Packet 1 Overview:

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<th>ESSENTIAL QUESTION:</th>
<th>How did the end of World War 2 lead to the Cold War?</th>
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<td>PROCEDURES:</td>
<td>Day 1: Please complete the background reading on the Cold War and answer the questions that follow. Day 2: Please use the reading and your knowledge to respond to the question listed in assignment 2. Day 3: Use the excerpts from the Washington Post on coronavirus and Russia to give your opinions to the questions listed.</td>
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<td>WORK TO BE RETURNED:</td>
<td>Assignment 1: Answer the 11 questions that align with the Cold War reading. Assignment 2: Respond in at least a paragraph to the given question. Assignment 3: Read the excerpts about coronavirus and Russia and give your opinions.</td>
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<td>RESOURCES:</td>
<td>1. Rivalry for World Power - Cold War Reading 2. Excerpts from a Washington Post article titled, “Russia claims it has covid-19 under control. The facade is cracking.” 2020</td>
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<td>TIME ALLOCATED:</td>
<td>3 (20) minute lessons</td>
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Rivalry for World Power - The Cold War

The audience at the San Francisco Opera House rose to its feet. Applause and cheers filled the hall. But no opera singers were taking bows onstage. The cheers were meant for something else.

During World War II, the Allies had laid plans for a world organization. Now, in 1945, diplomats from 50 countries had just approved the Charter of the United Nations. They hoped their charter would pave the way for a just peace. They hoped the U.N. would help nations settle differences with words rather than guns.

Americans had much to be happy for on this pleasant June day in 1945. The war with Germany was over. In the Pacific, the Japanese were being pushed back. The U.S. was now the strongest and richest country in the world. Its factories and cities had come through the war unharmed. Peace was in sight.

No one could know, in June 1945, how difficult it would be to keep this peace. Only a few months after the war, the U.S. began quarreling with a new “enemy,” the Soviet Union. The two countries had entered into the Cold War.

In this “war,” Soviet and U.S. troops did not shoot at each other. Their “war” was one of words, threats, and other actions. Both nations took part in an arms
— a race to see which could build the most powerful weapons. Both nations kept large peacetime armies. Both nations worked to win the support of governments in Europe, Africa, and Asia. In short, both nations became rivals around the world, using other lands.

How did the Cold War begin? Even during World War II, the U.S. and the Soviet Union had not completely trusted each other. The two countries had very different ways of life. The Soviet way was communisim, a system in which most land and businesses are owned and controlled by the government. The U.S. system was capitalism, in which most land and businesses are owned and controlled by private individuals or companies. The Soviet government was run by a dictator, Josef Stalin. The U.S. government was chosen freely by the people.

**Yalta Conference**- By February 1945, Soviet armies had driven the Nazis out of Eastern Europe. That month President Roosevelt met with British and Soviet leaders at Yalta, as we have seen. There, the “Big Three” agreed to allow the peoples of Eastern Europe to elect their own governments. But when the war ended a few months later, Soviet armies stayed in Eastern Europe. Free elections were not held.

U.S. leaders were very upset. The United States wanted these countries to have freely elected governments. U.S. leaders thought such governments would be friendlier to the U.S. But the Soviet Union had suffered badly in two world wars. It wanted to be sure that its neighbors would not soon threaten it again. To insure this, Soviet leaders saw to it that these countries had Communist governments. The Soviets believed that Communist governments would be friendlier to the Soviet Union.

**“Iron curtain”**- In the late 1940’s, Soviet armies stayed in Eastern Europe. Their purpose was to keep it under Soviet control. By 1946 disagreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was growing serious. That spring, British leader Winston Churchill visited Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. He gave a speech that would be remembered for many years. *Churchill said that the Soviet Union had lowered an “iron curtain” over Eastern Europe. The “curtain” had shut out Eastern Europe from the West.*

Later in 1946, the situation got worse. The Soviet Union threatened to take some of Turkey’s land. In Greece, meanwhile, Communists and non-Communists were fighting a fierce civil war against one another. President Truman decided to “get tough” with the Soviet Union. He went before Congress in 1947 to ask for money to help Greece and Turkey. He said that the United States must be ready “to help free peoples” to remain safe from the threats of dictators.

Truman’s plan to aid Greece and Turkey became known as the **Truman Doctrine**. It was part of a larger policy of *containment*, or to contain (stop) the spread of communism throughout the free world. Another part of the policy was hammered out later in 1947. It was a program of aid to war-shattered Western Europe. This idea was named the **Marshall Plan** after then-Secretary of State George Marshall, who came up with this idea.

**Berlin airlift**- The next major area of dispute was Germany. At the end of World War II, Germany had been divided among the four main Allies — the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain, and France.

Berlin was in the middle of the Soviet zone. But because it had been the capital city of Germany, it too had been divided among the four Allies.

In 1948 the U.S., Britain, and France wanted to make Germany a united country again. But the Soviets did not like the plan. They showed their anger by cutting off all road and train traffic into Berlin. The Soviets hoped to starve the Western Allies out of Berlin. But for 321 days the U.S. and Britain supplied Berlin by air. The Berlin airlift showed the Soviets that the Allies meant business. Finally the Soviets lifted the blockade.

