

## Lesson Plan on Origins of the Cold War

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**Number of class periods:** Six 45 min class periods

### **West Virginia Next Generations Social Studies Standards:**

**History Cluster 5: Demonstrate an understanding of the competing ideologies of communism and democracy, and the conflict between the United States and Soviet Union superpowers in post World War II era through early 1990's.**

SS.11.H.CL5.3	explore the motivation and legacy of the Truman Doctrine and containment policy through different presidential administrations.
SS.11.E.7	critique the competing ideologies of various economic systems (e.g., Capitalism, Socialism and Communism) and resulting world conflicts.
SS.11-12.L.1	cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
SS.11-12.L.2	determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.
SS.11-12.L.3	evaluate various explanations for actions or events and determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.
SS.11-12.L.6	evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.
SS.11-12.L.11	write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.

**Materials needed:** Smart Board, Computer, Microsoft Office PowerPoint, classroom handouts of the following: Vocabulary assignment, George Kennan's Long Telegram, Nikolai Novikov's Telegram, Telegram activity questions, pencils, highlighters, chalk/chalkboard.

### **Procedure:**

1. Day 1: Hand out vocabulary assignment of Cold War Origins terminology. Students will have one class period to work on the assignment.
2. Day 2-3: Take notes on the Origins of the Cold War. Use Power Point that covers historical interpretations of the origins of the Cold War, step-by-step outline of how the Cold War came into existence, and then background study of the two primary documents the students will be studying for the emergence of the Cold War

3. Day 4: Students will read the excerpts from the Long Telegram by George Kennan.
  - a. After reading the document, underlining, highlighting or circling key points, students will get questions to answer about the document.
  - b. Students will be given time to answer questions independently.,
  - c. After students are finished answering questions, they will gather in groups of two or three and share with their classmates their answers and make any adjustments to their answers they feel are necessary.
  - d. As a class, we will share out what each other the answers that we have written.
4. Day 5: Students will read the excerpts from the Novikov Telegram by Nikolai Novikov.
  - a. After reading the document, underlining, highlighting or circling key points, students will get questions to answer about the document.
  - b. Students will be given time to answer questions independently.,
  - c. After students are finished answering questions, they will gather in groups of two or three and share with their classmates their answers and make any adjustments to their answers they feel are necessary.
  - d. As a class, we will share out what each other the answers that we have written.
5. Day 6: Students will have a formal assessment on the origins of the Cold War. It will be based upon the vocabulary activity, the Power Point notes, and the two primary document activities.

## Long Telegram Activity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Kennan's Long Telegram**

After closely reading the Long Telegram, thoughtfully answer the following questions. You must use specific evidence from the documents to back up your answer. Write in complete sentences.

1. What is the main idea in the telegram?
2. Why did Marxism take hold in the USSR?
3. Why did the Soviet leaders use communist doctrine to rule over their people?
4. Pick one sentence that summarizes the whole document and the reason for Kennan's belief in containment of the USSR.
5. What historiographical interpretation does Kennan's view fit into?

### **The Novikov Telegram**

1. According to Novkiiov, what drives American FP?
2. Because of the destruction of Europe during WWII, what position is the USSR left to fill?
3. What evidence does he provide to back up his belief that the US is trying to attain global domination?
4. What historiographical interpretation does Novikov fit into?

## Long Telegram Activity

### George Kennan's Long Telegram

1. What is the main idea in the telegram? **The USSR is riddled with fear, insecurity, paranoia and are afraid of the West. The leaders are scared. Afraid if people come into contact with the west, the people will overthrow them.**
2. Why did Marxism take hold in the USSR? **They are not really communists, they are czars. ... next in a long line of dictators who will exploit their people. Gives them control, keeps people under them, it was an excuse to keep them protected from the West, guarantees an enemy of the people, the West and capitalism.**
3. Why did the Soviet leaders use communist doctrine to rule over their people? **Gives them control, keeps people under them, it was an excuse to keep them protected from the West, guarantees an enemy of the people, the West and capitalism.**
4. Pick one sentence that summarizes the whole document and the reason for Kennan's belief in containment of the USSR.
  - ***It is the fig leaf of their moral and intellectual respectability.***
  - **If they associated with the west, then it would destroy the basis of their rule. "Fig leaf" = they cannot associate with capitalists because it would debunk the "fig leaf" of their communist ideology, the fact that they are hiding dictatorships and repression behind a faux belief in communism.**
  - **Instead, Kennan said the US should try to contain the Soviet Union**
5. What historiographical interpretation does Kennan's view fit into? **Orthodox nationalist interpretation**

