Viet Minh defeated the French at Dien Bien Phu, and demanded recognition of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the removal of French troops during the Geneva conference. Vietnam was then divided into two along the 17th parallel, with communist North Vietnam under Ho Chi Minh and non-communist South Vietnam under Ngo Dinh Diem. • North Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh and the communists had much support in North Vietnam as Ho was recognised as a great leader who fought the Japanese and French invaders. Ho also introduced land reforms that redistributed land confiscated from larger landowners to peasant farmers (popular among peasant farmers, but led to decline of agricultural output;famine). In 		

<p>order to ensure stability and consolidation of rule, opponents and potential opponents were dealt with ruthlessly, with executions and show trials. The combination of popular support and the harsh treatment of opposition led to overall political stability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South Vietnam: Ngo Dinh Diem was very anti-communist and was not popular in South Vietnam. His modernisation programmes were not quite successful. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discontentment over the Geneva Accords ● Vietnam was divided into two at the 17th parallel instead of being recognised as the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It was agreed that elections would be held by 1956 to establish a single government for a unified Vietnam. <p>▪ Failure to carry out national elections in 1956</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In July 1955, Diem announced that the Vietnam-wide elections agreed at the Geneva Conference would not be held (broke the agreement). He then held a referendum on the proposal to remove the head of state Bao Dai. The referendum was rigged, with votes approving Diem outnumbering the registered voters. <p>▪ Unpopularity of Ngo Dinh Diem's actions and the support from the North for the insurgency in the South</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diem was becoming increasingly unpopular as he ruled by the rule of authoritarian methods. Opponents were frequently imprisoned and executed. Diem was not interested in introducing land reforms, and his reforms were not far reaching (Diem was supported by landlords). Diem's regime was also highly corrupt, with blatant nepotism (appointed his brothers as key officials) and refusal to hold elections. Graphic images of Buddhist monks' (not respected as Diem was Catholic) self-immolation made Diem even more unpopular. Despite the \$1.6B of US support (South Vietnam was dependent on the US), the regime was still weak and unable to prevent a communist insurgency in the countryside. ● Insurgency in South: After the cancellation of promised 1956 reunification elections, many former Viet Minh members started an insurgency against Diem and his regime in South Vietnam. Diem responded with harsh and repressive measures, locking up, torturing, and executing suspected communists. In 1959, the North Vietnam Communist Party approved the setting up of Group 559, A specialized unit of the North Vietnam Army to transport weapons, ammunition and other equipment to the Viet Cong (the insurgents, aka National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, took orders from Ho). During the insurgency, the Viet Cong carried out 1 700 assassinations on anyone associated with the South Vietnamese government or anyone suspected of collaborating with the government. They staged hundreds of 		
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<p>attacks on government forces, leading to panic, insecurity, and instability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Escalation of tensions between North and South Vietnam from 1954 ○ Role of key players in the conflict: North Vietnam, South Vietnam, USA, USSR and China • North Vietnam: The Viet Cong used guerrilla warfare against the South Vietnamese. They also used the Ho Chi Minh Trail to send reinforcement and supplies to guerrilla fighters, including around 40 000 North Vietnamese Army troops. The Viet Cong often avoided well-defended South Vietnamese positions in urban areas, but chose to focus on making the countryside unsafe for government forces. They also attacked US Air Force supply bases. • South Vietnam: Introduced the Strategic Hamlet program where peasants were relocated (sometimes by force) to fortified villages away from the control and influence of the Viet Cong. Removing civilians would allow the superior firepower of the US Air Force and the South Vietnamese Army to destroy the Viet Cong without civilians being caught in the crossfire. • USA: The USA believed in the Domino Theory and was determined to resist communism and support anti-communist governments in order to prevent the spread of Communism (containment). Military advisors were sent to train the South Vietnamese Army and military equipment was supplied. These support efforts were organized under the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). Direct US military involvement in the Vietnam war was triggered during the Gulf of Tonkin Incident 1954 where North Vietnamese patrol boats attacked USS Maddox, a US destroyer on the Gulf of Tonkin. • USSR: The USSR was in contest with China over leadership of the Communist world, and supporting communist North Vietnam to stand up to the US was important in asserting USSR leadership. The Soviets provided more arms and other essential supplies to North Vietnam and were providing more support to North Vietnam than China, particularly in the form of aircraft and air defenses such as surface-to-air missiles. • China: Mao believed that if Vietnam became a non-communist country allied with the US, China was potentially vulnerable to attack from South Korea, Vietnam, and the GMD government in Taiwan. Hence, he wanted to create an anti-US buffer in Vietnam, especially if it was a communist one. Mao also wanted to help Vietnam to show support for another communist state and believed involvement in the Vietnam War could help unite the Chinese people behind his leadership and strengthen his position as he did in the Korean War. – The end of the Vietnam War and the immediate aftermath • End of of the Vietnam War and the defeat of the USA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of the media: The media played an important role in the defeat of the USA by highlighting the horrors of the Vietnam War, galvanizing the anti-war movement and later leading to Nixon's policy of withdrawing from Vietnam. After the Tet offensive (Viet 		
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Cong fighters surprise attacked over 100 cities and other military targets. US and South Vietnamese forces retook the towns captured in the offensive at the expense of large amounts of artillery, air power and civilian lives. The ancient city of Hue was destroyed), many journalists were convinced that the US could not win (US was taken completely by surprise) and publicly criticized the US war effort in Vietnam. Media coverage of photographs such as the My Lai Massacre and the Saigon execution where US soldiers murdered unarmed Vietnamese civilians swung the American public opinion against US involvement in the Vietnam War, giving rise to anti-war movements and demonstrations demanding an end to the war and withdrawal of US forces. This was apparent in the US presidential elections where both candidates campaigned to end the unpopular war in Vietnam. Upon being elected, President Nixon began the policy of Vietnamization, which was handing over the responsibility of the war to the South Vietnamese forces and withdrawal of US troops. This demoralised South Vietnamese troops. In 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed by all 3 parties and the communist North Vietnamese emerged victorious over the South Vietnamese government after the Fall of Saigon in 1975.

