

Introduction to Cold War: An All-Inclusive Reality

Basic reality of the Cold War being “all-inclusive”

1. 1945 to 1991
2. involved both foreign and domestic affairs in America, Soviet Union, Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East (local, regional, global focus)
3. Cold War issues in the US included communism, civil rights, freedom of expression, and national security
4. Specific categories included politics, economics, diplomacy, military issues, science and technology
5. The cold war concerned both abstract theories and practical realities, as well as the issues associated with perceptions and misperceptions
6. Involved the administrations of FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush

Many Sources of this Conflict

1. History
2. Territory and geography
3. Science and technology
4. Personality
5. Experiences from WWI and WWII
6. Philosophy and ideology
7. The overall nature of international politics

How Does This All Play Out?

1. Yalta
2. US policies of containment
3. Specific divisions of Berlin, Germany, Europe, Korea, Vietnam
4. Actual warfare in Korea and Vietnam
5. Cuba
6. The nuclear arms race
7. Domestic politics

All this creates an action-reaction cycle of escalating tensions between the US and the Soviets in a “0-Sum Game” situation (win or lose on all issues)