**COLD WAR NOTES:**

1. **The Cuban Revolution: political, social and economic causes**

* Since 1934, Cuba had been ruled by the US- supported dictator, Fulgencio Batista
* Most of the economically important sugar plantations and public utilities were owned by American companies
* Severe inequalities and mistreatment of the people and dictatorship practices led a radical left-wing lawyer, Fidel Castro to overthrow Batista

1. **The Cuban Revolution: impact on the region**

* It either provoked hatred and disdain or it won praise for representing the ideals and aspirations of many ordinary Latin Americans
* The revolution inspired many other revolutions specifically in Nicaragua

1. **Rule of Fidel Castro: political, social, cultural and economic policies**

* Agricultural reform laws limited all estates to 1,000 acres and no agriculture land could be owned by foreigners
* His main foreign policy goal was to liberate poorer nations from the domination of wealthier ones
* He also promoted women’s rights in the form of education and equal pay

1. **Rule of Fidel Castro: successes and failures**

* In order to legitimize his government, he had to declare his nation communist and seek help in the form of aid from the Soviet Union
* Created universal health care in a nation where obtaining this was difficult
* Some saw him selling out to the Soviet Union/changing his ideologies to be communist

1. **McCarthyism effects on domestic and foreign policies of the Americas**

* Particular attention was focused on Eastern Europeans and Jewish people in the US who were accused of being communist
* Censorship both within the US and abroad was commonplace and many were afraid to speak up for fear of retaliation

1. **The Cold War’s impact on society and culture**

* Fear ruled this period of time in the US
* Highways were created to make sure that planes could land in case of war
* Television grew in popularity and allowed the public to see what was going on in the Cold War

1. **Korean War and the United States: reasons for participation**

* By 1950, North Korea was under a Stalinist regime led by the communist, Kim Il Sung and South Korea was governed by a US-backed authoritarian, Syngman Rhee.
* On June 25th, 1950, North Korea attacked South Korea by crossing the 38th Parallel and the US believed that the North was acting on Soviet’s orders in order to expand

1. **Korean War and the United States: military developments**

* President Truman sent US air power, naval support and troops to the South Koreans
* China warned the US if they crossed into North Korea they would intervene on behalf of North Korea and so they sent 250,000 troops to push back the US and UN forces

1. **Korean War and the United States: political and diplomatic outcomes**

* It took two years of negotiations and the death of thousands of soldiers on both sides before an agreement was signed in July 1953
* It proved to other countries that the US would resist communist expansion with traditional methods of warfare
* The war made the United States realize that they needed to be prepared for the Cold War and related conflicts

1. **Dwight D. Eisenhower: successes and failures**

* Allied commander during the invasion of Europe in 1944
* Developed the “New Look” and encouraged policy makers to consider a long-term Soviet threat
* Initiated plans to invade Cuba

1. **New Look: characteristics and reasons for the policy**

* Eisenhower’s foreign policy was an aggressive change from Truman’s containment
* Instead it focused on countries being liberated, the spread of communism would be rolled back and the threat of massive retaliation with nuclear weapons that would be used to intimidate the Soviet Union

1. **New Look: repercussions for the region**

* Many countries in the region felt that this policy was an encroachment on their nations
* The rise of ISI economic policies in Latin America were also seen as a threatening to the US and the New Look tried to sway them into a free market based economy which would benefit the US

1. **United States’ involvement in Vietnam: reasons for involvement**

* Vietnam was a part of the French Empire and the US was afraid that communism might spread in the region and so it gave France $2.6 billion to regain dominance in the region
* Vietnam was divided between a pro-US South and a communist North and the South’s communist group, the Viet Cong launched a guerilla warfare attack against the South government
* President Kennedy tied the US to South Vietnam’s fate

1. **United States’ involvement in Vietnam: changing nature of involvement as the war continued**

* In 1958, the US sent 2,000 military advisors to organize and train the South Vietnamese
* By 1963, the number of US advisors had reached 16,000
* After a US ship was fired upon by the North Vietnamese, the US passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave President Johnson the authority to “take all necessary steps including the use of armed force” to protect South Vietnam
* By 1968, US forces in the region numbered 540,000 and the communists were receiving supplies from the USSR

1. **United States’ involvement in Vietnam: domestic effects and the end of the war**

* After the Tet Offensive were the North Vietnamese overtook the US Embassy in South Vietnam, the American public began to question the involvement in the war
* Anti-war protests sprung up all across the US and called for peace and an end to the war
* In April 1975, the North captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, they surrendered and Vietnam was reunited
* The conflict cost the lives of 55,000 US soldiers and caused many people in the US to turn away from foreign policy and look inwardly to domestic and environmental issues

1. **John F. Kennedy: successes and failures**

* He adopted the “New Frontier” approach, pushing the boundaries when dealing with problems at home or abroad
* His gravest moment was the Cuban Missile Crisis but he was seen as a proponent of the civil rights movement in the US which ultimately led to his assassination

1. **John F. Kennedy’s Alliance for Progress**

* 10 year plan to provide economic aid to combat inequality
* Also provided military aid to combat communism
* The US military also helped to prevent any external communist invasions or threats
* The plan did not make many gains because lack of funds and anti-democratic military dictatorships

1. **Jimmy Carter: successes and failures and quest for human rights**

* In an unprecedented move, Carter decided that military and economic assistance could be denied to countries that were seen as obvious human rights abusers
* The promises of Carter’s administration were unfulfilled due to inconsistencies in his administration’s policies and events beyond US borders

1. **Panama Canal Treaty**

* In 1977, Jimmy Carter and the Panamanian president, Torrijos signed a treaty that returned the land and canal back to Panama
* The treaty also emphasized the neutrality of the Canal in times of peace and war

1. **Lyndon B. Johnson: successes and failures**

* After JFK’s assassination in 1963 he became president and was elected in the elections of 1964
* He oversaw the escalation of America’s war effort in Vietnam
* He tried to implement the “Great Society” which was a war on poverty
* He tried and ultimately failed to defeat communist aggression in Southeast Asia and erase poverty but did pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964

**COLD WAR NOTES ACTIVITIES:**

**Directions:** After reading and highlighting the notes provided you will divide the information by the following three categories and place the corresponding symbol next to each category in your notes:

1. Leaders (\*)
2. Wars/Revolutions/Conflicts (∇)
3. Policies/Plans/Treaties (♥)

After you give each topic a symbol INDIVIDUALLY you will complete the following activities for each category:

1. **Leaders:** After writing down the A, B, C’s on a sheet of loose-leaf, you will come up with words or phrases about the leaders and write them next to the corresponding letter.
2. **Wars/Revolutions/Conflicts:** After picking up one sheet of white paper, you will divide it in half and choose two different wars/revolutions/conflicts to create two different postcards. Each postcard must have an image on the front and on the back you will pretend to write a far-away friend a summary about what is going on during that particular event. The summary should synthesize your notes on the particular event and should be written from the perspective of that time period.
3. **Policies/Plans/Treaties:** You will choose one plan/policy/treaty to create a brochure on which includes the following information:

* Name of plan/policy/treaty
* Description of plan/policy/treaty including who created it
* Reasons for implementation
* Successes or failures
* Relationship to the Cold War
* Relationship to the Americas

EACH ACTIVITY IS WORTH TEN POINTS FOR A TOTAL OF 30 POINTS WHICH IS A FORMAL GRADE. FAILURE TO BE ON TASK, QUIET AND FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS WILL RESULT IN AT LEAST A LOSS OF 5 POINTS.