- Overall strategy: The Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese used guerilla warfare to avoid large-scale battles that were not in their favor. They utilised knowledge of the terrain and the element of surprise to their advantage, using hidden tunnels and trails to move about and get access to vital equipment. The Viet Cong did not wear uniforms and were hard to tell apart from the peasants. They were well supplied and reinforced by the North Vietnamese through the Ho Chi Minh trail. The USA used its superior air power to engage in strategic bombing to disrupt North Vietnamese supply lines. For example, Operation Rolling Thunder which lasted from March 1965 to November 1968. The US bombed North Vietnamese cities, factories, army bases, and the Ho Chi Minh trail. US aircraft dropped more bombs on North Vietnam than they did on Nazi Germany in WWII, resulting in thousands of civilian casualties and building resolve against the USA.
- Support from civilian population: The Viet Cong were expected to respect and help the peasants, and wore similar attire to portray the Insurgency as being part of a nationalist struggle to liberate South Vietnam from US control. The Viet Cong also ensured absolute loyalty by killing those who opposed them or cooperated with the South Vietnamese government. The use of fear and genuine support from the civilian population helped the Viet Cong in their war effort. The US did not enjoy the same degree of popular support as the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese. The US frequently had "Search and Destroy" missions to hunt down Viet Cong forces, often resulting in many civilian deaths. The US also used defoliants such

as Agent Orange to clear foliage (provided shelter for the Viet Cong) and also napalm to burn down forests. Agent Orange caused a range of illnesses, including various types of cancer and birth defects. This led to low support for the US.

- Morale: The war was seen as a war of national liberation and the Viet Cong refused to give in to anything less than the complete removal of the US from Vietnam. However, the morale in US troops was low as conscription was used to send troops over to Vietnam. The troops were young and inexperienced and did not understand why they were conscripted to fight a war in a far away country for people they knew nothing about. The low morale was worsened by the media's portrayal of the US involvement in the war as an unjust one.

