

Truman and Early Containment

1. Containment: A U.S. policy to stop the spread of communism by resisting Soviet influence.
2. Truman Doctrine: U.S. policy to provide support to nations resisting communism, starting with Greece and Turkey.
3. Marshall Plan: American financial aid to rebuild European countries and prevent the spread of communism.
4. NATO: Military alliance formed by the U.S. and Western European nations to protect against Soviet threats.
5. Berlin Airlift: Operation to fly supplies into West Berlin after a Soviet blockade in 1948.
6. Warsaw Pact: A Soviet-led military alliance of communist countries formed in response to NATO.

The Korean War

7. 38th Parallel: The dividing line between North and South Korea.
8. Kim Il Sung: Communist leader of North Korea during the Korean War.
9. Syngman Rhee: Anti-communist leader of South Korea during the Korean War.
10. Domino Theory: The idea that if one country fell to communism, others nearby would follow.
11. United Nations (UN): Organization that led military support for South Korea.
12. Communist China: Joined the war on the side of North Korea against U.S. and UN forces.
13. Armistice: An agreement to stop fighting without a formal peace treaty.
14. Stalemate: A situation in which neither side can win a clear victory.
15. General MacArthur: U.S. commander during the Korean War who was fired for challenging presidential authority.

Eisenhower and Containment

16. Brinkmanship: Policy of pushing conflicts to the edge of war to force opponents to back down.
17. Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD): Idea that both sides would be destroyed in a nuclear war.
18. Massive Retaliation: U.S. threat to respond to any attack with overwhelming nuclear force.
19. Arms Race: Competition between the U.S. and USSR to build more powerful weapons.
20. Nuclear Triad: Three-part nuclear defense system: land missiles, submarines, and bombers.

21. Sputnik: The first satellite, launched by the Soviet Union, starting the space race.
22. NASA: U.S. space agency created for peaceful exploration in response to Sputnik.
23. Suez Canal Crisis: Conflict where Eisenhower used diplomacy and pressure to avoid Soviet influence in Egypt.
24. Taiwan Crisis: U.S. threatened China with military force to protect Taiwan from communist takeover.
25. Eisenhower Doctrine: U.S. pledge to protect the Middle East from communist threats.
26. CIA (Central Intelligence Agency): Conducted covert operations to stop communism, including coups.
27. U-2 Spy Plane Incident: Soviets shot down a U.S. spy plane, worsening Cold War tensions.

Johnson and Vietnam

28. Domino Theory: Belief that communism would spread from one country to its neighbors.
29. Ho Chi Minh: Communist leader of North Vietnam.
30. Ngo Dinh Diem: U.S.-backed leader of South Vietnam.
31. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution: Gave President Johnson power to escalate U.S. military involvement in Vietnam.
32. Operation Rolling Thunder: U.S. bombing campaign against North Vietnam.
33. Napalm: Jellied gasoline used in bombs that caused destruction and severe burns.
34. Agent Orange: Chemical used to kill jungle vegetation, causing health issues for soldiers and civilians.
35. Search and Destroy Missions: Military tactic used to find and eliminate enemy camps.
36. Tet Offensive: Surprise attack by North Vietnamese forces that changed U.S. public opinion on the war.
37. Vietnamization: Plan to withdraw U.S. troops and turn fighting over to South Vietnam's army.
38. Pentagon Papers: Leaked documents showing the government had misled the public about the war.
39. Kent State Shooting: Ohio National Guard killed four students during a protest against the Vietnam War.
40. Paris Peace Accords: Agreement to end U.S. involvement in Vietnam and return POWs.
41. Fall of Saigon: Event marking the end of the Vietnam War with the capture of South Vietnam's capital.