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Headings	Notes
1945–1949: THE START OF THE COLD WAR INTRODUCTION	• In the decades after the Second World War, two powerful countries dominated the world - the
	United States and the Soviet Union (USSR). They were known as the superpowers.
	• Rivalry with the Soviet Union was central to American foreign policy from 1945 to 1989. It is
	called the Cold War because the superpowers never actually fought one another directly.
	• However, they engaged in indirect conflicts, sometimes called 'proxy wars' in Korea, Vietnan
	Afghanistan and other places.
	• In the US, the deep fear of communism led to an anti-communist hysteria (McCarthyism) in the
	1950s.
	• The Cold War also featured an arms race that included the development of nuclear weapons,
	inter-continental ballistic missiles and the space race.
	• The arms race and the space race produced a range of new technologies such as computers
	and the internet.
IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN	• Distrust between the USSR and the US went back to the 1917 Russian revolution and was
THE SUPERPOWERS	based on the ideological differences between them:
	• Lenin, and after him Stalin, set up a Marxist/communist dictatorship in which all property,
	land and business belonged to the state.
	• The US was a democracy that supported unrestrained capitalism, with most property, land
	and business belonging to individuals or private corporations.
1945–1948: THE COLD	• Despite the differences between them, the two countries joined together to defeat Hitler in the
WAR BEGINS	Second World War. But once peace came, the differences returned. They mainly concerned the
	fate of Europe once Hitler was beaten.
	 The US hoped that all countries in Europe would become capitalist democracies, but:
	Between 1946 and 1948, Stalin imposed communist dictatorships on the countries in
	Eastern Europe that his army controlled.
	In France and Italy, communist parties did well in elections.
Keywords	Summary
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Headings	Notes
1945–1948: THE COLD	 In Greece, a civil war broke out between communists and royalists.
	Norway Sweden Permark Baltic Sea USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR USSR Beighum West Germany Poland Beighum West Germany Zechoslovakia France Switzerland Ussr Black Sea Black Sea Turkey
CONTAINMENT, THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE AND MARSHALL AID	 Truman and his advisers thought these developments showed that Stalin planned to take over Europe.
	• To stop him, they adopted a policy called 'containment'. That meant containing Soviet power
	within the area it controlled in 1945 – not letting it expand any further.
	• They issued the Truman Doctrine. It promised American aid to any government fighting a
	communist takeover.
	They then sent military help to the Greek government.
	 To stop the Soviets taking over the rest of Europe they decided to:
	Keep US troops in Europe
	• Give billions of dollars in Marshall Aid to European governments to rebuild their economies.
	They hoped this would undermine support for communism.
Keywords	Summary

Notes
Western European governments accepted Marshall Aid and developed their economies along
capitalist lines.
• Stalin would not let the Eastern European countries he controlled accept Marshall Aid. He force
them to become communist.
 This divided Europe into the pro-American capitalist West and the Soviet-controlled
communist East.
• The dividing line between them, known as the iron curtain, ran through Germany. This created
a number of crises during the Cold War.
• In 1946, Churchill called the line dividing Stalin's Europe from the rest 'the Iron Curtain'.
North Sea Baltic Sea Hamborg Hamborg Hanover BERLIN Hanover BERLIN Hanover BERLIN Poland Hanover British Zone Soviet Zone Belgium Frankfurt France French Austria US Sector Jilied zones in Berlin
 As the war ended in 1945, the allied leaders met in Yalta and Potsdam.
• They agreed to divide Germany and its capital Berlin into four zones, each run by one of the
Allies, the USSR, the US, Britain and France.
• In 1948, the three western Allies joined their zones together, accepted Marshall Aid and began
to develop a democratic German government.
Summary

Headings	Notes
1948–1949: GERMANY	 In 1949, this became the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany).
AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR	• Stalin refused to let his zone accept Marshall Aid and imposed a communist dictatorship on it.
	It became the German Democratic Republic (East Germany).
	• Berlin was deep inside the Soviet zone. In 1945, it too was divided into four zones. Two million
1948–1949: THE BERLIN BLOCKADE	people lived in the zones which the western Allies controlled (West Berlin).
	• To get to West Berlin, the western Allies had to use road, rail and air transport which crossed
	Soviet-controlled territory.
	 In 1948, as tension rose between the two sides, Stalin closed all land routes from West
	Germany to West Berlin. He did not think the western allies could supply Berlin by air alone.
	• Truman decided to challenge Stalin's blockade. For 11 months, US aircraft carried food, fuel
	and other supplies to the people of West Berlin (the Berlin Airlift).
	 In 1949, Stalin gave in and allowed land transport to resume.
	 As well as the Berlin blockade, a number of other developments made 1949 the crucial year in
1949: THE KEY YEAR IN THE COLD WAR	the Cold War.
	China becomes communist
	• In the Second World War the Chinese joined the Allies against Japan, which occupied large
	parts of China.
	When the war ended, Chinese nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek fought a civil war with the
	Chinese communists, led by Mao Zedong.
	• In 1949, the communists won. China became a communist state, the People's Republic of
	China.
	Chiang's Chinese nationalists withdrew to the island of Taiwan and claimed they were the
	real government of China.
	• The Americans recognised this claim. For many years they refused to let communist China
	take China's place on the United Nations Security Council.
Keywords	Summary