### Novikov Telegram

1. What drives American FP? - **Imperialistic capitalism.**
2. Because of the destruction of Europe during WWII, what position is the USSR left to fill? **America expected that WWII would decimate Europe and the US should come in and take over the world. But the Soviets are still around. The Soviets are in a defensive position as the only power left to stand up to the US.**
3. What evidence does he provide? **Evidence- first peace time draft, military bases, quests for oil and expanding into middle east, military budget, Asia, India; the bomb.**
4. What historiographical interpretation does Novikov fit into? **Novikov gives the revisionist view,**

**Note: put both Kennan's view and Novikov together, you get post-revisionist.**

**Origins of the Cold War Vocabulary Activity**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Cold War
2. Historiography
3. Nationalist School
4. Revisionist School
5. Realist School
6. Post-Revisionist School
7. Joseph Stalin
8. Franklin D. Roosevelt
9. Harry S. Truman
10. Czar Nicholas II
11. Rasputin
12. Alexander Kerensky
13. White Russians
14. Red Russians
15. World War II
16. Operation Barbarossa
17. Winston Churchill
18. Second Front
19. Lend Lease aid (to Russia)
20. Baruch Plan
21. Truman Doctrine
22. Marshall Plan
23. George Marshall
24. Dean Acheson
25. Chinese Civil War
26. Sun Yatsen
27. Chinese Nationalist Party
28. Shanghai Massacre
29. Chiang Kai-shek
30. George Kennan
31. Long Telegram
32. Containment
33. Nikolai Novikov
34. Novikov Telegram

1. When did the Cold War begin to emerge?
2. What is historiography?
3. Explain the differences in the following schools of thought: Nationalist School, Revisionist School, Realist School, Post-Revisionist School.

Matching

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 4. Joseph Stalin         | A. Leader of the USSR at the beginning of the Cold War              |
| 5. Franklin D. Roosevelt | B. Became president of the US after the death of previous president |
| 6. Harry S. Truman       | C. Prime Minister of the UK during WWII                             |
| 7. Czar Nicholas II      | D. American diplomat in Moscow in 1946                              |
| 8. Rasputin              | E. US president who died in office during WWII                      |
| 9. Winston Churchill     | F. Last imperial ruler of pre-Soviet Russia                         |
| 10. George Kennan        | G. Soviet Ambassador to the US                                      |
| 11. Nikolai Novikov      | H. Close advisor to the Romanov family in czarist Russia            |

12. How did the Allied intervention in the Russian Revolution during WWI affect US-Soviet relations in later years?
13. What was Operation Barbarossa?
14. What did the US government promise Joseph Stalin in 1942 to help fight the Germans?
15. Besides never following through with the second front, what else did FDR do that hurt the Soviets' fight against Nazi Germany?
16. What was the Baruch Plan? What two conditions did Truman demand?
17. What is the Truman Doctrine?
18. What is the Marshall Plan?
19. What were the two major warring parties in the Chinese Civil War?

### Long Written Response

After reading the Long Telegram and the Novikov Telegram, choose a stance of one of the four historiographies about the origins of the Cold War and defend your position. You must use evidence from the documents to defend your answer. Use correct grammar in your one page response.