- o Reunification of Vietnam, beginning of détente

- Reunification of Vietnam: after the fall of Saigon in April 1975, Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City. The communists had won, reunifying Vietnam as a communist state. South Vietnamese were subjected to indoctrination, torture and forced labour. In 1976, Vietnam became known as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam under the leadership of a communist party. The communist state aligned itself closely with the USSR and continued to receive aid from it in order to secure and control the new nation.
- Beginning of détente: The Vietnam War had devastating consequences for American society and the confidence of the US in managing international relations. Some impacts of the Vietnam War and US foreign policy are: Firstly, showing that the ideology of the West was not morally superior. Atrocities committed by US soldiers and the use of chemical weapons had also damaged US reputation. Secondly, US failure of containment despite its military strength. US policy of containment had failed and after the fall of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia also turned communist by 1975 as predicted by the Domino theory. Thirdly, US Presidency was weakening as Congress exercised greater oversight of presidential actions. For example, Congress forbade US military aid to Cambodia in 1970 and in 1973 it introduced the War Powers Act, limiting the ability of the president to go to war. These failures greatly affected future US policies towards Communist States and after the war, the US tried to improve its relations with the Communists by seeking to have a greater understanding with the USSR, which was known as détente (reduction of tension).

Note: Teachers should note that, although detailed study of the military campaign of the Vietnam War is not required, students will need to be aware of the major turning points of the war.

End of the Cold War

- Overview of different phases of thawing and rising tensions between the USA and the USSR in the 1960s and 1970s *[Non-examinable]*
- Decline of the USSR and the end of the Cold War
 - Ineffectiveness of Soviet command economy
 - Structural weaknesses and their effect on Soviet standards of living
 - Weaknesses of the Soviet economy:
 - Structural: the Soviet economy became overwhelmed by the increasing demands as it grew and expanded by the 1970s. The Soviet government was not flexible enough to adapt to the many types of Industries and companies making different goods and acted too slowly, making poor decisions such as being very slow to bring new technologies into its industries. This meant that the Soviet industry was left behind as compared to that of the USA and Western Europe.
 - Workers: Many Soviet workers also became disillusioned with the system as there was much corruption and not much incentive for workers to work hard. There was also fear that those who protested or complained risked being arrested by the secret police. This meant that the overall production capacity fell throughout the 1970s and 80s.
 - Poor standard of living: Soviet people knew that ordinary Americans had cars, telephones, televisions and other devices, but in the USSR such items were rare and impossible to afford because of the command economy prioritizing industry and military spending over consumer goods. Workers wages were not increasing despite higher living standards in many other non-communist countries like Western Europe and Japan. Over investment in the military took money away from areas such as education, research, and development in universities (these were the sectors creating economic growth in the US). The USSR not focus on raising its standards of living and wages for its citizens.
 - External economic burdens of the USSR
 - The USSR fought proxy wars and supported its allies with money, technical equipment, advisors, food and medical supplies; this was a substantial financial burden which increased greatly when the war in Afghanistan broke out in 1979. Soviet troops entered Afghanistan to maintain the power of the pro-soviet government there but they were tied down for the next 10 years by Afghan Fighters.

- Assess the reasons that led to the decline of the USSR.
- Evaluate the reasons for the end of the Cold War.

- Cold War
- Bipolarity
- Détente
- Arms race
- Diplomacy
- Communism
- Command economy
- Democracy
- Capitalist economy
- Glasnost
- Perestroika
- Reform

