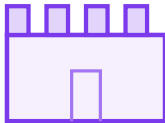


Cold War and Contemporary Europe

AP European History ■ Unit 9

AP European History



What we will cover

- 1 Contextualizing Cold War and Contemporary Europe
- 2 Rebuilding Europe
- 3 The Cold War
- 4 Two Superpowers Emerge
- 5 Postwar Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and Atrocities
- 6 Contemporary Western Democracies



Contextualizing Cold War and Contemporary Europe

Unit 9 takes Europe from 1945 to the present. The same four key concepts as Unit 8 apply, but the emphasis shifts: a **polarised state order**, competing conceptions of **the individual and the state**, continued questioning of **objective knowledge**, and demographic and economic change reshaping everyday life.

The unit has two halves that must be held together – **division** until 1991, and **integration** running alongside and then beyond it.



Rebuilding Europe

The Marshall Plan is examinable in two directions at once: it rebuilt Western Europe, and by being refused for the Soviet bloc it helped harden the division that defines the rest of the unit.



The Cold War

Despite efforts to maintain international cooperation through the newly created **United Nations** , deep-seated tensions between the two blocs produced the **Cold War**.

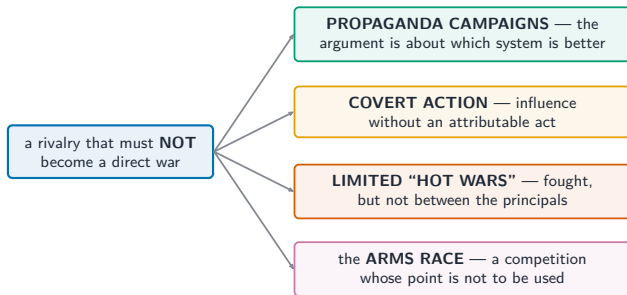
- **propaganda campaigns** ;
- **covert actions** ;
- **limited "hot wars"** in other regions;
- an **arms race** .

The Cold War, continued

Note what is absent: direct war between the principals.

The methods list *is* the answer to "how could a conflict this intense produce no direct war".

How the Cold War was fought



- **propaganda campaigns ;**
- **covert actions ;**
- **limited “hot wars” in other regions;**
- **an arms race .**



Two Europes, on the same rows

- The **United States** exerted strong military, political, and economic influence in Western Europe, leading to the creation of **NATO** .
- Countries east of the **Iron Curtain** came under the military, political, and economic domination of the **Soviet Union**.

Two Europes, on the same rows, in detail

	Western Europe	The Soviet bloc
Rebuilt how?	Marshall Plan funds rebuild industry and infrastructure	central planning, extensive social welfare provision
Aligned with whom?	US military, political and economic influence; NATO	Soviet domination east of the Iron Curtain
What strained it?	growth funded the welfare state; stagnation put it in question	long economic stagnation; repression alternating with reform
How did it end?	integration deepens into the European Union	1989-91: peaceful revolution in most countries, violent conflict in some

Held apart for forty years - and then both halves face the same questions: sovereignty, migration, and what integration costs.

Countries east of the **Iron Curtain** came under the military, political, and economic domination of the **Soviet Union**.

Two Superpowers Emerge

- The **United States** exerted strong military, political, and economic influence in Western Europe, leading to the creation of **NATO** .
- Countries east of the **Iron Curtain** came under the military, political, and economic domination of the **Soviet Union**.
- Central and Eastern European nations within the Soviet bloc followed an economic model based on **central planning** and extensive social welfare provision.
- Those nations' relationship with the Soviet Union **oscillated between repression and reform** – which is the CED's own phrase and a better answer than either alone.
- The rise of **new nationalisms** in Central and Eastern Europe eventually brought **peaceful revolution in most countries**, but **violent conflict in some**.





Contemporary Western Democracies

Postwar economic growth supported an **increase in welfare benefits** ; subsequent **economic stagnation** led to criticism and scaling back of the **welfare state** .

Growth funded the welfare state; the end of growth is what put it under argument – which is a causal claim, not just a sequence of events.

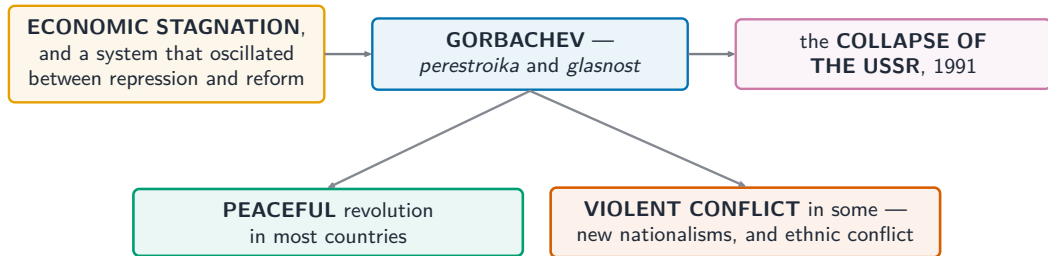


The Fall of Communism

Following a long period of **economic stagnation**, **Mikhail Gorbachev's** internal reforms of **perestroika** and **glasnost** – despite being intended to strengthen the system – contributed to its collapse.

