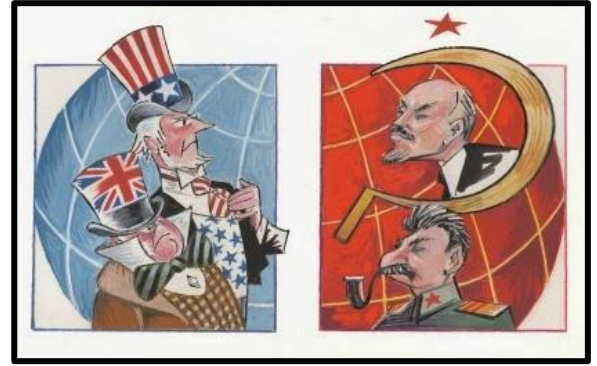


**Enduring Understanding: You should understand that events during the Cold War affected the world politically, socially, and economically. This text compares the political and economic ideologies of the United States and the Soviet Union.**

# **THE COLD WAR BEGINS**



At the end of World War II, there were tensions that existed as a result of major differences in political and economic ideologies or beliefs between the United States and other western nations and the Soviet Union. These tensions escalated into the competitions and struggles of the Cold War. At the end of World War II, the Soviet Union wanted to spread communism, while the United States wanted to **contain** or stop the spread of communism and promote democracy. Politically, the United States had a limited government in the form of a **representative democracy**, or constitutional government, while the Soviet Union had an



The Big Three

unlimited government in the form of a **communist state**. Economically, the United States had a **capitalist** economy while the Soviet Union had a **socialist** economy.

These political and economic ideologies are polar opposites, and they served as the source of tension that initiated the **Cold War** immediately at the end of World War II in 1945. Even before the war was officially over, tensions began to develop amongst the **Big Three** Allied leaders, **Franklin Roosevelt** and later **Harry S. Truman** of the United States, **Winston Churchill** of Great Britain, and **Joseph Stalin** of the Soviet Union, as they began discussions of the post-war world at the **Yalta Conference**.

## Section Review

- 1) Which countries emerged from WWII as superpowers?
- 2) What type of political system does the US have? What type of economic system does the US have?
- 3) What type of political system did the USSR have? What type of economic system did the USSR have?
- 4) Who are the Big Three?

Roosevelt and Churchill, representing constitutional or limited governments, wanted lands freed from control of the Axis Powers to be granted self-rule with elections and the establishment of constitutional governments with capitalist systems; Stalin, however, wanted these lands to have the option of becoming communist with socialist systems. Stalin did promise that he would allow elections in the lands in Eastern Europe that the Soviet Union had freed and occupied during WWII, but after the war, he broke this promise and set up communist governments in these lands.



Satellite States

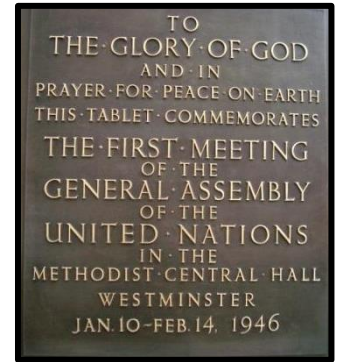
## Section Review

- 5) What is a limited government?
- 6) In what countries did Stalin establish communist governments first?



United Nations

Because the League of Nations failed to prevent another world war, it was replaced in 1945 with the **United Nations** (UN). The purpose of the United Nations was the same as the League of Nations, which was to serve as an international organization to prevent future wars and settle conflicts globally. The UN differed from the League of Nations in a few major ways, however. One major difference was that the UN would have the ability to use military force if necessary, and another major difference was that the United States joined the United Nations.



The UN became instrumental in getting involved in some of the issues of the Cold War such as the division of Germany into two nations and the Korean Conflict.

### Section Review

- 7) What did the League of Nations fail to do?
- 8) What is the purpose of the United Nations (UN)?
- 9) How are the League of Nations and the UN different?

## Sources

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