- Increased military spending
 - The USSR invested far too much in its military power (especially the nuclear weapons program and the war in Afghanistan). An estimated 30 to 50% of Soviet resources went to the military.
- Increased resistance within the communist bloc
 - Communist regimes in Eastern Europe which were highly dependent on Soviet support also borrowed heavily from Western banks in the 1970s. Consequently, the Eastern European countries attained debt levels which were among the highest in the world at the time. Serious protests against communist rule broke out in some Eastern European States.
 - Hungarian Revolution 1956: After WWII Soviet forces occupied Hungary and established a communist regime. In 1956, widespread protests against the Communist Regime led to the formation of a new government. Under this government, it was announced that Hungary will withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and be a neutral multi-party social democracy. However, Soviet tanks and troops invaded Hungary and crushed the popular revolution, overthrowing the new government.
 - Prague Spring 1968: Newly elected communist leader believed that the communist regime policies were not working and began introducing more democratic reforms. The Prague Spring met the same fate as the Hungarian Revolution.
 - Poland and Solidarity 1970s: read Unit 2 TB Pg 148
- Commitment to Warsaw Pact
- Escalation of USA–USSR tensions in the 1980s
 - USA economic might and the re-intensification of arms race
 - The booming economy in the US allowed Ronald Reagan to take a tough line with the USSR by increasing US defense spending. He supported anti-communist forces in Afghanistan and increased the US defense budget massively. In his first two weeks in office he increased the defense budget by \$32.6B. New weapon systems were introduced. In 1982, the US initiated the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) known as the “Star Wars” program. Although it did not develop into a variable weapon, it put pressure on the Soviets. The USSR was already finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the United States given its stretched resources. Renewing arms spending would ruin the USSR (basically the USSR was broke).
- Impact of Gorbachev’s economic and political reforms on the USSR and its fall
 - Failure to revive the Soviet economy
 - Perestroika: Also known as “restructuring”, perestroika was a series of political and economic reforms involving a range of measures where managers in companies and industries were encouraged to

innovate and try new approaches without first seeking permission from the government. Managers were also encouraged to involve workers in discussions and decision-making about their businesses. It was intended to encourage new ideas, increase efficiency and fight the problem of corruption. It made it no longer illegal to buy and sell for profit. The policy eventually failed because there was no overall increase in output and there were chronic problems of unemployment, growth of black markets as well as shortages in basic necessities. This meant that small business owners still had to pay high taxes and deal with dishonest officials. Infrastructure remained inadequate and many Soviet citizens lost interest in setting up their own businesses. Perestroika allowed for open elections in 1989 and paved the way for the rise of various opposition groups, particularly the opposition bloc led by Boris Yeltsin.

- Loss of confidence in the Soviet government
 - Glasnost: Meaning “openness”, Glasnost allowed open political debate by Communist party members who disagreed with the government and allowed criticism of the government in the media. This backfired as it released much resentment against the communist government and exposed the shortcomings of the government officials such as their inefficiency and corruption. This led to decreasing confidence in the party. The Soviets were also further exposed to aspects of the outside world, especially the better quality of life in the United States and the Western European countries, through popular Western culture. As a result, many in the Soviet bloc felt deceived and lost confidence in the vision and rule of the communist governments. Instead of rallying the people behind the reforms Glasnost, it unintentionally created a platform which unleashed criticism of communist rule that eventually brought about the disintegration of the USSR. Soviet people also were able to learn about the heinous crimes committed during the Stalinist years.
- Collapse of the Eastern European bloc
 - Sinatra doctrine: Abandoned the Brezhnev Doctrine, where any attempt in communist Eastern European states to reverse communism would be seen as a threat to all communist states. If such a threat emerged, other communist states would intervene by sending in troops. All communist states in Eastern Europe were expected to be members of the Warsaw Pact. The Sinatra Doctrine effectively abandoned the Brezhnev Doctrine as Gorbachev directly encouraged more opposition to the existing communist governments and their eventual overthrow by democratic leaders by explaining that he was now committed to a policy of non-intervention in the affairs of other countries. (Would not interfere in non-communist