The **collapse of the USSR in 1991** ended the Cold War and led to the establishment of capitalist economies throughout Eastern Europe.

The collapse, and its two endings



Same cause, two endings. “Communism fell peacefully” is the half of the sentence the CED puts **before** the other half



20th-Century Feminism

The lives of women were defined by **family and work responsibilities, economic changes, and feminism** .

Across the century: expanding participation in paid work, especially during both wars; the extension of political rights; and organised movements that changed law and expectation in the postwar decades.



Decolonization

The process of **decolonisation** occurred over the course of the century with **varying degrees of cooperation, interference, or resistance** from the European imperial powers.

The consequence for Europe itself is the part students omit: losing empire changed what a European state was, and it produced the migration examined two topics below.

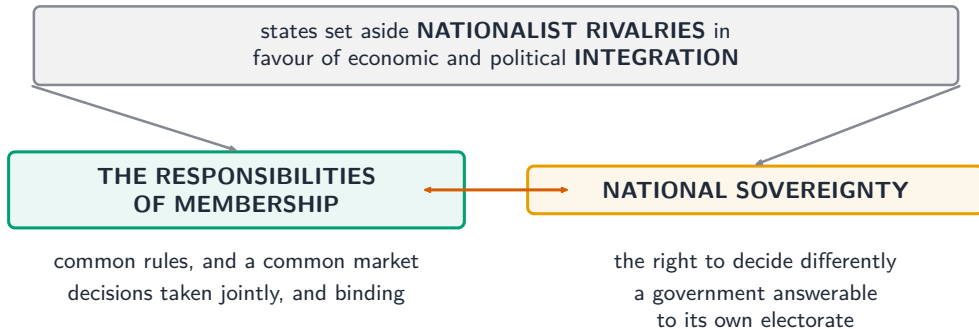


The European Union

European states **began to set aside nationalist rivalries in favour of economic and political integration** , forming a series of institutions that became the **European Union** .

That balance is the examinable issue, not the institutional history.

An unresolved balance



The CED says members **continue** to balance these. It is an unresolved tension, and an answer that resolves it has answered a different question



Migration and Immigration

Note the CED's own causal order: economic growth created labour demand, and migration followed it. The debates came afterwards.

- Because of the **economic growth of the 1950s and 1960s**, **migrant workers** from southern Europe, Asia, and Africa immigrated to northern and western Europe.
- Increased immigration **altered Europe's religious makeup** , causing debate and conflict over the **role of religion in public life** .



Technology and Globalization

- Medical theories and technologies extended life but posed social and moral questions that **eluded consensus** .
- Increased imports of US technology and popular culture after the war generated **both enthusiasm and criticism** .
- New communication and transportation technologies multiplied connections across space and time, transforming daily life.
- **Green parties** in Western and Central Europe challenged consumerism and urged **sustainable development** .



Culture, Arts, and Demographic Trends

- The effects of world war and economic depression **undermined confidence in science and human reason**, giving impetus to new intellectual currents.
- **Organised religion continued to play a role** in European social and cultural life despite these challenges – a continuity worth stating, because answers tend to assume simple secularisation.
- The arts were defined by **experimentation, self-expression, subjectivity**, and increasing global influence.
- **Mass production, new food technologies, and industrial efficiency** increased disposable income and created a **consumer culture**.
- With postwar recovery the birth rate rose dramatically – the **baby boom** – often promoted by government policy.



Continuity and Change in the 20th and 21st Centuries

The unit's reasoning skill is continuity and change.

Worked example – a change against what it replaced

“Explain one way in which European integration after 1945 represented a change from earlier European international relations.”

- **Full marks:** *“Before 1945 European states pursued national interest through competing alliances and, repeatedly, war. After 1945 states began to set aside those rivalries in favour of shared institutions, accepting binding common rules on trade and law.”*
- A change is only visible against what it replaced – so state both.

The strongest answers add why: two wars in thirty years made the older system's cost unarguable.

Exam tips

- The unit has **two simultaneous stories** – division until 1991 and integration throughout. Weak answers tell only one.
- Memorise the Cold War's **methods**: propaganda, covert action, limited hot wars, arms race. The absence of direct war is the point.
- "**Oscillated between repression and reform**" is the CED's phrase for the Soviet bloc. It beats either half alone.
- Gorbachev's reforms were **intended to strengthen** the system. That irony is what an evaluation question is looking for.
- The **welfare state** grew on growth and was questioned when growth stopped. State the causal link.
- Migration followed **labour demand** created by the postwar boom. Get the causal order right before discussing the debates.



Period 9 – key takeaways

1

Two stories

division until 1991 *and* integration throughout

2

Methods

propaganda, covert action, limited wars, arms race

3

Soviet bloc

oscillated between repression and reform

4

Gorbachev

reforms intended to *strengthen* the system

Check yourself

- 1 What two simultaneous stories does the unit have?
- 2 Name Cold War methods.
- 3 What is the CED phrase for the Soviet bloc?
- 4 What irony is an evaluation looking for?

Answers: division and integration ▪ propaganda, covert, limited wars, arms race ▪ oscillated between repression and reform ▪ Gorbachev meant to strengthen the system