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Headings	Notes
1949: THE KEY YEAR IN THE COLD WAR	Military Alliances: NATO
	The Berlin Blockade, Stalin's treatment of Eastern Europe and communist victory in China
	encouraged the US, Canada and ten democratic countries in Europe to form the North
	Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).
	 It was an American-led military alliance that aimed to stop Soviet expansion in Europe.
	The Soviet Union's atom bomb
	• From 1945 to 1949, the US was the only country with an atom bomb. This gave it an
	advantage over the USSR. But in 1949, Soviet scientists exploded the USSR's own A-bomb
	This equalised the relationship between them.
	• This began an arms race between the two superpowers.
MCCARTHYISM AND THE COLD WAR INSIDE	 The start of the Cold War and communist expansion in Europe and Asia led to a 'red scare' in
AMERICA	America.
ANTI-COMMUNIST	• People saw communist conspiracies everywhere. A Loyalty Program was set up to root out
'WITCH-HUNTS' IN AMERICA	government workers suspected of communist sympathies.
	 In 1947, the House of Representatives set up the House Un-American Activities Committee
	(HUAC). It searched out ' <i>communist sympathisers</i> ' especially in the film industry.
	Artists and writers were called before it and asked about their involvement in left-wing activities
	• The only way to escape censure was to denounce others. Some did; others did not and were
	blacklisted, making it hard for them to find work.
	The panic increased in 1949 with the communist victory in China and the Soviet A-Bomb. Man
	believed that there were communist spies in the US government and several people were tried
	in sensational spy trials.
	Republicans accused the Democrats of being 'soft on communism' and Truman for 'losing
	China'.
	This anti-communist hysteria reached its peak between 1950 and 1953, under the leadership
	of Senator Joseph McCarthy. Because of this it is sometimes referred to as McCarthyism.
leywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
JOSEPH MCCARTHY	Born in Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy was first a Democrat, but joined the Republicans after he
(1908–1957)	failed to be chosen as a Democratic candidate. In the war he had a desk job, but he won a
	Senate seat by lying about his war record.
	 In 1950, fearing he would not be re-elected, he launched an anti-communist witch-hunt using
	information leaked to him by journalists and his friend J. Edgar Hoover , head of the FBI.
	He claimed that 57 people in the State Department (Foreign Ministry) were members of the
	Communist Party and were passing information to the Soviets. The Truman government, he
	said, knew this and did nothing.
	 None of this was accurate, but when Democrats protested he said this proved they were
	communist sympathisers. Some of those who opposed him lost their seats in the 1950 elections
	That made others cautious about challenging him.
	As chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations he was able to call civil
	servants before him, questioning them about past left-wing sympathies. He made it clear that
	the only way to show they were loyal to the US was to name others who might have been
	involved with them in the past.
	At first many Americans believed McCarthy. His campaign, which was aimed mainly at
	Democrats, , helped the Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower win the 1952 election.
	Eisenhower disapproved of McCarthy, but dared not oppose him publicly.
	 In 1953, a TV documentary damaged McCarthy's credibility. Then he attacked the US army, and
	his investigations were televised. This exposed and discredited his bullying tactics. In 1954, the
	Senate censured him and ended his brief reign of terror. He died, of alcoholism, in 1957.
	About 10,000 Americans were imprisoned or lost their jobs as a result of the McCarthy's
	• About 10,000 Americans were imprisoned or lost their jobs as a result of the McCartiny s witch-hunts.
	McCarthyism damaged America's image as a free country and gave a propaganda victory to th Soviet Union
	Soviet Union.
Keywords	Summary
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Headings	Notes
1949–1961: KOREA AND THE COLD WAR IN THE 1950S	 In Asia, the Second World War ended when the Americans dropped the atom bomb on
	Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in 1945. The Japanese surrendered and the US army
THE COLD WAR SPREADS TO ASIA	occupied the country.
	But after China became communist, the Americans organised a democratic government in
	Japan, helped them rebuild their economy and made a treaty allowing American bases to stay
	there.
	The Americans also formed alliances with other anti-communist governments in Asia, promising
	to defend them against a communist attack.
1950–1953: THE KOREAN	Before the Second World War, Korea was a Japanese colony. When the Japanese surrendered
WAR	the Soviets occupied the north of Korea, as far south as the 38th parallel , and the Americans
	occupied the south.
	This partition was meant to be temporary but as the Cold War developed it became permanent.
	In North Korea, Stalin backed a communist dictator Kim il Sung while the Americans supported
	a capitalist dictator in South Korea.
	 In 1950, Kim invaded South Korea, aiming to unite the country under his control.
	With the support of the United Nations, Truman sent an American-led army to defend South
	Korea and uphold the policy of containment. As the Soviets had boycotted the UN because the
	US blocked the admission of communist China, so Truman was able to get his resolution about
	Korea passed.
	• UN forces, led by General McArthur, defeated the North Koreans at the Battle of Inchon but
	McArthur then invaded North Korea, against Truman's wishes.
	This brought the Chinese into the war and forced the UN forces back to the 38th parallel. When
	McArthur publicly suggested invading China, Truman sacked him.
	 In 1953, Stalin died and the new US President, Eisenhower, agreed to a truce, with both sides
	back where they started at the 38th parallel.
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Headings	Notes
THE RESULTS OF THE KOREAN WAR	About 2.5 million people died, including over 30,000 American soldiers.
	Concern about the war helped Eisenhower become President.
	 US spending on arms increased greatly.
	• The Americans became more involved in Asia, setting up another anti- communist alliance, the
	South-East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO).
	• They also developed the 'domino theory' which led to their involvement in Vietnam.
EISENHOWER AND	• After Stalin's death, the new Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev said he wanted 'peaceful co-
KHRUSHCHEV	existence' with the west.
	 That eased the tensions between the Americans and the Soviets.
	 Khrushchev visited America and met Eisenhower. This began the 'summit conferences', by
	which the leaders of the two superpowers kept in touch throughout the Cold War.
SUPERPOWER TENSIONS	 But rivalry between the two sides remained and could sometimes erupt into a crisis.
IN THE 1950S	Khrushchev
	• He continued the arms race. At first it seemed the Soviets had gained the upper hand when
	they launched the first man-made earth satellite (sputnik) in 1957 and sent the first man into
	space (Yuri Gagarin) in 1961.
	He also supported independence movements in Asia and Africa, hoping the newly
	independent countries would adopt communism.
	His biggest coup was to get Fidel Castro to agree to set up Soviet missiles in Cuba.
	• Eisenhower
	He supported anti-communist regimes around the world, even when they were unsavoury
	dictatorships.
	But when people rebelled against Soviet tyranny in East Germany in 1953 and Hungary in
	 1956 he did nothing to help them because they were already under Soviet control.
	• To counter Soviet success in space, he set up the National Aeronautics and Space
	Administration (NASA) in 1958 and increased military spending.
Keywords	Summary



