

Cold War and Decolonization

AP World History ■ Unit 8

AP World History



Cold War and Decolonization

What we will cover

- 1 Setting the Stage for the Cold War
- 2 The Cold War
- 3 Effects of the Cold War
- 4 Spread of Communism After 1900
- 5 Decolonization After 1900
- 6 Newly Independent States

1

Setting the Stage for the Cold War

Setting the Stage for the Cold War

Unit 8 covers the period after 1945, and two processes run through it at once: a **global ideological rivalry** and the **end of empire**. Most of the unit's questions turn on how those two interacted.

In the years following World War II, **increasing anti-imperialist sentiment** 反帝情绪 built momentum in colonised regions, and this time it produced independence rather than promises.

2 The Cold War

The Cold War

The shifted balance **rapidly evolved into the Cold War** 冷战 – a rivalry between the democracies led by the United States and the communist states led by the Soviet Union, conducted as an **ideological struggle** 意识形态斗争 rather than direct war between the two principals.

Leaving the non-aligned states out of an answer describes a two-sided world that did not exist.

3 Effects of the Cold War

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└ Effects of the Cold War

Effects of the Cold War

The rivalry produced concrete institutions and conflicts:

- **New military alliances** 军事同盟 – **NATO** 北约 and the **Warsaw Pact** 华沙条约组织.
- **Nuclear proliferation** 核扩散 – the spread of nuclear weapons to more states.
- **Proxy wars** 代理人战争 between and within states, in which the two blocs supported opposing sides in conflicts elsewhere rather than fighting each other directly.

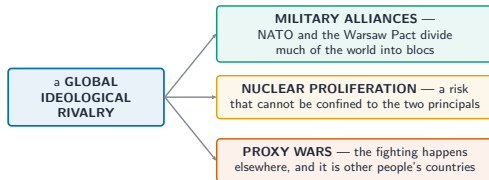
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└ Effects of the Cold War

Effects of the Cold War, continued

The comparison this topic sets up is *how* each superpower maintained influence over other states – through alliances, aid, military support, and intervention.

Both used all four, which is why the comparison question is answerable in both directions.

One rivalry, three things built



The shifted balance **rapidly evolved into the Cold War 冷战** - a rivalry between the democracies led by the United States and the communist states led by the Soviet Union, conducted as an ideological...

The CED insists that this was not a world of only two options.

4

Spread of Communism After 1900

Spread of Communism After 1900

Two examinable threads run here. First, **China**: as a result of **internal tension 内部矛盾** and **Japanese aggression 日本侵略**, Chinese communists seized power, and the CED notes this eventually contributed to communist revolutions elsewhere.

The CED presents these as a matched pair, which is exactly how a comparison question will ask for them.

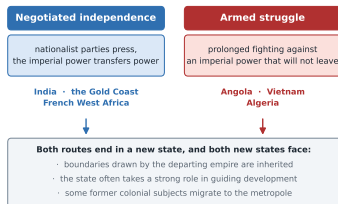
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Decolonization After 1900

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└ Decolonization After 1900

How a colony reached independence shaped what it inherited



The difference that earns marks: what the new state inherits - a working administration, or a war-damaged one.

After World War II, **some colonies negotiated their independence** 通过谈判独立 while **others achieved it through armed struggle** 通过武装斗争.

India and the Gold Coast are the standard negotiated cases; Angola, Vietnam, and Algeria the standard armed ones.

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└ Decolonization After 1900

Decolonization After 1900

After World War II, **some colonies negotiated their independence** 通过谈判独立 while **others achieved it through armed struggle** 通过武装斗争. India and the Gold Coast are the standard negotiated cases; Angola, Vietnam, and Algeria the standard armed ones.

Those boundaries are the reason so many post-independence conflicts were about borders rather than about the departing power.

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Newly Independent States

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↳ Newly Independent States

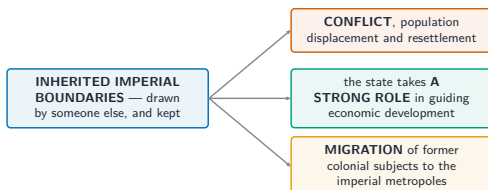
Newly Independent States

The **redrawing of political boundaries** after colonial withdrawal led to the creation of new states, and in some cases to **conflict, population displacement, and resettlement** 人口流离与重新安置. The partition of British India is the standard case of all three at once.

