

MAP EXERCISE: THE COLD WAR

The "Cold War" was a period of tension between democratic and communist governments following World War II. Both sides thought their political and economic systems were the best. Differences led to revolutions, local wars, and the exchange of heated words. Each side said that the other wanted to rule the world. The Soviet Union became the leader of the Communist bloc nations, while the United States led the Free World democracies.

Many people feared that the Cold War would explode into World War III. The greatest danger was a potential clash between the superpowers -- the United States and the Soviet Union. More than a few observers thought that such a confrontation would result in the destruction of mankind.

The major events of the Cold War period are described on the world map. Place the two map sections in front of you on your desk. Find the dotted line along the margin of one of the sections. Crease and carefully tear-off this margin. Then, join the two map sections by laying one on top of the other. The page with the margin removed should be on top.

Use the map and the information on the chart below to answer the questions on page two. Read the definitions of the Cold War terms and all of the map descriptions before starting the questions.

Terms Related to the Cold War

Free World - made up of countries with non-communist governments

the East - the Soviet Union, China, and other communist countries of Eastern Europe and Asia

the West - the United States, Great Britain, France, and other democratic nations

nonaligned nations - countries remaining neutral in the Cold War -- India, Sweden, Switzerland, and various African and Asian nations

arms race - competition between communist and Free World nations -- especially the Soviet Union and the United States -- to develop powerful new weapons

containment - a policy of political, economic, and military pressure to restrict the spread of communism

Iron Curtain - the Soviet Union's tight control over travel and communication between Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe and the Free World

limited war - a small-scale war without nuclear weapons that involves just one area of the world

Space Race - the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union for superiority in space exploration and communication

satellites - the countries of Eastern Europe that came under the control of the Soviet Union after World War II

propaganda - ideas spread by one side in the Cold War to support its own policies or to criticize the other side's actions and beliefs

Radio Free Europe - broadcasts supporting democratic principles and ideals transmitted to people living behind the Iron Curtain

Peace Corps - American volunteers who help disadvantaged people in underdeveloped countries of the world

detente - a time of improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union during the 1970's

peaceful coexistence - the two sides in the Cold War decided to cooperate in such areas as space, trade, education, and science