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Headings	Notes
SUPERPOWER TENSIONS IN THE 1950S	• He used high-flying U-2 planes to spy on the USSR. When one was shot down in 1960, on the
	eve of a summit conference, it damaged relations between the superpowers.
KENNEDY'S FOREIGN POLICY, 1961–1963	• In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy won the Presidential election. He was assassinated in 1963
	 Three important foreign events happened while he was President:
JOHN F. KENNEDY'S	The building of the Berlin Wall
FOREIGN POLICY	The 'Bay of Pigs' and the Cuban Missile Crisis
	America's growing involvement in Vietnam
1961: THE BERLIN WALL	 In the 1950s, West Germany prospered, while East Germany did not. Many East Germans went
	to Berlin to escape to the West.
	• To stop them, the East German government, with Khrushchev's backing, built a wall on the
	border between East and West Berlin.
	• Kennedy went to Berlin soon after. He spoke to the people of the city ('Ich bin ein Berliner'), but
	did nothing about the Wall which remained as a visible symbol of the division of Europe
	throughout the Cold War.
1963: THE CUBAN	• Cuba is a Caribbean island 90 miles south of Florida. Up to 1959, it was ruled by an unpleasant
MISSILE CRISIS	dictator, General Batista, and its economy was dominated by American businesses.
	• In 1959, Fidel Castro overthrew Batista and took over the American companies. The American
	government then imposed a trade embargo on Cuba and Castro turned for help to the Soviet Union
	When Kennedy became President, he approved a CIA plan to invade Cuba and overthrow
	Castro. The invasion force landed at the Bay of Pigs , but was easily defeated.
	• After this, Castro agreed to Khrushchev's plan to build missile launching sites in Cuba. Missiles
	from there could reach American cities which, until then, had been safe from Soviet attack.
	American spy planes photographed the sites. After some hesitation, Kennedy imposed a naval
	blockade on Cuba to stop Soviet ships arriving with missiles.
	• War threatened, but Khrushchev backed down. In return for the removal of missiles from Cuba,
	Kennedy secretly removed US missiles in Turkey.
Keywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
THE RESULTS OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS	 Realising how near they had come to war, a 'hot-line' was installed between the Kremlin and the
	White House to let the leaders communicate with each other.
	 In 1964, Khrushchev was replaced as Soviet leader by Leonid Brezhnev. He was in favour of
	détente (i.e. reducing the tension between the two sides).
	 Disarmament talks began, leading to international treaties which limited the testing and
	proliferation (spread) of nuclear weapons.
HOW AMERICA BECAME	• Vietnam was an ancient kingdom in southeast Asia. After resisting the Chinese for centuries, it
INVOLVED IN VIETNAM	was taken over by the French in the 19th century, along with the neighbouring kingdoms of
	Cambodia and Laos.
	• In the Second World War, the Japanese invaded. Resistance to them was organised by the
	Vietminh, whose leader was Ho Chi Minh.
	Ho Chi Minh was a nationalist who had spent many years in exile in the United States and
	Europe. He was influenced by the ideas of Karl Marx and Lenin.
	After Japan was defeated, Ho Chi Minh hoped that the US would back Vietnamese independence
	Instead, Truman backed the return of the French because he needed their support in Europe.
WAR BETWEEN THE VIETMINH AND THE	In 1946, the Vietminh began a War of
FRENCH	Independence.
	By 1950, their army, led by the brilliant
	General Giap, had 250,000 men. They got
	arms from the USSR and from China after the
	Communists took power there in 1949.
	Eisenhower supported the French against the
	Vietminh. By 1954, the US was paying 80%
	of the cost of the French army.
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Headings	Notes
WAR BETWEEN THE	They did this because:
VIETMINH AND THE FRENCH	• They believed Ho Chi Minh was a communist allied to Stalin and Mao Zedong. If he won,
	communist power would expand in southeast Asia, thus breaching their policy of containment.
	 They had developed the 'domino theory'. It said that if one country in Asia fell to the communists
	were bound to fall too (like a row of dominoes).
	• Republicans accused Truman of 'losing China' and won the 1952 Presidential election as a
	result. No later President dared to 'lose' Vietnam.
1954: DIEN BIEN PHU AND	Giap used guerrilla tactics to wear down the French, and in 1954 he defeated a big French army
THE GENEVA ACCORDS	at Dien Bien Phu.
	This forced the French to make the Geneva Accords which divided Vietnam along the 17th
	parallel into:
	North Vietnam, with Hanoi as its capital, under a communist regime headed by Ho Chi Minh
	South Vietnam, with Saigon as its capital, under a capitalist regime led by Ngo Dinh Diem
	 France also recognised the independence of Cambodia and Laos
	The Geneva Accords said there would be elections to unify Vietnam, but Diem refused to hold
	them, fearing he would lose. The Americans backed this decision.
THE WAR RESUMES	From 1954 to 1959, Ho Chi Minh consolidated his grip on North
	Vietnam. He imposed collectivisation on the peasants and brutally
	suppressed resistance.
	In 1957, Ho Chi Minh and Giap began their campaign to reunite
	Vietnam. They used South Vietnamese communists (Vietcong) and
	the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) to wage a guerrilla war against
	the South Vietnamese government.
	Soldiers and supplies went to South Vietnam through Laos and
	Cambodia along the route known as the Ho Chi Minh trail.
Keywords	Summary



