

Summary

II. THE POST-WAR ORDER

- World War II was the most destructive confrontation in human History: sixty million dead; most transport networks or industrial structures destroyed, mainly in Germany, France or Western USSR. 25 million people lost their homes.
- The end of the war came about through different peace treaties: the peace settlement was sketched in three meetings of the leaders of the Grand Alliance (USSR, USA and Great Britain):
 1. Tehran, November 1943
 2. Yalta, February 1945
 3. Potsdam, July 1945
- After the defeat of Germany, May 1945: the Eastern part of Germany was occupied by the Soviets. The USA, Great Britain and France took over the Western part. Berlin remained under the control of the four powers.

1. The Cold War

a) The origins, coexistence and the Vietnam War

- The Cold War meant the division of the world into two main social, economic and political areas, communist and capitalist, at the end of the war. Each area led by one of the two superpowers.
- It was a consequence of the differences between the USSR and the USA.
- In 1949 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was created by the USA and their western allies as an instrument of defence against the Soviet block.
- In 1955, when West Germany was admitted in NATO, the USSR created the Warsaw Pact as a communist military alliance against NATO.
- In 1947, the USA implemented the Marshall plan, a recovery plan for European economies, devastated by the war.
- In 1947, the *Molotov Plan* offered Soviet aid.
- Germany was a symbol of the division of the European continent: its division became the Federal Republic (West Germany) and the Democratic Republic (East Germany) in 1949. West Berlin suffered a blockade that failed because of airlift provided by the West.
- The proliferation of nuclear weapons was an important consequence. However, the Cold War never became a USSR-USA direct confrontation. Instead a number of local "hot" conflicts took place:
 1. The Korean War, 1950.
 2. Revolt in Hungary, 1956, was crushed by Russian troops.
 3. The Berlin wall, to prevent East Berliners escaping to the West, 1961.
 4. The Bay of Pigs Invasion, 1961 and the Cuban missiles crisis 1962.
 5. Czechoslovakian invasion, 1968, another military intervention of the Warsaw Pact to stop reforms.
 6. The Vietnam war, 1955-1975.

b) The détente

- In the early '70 the mutual nuclear weapons arsenals and the superpowers financial, political and prestige problems, made them eager to negotiate to a peaceful settlement to diminish the risk of a nuclear confrontation. This was called the "détente".
- Agreements:
 1. the SALT I Treaty, 1972;
 2. the Helsinki Accords, 1975;
 3. the SALT II Treaty, 1979.

However, the détente was followed by an increase of nuclear arsenals.

- New president R. Reagan started a new program, Star Wars, aimed to destroy ballistic missiles in flight, and also supported the rebels in Afghanistan, which had been invaded by the Soviets in 1979.

2. The United Nations Organization

- After WWII, the UN was created to replace the League of Nations.
- The San Francisco Conference 1945, based on the Dumbarton Oaks meeting between China, USA, USSR and Great Britain, agreed on the following principles:
 1. Preserve international peace and security
 2. Promote economic, social and cultural development
 3. Protect human rights and safeguard the rights of peoples and nations.

The structure of the UN:

1. The General Assembly, based in New York.
 2. The Security Council, based also in New York.
 3. A Secretariat.
 4. The International Court of Justice, based in The Hague.
 5. The International Criminal Court.
 6. The Economic and Social Council.
- The intervention of the UN in some international disputes has been successful. For example, when North Korea invaded the South, or when Saddam Hussein occupied Kuwait in 1990.
 - The UN has been unable to solve other disputes, such as the Palestine conflict, to provide a solution for the Turkish-Greek confrontation in Cyprus, or to lead (or to impede) the intervention of British and American troops to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

3. The end of empires and decolonisation**Factors**

1. Nationalist movements led by persons educated at the Universities of the metropolis. They underlined their own cultural values and were able to create structured political movements.
2. World War II stimulated national resistance to new invaders and then against the metropolis weakened after war efforts and devastation.
3. The bipolar world. The USSR and the USA opposed colonial empires.
4. The principle of self-determination of peoples of the United Nations

1. Asia

- In 1947 India became an independent country divided into two States: Muslim West and East (Bangla Desh) Pakistan, and India. The two main political parties were: the Indian National Congress (Hindu, founded in 1885) and the Muslim League (founded in 1906). Violence and open war (Kashmir) accompanied the independence and the partition. The conflict remains active. Both countries have nuclear weapons.
- An independent Republic of Dutch Indonesia was not created until 1960. In 1945, after the Japanese defeat Ho Chi Minh had declared the independence of Vietnam from France. In 1954, the victory of Dien Bien Phu, and the Geneva Conference put an end to war, but left the country divided.