## Historiography of the Cold War (historiography- historical interpretation)

- **Nationalist School**- or orthodox school. USA good, USSR bad. Stalin was a monster. Watched soviet expansion. Want to conquer the world.
  - o “The brave and essential response of free men to communist aggression.”
    - Arthur Schlesinger Jr., 1967
- **Revisionist School**- emerge in 1960s. Argue that US was the aggressor nation, that it was bent on expanding its way of life, USSR was standing up to American expansion (not as united as Nationalist school). There was hard revisionists and soft revisionist. **Hard**- nature of capitalism that needed to expand. **Soft**- more about the people.. After death of FDR, Truman didn’t really know the nuances of the situation, more hawkish. US was stronger after WWII, US had atomic bomb and because we had it USSR had to do what we say because we have it. William Williams book in 1959- Tragedy of ..... not taken seriously when it came out..... Mid sixties gained ground because of Vietnam and Civil Rights.
  - o “He [Truman] promoted an ideology and politics of Cold War confrontation that became the modus OPERANDI OF SUCCESSOR ADMINISTRATIONS FOR THE NEXT TWO GENERATIONS.”
    - Arnold Offner, 1999
- **Realist School**- more about 20<sup>th</sup> cent. FP interpretation. Realists merge the first two takes of Nationalist and Revisionist schools. They agreed Stalin was a monster, but US was at fault for Cold War. Why ? That’s the way FP works. Nations are all about self-interest. Problem about Americans is that their morals. The world doesn’t work on morality.
  - o “By 1949, US officials, non-governmental opinion molders, and ordinary citizens were...”
- **Post-Revisionist School**- nobody is the bad guy or at fault. Each side was acting in its own defensive interest. Because they didn’t trust the other side, they always looked at the other sides’ defensive actions as a threat. They were really rooted in PoliSci. The ultimate function of the state is to protect the people.
  - o Dominant school of thought. Looking through the records, Stalin was terrified of the west. Stalin knew USA was stronger. He backed down from American moves. Have never found a plan of attack in Europe by Stalin.

## Step-by-Step emergence of the Cold War

### Step 1: Pre- WWII 1917-1941

- **Allied Intervention in WWI in 1918.**
  - o Need to understand how grand alliance collapses.... Because of long rivalry that was papered over in WWII.
  - o Allied Intervention in WWI in 1918. Every Russian kid learned about it. During WWI (disastrous for Russia... germans destroy it.) Russia is on brink of collapse. Food riots. Czar Nich rallies troops on front, leaves empire in hands of wife and Rasputin. Rasputin



is hated so much. There was a brief period where there was a pro-democratic leader in charge in Russia- Karinsky was in power. He was a minister of justice. Karinsky doesn't pull country out of war. Communists take over and

- In 1918, a coalition of western forces try to oust the communists. 7,000 american troops go to Russia. Russians never forget that we did this.

## Step 2

- Second Front-
  - June 1941 Operation Barbarossa 3.6 million German soldiers, best troops invade Soviet Union. (600,000 British and French troops in N Africa)
  - Soviet- about 20 million Soviet soldiers lost 1,700 cities lost...
  - Russians want a second front. They want the allies to draw the Nazis off.
  - Molotov (joke- knows)
  - US government promises one in 1942, but it doesn't happen. Winston Churchill recognizes that it is not the right time period. Need to get experience. Needed more equipment. Needed to control the sides.
  - Second Front delayed until 1943. FDR cuts aid to Russia by 40% (Lend Lease Aid)... then he doesn't deliver
  - Postponed until 1944. By the time, the Soviets had broken Nazi invasion and pushed them back into Europe.
  - 1941- Truman – if we see the Nazis winning, help Soviets, see Soviets winning, help Nazis.....
  - FDR- says that we are still sending weapons to them

## **Step 3: Cooperation and Suspicion (1945-6)**

- **Baruch Plan (1946)**
  - Truman is worried about atomic energy. Scientific community says there will be an arms race.
  - Truman appoints committee to control dissemination of atomic energy
  - Baruch Plan – US will destroy its stockpile of A-bombs. Will share information of atomic energy with the UN.
    - Two qualifications
      - US will not turn over weapons and share secret of bomb until rest of world has stopped their efforts to make the bomb.
      - 5 seats on Security Council. Each have a veto power. In Baruch plan the veto power is done away with on atomic issues.
  - USSR counteroffers- US objects