Headings	Notes
DIRECT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT BEGINS	• Eisenhower backed Diem's government in South Vietnam, even though it was corrupt and
	unpopular.
	• From 1955 to 1961, he spent billions of dollars and sent almost 1,000 'advisers', about half of
	them military, to support the South Vietnamese.
KENNEDY AND VIETNAM	• The next President, John F. Kennedy, advised by his Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, and his
	Secretary for Defence, Robert McNamara, increased US support for Diem's government.
	They did this because:
	• Communists had several successes (Bay of Pigs, Berlin Wall) and they could not let them win
	in Vietnam too.
	They believed in the domino theory.
	• They knew little about Vietnam and did not understand that many South Vietnamese wanted
	unity and hated Diem.
	• Kennedy sent large numbers of tanks and aircraft to strengthen the South Vietnamese army
	(ARVN) and increased the number of US 'advisers' to 16,000.
	• But US weapons, designed for war in Europe, did not suit a guerrilla war in the mountainous and
	jungle-covered Vietnamese countryside.
THE FALL OF DIEM	 By 1963, Kennedy knew that Diem was a problem:
	 Diem had rounded up peasants and put them in 'strategic hamlets', i.e. villages fortified
	against a Vietcong attack. The peasants hated being moved from their lands, so this only
	increased support for the Vietcong.
	 He was a Catholic and favoured the small Catholic minority over the Buddhist majority,
	 He appointed Catholics to command the South Vietnamese army (ARVN), regardless of their
	ability. This made it less able to stand up to the Vietcong.
	• In 1963, his soldiers fired on a Buddhist march, killing seven. In protest, a 73-year-old-Buddhis
	priest burned himself to death.
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Headings	Notes
THE FALL OF DIEM	• Kennedy became convinced that Diem had to go. In November 1963, the ARVN, with American
	approval, overthrew and killed him.
	 From then on, South Vietnam was ruled by a succession of military dictators.
CASE STUDY: LYNDON JOHNSON AND THE	• Shortly after Diem's death, Kennedy was assassinated and his Vice-President, Lyndon B.
VIETNAM WAR	Johnson (LBJ) became President.
PRESIDENT LYNDON B.	Johnson promised to continue with Kennedy's policies, including in Vietnam. He did this because:
JOHNSON (1963–1969)	The emotion created by Kennedy's assassination made it difficult to question anything he had
	done.
	Knowing little about foreign affairs, he kept Rusk and McNamara as his advisers. They
	encouraged him to believe in the domino theory.
	• Johnson was strongly anti-communist. He did not want to see them extend their power and as
	a patriotic American he did not want to admit the US might be defeated.
	• He feared he and the Democratic Party would lose the 1964 election if he 'lost' Vietnam.
	• For these reasons Johnson escalated American involvement in Vietnam well beyond anything
	considered before.
AUGUST 1964: THE GULF	• Early in 1964, Ho Chi Minh sent more North Vietnamese soldiers south to support the Vietcong.
OF TONKIN	The Soviets and Chinese also increased their supplies of arms. By March, the communists
	controlled about half of South Vietnam.
	The South Vietnamese asked the Americans for more help.
	• By then, the US Presidential election campaign was under way, with Republicans accusing
	Johnson of being 'soft on communism'.
	• Rusk and McNamara advised Johnson to increase the number of US troops and begin bombing
	North Vietnam, but he needed an excuse to convince Congress to back him. He got it in the
	'Gulf of Tonkin' incident.
	• The Americans claimed that on 2 August, North Vietnamese gunboats made unprovoked attacks
	on two American ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. It is still not clear whether this really happened or
	whether the Americans manufactured the incident.
Keywords	Summary



Headings	Notes
AUGUST 1964: THE GULF	• On 7 August, the Senate passed Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. It allowed Johnson to 'take any
OF TONKIN	necessary steps' to defend the US and its Allies. Most Americans approved of this decision.
THE 1964 PRESIDENTIAL	Johnson then launched limited bombing missions against North Vietnam. This made him look
ELECTION	tough, which was important for the election campaign.
	• However, he also reassured opponents of war by promising: 'We are not going to send American
	boys away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves'.
	• Many voters feared his opponent, Barry Goldwater, would increase American involvement, so
	so Johnson was re-elected by a large majority.
	He believed this gave him a mandate to continue with the war and to increase American
	involvement.
WINTER 1964–1965: WHAT TO DO ABOUT	• After the election, Johnson had to decide what to do about Vietnam. His advisers were divided:
VIETNAM?	• A minority were 'doves'. They questioned the domino theory, wondered if Vietnam really was
	important for America, and even supported the idea of withdrawal.
	• A majority, including most senior generals, were 'hawks'. They wanted to increase American
	involvement, perhaps use nuclear weapons, or even attack China because of its support for
	North Vietnam.
	• Over the winter of 1964–1965 the Vietcong attacked American installations in South Vietnam.
	This showed that the South Vietnamese were not able to resist alone.
	Opinion polls showed that 70% of Americans supported the bombing of North Vietnam and
	opposed withdrawal.
	• These developments explain why Johnson escalated the war in 1965, though not as much as
	some 'hawks' wanted.
1965: THE WAR	• In February 1965, Johnson ordered the bombing of North Vietnam to increase. The aim was to:
ESCALATES	Undermine the will of the northerners to go on fighting
	Destroy North Vietnamese industry
	 Stop the flow of arms and soldiers along the Ho Chi Minh trail
Keywords	Summary
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Headings	Notes
1965: THE WAR	• Called 'Operation Rolling Thunder', it was supposed to end after eight weeks, but went on for
ESCALATES	three years.
	• In March, General Westmoreland, the US commander in South Vietnam, asked for more
	ground troops; by April, Johnson had sent over 20,000.
	• The numbers continued to rise through the rest of 1965, reaching 500,000 by 1966.
	In all, about 2.7 million American soldiers served in Vietnam.
HOW THE WAR WAS	• The Vietcong used guerrilla tactics. They staged ambushes, booby-trapped houses and
FOUGHT	villages, dressed as peasants to launch surprise attacks and used the jungle for cover.
	• Westmoreland sent his soldiers on 'search and destroy' missions to root out the Vietcong. They
	measured their success in 'body counts'. Every body was counted as a Vietcong.
	• But as they could not tell which Vietnamese were Vietcong and which were not, they killed many
	innocent civilians.
	• The US air force bombed towns and villages. They dropped cluster bombs that scattered hundreds
	of smaller bombs and napalm which burned into the skin.
	• The Vietnamese dug tunnels as escape routes and bomb shelters, retreating into them when the
	bombers came.
	• To make it easier to see its enemies, the air force sprayed herbicides (weed killers), mostly
	Agent Orange, over six million acres of trees and crops.
	• This killed many Vietnamese people. The herbicides also affected pregnant women, leading to
	birth defects.
	• Americans de-personalised the Vietnamese, calling them 'gooks'. That made it easier to ignore
	the suffering they were causing the Vietnamese people.
THE COLLAPSE OF	Many soldiers serving in Vietnam were conscripts (i.e. they were forced to fight). In theory, all
AMERICAN MORALE	young men could be drafted to serve in the army, but in practice well-off boys could easily
	<i>dodge the draft</i> by going to university.
Keywords	Summary