- uprisings of other countries)
 - After Gorbachev explained that he would leave Eastern Europe to themselves, dramatic collapses of communism across Eastern Europe started to occur. In May, Hungarians began dismantling the barbed wire fence between Hungary and non-communist Austria, dismantling the “Iron Curtain”. From June to August, protests against communist rule in Poland took place throughout the summer. In September, thousands of East Germans escaped through Austria into West Germany. In October, Gorbachev visited East Germany and made a key speech urging all European leaders to reform their countries. He made it clear that the USSR would not use troops to keep Eastern European leaders in power. Hungary declared itself a democratic republic rather than a communist republic. In November, the East German government announced the opening of the border and lifting of the Berlin Wall on the evening of November 9th. The Berlin Wall was dismantled by jubilant crowds. In Czechoslovakia, huge demonstrations forced communist leaders to resign, resulting in the opening of its borders and free elections. In December, massive demonstrations led to the collapse of the communist regimes in Bulgaria and Romania, and later Albania in 1992.
 - Basically the “Iron Curtain” was destroyed
- Disintegration of the USSR
 - Boris Yeltsin and the coup: He became the president of the Russian Federation (only able to participate in free elections because of Perestroika). Yeltsin led other reformers in demanding an end to the communist party’s domination of the government and made it clear that he saw no future for the USSR. Yeltsin also said that the many republics in the USSR should become independent states, including the Russian Federation. This struggle for power between Gorbachev and Yeltsin, especially the view that the Soviet republic should become independent was another reason which led to the dissolution of the USSR. The failed military coup by hard line communists allowed Yeltsin to show his position as leader of the opposition. In 1991, communist hard-liners and leading military officers attempted a coup to take over the USSR, led by the prime minister and head of the armed forces. Gorbachev was held prisoner in his holiday home, and the hard line communists sent troops onto the streets. Boris Yeltsin stood up against the coup, eventually leading to its end. The coup proved that the communists would use any means to take power, and Gorbachev had lost his standing as Soviet leader. In a televised speech on the 25th of December 1991, Gorbachev announced his resignation as the president of the USSR and the end of the USSR. This was the official dissolution of the USSR.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

This is my own work, done with reference to the textbook only.

1868

- The Meiji period begins in Japan.

1894

- The First Sino-Japanese War: Japan defeats China.

1904

- The Russo-Japanese War: Japan defeats Russia.

1910

- Japan annexes Korea.

1912

- The Taisho period begins in Japan.

WWI

1914

- July: World War I breaks out.

1918

- January: U.S. President Woodrow Wilson outlines his 14 Points.
- November: The Kaiser abdicates on November 9.
- November: The Armistice ends World War I on November 11.

1919

- January: The Spartacist Uprising takes place.
- January: The first elections of the Weimar Republic occur.
- January 1919-1920: The Paris Peace Conference takes place from January 1919 to January 1920.
- June: The Treaty of Versailles between Germany and the Allies is signed.

1920

- January: The League of Nations holds its first meeting.

- February: The German Workers' Party is renamed the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party).
- March: The Kapp Putsch takes place.
- Economic recession starts in Japan.

1921

- July: Hitler takes control of the Nazi Party.
- November 1921-February 1922: The Washington Naval Conference takes place from November 1921 to February 1922.
- December: The Washington Naval Treaty is signed.

1922

- October: Mussolini seizes power in Italy.
- December: The USSR is formed.

1923

- January: France occupies the Ruhr.
- August-September: The Corfu Crisis occurs from August to September.
- November: The Munich Putsch takes place.

1924

- August: The Dawes Plan is signed.
- Stalin consolidates power in the USSR.

1925

- October: The Locarno Treaties are negotiated.
- October: The League of Nations settles the dispute between Greece and Bulgaria.

1926

- September: Germany joins the League of Nations.
- The Showa period begins in Japan.

1927

- Japan experiences a banking crisis.

1928

- August: The Kellogg-Briand Pact is signed.

1929

- August: The Young Plan is finalized.

- October: The Great Depression begins with the Wall Street Crash in October (1929-1939).

1930

- April: The Japanese government signs the London Naval Agreement.
- June: The United States places tariffs on Japanese exports.
- November: Japanese Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi is assassinated.

1931

- The Principal Industries Control Law is introduced in Japan.
- September: Japan invades Manchuria.

1932

- February: The World Disarmament Conference is held in Geneva.
- February: Japan renames Manchuria to Manchukuo in February, establishing a puppet state.
- April: Hindenburg defeats Hitler in the German presidential election.
- The campaign for economic revitalization is launched in Japan.
- May: The League of Blood attempts a coup in the May 15 Incident.