## **Step 4: The Iron Curtain Emerges (1947-49)**

- Truman Doctrine (1947)- Greece and Turkey-

- At end of WWII, Europe is a mess and need to figure out what types of governments there will need to be.
- In Soviet perspective- Truman wanted to give aid to Greece and Turkey, but frames in in a global perspective.
- Britain can't afford to fight in Greece. Asks USA to step up and fight communist.
- Sends George Marshall to talk to Congress to see if they will fund it.
  - He's boring so he sends Dean Acheson
  - Acheson sells it
- Soviets see it as a war against USSR everywhere.
- Marshall Plan (1947)
  - 13 billion in aid to rebuild Europe.
  - Less likely to go communist if they are rebuilt.
  - To prevent another world economic depression
  - This was the breaking point for Stalin. Recalls Molotov. Afraid of encirclement
- Chinese Civil War (1911-49)
  - Even as late as 1949, there is still a number of significant number who don't think that USSR is really a threat.
  - But East Asia caused them to rethink.
  - Chinese Civil War... when Qing dynasty is overthrown.
  - Liberals and intellectuals are upset that they are always seen as inferior to the West.
  - Chinese leadership circles say they want change.
  - Want to emulate Japanese and open up to western cultures and ideas.
  - Qing dynasty opposed, then they are ousted
  - Sun Yatsen (sp?) Chinese Nationalist Party and Militarist forces were in control of the party. Sun almost won, but military gets the win, and falls into factions
  - Sun Yatsen start to take control. 1921 welcomes communists into his party.
    - Not a communist but he thinks if he welcomes them into the party he can keep an eye on them. Lasts until 1925 until he dies.
    - Communist faction and conservative military factions that break up the nationalist party of Sun.
    - They kind of coexist until 1927, Shanghai Massacre. Communists take control of Shanghai (take from military lord) They hate Chiang Kai-shek, demand his removal. Chiang comes into Shanghai.... Kills them.. then purges/kills 50,000 communists across the country.
    - Civil war goes into 1937. Chiang almost wins
    - Has communists almost beat.
    - Ignores the Japanese- Japanese disease of skin, communists disease of heart.
  - WWII breaks out. CCP and Nationalists partner up.
  - Who arrests Chiang to make him talk?
- Japanese are driven out in 1945. And communists have the upper hand at this point.
- Chiang Kai-Shek is corrupt.
  - The Chinese have really moved towards the Communists

- 1949- Chiang is pushed to Taiwan. Communists won
- Pivot to East Asia as USA realizes that there has been a shift towards Communists in East Asia.
- America focuses on Communists in Asia....

## **Primary Document Activity**

### George Kennan and the Long Telegram

- Graduate of Princeton 1925
- State Dept- would pay for you to go to foreign country to go to learn language
- Russia- eventually became interpreter for US ambassador in Russia
- During WWII thinks that USA has gone too far in bending over backwards to kiss Stalin's butt.
- In 1946, one day a telegram comes into embassy from treasury dept. so see what is really going on in USSR. Want an explanation
- American Ambassador was on vacation. He was more sympathetic to Soviets. Kennan was the one to get the job to respond. Sends back 40 page telegram back to US. (Longest telegram in American history)
- It has a huge response in US. State Dept sends copies across the world, Forrestal sends it everywhere. Becomes the basis of US FP for the next 40 years.
  - What is the main idea in the telegram? Fear, insecurity, paranoia. Scared of the west. The leaders are scared. Afraid if people come into contact with the west, the people will overthrow them.
  - Why Marxism? They are really communists, they a czars. ... next in a long line of dictators who will exploit their people. Why communism? Gives them control, keeps people under them, it was an excuse to keep them protected from the west, guarantees an enemy of the people, the West and capitalism.

Asks students to pick a sentence that will summarize the whole document.

It is the fig leaf of their moral and intellectual respectability.

If they associated with the west, then it would destroy the basis of their rule.

Instead, Kennan said the US should try to contain the Soviet Union

Next Telegram.... 1991

The Soviet Union went through the same debate that we were going through at the same time.

### **Nikolai Novikov and the Soviet Long Telegram**

Novikov- fluent in English, lived in US. Soviet Ambassador to US 1937 to 1947....?

- Was given 10 days to write telegram, but told what to write.
- A little simpler.
- What drives American FP?- Imperialistic capitalism.
- Expected that WWII would decimate Europe and the US could come in and take over the world. But the Soviets are still around. The soviets are in a defensive position as the only power left to stand up to the US.
- What evidence does he provide? Evidence- first peace time draft, military bases, quests for oil and expanding into middle east, military budget, asia, india; the bomb.
- Regardless of reality of two assessments, Kennan gives the Orthodox nationalist interpretation. Novikov gives the revisionist view, put together, and get post-revisionist.