Headings	Notes
THE COLLAPSE OF	• As a result, most soldiers came from poor white or black families. They felt the draft was unfair.
AMERICAN MORALE	• This lowered the morale of American troops. Over a third took drugs, many deserted and some
	killed unpopular officers.
	• To survive, many soldiers tried to avoid any contact with the enemy. Others behaved savagely
	towards the Vietnamese. The most notorious case was the My Lai Massacre in 1968, when
	when troops killed 347 men, women and children in one village.
OPPOSITION TO THE	• As the war dragged on and the number of deaths rose, many Americans began to wonder if they
WAR IN AMERICA	they should be in Vietnam.
	Newspaper reports and TV images showing how American actions affected the Vietnamese
	these doubts.
	Opposition to the war first developed among students, many of whom faced the possibility of
	conscription. From the mid-1960s, there were marches and demonstrations protesting at the war
	• The number of 'doves' in the Democratic Party grew, with Congressmen and Senators coming
	out against the war.
	• Respected black leaders, like Martin Luther King and Muhammad Ali, began to oppose it,
	claiming that black men were fighting a white man's war.
THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE	• Up to 1968, Americans could still believe they were winning, but the Tet Offensive shattered
AND ITS RESULT	this view.
	The North Vietnamese chose the Tet holiday for a surprise attack. They entered the US
	embassy in Saigon and briefly captured the ancient city of Hué.
	• They hoped the South Vietnamese would support them, but they did not. The South Vietnamese
	army fought well and after a few weeks they had regained control.
	• Tet was a military victory for the US, but a political defeat. Images of North Vietnamese in their
	embassy profoundly shocked Americans. Support for the war fell further.
	Because of this Johnson decided not to contest the 1968 election, which was won by the
	Republican candidate Richard Nixon.
Keywords	Summary
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Headings	Notes
ASSESSING JOHNSON'S	Johnson's involvement in the Vietnam War overshadowed his achievements in other areas like
ROLE IN THE VIETNAM WAR	civil rights and social welfare.
	• The war diverted resources from these projects and made them less effective.
	• He refused to raise taxes to pay for the war and this created inflation, which undermined the US
	economy in the 1970s.
	• His inability to either win or leave destroyed his career and forced him to retire early.
AMERICA LEAVES VIETNAM	• President Nixon wanted to get out of Vietnam. He proposed 'Vietnamisation', i.e. letting the
NIXON AND THE VIETNAM	South Vietnamese do most of the fighting. He also extended the bombing into Cambodia to
WAR	destroy the Ho Chi Minh trail.
	• Between 1969 and 1972, he gradually reduced the number of troops from over 500,000 to
	under 70,000.
	• This undermined the anti-war movement, but protests continued. The most notable was at
	Kent State University in May 1970, when National Guardsmen killed four students.
	• The leaking of the Pentagon Papers , which showed that Johnson had lied about the progress
	of the war, also increased support for a pull-out.
1973: THE WAR ENDS	Nixon hoped to talk to the North Vietnamese, and when they refused he launched Operation
	Linebacker to bomb North Vietnamese cities. As a result, the North agreed to peace negotiations.
	 In January 1973, an agreement was reached with the North Vietnamese:
	 They agreed to a ceasefire and to return all US prisoners.
	The US agreed to leave within 60 days.
	The Americans left Vietnam in March 1973.
	• War continued between North and South Vietnam. In 1975, the North invaded and the South
	 collapsed. Saigon fell on 30 April and was renamed Ho Chi Minh city.
Keywords	Summary
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Headings	Notes
THE RESULTS OF THE	• It was America's longest war in which 58,000 US soldiers died, as well as about 2.3 million
VIETNAM WAR	Vietnamese.
	• The war cost the Americans about \$110 billion and damaged the American economy in the 1970s
	• In 1975, Vietnam was reunited under communist rule and communists gained control of
	neighbouring Laos and Cambodia.
	• The war divided Americans more deeply than at any time since the civil war in the 1860s.
	Americans began to distrust their governments and support for the Democratic Party fell.
1973–1989: NIXON, REAGAN	• The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 showed the superpowers that they could destroy each other
AND THE LAST YEARS OF THE COLD WAR	and the world. This led to a period of détente.
DÉTENTE 1962-1979	Détente also happened because:
	The Americans were caught up in Vietnam.
	The Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev was in dispute with China and wanted to reduce tension
	with the US.
	 Nixon's Secretary of State Henry Kissinger argued that the Soviets were not a threat and that
	the US could weaken them by taking advantage of their quarrel with China.
	Nixon accepted China's membership of the United Nations and made a State visit to China.
	Détente led to a number of agreements which reduced the threat of a nuclear war:
	• The Test Ban Treaty (1963) ended above-ground testing.
	The Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (1968) limited the spread of nuclear weapons.
	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) began in 1969 leading to agreement to restrict the
	numbers of missiles each side had.
	A second round of talks (SALT II) led to the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. Thirty- five countries
	accepted the boundaries of Europe set after the Second World War, and agreed to monitor
	how governments respected the civil rights of their people.
	• In 1975, the two superpowers co-operated in a joint space programme, the Apollo–Soyuz Projec
	 In 1979, the SALT II Agreement further limited the numbers of nuclear weapons.
Keywords	Summary
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Notes
Détente ended in 1979 when:
• President Carter's concern about human rights in the Soviet Union angered the Russians.
Republicans attacked SALT II as weakening America. To appease them, Carter approved a
new missile system and increased military spending.
 The Russians invaded Afghanistan.
• Carter then imposed trade sanctions on the USSR, stopped the ratification (i.e. implementing)
of SALT II and announced a US boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games in 1980.
• Reagan, a former film star, saw the Cold War as a conflict between good and evil and was not
interested in diplomacy.
 He abandoned SALT II and constantly criticised the Soviet record on human rights.
He helped Islamic militants who were fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan and supported various
right-wing dictators in South America.
He increased military spending by 50%, and in 1983 announced the Strategic Defence
Initiative (nicknamed 'Star Wars') to build a counter missile system
• The Soviets saw this as a return to the arms race, but realised they could not match US
spending. They thought Reagan was a warmonger and they seriously feared a US attack.
a in 1095, a younger man. Mikhail Carboohoy, became the leader of the Soviet Union, He
• In 1985, a younger man, Mikhail Gorbachev, became the leader of the Soviet Union. He
wanted economic and political reform, but to do so he needed to improve relations with the US
Meetings between Reagan and Gorbachev led to the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces in
1987. Both sides eliminated many missiles.
Gorbachev's reforms in the USSR encouraged people in the communist countries of Eastern
Europe to demand democracy.
• In 1989, Gorbachev made it clear that the Soviets would not send in tanks to support the
communist governments there.
• Starting in Hungary, one communist government after another collapsed. In November 1989,
the East Germans opened the Berlin Wall , thus symbolically ending the Cold War.
In 1991 the Soviet Union itself collapsed.
Summary



