

**Overview of Unit 14: The Postwar Era: Cold War and
Reconstruction**
Chapter 22

To repeat, just as WWII was a result of long-term trends, so too was the Cold War:

- 1. Historical experiences**
- 2. political and economic ideologies**
- 3. geographic realities**
- 4. security needs of individual sovereign nations**
- 5. the specific features / nature of the global arena**

To repeat, just as WWII was a result of specific and immediate “sparks”, so too was the Cold War

- 1. the specific aspects related to the end of WWI and WWII**
- 2. the nature and personalities of the leaders at that specific time**
- 3. the military / battlefield realities as WWI and WWII ended**
- 4. specific technological realities including the advent of nuclear weapons**
- 5. the specific dealings the US and the Soviets had with each other**
- 6. the different expectations both nations had regarding the future (relates to why both nations got involved in WWII in the first place)**
- 7. the different interpretations both nations had regarding the outcomes of various conferences (Yalta, Potsdam)**

As the causes of the Cold War were “all inclusive” so too will be the ways this conflict played out.

- 1. the conflict will be social, political, technological, ideological, geographic, psychological, economic, diplomatic, and military**
- 2. the conflict will occur throughout the entire globe and in outer space**
- 3. the conflict will rage from 1945 to 1991, and perhaps, until now**

- 4. the conflict will have an immense impact on international / external politics around the world AND domestic / internal politics within many individual nations**
- 5. the conflict, many argued brought about a kind of stability and stalemate between the two antagonists, yet also threatened to literally destroy the earth and end humanity**
- 6. the conflict, over the course of roughly half a century, went through many twists and turns and phases that make the overall situation very complicated**