1933

- January: Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany in January, and the Nazi Party takes power.
- February: The Reichstag Fire occurs.
- March: The Enabling Act is passed in March, granting Hitler dictatorial powers.
- March: Germany announces its rearmament program.
- March: Japan leaves the League of Nations.
- May: Japan takes control of Jehol Province in May, extending control into China.
- October: Italy invades Abyssinia (Ethiopia).
- December: The Hoare-Laval Pact is agreed upon by Britain and France.

1934

- June: The Night of the Long Knives takes place in Germany.
- August: Hindenburg dies, and Hitler becomes Führer.

1935

- September: The Nuremberg Laws are enacted in Germany.
- The United States increases tariffs on Japanese exports.

1936

- February: The Imperial Way activists attempt a coup in Japan during the February 26 Incident.

- Germany: The Rhineland is remilitarized in March by Germany.
- May: Italy conquers Abyssinia.
- July: The Spanish Civil War erupts.
- November: Germany and Japan form the Axis Alliance.

1937

- The Japanese government introduces the Five-Year Plans.
- "Fundamentals of Our National Policy" (Kokutai no Hongi) is published.
- A network of discussion councils in workplaces is implemented in Japan.
- July: The Second Sino-Japanese War begins.
- November: Italy joins the Axis Alliance.

1938

- March: Germany and Austria form Anschluss (political union).
- September: The Munich Agreement is signed in September, with Sudetenland ceded to Germany.
- November: Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) occurs.

WWII

1939

- March: Germany invades the rest of Czechoslovakia.
- August: The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact is signed.
- September: Germany invades Poland in September, leading Britain and France to declare war on Germany.
- September: World War II begins in Europe.
- Germany attacks Allied shipping, leading to the Battle of the Atlantic.
- October: Poland is defeated and divided between Germany and the USSR.

1940

- Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Britain.
- May: Germany invades France, which surrenders to Germany.
- July: Japan begins invading French Indochina.
- The US places embargoes on oil and iron to Japan.
- Japan announces the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.
- September: Japanese forces occupy French Indochina in September after the fall of France.
- September: The Blitz begins in September, with Germany bombing British cities.

WWII (Asia- Pacific)

1941

- March: The United States introduces the Lend-Lease scheme.
- June: Germany invades the USSR in June and lays siege to Leningrad.
- July: The United States increases sanctions on Japan.
- December: The United States declares war on Germany and Italy in December, entering World War II and forming the Grand Alliance with Britain and the USSR.
- December: Japan attacks the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7.
- December: The United States declares war on Japan on December 8, marking the beginning of WWII in the Asia-Pacific.

1942

- January- May: Japanese forces occupy Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, and most of the Philippines between January and May.
- February: Allied forces carry out a bombing campaign against German cities from February.
- June: Japan suffers a heavy defeat in the Battle of Midway.

1943

- February: German forces surrender to the USSR during the Battle of Stalingrad.
- July: Allied forces invade Italy.
- August: The Germans and Soviets engage in the Battle of Kursk in July, ending with Soviet victory.
- November: The Big Three (Britain, United States, and the USSR) meet for the first time at the Tehran Conference.

1944

- January: US forces take control of Japanese-held areas in the Pacific from January.
- January: The German siege of Leningrad ends.
- March: The Germans withdraw their U-boats, signaling the end of the Battle of the Atlantic.
- June: Allied forces launch the D-Day invasion in Normandy, France,.

1945

- February: The Big Three meet at the Yalta Conference.
- May: Germany surrenders, ending the war in Europe.
- July-August: The Big Three meet at the Potsdam Conference in July and August, where the United States and the USSR agree to free Korea from Japanese occupation and divide Korea at the 38th parallel.
- August: The United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- August: The USSR declares war on Japan and invades Japanese-occupied Manchuria.
- The Korean Peninsula is divided along the 38th parallel after WWII.
- September: Japan formally surrenders to the Allies.
- October: The United Nations (UN) is established.