leadings	Notes
EXAM QUESTIONS	Which posed the greater threat to US security, the Korean War or the Cuban Missile Crisis?
	Argue your case, referring to both. (HL 2023)
	Which President had the more effective foreign policy, Truman or Johnson? Argue your case
	referring to both. (HL 2022 DP)
	How effectively did US leaders deal with problems posed by two of the following: Korea; Cuba;
	Vietnam? (HL 2022)
	• [DBQ] How did US involvement in Vietnam affect the presidency of Lyndon Johnson? (HL 2020
	Why and how did the US become involved in war in Korea and/or Vietnam? (HL 2019)
	What was the importance, for both countries, of US involvement in Vietnam? (HL 2018)
	Who was the greater president, Truman or Johnson? Argue your case, referring to both in your
	answer. (HL 2016)
	• During the period 1945-1989, what was the importance for US foreign policy of one or more of
	the following: Berlin; Korea; Cuba? (HL 2015)
	 What were the strengths and weaknesses of Lyndon Johnson as a political leader? (HL 2014)
	Which president was more successful in his handling of US foreign policy, Harry Truman or
	Lyndon Johnson? Argue your case, referring to both. (HL 2013)
	How well did President Harry Truman or President Lyndon Johnson handle the challenges he
	faced? (HL 2012)
	What part did one or more of the following play in US foreign policy: Korea; Cuba; SALT and
	Star Wars? (HL 2012)
	 Why did the US lose the Vietnam War and/or what was the significance of the Moon landing?
	(HL 2011)
	 What was the importance for US foreign policy of one or more of the following: Berlin; Korea;
	Cuba? (HL 2010)
	What were the successes and failures of the presidency of Lyndon Johnson? (HL 2010)
	• [DBQ] Why was President Johnson unable to win the war in Vietnam? (HL 2008)
	 What were the significant developments in US foreign policy, 1973-1989? (HL 2007)
	 Which had the greater impact on the United States: involvement in Korea or involvement in
	Vietnam? Argue your case, referring to both. (HL 2006)
	What were the successes and failures of the political career of Ronald Reagan? (HL 2006)



