

## **The Cold War: Fear Factor**

**By Delphine Kendrick, Jewett Academy Middle**

### **Summary**

With superpowers in the east and west testing powerful nuclear weapons, the citizens race for protection in the early 1950s. The Soviet Union raised the Iron Curtain which also threatens America with mass destruction. Communication between the Americans and Soviets came to a screeching halt. These American concerns sent everyone searching for answers.

[http://archives.cbc.ca/war\\_conflict/cold\\_war/topics/274/](http://archives.cbc.ca/war_conflict/cold_war/topics/274/)

### **Objectives**

Students will:

- 1.) describe the differences between Capitalism and Communism
  - 2.) identify Fall Out Shelters and the need for them in 1950
  - 3.) create a Power Point timeline for the Cold War Fears
- LA.B.2.3.1-Answer essay questions on text that demonstrates comprehension of content.

### **US History Event**

This lesson could be used with any unit that highlights the issues of concern during the Cold War in the 1950's. Exploring what issues led up to these concerns would help students understand the growth of America during this turning point in our history.

### **Grade Level**

This lesson can be implemented into the middle school Social Studies class.

### **Materials**

Images:

[http://www.boingboing.net/\\_109\\_301226946\\_562a8d849f.jpg](http://www.boingboing.net/_109_301226946_562a8d849f.jpg)

<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/AAF/USSBS/AtomicEffects/img/AtomicEffects-p34a.jpg>

<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/images/h97000/h97840.jpg>

Copies of the reading assignment:

**April 16, 1947**

## **Bernard Baruch coins the term "Cold War"**

Multimillionaire and financier Bernard Baruch, in a speech given during the unveiling of his portrait in the South Carolina House of Representatives, coins the term "Cold War" to describe relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The phrase stuck, and for over 40 years it was a mainstay in the language of American diplomacy.

Baruch had served as an advisor to presidents on economic and foreign policy issues since the days of Woodrow Wilson. In 1919, he was one of the U.S. advisers at the Paris Peace Conference that ended World War I. During the 1930s, he frequently advised Franklin D. Roosevelt and members of Congress on international finance and issues of neutrality. After World War II, he remained a trusted adviser to the new administration of Harry S. Truman. H

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history.do?action=Article&id=2639>

Venn-Diagram: <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>

**Capitalism**, economic system in which private individuals and business firms carry on the production and exchange of goods and services through a complex network of prices and markets. Although rooted in antiquity, capitalism is primarily European in its origins; it evolved through a number of stages, reaching its zenith in the 19th century. From Europe, and especially from England, capitalism spread throughout the world, largely unchallenged as the dominant economic and social system until World War I (1914-1918) ushered in modern communism (or Marxism) as a vigorous and hostile competing system.

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761576596/Capitalism.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761576596/Capitalism.html)

**Communism**, a theory and system of social and political organization that was a major force in world politics for much of the 20th century. As a political movement, communism sought to overthrow [capitalism](#) through a workers' revolution and establish a system in which property is owned by the community as a whole rather than by individuals. In theory, communism would create a classless society of abundance and freedom, in which all people enjoy equal social and economic status. In practice, communist regimes have taken the form of coercive, authoritarian governments that cared little for the plight of the working class and sought above all else to preserve their own hold on power.

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761572241/communism.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761572241/communism.html)

Video clips Fall out shelters and drills

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### *Cold War Reading*

The cold war was a pivotal era in the twentieth century. The term *cold war* itself, popularized in a 1946 speech by prime minister Winston Churchill of Britain, describes the ideological struggle between democracy and **COMMUNISM** that began shortly after the end of **WORLD WAR II** and lasted until 1991. For the

foreign policy of the United States, the cold war defined the last half of the twentieth century. It was a war of ideas, of threats, and of actual fighting in the countries of Korea and Vietnam, pitting western nations against the Soviet Union and China and their Communist allies. The 1940s and 1950s saw the cold war bloom into a period of unparalleled suspicion, hostility, and persecution. Anti-Communist hysteria ran through each branch of government as the pursuit of U.S. Communists and their sympathizers consumed the energies of the [EXECUTIVE BRANCH](#), lawmakers, and the courts. Rarely in the nation's history have constitutional rights been so widely and systematically sacrificed. The cold war began in the aftermath of World War II. Although only recently allied against Germany, the United States and the Soviet Union saw their relationship quickly dis-integrate. The division of Europe, with the Soviet bloc countries sealed off behind what Churchill called the "iron curtain," had been the first blow. A fear that Communism would

*A family sits in their bomb shelter, a common feature of many homes during the early years of the Cold War when fear of a nuclear war with the Soviet Union was intense.*

undermine the security of the United States took hold of the nation's leaders and citizens alike. Measures had to be taken to safeguard the country from infiltration, it was popularly believed, and the government began a vigorous campaign against Communist activity. On March 21, 1947, President **HARRY S. TRUMAN** took a significant early step toward protecting the country from Communism by issuing an order establishing so-called loyalty boards within each department of the executive branch (Exec. Order No. 9835, 3 C.F.R. 627). These boards were designed to hear cases brought against employees "disloyal to the Government" and, on the evidence presented, remove disloyal employees from federal service.

