

US HISTORY Week 1 Assignment

Hello U.S. History students! Attached is the work for our first week (April 20-April 24) of Distance Learning.

Article 1:

Please read the article closely, this is the introduction to the topic we will be covering for the first 2 weeks.

Reading 2 and chart:

Please read the explanation of capitalism and communism closely.

→ Once you are done, fill in the chart with 2-3 bullet points for each box.

How to turn in:

You may submit the chart by taking a picture and emailing it to your teacher, or by dropping it off at the school on May 8th.

Extra info:

If you cannot print out the assignment, you may copy the chart by hand with pen or pencil so that you can email a picture to your teacher, but please write neatly.

Please circle the name of your teacher AND the class period you are in:

Mr. Castor U.S. History Period 1 Assignment 1	Mr. Heffelfinger U.S. History Period 4 6 Assignment 1	Ms. Jones U.S. History Period 3 5 6 Assignment 1	Ms. Lopez U.S. History Period 1 & 2 Assignment 1	Ms. McMahon U.S. History Period 3 & 5 Assignment 1	Mr. Sundquist U.S. History Period 1 2 4 Assignment 1
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Politics After WWII and Cold War Tensions

By Jeremi Suri, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.28.16

The late summer of 1945 marked the height of American power. During World War II, American soldiers had decisively defeated the seemingly invincible German and Japanese armies. Thanks to government money and some of Europe's best minds, American science and technology had advanced beyond all other countries. Above all, the United States had developed the capability to produce more military and civilian goods, including aircraft, cars, radios and guns, than the rest of the world combined. At the war's end, American farmers were selling enough food to feed populations around the globe. For American citizens who saved and sacrificed in the 1930s and early 1940s, the next decade promised unprecedented security and abundance. Happy days, it seemed, were here again. Happiness was evident everywhere

Happiness was evident in the street parades, the family reunions and the new births, called the "baby boom," that filled the country immediately after the war. Yet, Americans also saw a dangerous, complex and potentially violent postwar world. In August 1946, journalist John Hersey published an account of the horrific suffering caused when America dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Hersey's descriptions warned that the greatest achievements of modern science promised more death and destruction, if not carefully controlled. Americans began to worry about other countries, especially the Soviet Union, acquiring and using this new atomic technology. Although the U.S. and communist Soviet Union were allies during World War II, they began competing for power in Europe and Asia, which was called the "Cold War."

After World War II, Europe was divided into Eastern and Western halves, held largely by Soviet and American forces. The United States controlled postwar Japan, but the U.S. held the southern part of Korea and the Soviet Union held the northern part. American forces also remained in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia and other areas captured by the Japanese during the war.

Americans worried about postwar costs. The war had caused much destruction. How much would they have to pay to help rebuild allies, like Great Britain and France, and former enemies, like Germany and Japan? Would these postwar projects undermine the American economy at home? Americans also worried about new enemies: Would the Soviet Union and its allies in Europe and Asia take advantage of postwar problems to spread communism? Would Soviet leader Joseph Stalin establish a new empire in the territories formerly held by the Germans and the Japanese? Stopping the growth of communism

President Harry Truman felt strongly that the United States had to stop communism from growing in other countries. Yet, he also wanted to create new opportunities, especially for returning soldiers, at home.

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act, also known as the "GI Bill," was signed into law on June 22, 1944, by President Roosevelt. It became the foundation for the remarkable growth of the country. Eight million veterans received help with their education. More than two million of them attended colleges and universities, paid directly by the government. More than two million veterans also bought new homes with government loans provided by the GI Bill.

Returning soldiers used their new education to move into the growing American middle class. As part of the middle class, they read more, bought more and saved more, and they also paid more taxes than any previous generation of Americans.

Women, African-Americans and other minorities continued to deal with the ugliness of racism, sexism and ethnic prejudice in postwar America. But they also benefited from opportunities unthinkable in earlier generations. Although the GI Bill clearly favored white male veterans, it also led to higher levels of education and homeownership for other groups. More rights for African-Americans

Truman pushed publicly for more fair and equal treatment of citizens, but he was reluctant to move quickly on racial integration because he did not want to alienate white voters. A growing movement of African-Americans was demanding equal rights. African-Americans and other minorities had served in combat during the Second World War, and they now had a strong argument for equal citizenship.

As the November 1948 presidential election approached, Truman recognized that he needed African-American votes. Despite opposition from many military leaders, on July 26, 1948, he signed Executive Order 9881, requiring

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"equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin." Until that point, the armed forces were segregated. The "Truman Doctrine"

In 1947, he announced what became known as the "Truman Doctrine," in which the United States would support anti-communist forces around the world. The United States would use economic and military aid to limit Soviet influence in other countries, and it would use police power at home to punish citizens who supported communism.