Economically, governments in newly independent states **often took a strong role in guiding economic life to promote development** 主导经济以推动发展 – a continuity with the interwar pattern of Unit 7, arrived at from a completely different direction.

Cold War and Decolonization
↳ Newly Independent States

What a new state inherited



- Groups and individuals **challenged the wars** of the century, and some - **Mohandas Gandhi** 甘地, Martin Luther King...
- **Militaries and militarised states** often responded to the proliferation of conflicts in ways that **further intensified** them.
- Some movements **used violence against civilians** in an effort to achieve political aims.

7

Global Resistance to Established Power Structures

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└ Global Resistance to Established Power Structures

Global Resistance to Established Power Structures

Although conflict dominated much of the twentieth century, many individuals and groups – **including states** – opposed that trend. The CED names three distinct patterns, and they should not be blurred:

- Groups and individuals **challenged the wars** of the century, and some – **Mohandas Gandhi** 甘地, **Martin Luther King Jr.** 马丁·路德·金, and **Nelson Mandela** 曼德拉 – **promoted non-violence** 非暴力 as a method of change.
- **Militaries and militarised states** often responded to the proliferation of conflicts in ways that **further intensified** them.
- Some movements **used violence against civilians** in an effort to achieve political aims.

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└ Global Resistance to Established Power Structures

Global Resistance to Established Power Structures, continued

Both the third and second points are examinable content, not asides.

A question on "reactions to existing power structures" expects the full range, not only the non-violent one.

The century contains both at once

MOVEMENTS THAT PROMOTED NON-VIOLENCE

Mohandas Gandhi
Martin Luther King Jr.
Nelson Mandela

STATES THAT INTENSIFIED FORCE

militaries and militarised states
violence used against civilians
challenges met with more force

Both are responses to **established power**. The century contains both at once, which is why “the world became freer” is only half of it

8 End of the Cold War

End of the Cold War

The CED gives a compound cause here too: advances in **United States military and technological development**, the Soviet Union's **costly and ultimately failed invasion of Afghanistan** 阿富汗战争, **public discontent** 公众不满, and **economic problems** 经济困难 within the Soviet system.

An answer that explains the end of the Cold War purely as external pressure has missed the CED's own weighting.

9

Causation in the Age of the Cold War

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└ Causation in the Age of the Cold War

Causation in the Age of the Cold War

The unit's reasoning task is to explain the **extent** to which the effects of the Cold War were **similar in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres**. "Extent" is a comparison word: it asks for similarity *and* difference, with a judgement about which dominates.

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└ Causation in the Age of the Cold War

Exam tips

- The Cold War was **not two-sided**. The **Non-Aligned Movement** is examinable content, and including it lifts an answer immediately.
- Give the effects as the CED does: **alliances, nuclear proliferation, proxy wars**. Three named effects beat one described at length.
- **Negotiated versus armed** independence is the highest-value comparison in the unit, because it explains what the new state inherited.
- **Inherited imperial boundaries** explain post-independence conflict better than any other single factor. Use the phrase.
- For resistance, give all three CED patterns – **non-violence, militarised response, and violence against civilians**.
- The end of the Cold War was **mostly internal** to the Soviet system. Weight the causes that way and say why.

10Recap

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↳ Recap

Unit 8 – key takeaways

1 Cold War

not two-sided: name the Non-Aligned Movement

2 Effects

alliances, nuclear proliferation, proxy wars

3 Independence

negotiated vs armed – what the new state inherited

4 Borders

inherited imperial boundaries explain later conflict

Cold War and Decolonization

↳ Recap

Check yourself

- 1 Why mention the Non-Aligned Movement?
- 2 Name the three CED Cold War effects.
- 3 What comparison explains inherited state form?
- 4 What phrase explains post-independence conflict?

Answers: the Cold War was not two-sided ▪ alliances, nukes, proxies ▪ negotiated vs armed
▪ inherited imperial boundaries