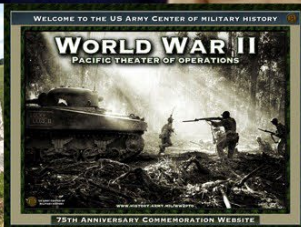




UNITED STATES ARMY
CMH
CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY



History and Heritage

Module E – The Cold War

Aftermath of World War II to the Fall of the Soviet Union
1945-1991



Lesson Introduction



Tasks:

- Acquire basic knowledge of the US Army's history
- Identify Army Values highlighted during the Cold War
- Develop a sense of pride and heritage as members of the US Army

Conditions

- **Timeframe:** 20-minute block of instruction
- **Location:** Classroom environment
- **Equipment:** Projectors, Speaker System, Slide Deck, and Videos
- **Student Resources:**
 - Note taking materials
 - Water source
 - Sensory Systems (Eyes and Ears)
 - Cognitive Functions (Brain)
 - Response Mechanism (Voice)





Terminal Learning Objective



Standards

Pre-Requisite Reading:

- Trainees read pages 1-9 of “*Army History and Heritage, CH-6*”

Key learning points:

- What caused the start of the Cold War
- Why America saw (and still sees) Communism as a global threat
- America’s strategy against Communism during the Cold War
- The significance of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam
- How the highlighted individuals displayed Army Values

Lesson validation:

- Verify knowledge through checks on learning





The Army Values



Honor

Definition: *Live up to all the Army Values. This implies always following your moral compass in any circumstance.*

Why is Honor important?

*The priceless value of our character
enables our understanding of right and wrong;
the recognition of our self-worth by others and ourselves*

>> Remember: the Army Values transcend circumstance <<





Key Terms and Concepts



Socialism: economy defined by *social ownership* of the means of production

Communism: a stateless, classless, moneyless society with a distribution system
“from each according to his ability, to each according to his need”

Marxism-Leninism: used to justify Soviet policy

- Central state institution interprets ideology
- Economy based on urbanization and prolific industry
(Good for the Union = Good for Communism)

Maoism: based on Marxism-Leninism

- Wary of “ideological niceties” - led with violence
- Economy based on agrarian foundations
(Use the peasantry then keep them incapable)

“Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.”
– Mao Zedong



Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao





What Caused the Cold War



Communist Ideology directly **conflicts** with **Western Values**:

Individual Freedom

Equal Opportunity

National Sovereignty

VS

VS

VS

Group Conformity

Equal Outcome

Central Party Power

Defeat of **Axis Powers** = no need for unity

- Stalin *emplaced communist control* in occupied territories
- Stalin *backed communist expansion* in other nations



The "Big Three" Allied Leaders:
Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin



The State of the World - Europe



The Iron Curtain: Geographic split between Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe and Democratic Western Europe

“An Iron Curtain has descended across the continent...”
– Winston Churchill

Soviet Occupied Areas

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Czechoslovakia
- East-Germany
- Estonia
- Georgia
- Hungary
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Moldova
- Poland
- Romania
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan





Response to Communism



Containment Policy (1947-1989):

- George Kennan's foreign policy towards communism
- Non-interference toward Soviet sphere of influence
- Prevent Communist expansion; protect free nation sovereignty



George Kennan
US Director of Policy Planning





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- Land routes to Berlin blocked by Soviets
- Massive air-supply operation for Berlin citizenry





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- Over **\$13 billion** spent to rebuild war-torn Europe
- Prevent radical politics by nurturing democracy





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North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (1949-today):

- Defense pact between the US and Western Europe
- *“An attack on one is an attack on all”*





The State of the World – East Asia



Occupation of Japan (1945-1952):

- Complete withdrawal from conquered territories
- Wide reaching reforms; rewritten Constitution

Chinese Civil War (1945-today):

- Communist and Nationalist Parties resume hostilities
- **Communists** take control; Nationalists flee to Taiwan





