Focus Question: What were the military and political consequences of the Cold War in the Soviet Union, Europe, and the United States?

As you read this section in your textbook, fill in the chart to summarize the consequences of the Cold War in the Soviet Union, Europe, and the United States. Some items in the chart have been entered for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consequences of the Cold War</th>
<th>Soviet Union</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>United States</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Created military alliance called the Warsaw Pact</td>
<td>The Cold War divided Europe—communists ruled in the East and democracies were in the West.</td>
<td>Formed military alliance called North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Developed nuclear weapons in 1949</td>
<td>Berlin divided between East Germany and West Germany</td>
<td>Entered disarmament talks with Soviet Union</td>
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After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as superpowers. They formed military alliances with nations they protected or occupied. The United States helped form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This comprised its Western European allies. The Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact with Eastern European countries.

The superpowers also took part in a nuclear weapons race. Throughout the Cold War, the leaders met in disarmament talks. One agreement limited the use of anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs). These weapons were designed to shoot down incoming missiles. ABMs were a threat because they could give one side more protection. Some believed that more protection might encourage a nation to attack. In the 1980s, U.S. President Ronald Reagan supported a missile defense program known as “Star Wars.” However, international agreements to limit the number of nuclear weapons eased Cold War tensions. This period, called the era of détente, ended with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

The Cold War was a global conflict. During the 1950s, Fidel Castro led a revolution in Cuba and became its leader. To bring down Castro’s communist regime, U.S. President John F. Kennedy supported an invasion of Cuba, but it failed. One year later, the Soviets sent nuclear missiles to Cuba. Many feared a nuclear war. After U.S. protests and a naval blockade, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles.

The Soviets wanted to spread communist ideology around the globe. Although Khrushchev halted some of Stalin’s cruel policies, repression returned under Leonid Brezhnev. U.S. leaders followed a policy of containment to keep communism from spreading to other nations. In the United States a “red scare” developed. During this time, Senator Joseph McCarthy led a hunt for communists he thought were in the U.S. government and military.

Review Questions
1. What military alliances did the United States and the Soviet Union form after World War II?

2. What were ABMs and why were they considered a threat?
Focus Question: How did the United States, Western Europe, and Japan achieve economic prosperity and strengthen democracy during the Cold War years?

As you read this section in your textbook, use the chart below to categorize economic and political changes in the industrialized democracies. Some items have been entered for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic and Political Changes in the Industrialized Democracies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Japan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Emperor’s power ends; Japan becomes a democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Occupation forces introduced social reforms, including education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Occupation forces introduced social reforms, including education and equality for women.</td>
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</table>
Postwar economic strength changed life in the United States. During the 1950s and 1960s, recessions were brief and mild. As Americans prospered, they had more money to spend on goods. Many people left the cities for homes in the suburbs. This movement is called suburbanization. By the early 1970s, however, higher oil and gas prices left Americans with less money to buy other goods. This caused a serious recession in 1974.

Despite the prosperity, ethnic minorities faced segregation in housing and education. Also, minorities suffered discrimination in jobs and voting. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., became an important civil rights leader in the 1960s. He helped end segregation for African Americans. Other minority groups were inspired by successes like these. For example, the women’s rights movement helped end much gender-based discrimination. Also, Congress created programs to help the poor. However, in the 1980s, the government reduced many of these programs.

Western Europeans rebuilt after World War II. The American Marshall Plan helped European countries restore their economies. Under Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Germany built modern cities and factories. European governments also developed programs for the poor and middle class, such as national healthcare and old-age pensions. These welfare states required high taxes to pay for their programs.

Not long after the war, European nations began working together to improve trade and increase their economic power. This cooperation led to the start of the European Community. It made it possible for members to trade freely with each other.

Much of Japan was destroyed during the World War II. Afterward, occupation forces introduced social changes, such as land reform and equal rights for women. Like Germany, Japan also built new factories. Its gross domestic product (GDP) soared. Japan succeeded by making goods for export.

Review Questions
1. List two results of the strong, postwar U. S. economy.

2. What was the purpose of the European Community?
Focus Question: What did the Communist victory mean for China and the rest of East Asia?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the flowchart below to help you summarize the effects of the Communist Revolution on China and the impact of the Cold War on China and Korea. Some items have been filled in for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact of Communism and the Cold War in East Asia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korea in the Cold War</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean Peninsula split at 38th parallel after World War II.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Border clashes and disputes over ideologies resulted in the Soviets withdrawing aid and advisors by 1960.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chinese Communist Revolution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mao Zedong's Communists defeated Jiang Jieshi's Nationalists.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
After World War II, Mao Zedong led communist forces to victory over the Nationalists, who fled to Taiwan. Mao then began to reshape China’s economy. He gave land to the peasants. Then he called for **collectivization**, or the pooling of land and labor. As part of the **Great Leap Forward**, people moved from small villages and individual farms into **communes** of thousands of people on thousand of acres. Communes were supposed to grow more food and produce more goods. Instead, the system produced useless or low-quality goods and less food. To remove “bourgeois” tendencies, Mao also began the **Cultural Revolution**. Skilled workers and managers were forced to work on farms or in labor camps. This resulted in a slowed economy and a threat of civil war.