1946

- March: Winston Churchill makes his famous "Iron Curtain" speech.

1947

- January: A Soviet-backed communist government is formed in Poland.
- March: The Truman Doctrine is announced.
- August: A Soviet-backed communist government is formed in Hungary.
- September: The USSR sets up Cominform.

1948

- April: The Marshall Plan is implemented.
- June: The Berlin Blockade and Airlift start.
- August: The Republic of Korea is established in South Korea.
- September: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is established in North Korea.
- December: Soviet troops leave the Korean Peninsula.

1949

- January: The USSR sets up Comecon.
- April: NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is formed.
- May: The Berlin Blockade ends; West Germany is established after the three Allied zones of occupation are combined to form the Trizone.
- June: US troops leave the Korean peninsula.
- June-August: South Korea initiates border clashes against North Korea.
- September: The USSR announces the development of its own atomic bomb.
- October: East Germany is founded.

1950

- January: Dean Acheson gives his defensive perimeter speech at the National Press Club.
- February: The USSR and China sign the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance, and Mutual Assistance.
- June: North Korean troops cross the 38th parallel and attack South Korea, capturing Seoul.
- July: The United Nations sends peacekeeping forces to help South Korea.
- September: UN troops retake Seoul.
- October: UN forces cross the 38th parallel, capturing Pyongyang and approaching the Yalu River, the border between China and North Korea. China joins North Korean forces in the war.

1951

- January: Chinese and North Korean forces cross the 38th parallel and capture Seoul.
- March: UN forces counterattack and recapture Seoul.
- June: North Korea and South Korea reach a stalemate.

1953

- July: North and South Korea sign an Armistice to end the fighting.

1954

- May: Viet Minh wins the battle against the French at Dien Bien Phu; France withdraws from Indochina.
- July: Vietnam is partitioned into North and South Vietnam as part of the Geneva Accords.

1955

- May: The Warsaw Pact is formed.

1959

- The Ho Chi Minh trail is created by the Viet Minh.

1960

- December: The National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, commonly known as the Viet Cong, is formed.

1963

- November: South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem is assassinated.

1964

- August: The Gulf of Tonkin incident takes place; the United States enters the Vietnam War.

1965

- March: Operation Rolling Thunder begins.
- June: Major Viet Cong offensive starts.

1966

- US forces build heavily armed camps and control towns; the Viet Cong largely controls the countryside.

1968

- January: The Tet Offensive starts.

1969

- April: The US Vietnamization policy starts; the United States begins to gradually withdraw from Vietnam.

1970

- Fighting spreads to Cambodia.

1972

- May: US President Richard Nixon visits Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow and agrees to the Basic Principles and SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty I) nuclear arms treaty.

1973

- January: The Paris Peace Accords are signed, ending official US involvement in Vietnam.
- June: Brezhnev visits the United States.

1974

- June: Nixon visits Moscow again.

1975

- April: Saigon falls to the Communists; North and South Vietnam are unified under communist rule. (End of Vietnam war)

1979

- December: Soviet armed forces invade Afghanistan.

1981

- January: Ronald Reagan is elected as the US President.

1983

- March: Reagan announces the Strategic Defense Initiative, or Star Wars program.

1985

- March: Mikhail Gorbachev is elected as the leader of the USSR; Summit meetings between Gorbachev and Reagan begin.

1987

- Gorbachev introduces Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (restructuring).

1988

- Large numbers of Soviet troops begin to withdraw from Eastern Europe.

1989

- May: Many East Germans begin to leave East Germany through Hungary.
- November: The Berlin Wall falls.

1990

- May: Boris Yeltsin is elected President of Russia.

1991

- August: Some members of the Communist Party and the military attempt a coup against Gorbachev.
- December: Gorbachev announces the end/ dissolution of the USSR.



Notes

- WWI (1914 – 1918)
- WWII (1939 – 1945)
- Korean War (1950 – 1953 armistice)
- Vietnam war (1954 – 1975) Extension of cold war outside of Europe
- Cold War (aft WWII 1946/47 – 1989/91)