Multiple-Choice

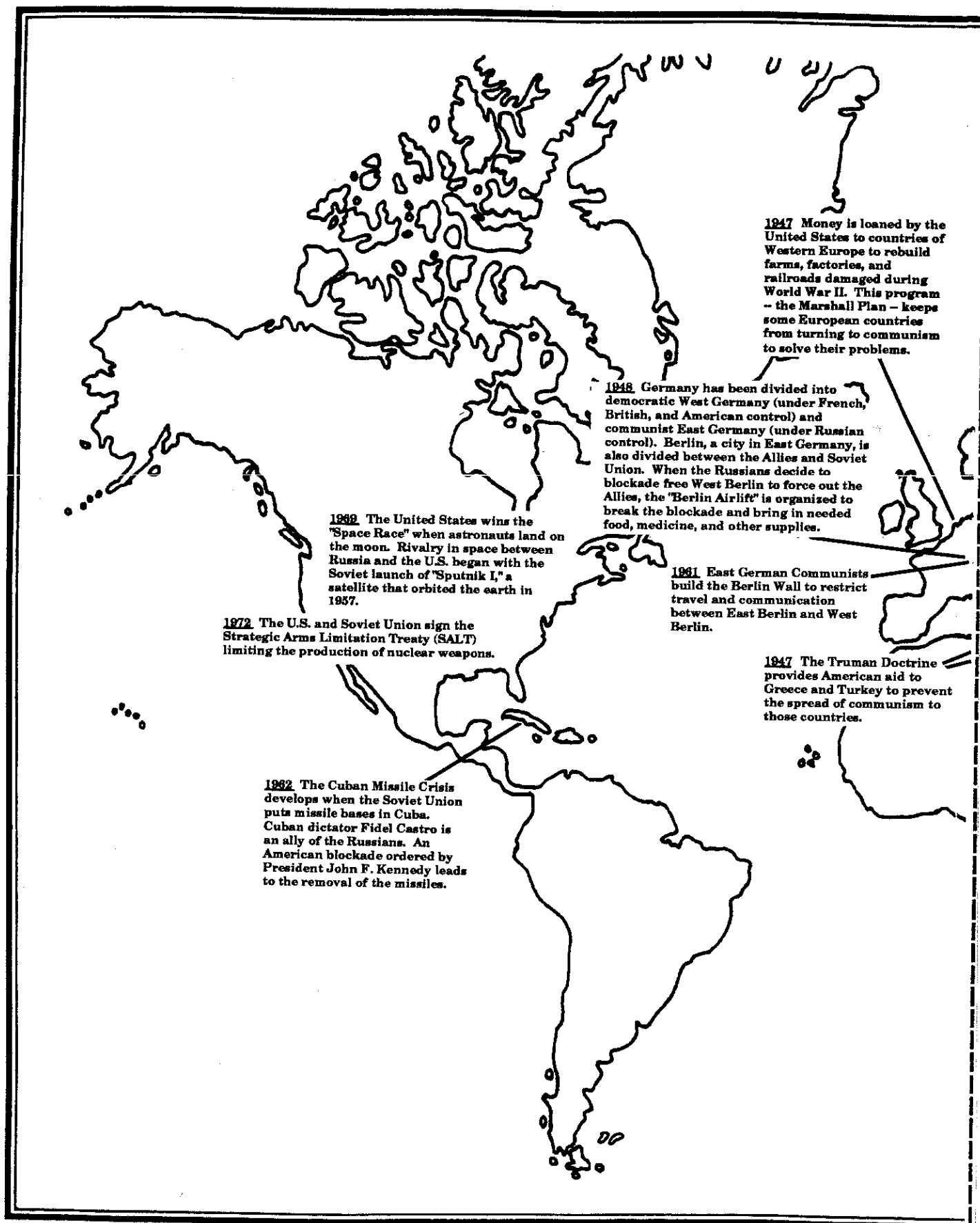
- (1) _____ The practice of spreading ideas to help one's cause or to harm an opposing cause is known as: (a) detente (b) containment (c) propaganda
- (2) _____ The "Free World" is the same as: (a) the West (b) the East (c) the nonaligned nations
- (3) _____ The Eastern European countries that came under Soviet control after World War II were called: (a) satellites (b) colonies (c) neutral states
- (4) _____ An American policy of the 1950's aimed at preventing the spread of communism in the Middle East was the: (a) Monroe Doctrine (b) Truman Doctrine (c) Eisenhower Doctrine
- (5) _____ A crisis involving the United States and the Soviet Union occurred when Russian missile bases were set up in: (a) East Germany (b) East Berlin (c) Cuba
- (6) _____ The U-2 spy plane belonged to: (a) the Soviet Union (b) China (c) the United States
- (7) _____ The person who said that an "Iron Curtain" had descended around Eastern Europe was: (a) Winston Churchill (b) Franklin D. Roosevelt (c) Dwight D. Eisenhower
- (8) _____ In the Middle East, the United States: (a) backed Arab countries (b) supported Israel (c) remained neutral
- (9) _____ The Cold War began when: (a) the Soviet Union refused to pull its troops out of Eastern Europe (b) the United Nations was organized (c) East Germany and West Germany became separate countries
- (10) _____ The United States opposed the spread of communism in Europe during the late 1940's by: (a) using the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan (b) fighting limited wars (c) sending Peace Corps volunteers to war-torn nations