The State of the World – East Asia



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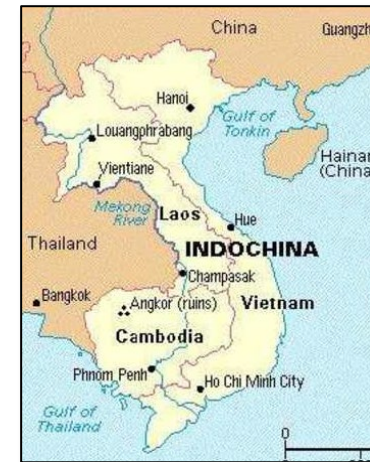
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French-Indochina War (1946-1954):

- French lose the Battle of Dien Bien Phu
- Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam gain independence



Korean War (1950-today):

- The United States supports South Korean Republic
- The Soviet Union supports **North Korean** Communists
- North Korea invades the south on 25 June, 1950





The State of the World – East Asia

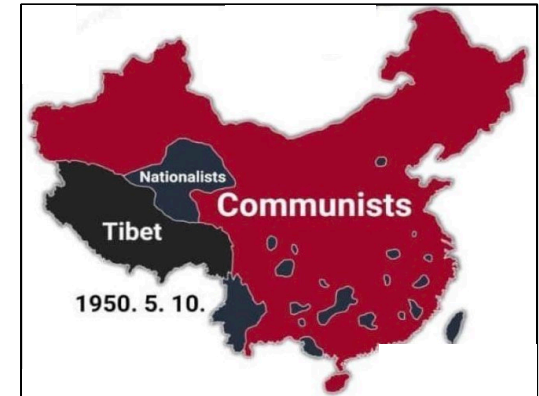


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Korean War Armistice



Declining Interest in Korea

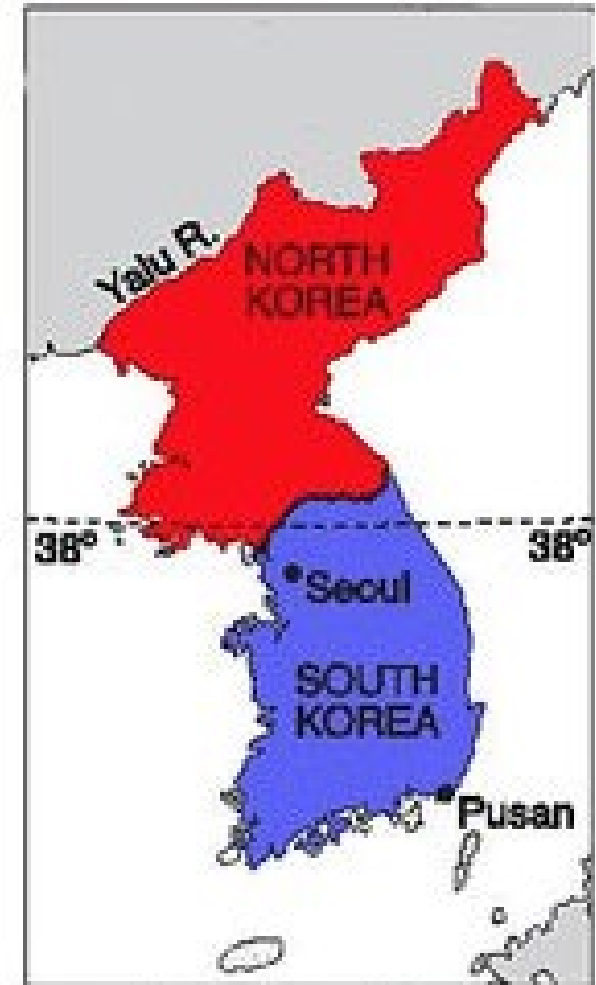
1952: Dwight Eisenhower Elected US President

1953: Joseph Stalin Dies

- Both sides question their involvement in Korea
- Interest in Korea evaporates

Korean Armistice Status:

- 27 July 1953: **Korean Armistice** was signed
- Permanent presence of US troops in support of **South** Korea
- The Korean Conflict is ongoing and tensions occasionally run high



July 27, 1953





The Vietnam War



Enforcing Containment

- Vietnam was split like Korea; Northern Communism vs Southern Republic
- Communist Nations backed the North while the US backed the South
- Northern “Viet Cong” Irregulars waged an insurgency in the South

What got the US Involved?