Potsdam July 1945	Fa	stern Europe	US response	
 Germany & Austria divided in 4 zones Nazis to be tried for crimes Transfer of land from Germany to Poland Russian support against Japan Successful atomic test 	Eastern Europe 1. Stalin worried about invasion 2. Establish buffer zone 3. USSR Communist regimes in East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, Romania, Czechoslovakia 4. Yugoslavia also communist but outside		 Growing concern about spread of communism Churchill – Iron Curtain speech Increased support for French & Italian Communist Parties Civil War in Greece – US send 	
6. Atomic bomb raised tensions	the USSR influer	ce	military supplies 5. Truman Doctrine 6. Marshall Plan	
Truman Doctrine 1. March 1947 – Aid to Greece and Turkey 2. America 'would support free peoples who subjugation by armed minorities' 3. Policy of 'containment' 4. Direct military support for anti-communist around the world	-	1. Economic recovery in Eu communism		
Berlin Blockade1. City divided in 4 zones2. Deep in East Germany3. Marshall Plan led to new currency – Deutschmark – triggered crisis4. Stalin orders blockade of Berlin5. Twenty mile air corridor6. Operation Vittles – massive airlift7. Blockade lasts 320 days8. Stalin ends blockade – Berlin centre of Cold War		Results of Crisis 1. USA, Canada and most of Western Europe form NATO 2. Division of Germany now permanent – new West Germany and Russian controlled East Germany 3. Communist countries form Warsaw Pact in 1955 when West Germany joins NATO 4. Cold War now dominant – USA and USSR enemies – crisis could lead to war.		
McCarthy Witch-hunts		Korean War	4050 4052	
1. 'Are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?'1. H the 2. Anti-Communist campaign 3. Federal Employee Loyalty Programme – root out communists among government employees2. H 3. F 4. A wo 4. House Un-American Activities Committee 5. Hollywood – Charlie Chaplin, Paul Robeson and Arthur Miller 6. McCarthy prominence 1950 – Republicans used him to undermine Truman – supported by FBI 7. McCarthy discredited when he accused the army of harbouring communists1. H 4. A 9. F 10. F 10. F 11. House Interview of the secure of the		rided after WW2 – Russia con 38 th Parallel rea invades in June 1950 es control of most of the cour loss' of China (Mao in 1949) blow to US prestige d the USSR boycott of the UN re (mostly from USA & UK) se rean forces pushed almost to prvenes and pushes back Sou or criticises Truman and is sau	ntrolled the North – USA controlled ntry Truman's view that loss of Korea N to condemn the North Korea ent to Korea under General b border with China uth cked 53 and a DMZ established at 38 th	



Eisenhower 1. Elected President 1952 2. Stalin dies 1953 – replaced by Khrushc 3. Hungarian Uprising 1956 4. US does not intervene 5. Hungary in USSR's 'sphere of influence 6. Eisenhower pursues diplomacy – refuse to increase military spending	Divisions over Berlin 1. As West Germany prospered – East Germany remains poor 2. Thousands of Germans move to West Berlin 3. Khrushchev pressurises West to give up Berlin 4. Eisenhower refuses 5. Kennedy replaces Eisenhower in 1960 6. Vienna Summit June 1961 – Khrushchev tries to bully Kennedy 7. In effort to stop refugees East Germany builds 'Berlin Wall' 8. Eases crisis – becomes symbol for East-West divisions	
Cuba 1. Castro's forces overthrow dictator Batista in 1959 2. Castro approaches USA for support – turns to USSR when rejected by USA 3. USA impose trade embargo 4. Kennedy assists anti-Castro Cubans 5. Bay of Pigs invasion 6. Castro declares Cuba 'socialist'	Cuban Missile Crisis 1. USSR secretly begins building missile bases in Cuba 2. CIA notice increase in Russian ships to Cuba 3. Spy planes take photos of missile bases 4. Kennedy decides to blockade Cuba 5. US forces placed on alert 6. Kennedy press conference to tell world about missiles in Cuba – says US will search all ships and turn back any with weapons 7. Calls on Khrushchev to stop 'provocative threat to world peace' 8. The World holds it breath – panic buying in USA 9. Khrushchev backs down and removes missiles	
Vietnam War 1963-1968 1. Case Study – separate Handout Prague Spring 1968 1. Reforms introduced in Czechoslovakia Dubcek 2. Fearing change – USSR sends in tanks remove Dubcek 3. USA does nothing – sphere of influence 4. Coup in Chile 1973 – overthrow of Soci Government of Allende	Détante 1. Nixon and Brezhnev want to relax tensions 2. Arms race placing massive drain on resources (USSR) 3. Nixon wants to develop US-China relations 4. USSR and China fall out in 1955 5. 1969 – Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) – Helsinki 6. Nixon visits Moscow in 1972 to sign SALT 1 7. Détante politically popular in USA 8. Yom Kippur War in Oct 1973 causes tensions 9. Détante continues under President Ford 10. SALT 2 signed by President Carter in 1976	
Dealling of D (foots		
Decline of Détante 1. Criticism of Détante because of growing support for Communism in Africa 2. Carter considered weak 3. US increases military spending 4. USSR invades Afghanistan in 1979 5. Carter warns USSR to keep out of Middle-East oil-region 6. Carter Dcotrine 7. Ratification of SALT 2 suspended 8. USA boycotts Moscow Olympics 1980	Ronald ReaganFall of USSR1. Anti-communist crusader – elected 19801. Gorbachev USSR leader 19852. 'evil empire'2. Perestroika (restructuring)3. Confront USSR from a position of strength3. Glasnost (openness)4. Renewal of Cold War – massive increase in military spending4. Wanted improved relations – no money5. Increased support for Reagan after Solidarity in Poland suppressed 6. USA funds anti-communist rebels and dictatorships in Central and South America 7. Star Wars – defensive shield – escalation of arms raceFall of USSR8. USSR in financial trouble – cannot compete9. Gorbachev tells Bush (elected 1988) USA not an 'enemy' 10. USSR disintegrates in 1991 11. Attempted coup fails - Yeltsin	