At first, the United States supported the Nationalist government that had formed on Taiwan. The West was concerned that the Soviet Union and China would become allies. As the Cold War continued, however, the Soviets withdrew their aid and advisors from China. U.S. leaders thought that by “playing the China card,” or improving relations with the Chinese, they would isolate the Soviets even more. In 1979, the United States established diplomatic relations with China.

After World War II, American and Soviet forces had agreed to divide Korea at the **38th parallel**. Communist **Kim Il Sung** ruled the North and U.S. ally **Syngman Rhee** ruled the South. In 1950, North Korean troops attacked South Korea. The United Nations forces stopped them along a line known as the **Pusan Perimeter**, then began advancing north. Mao sent Chinese troops to help the North Koreans. The UN forces were pushed back south of the 38th parallel. In 1953, both sides agreed to end the fighting, but troops remained on either side of the **demilitarized zone (DMZ)**. Over time, South Korea enjoyed an economic boom, while communist North Korea’s economy declined.

**Review Questions**

1. What was the purpose of the Great Leap Forward?

2. What was the 38th parallel?
Focus Question: What were the causes and effects of war in Southeast Asia, and what was the American role in this region?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the flowchart below to summarize the events in Southeast Asia after World War II. Some items have been filled in for you.
In the 1800s, the French ruled the area in Southeast Asia called French Indochina. During World War II, Japan tried to take over, but faced resistance from guerrillas. After the war, the French tried to regain control, but the Vietnamese, led by Ho Chi Minh, fought them. The French were defeated at the battle of Dienbienphu. After that, Ho controlled the northern part of Vietnam while the United States supported the noncommunist government in the south. Ho supported communist guerrillas in the south, called Viet Cong.

U.S. leaders saw Vietnam as an extension of the Cold War. They developed the domino theory. This was the view that if communists won in South Vietnam, communism would spread throughout Southeast Asia. In 1964, the North Vietnamese attacked a U.S. naval ship. Congress granted the president the power to take military action to stop further communist aggression in the region. Eventually, more than 500,000 American troops fought in what became known as the Vietnam War.

Despite U.S. support for South Vietnam, the Viet Cong continued to attack. During the Tet Offensive, Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese allies attacked cities all over the south. Even though the communists were not able to hold any cities, the attack was a turning point in U.S. public opinion. Upset by civilian and military deaths, many Americans began to oppose the war. President Nixon came under increasing pressure to terminate the conflict. He signed the Paris Peace Accord in 1973, and U.S. troops soon withdrew. Two years later, North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam. Thousands of Vietnamese tried to leave the country.

Communism did spread to neighboring countries. In Cambodia, communist guerrillas called the Khmer Rouge came to power. Their ruler, Pol Pot, oversaw forced work camps and the genocide of more than a million Cambodians. Laos also ended up with a communist government. However, communism did not spread any farther in Southeast Asia.

**Review Questions**
1. What did Congress do in 1964?

2. Who were the Khmer Rouge?
Focus Question: What were the causes and the effects of the end of the Cold War?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete this flowchart to help you categorize events connected to the end of the Cold War. Some items have been completed for you.

End of the Cold War

Rest of the World
- China pursues economic reform.

Eastern Europe
- Gorbachev’s policies feed unrest.
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Soviet Union
- Command economy stagnates.
- Arms race strains economy.
The Soviet Union emerged from World War II as a superpower with control over many Eastern European countries. When challenged, the Soviet Union used its military to subdue unrest. However, the Soviet command economy could not produce enough food to feed its people. Consumer products were poorly made and workers were poorly paid. Lifetime job security, however, meant that they did not have to worry about losing their jobs. Therefore, workers had little incentive to produce higher-quality goods. Further economic strain came when Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan in 1979. They had few successes battling the mujahedin, or Muslim religious warriors.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urged reforms. He called for glasnost, or openness. He ended censorship and encouraged people to discuss the country’s problems. Gorbachev also called for perestroika, or a restructuring of the government and economy. His policies, however, fed unrest across the Soviet empire. Eastern Europeans began to demand an end to Soviet rule. By the end of the 1980s, a powerful democracy movement was sweeping the region. In Poland, Lech Walesa led Solidarity, an independent labor union demanding economic and political changes.

Meanwhile, East German leaders resisted reform, and hundreds of East Germans fled to the West. In Czechoslovakia, Václav Havel, a writer who fought for independence, was elected president. One by one, communist governments fell. Most changes happened peacefully, but when Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu refused to step down, he was executed. The Baltic States regained independence. By the end of 1991, the remaining Soviet republics had all formed independent nations. The Soviet Union ceased to exist.

In 1992, Czechoslovakia was divided into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Additionally, some communist governments in Asia, such as China, instituted economic reforms.

Review Questions
1. What were some problems with the Soviet economy?

2. What kinds of reforms did Gorbachev make?