2. Africa**a. North Africa**

Algeria became independent in 1962 after a long war with France and French settlers (the pied-noirs). As France was busy with this war, Morocco and Tunisia became independent in 1956.

b. Sub-Saharan Africa

Ghana started the process in 1957. Kenya became independent of in 1963 after a violent conflict with white settlers (Mau-Mau). In 1960, thirteen French colonies in Africa acquired their independence, as well as the Congo from Belgium. Civil struggles persist nowadays in many African countries.

3. Arab nationalism

- After the War, Arab States became fully independent (Egypt, Syria, Irak, Lebanon, Jordan). However, the creation of the State of Israel has become a permanent source of conflict.
- The Zionist movement sought to re-create a Jewish homeland in Palestine since the 19th century under British protectorate. Migration became strong after the Holocaust. Conflicts between Jewish settlers and the Arab Palestinian population increased.
- In 1947 the UN proposed a division into two separate States, Arab and Jewish. The Arabs rejected the plan, Great Britain withdrew, and the Jew leader David Ben Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel (1948).
- The Arab States declared the war, but the Israel defeated them.
- After three more wars, Israel consolidated its position. However, hostility and opposition from the Arab world continues.

Vocabulary. Explain/define the following concepts/ persons/ institutions. Use your own words

- Marshal Tito
- COMECON
- Prague Spring
- Cuban crisis
- Marshall plan
- Warsaw Pact
- San Francisco Conference
- Pied-noirs
- Mobutu
- David Ben Gurion
- Truman doctrine
- Kominform
- N. Kruschev
- Corean War
- NATO
- Détente
- Ho Chi Minh
- K. Nkrumah
- J. Keniatta

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING: GROUPS OF 3/4 STUDENTS

These statements are false. Be ready to explain why.

Discuss and then be ready to explain orally why these statements are false. (Use the summary from unit 3)

1. After the defeat of Germany, May 1954: the Eastern part of Germany was occupied by the USA. The USSR, Great Britain and France took over the Western part. Berlin remained under the control of the USSR.
2. The Cold War began because the Marshall plan, a recovery plan for European economies, devastated by the war, did not include the Soviet block.
3. The Korean War, 1950, meant a direct USSR-USA confrontation.
4. R. Reagan started a new program of negotiations called the "détente".
5. The UN was created to intervene occasionally in some international disputes.
6. After WWII it was difficult for nationalist leaders to create structured political movements.
7. India became independent before WWII peacefully.
8. Although Vietnam was defeated in Dien Bien Phu, it became independent in the end.
9. Kenya became independent of in 1963 after the Mau-Mau, a white settlers secret organization was defeated.
10. The State of Israel, was created by the UN in 1957 and accepted by the Palestinians.

RESEARCH/ CREATING AN OPINION TEXT - GROUPS OF 4/5 STUDENTS

Surf the net looking for information about one of the current struggles in the North of Africa or Asia. Analyze and summarize the causes of the conflict and the actors involved, including foreign countries. Prepare a short essay (300 words) on the situation and the group analysis.

DRAMA & ROLE PLAYING, MAKING LIVE HISTORY

We will simulate a session of the UN Security council in March 2011 on Libya, on the need to pass a resolution in order to create an air exclusion zone to prevent the governmental army from attacking Libyan civilians. Information on the representative's roles will be taken from the internet (newspapers and the UN web page).

Taking into account the rules of procedure of the Security council, a group of 8 students will act as the representatives of the USA, Russia, China, Great Britain, France, Lebanon and Germany, together with an elected chairman that will conduct the discussion. A final decision will be adopted.

The rest of the class will create a blog and, as journalists, will publish in the blog reports on the happening, giving account of the procedure, the performances and illustrating them with pictures.