LBJ and Vietnam War – Part 1

	USA gets Involved			
ne ed French /ar ally eat of Japan e –Vietminh nent - nd sending	 USA underestimates Vietminh resolve French defeat at Dien Bien Phu (1954) sees them pull out of Vietnam Geneva Accords splits country along 17th parallel Division temporary pending all-Vietnam elections – USA stops this due to fear communists would win USA tries to turn South Vietnam into another South Korea – prosperous, industrialised & anti-communist Puppet ruler, Ngo Dinh Diem, deeply unpopular – favours Catholic minority, postpones land reform & embezzles \$millions of US aid 1959 - Ho Chi Minh organises Southern Vietminh into a guerrilla army (Vietcong) which begins attacking South Vietnamese army (ARVN) 			
nment – laterials tnam ding monk sets n murdered – more	Johnson Replaces Kennedy 1. By late 1963 there are 16,500 US military advisors in South Vietnam. He is assassinated in November 1963.2. LBJ continues policies & retains Rusk (State) & McNamara (Defence) both of whom are hardliners 3. Pulling out would damage US prestige & encourage spread of communism4. LBJ also wary of Republican opponents pouncing on any sign of weakness 5. Vietnam ("that raggedy-ass little fourth-rate country") will divert funds from his Great Society programme, the "Beautiful Lady" will be ruined by the "Bitch" of a war			
candidate B a 2. Promises what Asian b 3. 1965 – O p bomb North 4. Last 3 yea 1966 & more during WWII	USA Intervention sidential Election sees LBJ trounce his aggressive Republican arry Goldwater not to send "American boys 9,000 miles away from home to do boys ought to be doing for themselves" peration Rolling Thunder – massive aerial bombardment to Vietnam "back to the stone age" ars instead of the original 8 weeks, 12,000 raids per month by e bombs dropped than on Germany, Italy & Japan combined lorth Vietnam fairly "stone age" already Restrictions on hitting SAM sites for fear of killing Soviet			
	ed French ar ally at of Japan -Vietminh ent - nd sending ment – aterials nam ling monk sets nurdered - more 1. 1964 Pres candidate B 2. Promises what Asian b 3. 1965 – O bomb North 4. Last 3 yea 1966 & more			

- 85% approval ratings at this time6. US immediately begins bombing North Vietnam encourages more volunteers into the Vietcong
 - technicians
 nothing within 40km of Chinese border limits effectiveness6.
 ORT hands massive propaganda victory to Ho Chi Minh



LBJ and Vietnam War – Part 2

Ground Troops Arrive 1. 1965 – first ground troops arrive at Da Nang having been requested by General Westmoreland to protect the airbase 2. 200,000 troops by end of 1965, 500,000 by 1968 & 2.7m will have served in Vietnam by end of the war 3. Draft system seen as unfair, rich can dodge it by going to university/leaving the country 4. Most US troops working class Whites, Blacks and Hispanics 5. Leads to racial tensions in USA 6. Fighting conditions – jungle & guerrilla warfare, booby traps, heat, humidity & disease, tunnels, deliberate or accidental civilian deaths, herbicides & napalm, fragging, no clear goals, falling support at home, low morale, going AWOL, drug use	Opposition Grows 1. Unrestricted media access meant it had powerful influence on public opinion Slaughter beamed into homes on TV & prominent newspapers become more anti-war3. Prominent figures oppose it – Norman Mailer, Martin Luther King & Muhammad Ali4. Growing frustration of US troops results in atrocities like 1968 My Lai massacre – 347 men, women & children killed 5. Opposition at home growing earliest & fastest on University campuses – teach-ins, draft card burnings etc 6. Culminates in Kent State and Jackson State Massacre – 4 students shot and 9 wounded by National Guard in Ohio during anti-war protest – 2 more killed and 12 injured in Jackson 8. Four million students engage in university occupations and strikes in response
Tet Offensive	Ninon
Tet Offensive1. LBJ estimates 70 attempts at diplomatic solution – all end in failure due2. January 1968 Tet Offensive is massive turning point – huge military defeat for Vietcong (70% of soldiers killed – 58,000)3. But Vietcong had driven deep into South Vietnam, even attacking the US embassy in Saigon4. Walter Kronkite's "what the hell is going on?" speech leads LBJ to admit that if he had lost Kronkite he'd lost America 5. Johnson's approval rates plummet to 26%6. Ever growing opposition, bad news & discontent within his own administration means LBJ decides not to run for re- election 7. 220,000 US troops killed or wounded under his presidency	Nixon 1. Richard Nixon takes over – policy of Vietnamization or strengthening ARVN to do most of fighting so that US can begin withdrawing its troops 2. 1969 – 1972 troops numbers from 543,000 to 69,000 3. Despite attempts to discredit them as "pro-communist" & "anti-American", protests continue & highlight divisions in US society 4. Vietcong tries to capitalise on falling US troop levels & attacks in 1972 – ARVN much stronger now & pushes offensive back 5. Nixon presses advantage with Operation Linebacker – biggest bombing raid in history, 41,500 attacks on Hanoi & 6 other cities 6. These two factors weaken North Vietnam sufficiently to revive peace negotiations – Paris Peace Accords of 1973
US Withdrawl 1. US ceases all military activity & withdraws all personnel within 60 days, 2. North Vietnam ceases all military activity & releases all US PoWs 3. Nixon says it is "peace with honour" 4. North Vietnamese troops allowed remain in South – occupying 40% of the country 5. By 1975 South Vietnam has collapsed to the North & Ho Chi Minh's dream of united, communist Vietnam is realised6. US = 58,000 dead, ARVN = 224,000 dead, Vietminh/Vietcong = 1,100,000 dead, Civilians = 1,500,000 dead	 Results Massive death & destruction Huge cost of \$112 bn – could have been much better spent Containment in ruins – Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia all communist US military morale at lowest ebb & US wary of any international involvement for next 20 years Very divisive domestically Publication of leaked Pentagon Papers showing just how much LBJ's administration had misled the public Lack of trust or respect for US governments Conservatives who had voted Democrat now saw it as dominated by anti-war faction & voted Republican instead