In 1949 the Cold War grew still colder. After a long civil war, Communists took control of East Asia’s largest country, China. Soon afterward, the Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb. Both events were jarring to most
Some wondered where Communists would strike next.

**McCarthy Era**- By 1950 fear of communism had reached a peak. To some Americans it seemed that the very safety of the U.S. was at stake. One U.S. Senator thought the problem had begun at home. There were Communist “traitors” in the U.S. government, claimed Senator Joseph McCarthy, Republican from Wisconsin. He believed these traitors were doing everything they could to hurt the United States. McCarthy gave little proof for his charges. But many people believed him.

The Cold War did turn “hot” twice in Asia. In 1950 the armies of Communist North Korea invaded non-Communist South Korea. U.S. troops went to the rescue of the South. Later in the 1950’s, war broke out in South Vietnam. This time the U.S. gave aid to the South Vietnamese government. In Korea and Vietnam, the U.S. was practicing containment. Yet U.S. troops did not fight Soviet troops in either war.

**Space Race**- In the late 1950’s throughout the early 1970’s, the US and the Soviets also competed over going into space. The Soviets were the first to launch the Sputnik satellite and about 10 years later, the US sent up the Apollo 11 mission and landed the first men on the moon.

In the 1960’s, a war almost came about. Fidel Castro, a communist leader, took control of Cuba, one of America’s oldest allies. John F. Kennedy invited the Bay of Pigs to try and assassinate Castro without the world knowing, but the mission failed. Then, the Soviet Union built sites for launching atomic missiles in Cuba, 90 miles (about 145 kilometers) from the U.S. coast. Soviet ships sailed toward Cuba, carrying the missiles themselves. President John F. Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba. His order brought the U.S. close to war in the Cuban Missile Crisis. Finally, however, he worked out an agreement with Soviet leaders. The danger passed, but relations between the US and Cuba soured.

**Communist Nations During the Cold War**

The Cold War taught Americans to think in terms of jet bombers and guided missiles. It taught them the names of small countries and far-off lands. Above all, it taught Americans what it meant to be a world power.

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**Assignment 1**

**Directions:** Please complete the questions below about the Cold War. The questions align with the reading above and go in order.

1. In June 1945, the war was almost over. What else did Americans have to be happy about?

2. What is a COLD WAR?

3. List two other ways in which the U.S. and the USSR competed with each other.

4. How are CAPITALISM and COMMUNISM different?
5. What did the “Big Three’ agree to at the YALTA Conference?

6. Why did the United States want freely elected governments?

7. Why did Russia want these countries to have Communist governments?

8. What two groups were fighting in Greece in 1946?

9. President Truman’s Doctrine used a policy of ____________________________, which means…?

10. What events in 1949 made the Cold War much colder?

11. In what two places did the Cold War turn hot in the 1950’s

**Assignment 2**

**Directions:** Using what we learned in class about the end of World War 2 and the start of the Cold War, please respond to the following question. Paragraphs 6-10 in the reading will help you answer the following question. **“How did the end of World War 2 lead to the beginning of the Cold War?”**

- Write at least one paragraph
- Provide at least 3 reasons (use the reading) why the Cold War began in your response.

(Please begin typing/writing your response below)
Assignment 3

Directions: Many historians believe Russia is in the midst of starting a second Cold War. Russia’s current leader continues to expand his country’s boundaries and spread disinformation to the world. The following excerpts are from a Washington Post article titled, “Russia claims it has covid-19 under control. The facade is cracking.” Please read the following excerpts and give your opinions to the questions that follow the excerpts. I’ve linked the full article, please CLICK HERE to access it if you want to read it.

With most of Europe and the United States shutting down to slow the coronavirus pandemic’s advance, it was surprising in recent weeks to hear that Russia had apparently dodged covid-19 almost entirely. Maps of the outbreak drew a suspiciously tidy ring around the largest nation on Earth, as if Russian dictator Vladimir Putin had simply banned the virus like he has free speech and opposition candidates.

1. Why might Vladimir Putin want other countries to think he has stopped the spread of covid-19?

It seemed an unlikely miracle. Russia’s risk factors include a health-care system that is creaky at best.
outside of the affluent city centers; countless international travelers; a large migrant labor force; and a 2,600-mile border with China, where the virus originated. While COVID-19 was filling European hospitals, Russia was still filling soccer stadiums with fans and, in one case, the opening ceremony of a chess event in a theater with more than a thousand people.

2. Why should people doubt that Russia has the coronavirus under control based on the excerpt above?

It is remarkable that anyone ever took Russia’s coronavirus numbers at face value. Like most dictatorships, Putin’s regime lies constantly, even when it doesn’t have to. Authoritarian regimes are obsessed with information control, especially when there is news that could make them look weak. No appearance of vulnerability can be permitted, otherwise the people might start getting dangerous ideas.

3. Do you believe Vladimir Putin when he says that Russia has the coronavirus under control? Please explain your answer.

Source: Washington Post, 2020