



# ***THE COLD WAR***

***UNIT 9: POSTWAR AMERICA***



**1.**

***ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR***

Superpowers face off

## ***A. ROOTS OF THE COLD WAR***

1. The Cold War began after WWII due to tensions between the US and USSR.
2. The Allies wanted a strong Germany and an independent Eastern Europe, but Stalin wanted a weak Germany and made the Eastern European countries his satellites.

## ***B. MEETING SOVIET CHALLENGES***

1. An “iron curtain” separated Communist Eastern Europe and non-Communist Western Europe.
2. US foreign policy focused on containment, keeping Communism contained within its existing borders.

## ***C. THE ARMS RACE***

1. The US and USSR began an arms race with each trying to make the best new weapons.
2. Nuclear weapons were developed, creating a program of mutually assured destruction if either used them.

## ***C. THE ARMS RACE***

- 3. As Americans focused on increasing the supply of nuclear weapons, the government promoted brinkmanship, bringing Americans close to war with communists by threatening massive retaliation without actually going to war.**





# 2.

## ***MAJOR EVENTS OF THE COLD WAR***

How the “war” was “fought”

# ***MAJOR EVENTS OF THE COLD WAR***

Marshall Plan –

<https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c4533287&noMax&nobookmark#>

NATO – <https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c4488117&noMax&nobookmark#>

Berlin Airlift – <https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c4537542&noMax&nobookmark#>

Korean War – <https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c4671591&noMax&nobookmark#>

Eisenhower – <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?1532>

Rosenbergs – <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4688578/rosenberg-spy-ring#>

Space Race – <https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c3932380&noMax&nobookmark#>

Bay of Pigs – <https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c4462021&noMax&nobookmark#>

Cuban Missile Crisis –

<https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c4052977&noMax&nobookmark#>

Vietnam War – <https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c4669878&noMax&nobookmark#>

Reagan and the Berlin Wall –

<https://www.c-span.org/video/standalone/?c4474343&noMax&nobookmark#>





**3.**

***THE COLD WAR AT HOME***

Containing Communism at home

## ***A. WORRYING ABOUT COMMUNISTS AT HOME***

- 1. After WWII, a second Red Scare was a result of the recent spread of communism.**
- 2. The House Un-American Activities Committee investigated possible threats.**
- 3. Blacklists made it hard for entertainment figures suspected of communism to be hired.**

## ***B. MCCARTHY USES RUTHLESS TACTICS***

1. Senator Joseph McCarthy began a crazed anti-communism campaign.
2. He brought extreme allegations against suspected communists, destroying their reputations and lives.
3. He fell from power after claiming the US Army was filled with communists.



**4.**

***COLD WAR CULTURE***

1950s America

## ***A. AN ECONOMIC BOOM***

1. The GI Bill helped WWII veterans with buying a house, going to college, and making a living.
2. Increased rates in marriage and families caused a baby boom from 1946–1964.
3. Increased consumerism led to higher prices and higher standards of living.

## ***B. MOVING TO THE SUBURBS***

1. More than 40 million people moved to the suburbs thanks to the availability of loans and the creation of new suburb communities, like Levittown.
2. As suburbs grew in popularity, so did Americans' dependency on cars.
3. Highways connected major cities.



## ***C. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY***

1. More service sector jobs existed, and more people worked in the information industries.
2. Franchise businesses allowed the same goods and services to be sold throughout the US.
3. The postwar economic boom allowed for some multinational corporations.

## ***D. THE CULTURE OF CONSUMERISM***

1. As the economy boomed and the average family income rose, consumerism flourished.
2. New shopping centers and supermarkets emerged as Americans bought items that promised convenience.

## ***E. FAMILY LIFE IN THE FIFTIES***

1. The nuclear family in which the women served as the happy homemaker was portrayed as the ideal.
2. More focus was placed on children, and there was a religious revival.

## ***F. TELEVISION TAKES CENTER STAGE***

1. Nearly every household owned a TV.
2. TV shows helped spread a national mass culture and promoted the ideal family.

## ***G. ROCK AND ROLL SHAKES THE NATION***

1. Rock and Roll music borrowed from R&B music and quickly became the symbol of the emerging youth culture.
2. The most famous rock star was Elvis Presley.