- AUG 1964: Northern torpedo ships attack the USS Maddox in the **Gulf of Tonkin**
- Allegations of a second attack caused the US to declare war on the **North**



French Indochina: Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos





Key Events in Vietnam



Fighting in Vietnam:

- Irregular warfare; small scale, hit-and-run tactics, and booby traps
- American air supremacy = sustained bombing across Indochina
- Extensive use of Special Forces and Psychological Operations

Key Large-Scale Battles:

- 1965: "Operation Starlite" in Van Tuong
- 1965: The Battle of Ia Drang Valley
- 1968: The Battle of Khe Sanh
- 1968: The Tet-Offensive



US Helicopter offloads troops in the Ia Drang Valley





VIDEO CLIP



- 3. Module E - The Tet Offensive, History Channel

(5:00 length)





The Tet Offensive Aftermath



The Tet Offensive failed to achieve a tactical breakthrough for North Vietnam:

Demonstrated the North's inability to win

- Failed to achieve a tactical breakthrough
- The Viet Cong returned to guerrilla tactics

The US Military was seen as ineffective

- Destroyed Government military optimism
- American sentiment turned against the war

Delegations from North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the United States met in Paris

Talks made little headway; the Southern delegation walked away for a period of time





The My Lai Massacre



In March 1968, the Quang Ngai province was a VC stronghold

- LT Calley's Company was ordered to destroy "Son My"
They found "My Lai" instead
- Few weapons and no VC presence found
- LT Calley ordered the villagers be killed

Over 500 civilians were killed before higher leadership was made aware

- WO1 Thompson reported the incident
- All operations were ordered to cease; the event was internally investigated
- The American public found out one year later; public sentiment turned to ire against the military





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Newspaper Reporting the My Lai Massacre





Army Values – Honor



Warrant Officer (WO1) Hugh Thompson Jr.

- Helicopter Pilot from Atlanta, Georgia
- Intervened and reported the My Lai Massacre

Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson saw dead and wounded civilians in the ditch he landed next to. The crew made attempts to radio help for the wounded. Thompson spoke with 2LT Calley who said he was "just following orders".

As the helicopter took off, he saw a Sergeant Mitchell firing into the ditch. Thompson landed his aircraft between the soldiers and the retreating villagers and threatened to open fire if they continued their attacks.

Thompson reported the massacre to his superiors. In immediate response, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Barker ordered all ground units to cease operations in the village. Thompson also flew dozens of survivors to receive care.

Though ostracized and threatened by other Soldiers, he and his two crew members would be later awarded the Soldiers Medal for their bravery.

- Honor





Army Values – *Honor*



2LT William Calley Jr.

- Platoon Leader in the 23rd Infantry Division
- Led Charlie Company to My Lai
- Ordered the My Lai Massacre

LT Calley was ordered by his Commander to destroy anything in the village that was “walking, crawling, or growling.”

After searching the village, LT Calley ordered his men to begin killing the villagers.

Witnesses stated they saw “a lot of women had thrown themselves on top of their children to protect them, and the children were alive at first. Then the children who were old enough to walk got up and Calley began to shoot the children.”

Calley would be found guilty at the My Lai court martials and sentenced to life in prison. His sentence would be reduced with possibility for parole, which he was granted after three and a half years of incarceration.

