Chapter 33 Summary/Notes

Unit 8 Perspectives on the Present
Restructuring the Postwar World
Chapter 33 Section 1. The Cold War Superpowers Face off
We learned about the end of WWII. Now we learn about tensions that followed the war. Allies Become Enemies.
The U. S. and the Soviet Union were allies during WWII. In February 1945, they agreed to divide Germany into separate zones. Soldiers of one of the allies occupied each zone. The allies also helped form the United Nations in 1945. The UN pledged to prevent war. The US and the Soviet Union had important differences after the war. The US suffered few casualties and was the richest nation in the world. The Soviet Union suffered enormous loss of life and damage to its cities. There were also striking political differences. The United States needed new markets for its goods. It also wanted to encourage democracy. The Soviet Union wanted to set up communist governments and make sure it did not get attacked again from the West. These differences caused tensions between the two countries.

Eastern Europe’s Iron Curtain.
At the end of WWII Soviet forces occupied lands along its western border. After the war Stalin made sure communist governments were in place in these lands. Albania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland and Yugoslavia. This divided Europe into East and West. Winston Churchill called this division the Iron Curtain.

United States tries to contain Soviets
Truman began a policy of containment, blocking the Soviets from spreading communism. Under the Truman Doctrine, the US helped nations that were threatened by communism. The US also adopted the Marshall Plan in 1947. This plan gave food and other aid to European countries to help them recover from the war. In 1948, the Soviets and the Americans clashed over Germany. France, Britain and the U.S. agreed to pull their troops out of Germany. They let the 3 zones they occupied unite. But the Soviets refused to leave their zone. Then, they cut off all high-way and train traffic into Berlin, which was deep within the Soviet zone. The US and Britain responded with the Berlin Airlift. They flew food and supplies into the city for 11 months. Finally, the Soviets lifted the blockade.

Cold War divides the World.
The struggle between the US and the Soviet Union was called the Cold War. Many countries supported one superpower or the other. The US, Canada, and several countries in W. Europe formed the N. Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO was a military alliance. Each nation promised to defend any other member that was attacked. The Soviets and the countries of E. Europe made a similar agreement, called the Warsaw Pact. In 1949, the Soviet Union announced that it had developed an atomic bomb. Three years later, both Superpowers had an even more deadly weapon, the hydrogen bomb. They were involved in an arms race. They produced more and more nuclear weapons and new ways to deliver them. Both sides were willing to go to the brink of war, brinkmanship. In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, first human made satellite. American felt the Soviets were ahead in science and technology. US began spending money to improve science education. US sent U2 planes to spy over Soviet territory. 1960, one was shot down.
Chapter Summary/Notes

Unit 8 Perspectives on the Present
Restructuring the Postwar World
Chapter 33 Section 2. Communists Take Power in China
We learned about tensions between Super powers. Now we learn about Civil War & Communism’s rise in China.
Communists Vs Nationalists.
Nationalists and Communists fought for control of China in the 1930s. during WWII they joined to fight against the Japanese. The communists led by Mao Zedong organized an army of peasants in NW china. From there they fought the Chinese in the NE. Nationalists, under Jian Jieshi controlled SW China. They were protected from China by the mountains. The US sent nationalists money and supplies. But, corrupt officers took much of it. Nationalists built a large army but they only fought a few battles against the Japanese. After the Japanese surrendered, the communists and nationalists resumed their Civil War (1946-1949). The communists won because their troops were trained in guerilla war. They also had peasant support in return for Promised land. In 1949, Jian Jieshi and other nationalist leaders fled to Taiwan.

Two China’s Affect the Cold War.
The US helped the nationalist set up a new government. The nationalists called their land the Republic of China. The Soviets helped Mao Zedong and his government, People’s Republic of China. The Chinese and Soviets promised to help defend each other if either country was attacked. The US responded by trying to halt Soviet expansion in Asia. Communist China also tried to expand its power. The Chinese invaded Mongolia, Tibet and India.

Communists Transform China
Mao set out to rebuild China. He seized land and gave it to the peasants. He also forced the peasants to join collective farms, communes. On these farms the land belonged to the group. Mao also took control of China’s industries. Under his plan, production of industrial products increased. With this plan Mao launched the Great Leap Forward. He wanted to make the communes larger and more productive. The plan failed. People did not like strong government control. The government did not plan effectively. Between 1958 and 1961 famine killed millions. In 1966, Mao tried to revive the revolution. He encouraged young people. Students formed groups called Red Guards. This was the beginning of the Cultural Revolution. The Red Guards struck at teachers, Scientists and Artists. They shut down schools, sending intellectuals to the country to work on farms. They killed thousands of people who resisted. China was in chaos. Factories shut down, farm production dropped. Eventually, Mao put an end to the Cultural Revolution.
War in Korea
When WWII ended Korea became a divided nation. North of the 38th parallel, a line that crosses Korea at 38 degrees N. latitude, the Japanese surrendered to the Soviets. South of that line the Japanese surrendered to the allies. As in Germany, 2 nations developed. The Soviet Union supported a communist government in N. Korea. US supported a non-communist government in S. Korea. June 25th 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. President Truman fought this move with help from the UN. The US and other countries sent troops to assist S. Korea. At first, N. Korean army captured almost all of South Korea. Then, a UN army made a bold counter attack, led by Douglas Mc Arthur. In 1953, the 2 Koreas agreed to a ceasefire. The earlier boundary splitting Korea remained the same. North Korea had a communist government, a strong army and tight government control but it also had many economic problems. For more that 30 years dictators ruled south Korea, but its economy grew. In part, because it received US aid. Free elections took place in South Korea after a new constitution was adopted in 1987.