The loyalty boards deviated from the traditional standard of presumed innocence. Instead, the boards made their determinations based on whether "reasonable grounds exist for belief" that an accused employee was disloyal. Thus, instead of having to prove [BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT](#) that the

accused person was guilty of disloyalty, it was sufficient to bring enough evidence against the accused person to damn that person in the eyes of the board. This abridgment of **DUE PROCESS**, which ended jobs and ruined reputations, grew harsher under the administration of President **DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER**. By amending the order in 1951, Eisenhower made it even harder for an accused employee to prove his or her innocence (Exec. Order No. 10,241, 16 Fed. Reg. 3690). Now, the **BURDEN OF PROOF** was reduced to a showing of "reasonable doubt as to the loyalty of [the] person," a standard amenable to trumped-up charges.

The intensity of domestic fears grew in 1949, following the announcement by President Truman that the Soviets had developed the atomic bomb. Only a year later, the **KOREAN WAR** broke out. These events ushered in a period of bomb shelters; air raid drills in schools; civilian anti-Communist organizations; and suspicion of anyone whose ideas, behavior, personal life, or appearance suggested belief in or sympathy for Communism. Terms like Pinko, Red, and Communist sympathizer found their way into the national vocabulary.

During the late 1940s, the House UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC), created to investigate subversives, provoked widespread concern that government officials had given secrets to the Soviets. Over the next decade, in a climate of general suspicion that it helped foster, it also investigated union leaders, academics, and, most dramatically, Hollywood. The right to **FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION** meant little to congressional investigators. HUAC subpoenaed private citizens and confronted them with a no-win choice: cooperate in naming Communists or face **CONTEMPT** charges. Crucial to the success of these hearings was the cooperation of the **FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION** (FBI), which provided the committee with both public support and information.

At the same time, Senator **JOSEPH R. MCCARTHY** conducted his own hearings through the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. From 1950 to 1954, McCarthy's charges about alleged Communist operatives in the **STATE**

[DEPARTMENT](#) and the Army captivated the nation. Like HUAC activities, his witch-hunt shattered reputations and lives, but it backfired when he attacked the U.S. Army. Censured by the U.S. Senate in 1954, he ultimately gave history a word that symbolizes the zealous disregard for fairness in accusation: *McCarthyism*.

Starting in 1948, the [JUSTICE DEPARTMENT](#) prosecuted members of the American Communist party under the [SMITH ACT](#) of 1940 (18 U.S.C.A. § 2385), a broadly written law that prohibited advocating the violent overthrow of the government. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld 12 convictions in *Dennis v. United States*, 341 U.S. 494, 71 S. Ct. 857, 95 L. Ed. 1137 (1951), and this ruling cleared the way for 141 subsequent indictments. Over the next several years, 29 convicted party members were sent to jail. In time, Congress provided prosecutors with new ammunition through the [MCCARRAN INTERNAL SECURITY ACT](#) of 1950 (50 U.S.C.A. § 781 et seq.) and the Communist Control Act of 1954 (50 U.S.C.A. § 841).

Anti-Communist hysteria decreased somewhat following the embarrassment of McCarthy. However, the cold war continued. HUAC operated throughout the 1960s, as did the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations; both continued to locate the nation's troubles in the work of alleged subversives. And from the late 1950s to the 1960s, the FBI, under the direction of **J. EDGAR HOOVER**, secretly fought Communists and other targets through its Counterintelligence Program ([COINTELPRO](#)).

Although the domestic waging of the cold war had diminished by the early 1970s, the international struggle continued. Over the next two decades the cold war drew the United States into military involvement in Asia, Africa, and Central America. After Vietnam, the United States fought communism by supporting anti-communist factions in Angola, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Afghanistan. During the 1980s, the United States shifted to an economic strategy, hoping to bankrupt the Soviet Union through an arms race of unprecedented

scale. The cold war effectively ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

<http://law.irank.org/pages/5352/Cold-War.html>

### **Lesson Time**

This lesson could be implemented and discussed in 120 minute classes.

### **Procedures**

1) Show students images and use the definitions of Communism and Capitalism to create a Venn diagram identifying the ideology of each society.

Venn-Diagram:

<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/><http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/images/h97000/h97840.jpg>



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### 2) View the video clips and have students chart the steps to surviving an atomic blast. Answer the questions below.

Video clips Fall out shelters and drills

[http://archives.cbc.ca/war\\_conflict/cold\\_war/topics/274/](http://archives.cbc.ca/war_conflict/cold_war/topics/274/)

1. What did the people fear?

2. How did the government help the people with their fears?
3. What year did the Cold War take place?
4. Who was the President during the cold war?

3.) Read the assigned Cold war reading passage and create a Power point timeline of the cold war events. Answer the questions below.

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- a.) What Executive Order did Truman use to protect the people against Communism?
- b.) What do HUAC and FBI stand for?
- c.) Who was the leader of the FBI?

### Assessments

#### **Rubric for Power Point of Cold War events:**

<b>Definition of Cold War</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>President during the Cold War</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Fears during the Cold War</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Solutions to the Fears of Cold War</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Executive Order interpreted</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>_____/25</b>

## **Resources**

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