In February 1948, Soviet-supported communists took over Czechoslovakia, and in 1948 and 1949, the Soviet Union cut access to West Berlin, which was controlled by the U.S. and Western European powers. In October 1949, the Soviet Union scored a victory with the successful communist revolution in China. These world events reinforced fears that Stalin and his allies were winning. By the end of the 1940s, Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union dominated foreign policy and domestic politics.

On June 25, 1950, the communist North Korean army attacked South Korea, and Truman sent American forces to fight what became the Korean War. At home, many prominent Americans became obsessed that communism was seeping into the U.S. It began a period of public witchhunts in which many American actors, scientists, politicians and writers were accused of being communist sympathizers.

Through this all, President Truman remained steadfast about protecting American power and wealth. He sought to expand opportunity for citizens at home and defeat enemies abroad. His violent anti-communism became the cornerstone of the next 40 years of American politics. American Cold War politics lasted for more than three decades.

Article 2 - Communism Vs Capitalism:

Communism vs capitalism debate is a battle between two extreme socioeconomic theories. They are theories that represent two inherently opposite ways of thinking. One is extremely individualistic (Capitalism), while the other one (Communism) believes in putting the society before self. The communism vs capitalism clash polarized the world during the cold war. This article explores all dimensions of communism vs capitalism debate and explores the two ideologies while comparing their points of difference.

Communism vs Capitalism: Ownership of Means of Production

The primary point of difference between capitalism and communism is regarding the ownership of 'means of production' or resources in general. Communism shuns private/individual ownership of land or any vital resources. Instead, all the 'means of production' like land and other resources should be owned by the state. By state here, I mean the whole community of people. All land and resources which enable the production of goods and services will be owned by one and all. Everything will be shared! All decisions about production will be made by the whole community by democratic means. There will be equal wages for all. All the decisions taken will be according to what is good for all.

On the other hand, capitalism believes in private ownership of land and means of production. Every man will have to earn his worth. The major share of the profits earned from a business will go to the person who owns the means of production, while the workers who are responsible for running the business will get a small share. Every man will get his wages according to his merit and according to the thinking of the man who owns the means of production. Naturally the people who own the means of production, the capitalists, call the shots when it comes to decision making!

This is the major bone of contention between the two ideologies, ownership of means of production. Both are extreme ideas. While communism can kill the idea of individual enterprise, which has led to most of the technological innovations we see today, capitalism has the seeds of exploitation, where too much wealth and therefore power, is concentrated in the hands of a few people.

Communism vs Capitalism: Individual Freedom

As I said before, communism and capitalism are two extreme points of view, which have contrasting views about individual freedom. Communism asks one to put the society before the individual, while capitalism puts individual freedom, before society.

So, the polarity between two ideologies is 'Individualism vs Social welfare'. Capitalism gives more importance to individual aspirations and appeals to the inherent selfish nature, which is inherent in all human beings. This inherent selfishness is a result of the instinct of self preservation.

Communism appeals to our more saintly side, wherein we think about others before ourselves. It is a noble thought, which goes against the inherent selfish nature of people, though it is appealing to their generous natures.

Both again are two extreme points of view, which have their advantages and disadvantages. Some of the greatest advances in human history have happened due to individual creativity and enterprise, which were self serving, though

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they ultimately benefited the society. Communism can kill that individual creative streak, by making a person do what he is told. In short, it has the danger of killing creativity and original thinking.

Capitalism, on the other hand, feeding selfish desires can create capitalist autocrats who can have control of life and death over thousands of people, leading to exploitation.

Communism vs Capitalism: Society

Communism advocates a classless, egalitarian society, where all men and women are placed on the same footing. There will be no differences of class, race, religion or even nationality. This way, there will be nothing to fight for. This is nice as an idea but trying to implement this idea is tough and asking people to give up all the things that make them different, is unfair. Every person is special and different in his own way. Capitalism promotes class distinction. In fact, creates the major class distinction of haves and have-nots, the rich and the poor. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer under pure capitalism. The rich class controls the means of production and wields power, thereby imposing their own class distinction and whims on the society.

Communism vs Capitalism: Anatomy of Power

Communism appeals to the higher ideal of altruism, while capitalism promotes selfishness. Let us consider what will happen to power distribution in both these ideologies. Capitalism naturally concentrates wealth and therefore, power in the hands of the people who own the means of production. So, it creates the rich elite who control wealth, resources and power. So, naturally they decide the distribution of power.

In communism, ideally, if all of mankind was of saintly nature, altruistic and selfless, the distribution of power would be equal. All decisions would be made by democratic means and there would be no unjust rules favoring a few.

However, that is not the case here, people are inherently selfish, and the nature of power is such that it corrupts minds and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We have the example of how communism can concentrate absolute power over a whole nation, in the hands of a single man, in Stalinist Russia. So, both the ideologies can fail and create an unjust society.

To fill in the chart, please summarize the beliefs of each political-economic system for the listed categories:

	Ownership of Means of production:	Individual Freedom:	Society:	Anatomy of Power:
Communism				
Capitalism				