

Cold War Reading Notes Part 1

Building the Cold War World

1. Contest between capitalism and communism
 1. U.S. ideology: liberalism, property rights, free market, welfare state
 2. Khrushchev's reformed communism: relaxation of terror, economic growth
2. Global communism and containment
 1. Against the spread of communism, U.S. fashioned *containment* strategy
 2. Soviet counter-strategies: support for national liberation, military parity with U.S.
3. A divided Germany
 1. Europe was divided into two blocs along with two superpowers
 2. West and East Germany were formed in 1949
 3. To prevent refugees to West Germany, Berlin Wall and fortification on border were reinforced
4. Nuclear arms race
 1. Creation of NATO and Warsaw Treaty Organization initiated arms race
 2. By 1960s USSR reached military parity with U.S.
 3. By 1970 both superpowers acquired MAD

Confrontation in Korea and Cuba and Vietnam

1. Korean War
 1. The 38th parallel of latitude divided Korea (1948)
 2. North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel, captured Seoul (June 1950)
 3. U.S. and UN troops pushed back North Korean troops, captured Pyongyang
 4. Chinese troops came in, pushed U.S. forces and their allies back in the south
 5. Both sides agreed to cease fire in July 1953
2. Globalization of containment
 1. Creation of SEATO, an Asian counterpart of NATO
 2. Eisenhower's famous "domino theory"
3. Cuba: Nuclear Flashpoint
 1. Castro's revolutionary force overthrew Batista's autocratic rule, 1959
 2. Castro expropriated U.S. properties, killed or exiled thousands of political opponents
 3. U.S. cut off Cuban sugar imports, imposed export embargo
 4. Castro accepted Soviet massive economic aid and arms shipments
 5. Bay of Pigs fiasco (April 1961) diminished U.S. prestige in Latin America
 6. To protect Castro's regime, USSR assembled nuclear missiles on Cuba, 1962
 7. Kennedy's public ultimatum called on Soviets to withdraw all missiles
 8. USSR yielded to U.S. demand, Kennedy pledged not to overthrow Castro
4. Vietnam

9. United States attempts to stop Communist Guerillas (Viet Cong) in Vietnam from establishing a Communist run government (1965-1975)
10. Though never directly fought with USSR, it was no secret that the USSR was supplying the Viet Cong.
11. In 1975, after 70, 000 US casualties, American soldiers pull out of Vietnam and Communist Government is established.