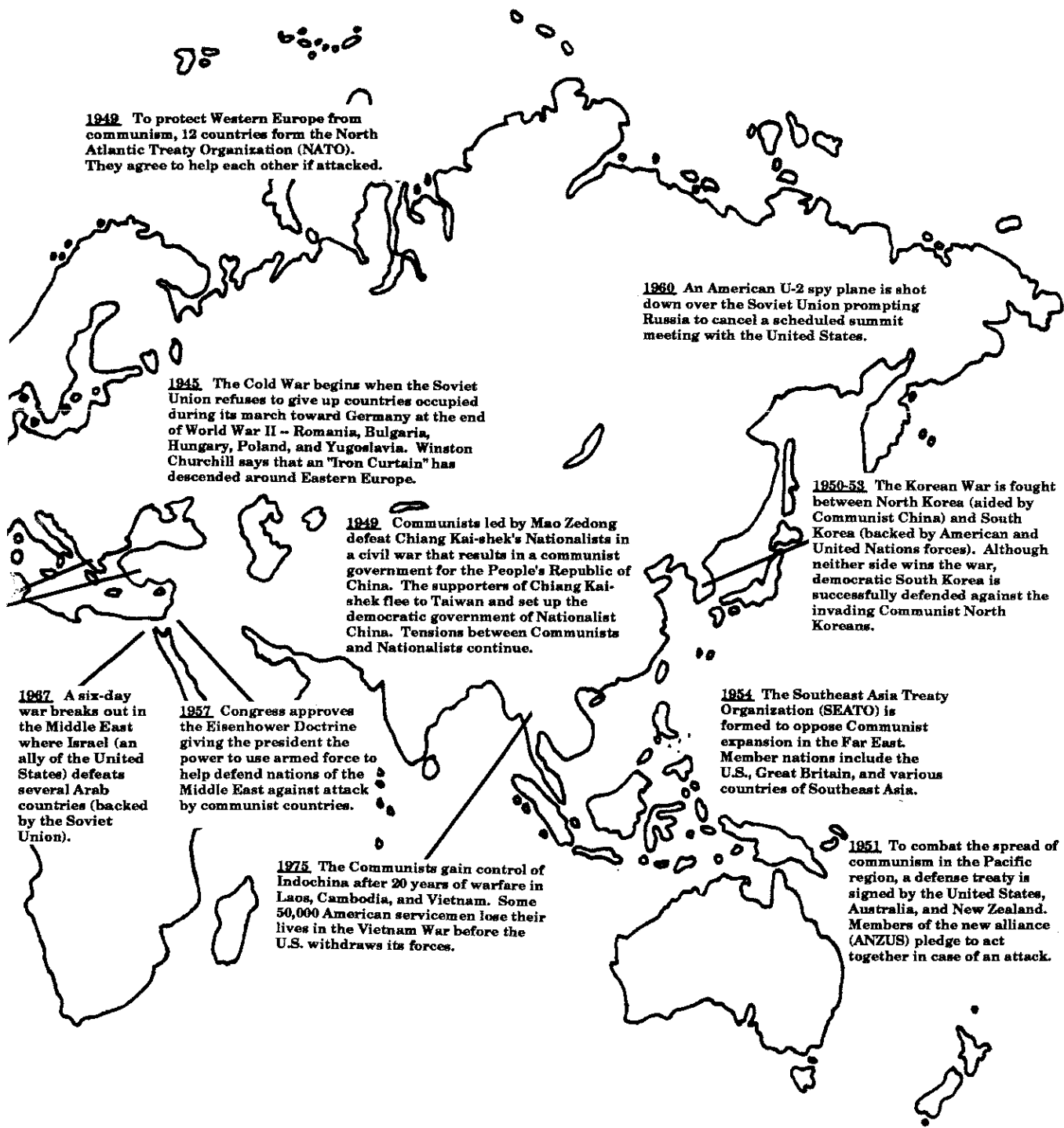
Completion

- (11) American and United Nations troops fought against communist North Korean and Chinese forces during the _____ War.
- (12) _____ transmitted Western ideas to countries behind the Iron Curtain.
- (13) The _____ was an alliance formed by 12 countries to oppose the spread of communism in Western Europe.
- (14) Thousands of American servicemen lost their lives in Southeast Asia during the _____.
- (15) The _____ was built to divide the German city of Berlin into a communist eastern sector and a democratic western sector.
- (16) Communists under Mao Zedong defeated Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists during a civil war in _____.
- (17) The _____ was organized to break the Soviet blockade of West Berlin and keep the city out of Communist hands.
- (18) The country that started the Space Race by launching "Sputnik I" in 1957 was the _____.
- (19) The United States and the Soviet Union agreed to limit the production of nuclear weapons when they signed the _____.
- (20) To oppose the spread of communism in the Far East, the United States, Great Britain, and several countries in Southeast Asia formed an alliance called the _____.

True-False

- (21) _____ Dwight D. Eisenhower was the president of the United States during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- (22) _____ The Soviet Union was the first country to land a man on the moon.
- (23) _____ Western European countries rebuilt their farms, factories, and railroads with financial aid provided by the U.S. under the Marshall Plan.
- (24) _____ Relations worsened between the United States and the Soviet Union during the period of "detente" in the 1970's.
- (25) _____ The Cold War began at the end of World War I.





1949 To protect Western Europe from communism, 12 countries form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). They agree to help each other if attacked.

1945 The Cold War begins when the Soviet Union refuses to give up countries occupied during its march toward Germany at the end of World War II -- Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia. Winston Churchill says that an "Iron Curtain" has descended around Eastern Europe.

1949 Communists led by Mao Zedong defeat Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists in a civil war that results in a communist government for the People's Republic of China. The supporters of Chiang Kai-shek flee to Taiwan and set up the democratic government of Nationalist China. Tensions between Communists and Nationalists continue.

1960 An American U-2 spy plane is shot down over the Soviet Union prompting Russia to cancel a scheduled summit meeting with the United States.

1950-53 The Korean War is fought between North Korea (aided by Communist China) and South Korea (backed by American and United Nations forces). Although neither side wins the war, democratic South Korea is successfully defended against the invading Communist North Koreans.

1967 A six-day war breaks out in the Middle East where Israel (an ally of the United States) defeats several Arab countries (backed by the Soviet Union).

1957 Congress approves the Eisenhower Doctrine giving the president the power to use armed force to help defend nations of the Middle East against attack by communist countries.

1954 The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) is formed to oppose Communist expansion in the Far East. Member nations include the U.S., Great Britain, and various countries of Southeast Asia.

1975 The Communists gain control of Indochina after 20 years of warfare in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Some 50,000 American servicemen lose their lives in the Vietnam War before the U.S. withdraws its forces.

1951 To combat the spread of communism in the Pacific region, a defense treaty is signed by the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. Members of the new alliance (ANZUS) pledge to act together in case of an attack.