

US History

The Cold War - A

Learning Target:

I can identify and examine the major events that helped to start the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

1.Origins of the Cold War

The Cold War

- An intense bitter conflict between the US and the USSR (1945-1990)
- Origins:
 - The ending of WWII
 - Peace Conferences at Yalta & Potsdam

The Allied Powers

- Britain, Soviet Union, USA were the main powers against Germany in WWII
- Strong but uneasy alliance against a common enemy

- Soviet Issues with the United States:
 - America tried to undo their revolution of 1917
 - Thought allies delayed attack on Hitler when he invaded USSR

- United States Issues with the USSR:
 - Feared communist emphasis on world worker revolution
 - Disliked past deals between Stalin & Hitler
 - Stalin's attacks on his internal enemies – killed 18 million people

- Did we fight WWII to replace one demented dictator (Hitler) and replace half of Europe with another (Stalin)?

US and USSR – Post WWII

USSR:

- Left in destruction – more than 20 million Soviets dead, 4.7 million homes destroyed; 25 million left homeless and hungry
- Main goals after the war was protecting themselves by occupying Eastern Europe rebuilding their economy

U.S.:

- Only 450,000 died and almost all fighting not on U.S. soil
- America controlled close to 50% of world's wealth
- Main goal after the war was a world patterned after American democracy

Yalta Conference:

-February 1945

-The big three meet:

-USSR – Stalin, U.S. – FDR, G. Britain – Winston Churchill

Agreements Made –

Germany –

-Agreed to divide Germany into four zones of occupation

Reparations –

-Germany will pay some reparations (Soviets want more)

Eastern Europe & Poland –

-A gov't of communists and non-communists will be established in Poland

-Free elections will be held in Eastern Europe

Potsdam Conference

-July 1945

-Truman replaces FDR at the conference after FDR's death

Agreements Made –

Germany –

-Details about the boundaries of the zones of occupation discussed

-Country & Berlin would be split into four

Reparations –

-Disagreement about amount of reparations

-Agreed Soviets could take whatever they want from their zone

Eastern Europe & Poland –

-Stalin had all non-communists in Poland arrested

-Communism was taking hold in other Eastern European countries

Results of Yalta & Potsdam

-Intended purpose of the conferences:

-A temporary division of Germany to get Nazi's out

-Germany to be reunited in future with more talks

-Actual result of the conferences:

-Stalin did not hold free elections and brought East Europe into communist USSR

-West Germany (Free) and East Germany (Communist) form from the zones

-Significance of Potsdam Conference:

-Stalin's broken promises made at Yalta & Potsdam proved to be the origin of the Cold War