“I was only following orders”

- **Honor**





The End of the Vietnam War



By 1970, American support for the war was all but gone

- The US focused on controlled withdrawal and a strong Southern Government
- The US believed South Vietnam could persist until 1976

In March 1975, North Vietnam launched a new offensive

- Southern forces collapsed on all fronts
- In April 1975, Saigon was surrounded by VC and NVA forces
- Northern troops waited for the last American helicopter to leave before taking the city



The Last Helicopter out of Saigon





Why does the Cold War matter?



- **The Chinese Civil War:** defines today's *Cross-Taiwan-Strait* conflict
- **The Korean War:** remains ongoing with *permanent US Military presence*
- **The Vietnam War:** low-point in US Military history – *failed containment policy*
- **Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan:** left a power vacuum that created the *Taliban*
- **Soviet Union's Dissolution:** created 15 new countries - *future hot spots*
- **NATO:** Ongoing *Defense Pact* oriented toward communist adversaries
- **The European Union:** *Economic blending* developed from the *Marshall Plan*



Korea



China



Ukraine





Check on Learning



- What caused the start of the Cold War?
- Why does America see Communism as a global threat?
- What was America's strategy of countering Communism during the Cold War?
- What was the significance of the Tet Offensive?
- What is the importance of Honor?



TIMELINE

1948

26 July: President Truman signs Executive Order 9981 ending segregation in the United States armed forces.

1948–1949

Berlin Airlift. After Russian forces blocked American and British road and rail access to West Berlin, the western allies supplied the city by air for eleven months until the Russians lifted the blockade.

1950

24 November: The United States reactivates U.S. Seventh Army and begins deploying it to Europe in support of NATO.

Korean War (1950–1953)

1950

25 June: North Korean forces invade South Korea

5 July: Understrength 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, 24th Infantry Division (Task Force Smith) becomes first U.S. Army unit to engage North Koreans

August–September: U.S. and UN Command forces defend perimeter around South Korean port city of Pusan

15–28 September: General MacArthur lands U.S. forces at Inch'on

Late October–Early November: Chinese Communist forces intervene, attacking South Korean forces and American units near the China-Korea border

1951

27 September–13 October: 2d Infantry Division with French allies battle for Heartbreak Ridge

1953

27 July: Cease-fire signed at Panmunjom

1957

23 September: President Eisenhower sends troops from the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock, Arkansas, to help enforce school desegregation

1958

16 July–25 October: President Eisenhower sends Army and Marine Corps forces to Lebanon to intervene in the country's civil war

1961

13 August: Soviet and East German forces begin construction of the Berlin Wall, a series of brick and barbed wire barriers separating East and West Berlin

1965

30 April–21 September: Troops of the 82d Airborne Division land in Dominican Republic to assist with peacekeeping efforts

Vietnam War (1965–1973)

1965

7 May: 173d Airborne Brigade, first U.S. Army combat troops, deploy to Vietnam

14–18 November: Battle of Ia Drang

1968

31 January–30 April: Tet Offensive

1970

29 April–22 July: Cambodian Incursion

1971

8 February–25 March: South Vietnamese ground forces, heavily supported by U.S. Army artillery and aviation units, invade Laos

1972

23 August: Last U.S. Army combat troops leave Vietnam

Operation EAGLE CLAW (1980)

24–25 April: Unsuccessful attempt to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran

Operation URGENT FURY (1983)

25–29 October: U.S. invasion of Grenada

1986

1 October: President Ronald W. Reagan signs Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act

Operation JUST CAUSE (1989–1990)

20 December–31 January: U.S. invasion of Panama

1991

26 December: Dissolution of the Soviet Union

Period Covered

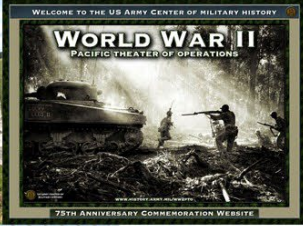
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VICTORY STARTS HERE!



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