War Breaks Out in Vietnam
Ho Chi Minh, a nationalist, drove the French out of Vietnam. This worried the US because Ho had turned to the communists for help. Many Americans thought if one country became communist other countries would do so like a row of dominos. (Domino Theory). A peace conference split Vietnam in two, with Ho taking charge of North Vietnam. The country had a communist government. Communist rebels, the Viet Kong, stayed active in the South. The non-communist government of the south had been set up by the US and France. Its leader, Ngo Dinh Diem, when his government was threatened by communists, the US began to send troops. When they could not win the war on the ground they tried bombing. The US came to oppose the war. In late 1960’s President Nixon began a Vietnamization plan, calling for a gradual pull out of US troops. At the same time the South Vietnamese increased their combat role. The last American troops left in 1973. Two years later N. Vietnam over ran the South and made Vietnam one country again. Today Vietnam remains communist, looking Cambodia. Rebels there, the Khmer Rouge, set up a brutal communist government, killing 2 million people. In 1978, the Vietnamese invaded the country. They over threw the Khmer Rouge. Vietnam withdrew in 1989. In 1993, Cambodia held free elections for the first time. Many third world nations had serious problems, often due to a long history of colonialism. Some faced political unrest. Other problems included poverty, lack of education and technology. Some of these countries tried to stay neutral in the Cold War and form a third force of non-aligned nations, that did not take sides between the Soviets and the US. Others actively sought US or Soviet aid.
Unit 8 Perspectives on the Present  
Restructuring the Postwar World  
Chapter 33, Section 4. The Cold War Divides the World  
We learned about Wars in Korea & Vietnam. Now we learn about the divisive Cold War

**Fighting for the Third World**

After WWII, the world’s nations were grouped into 3 worlds. The first world was led by the US and its allies. The second world was led by communists and the Soviet Union. The third world was led by developing nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Many Thirds world nations had serious problems, often due to a long history of colonialism. Some faced political unrest that threatened the peace. Other problems included poverty and a lack of education and technology. These countries tried to stay neutral in the Cold War. They formed a third force of non-aligned nations, countries that did not take sides between the US and the Soviets. Others actively sought US or Soviet aid.

**Confrontations in Latin America**

In Cuba, the US supported a dictator in the 1950s. In 1959, a young lawyer, Fidel Castro led a successful revolt. He received aid from the Soviet Union. In 1962 the Soviets and US almost went to war over Soviet missiles that the Soviets placed in Cuba. The Soviets finally pulled the missiles out. Over time the communist economy became dependent on Soviet aid. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 this aid stopped. It was a serious blow to Cuba’s economy. US had also backed a dictator, Somoza, in Nicaragua. His government fell to communist rebels in 1979 led by Ortega. When the new government began helping leftist rebels in El Salvador the US struck back. It began to support Nicaraguan rebels that wanted to overthrow the communists. The Civil War in Nicaragua lasted more than a decade. Finally, both sides agreed to hold free elections.

**Confrontations in the Middle East**

The Middle East saw conflict between those who wanted a more modern western society and those who wanted to follow Islam. This struggle took place in Iran. In 1950s, a group tried to take control of Iran’s government from Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The US helped the Sha defeat them. Over time the Shah tried to weaken the influence of Islam in Iran. A Muslim leader, Ayatollah Khomeini led a successful revolt. In 1979, the Shah was forced to leave the country and Khomeini made Islamic law the law of the land. He followed a foreign policy that was strongly against the US. He also led his country in a long war against its neighbor Iraq. The Soviets gained influence in Afghanistan after 1950. In the 1970s Islamic rebels threatened the countries Islamic government. The Soviets sent in troops to support the government. The US felt its Middle East oil supplies were in danger and supported the rebels. In 1989 after a costly occupation, Soviet troops left Afghanistan.
We learned about the divisive Cold War. Now we learn about major events of Cold War

**Soviet Policy in Eastern Europe and China**

Nikita Khrushchev became the Soviet leader after Stalin died in 1953. He began a process of “destalinization,” getting rid of Stalin’s memory. Khrushchev believed that the Soviet Union should have peaceful competition with the capitalist nations. In Eastern Europe many people still resented Soviet rule. East Europeans took part in protests against Soviet control. In 1956, protesters and the army overthrew the communist government of Hungary. Khrushchev sent Soviet tanks to put the communists back in power. In 1964, Brezhnev replaced Khrushchev. When Czechs tried to reform their communist government in 1968 Brezhnev sent in tanks to stop them. The Soviets did not have the same control over their larger neighbor China. Although the Soviet Union and China enjoyed friendly relations at first, the split became so wide that they sometimes fought along their border. The two nations now have a peaceful relationship.

**From Brinkmanship to Détente**

Tensions between the Soviet Union and the US had been very high during the presidency of JFK. They remained high during the presidency of Linden Johnson. The war in Vietnam helped to keep relations tense. In the early 1970s, the US began to follow a policy called détente, under President Nixon. This was a policy of lowering tensions between the super powers. Nixon visited communist China and the Soviet Union. In 1972 he and Brezhnev held meetings (SALT) Strategic Arms Limitations Talks. They signed a treaty to limit the number of nuclear missiles each country could have. The US retreated from détente when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979. In 1981, Reagan, a fierce anti-communist became president. He proposed a costly anti-missile defense system to protect US against Soviet missiles. It was never put into effect but it remained a symbol of US anti-communist feelings. Soviets grew angry about US support for the rebels fighting communists in Nicaragua. Tensions between the US and Soviet Union increased, when a new leader came to power in the Soviet Union.