Unit 8 Glossary (Cold War)

**1957**- The year 1957 marked the start of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union On October 4, the Soviets launched the world’s first space satellite, called Sputnik, and one month later launched Sputnik II, which carried a dog into space. The Communist success caused U.S. military and political leaders concern because it appeared to narrow the gap between the “backward” Soviet Union and the United States. Scientists quickly developed a small satellite and launched it in early 1958. The education system in the United States also came under scrutiny. The National Defense and Education Act, passed in 1958, authorized $887 million for loans and grants to improve science, mathematics, and language education.

**38th Parallel**- Proposed at the Potsdam Conference in 1945, the 38th Parallel was a boundary line that separated North Korea and South Korea. It is at Latitude line 38° north. North Korea was backed by communists, whereas South Korea was anti-communist.

**Berlin Airlift**- An operation by British and American aircraft to airlift food and supplies to Berlin in 1948-1949, while Soviet forces blockaded the city to isolate it from the West and terminate the joint Allied military government of the city. After the blockade was lifted the city was formally divided into East and West Berlin.

**Brinkmanship**- Coined by U.S. Secretary of the State John Foster Dulles during the height of the Cold War. The term came from the political Hungarian theory of pushing the military to the *brink* of war in order to convince another nation to follow your demands. In an article written in *Life Magazine*, Dulles defined his policy of brinkmanship as "The ability to get to the verge without getting into the war is the necessary art." During the Cold War, this was used as a policy by the United States to coerce the Soviet Union into backing down militarily. In the spectrum of the Cold War, the concept of brinkmanship involved the West and the Soviet Union using fear tactics and intimidation as strategies to make the opposing faction back down. Each party pushed dangerous situations to the brink, with the intention of making the other back down in matters of international politics and foreign policy, to obtain concessions. In the Cold War both parties were confronted with devastating consequences since the threats of nuclear war were unmanageable in any situation.

**Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**- The Central Intelligence Agency was created in 1947 with the signing of the National Security Act by President Harry S. Truman. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is a independent civilian intelligence agency of the United States government that compiles intelligence information, conducts counterintelligence activities outside the United States, and advises the President and the National Security Council on matters of foreign intelligence and national security. The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (D/CIA) is nominated by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director manages the operations, personnel, and budget of the Central Intelligence Agency.

**Cold War (1945-1989)**- Following World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as superpowers. The two unions of states faced off in an arms race which lasted nearly 50 years. Instead of fighting a military war they used diplomacy and nerves to compete for resources, markets, and political strength in a world economy. The threat of nuclear attack prompted private citizens to build bomb shelters and worry about nuclear disaster. The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 created an atmosphere of fear as President John F. Kennedy warned Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev that an attack launched from Cuba on the United States would be considered an attack from the Soviet Union, and that the United States would respond accordingly. In 1963 Kennedy secured a nuclear test-ban treaty with the Soviets and direct communication between the White House and the Kremlin ensured that national leaders could communicate in times of crisis. In 1972 President Richard M. Nixon strove to slow the arms race through the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) which froze the number of long-range nuclear missiles for a period of five years. Both nations continued to work on defense systems. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan initiated the Strategic Defense Initiative (“Star Wars”), a strategy based in advanced technology aimed at outpacing Soviet defense. The Cold War escalated as arms negotiations with the Soviets ceased in late 1983 and the Soviets boycotted the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984. By the late 1980s the United States and Soviets had deployed more than 16,000 nuclear warheads. A combination of factors including the rise of pro-democracy movements in Eastern Europe and China and the overthrow of communist governments in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Romania thawed the Cold War. The Berlin Wall tumbled in 1989 and the two Germanys united in October 1990 after 45 years of political and military separation. The USSR dissolved during the tenure of Mikhail Gorbachev as his policies of glasnost and perestroika worked to undermine communism. The Commonwealth of Independent States created 15 new governments which adopted free-market economics. This disunion of the USSR removed the Soviet threat which drove U.S. foreign relations for more than 40 years. Not only did former Soviet nations struggle with adopting western-style capitalism and politics, but western European nations were forced to develop strategies to cope with refugees and challenges to their stable economies posed by their weaker neighbors. The United States also reassessed its foreign policy as a result of the end of the Cold War.

**Containment**- A United States foreign policy doctrine adopted by President Harry S. Truman and his administration in 1947, operating on the principle that communist governments will eventually fall apart as long as they are prevented from expanding their influence to other countries.

**Eisenhower Doctrine**- The U.S. foreign policy by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1957. The Eisenhower Doctrine promised military and economic aid to anticommunist governments, at a time when communist countries were providing arms to Egypt and offering strong support to Arab states. This was part of the Cold War policy developed by John Foster Dulles under the Truman Doctrine to contain the expansion and influence of the Soviets and Communism.

**Explorer I**- The first U.S. artificial satellite in 1958. It confirmed the existence of intense radiation belts around the earth.

**House Un-American Activities Commission (HUAC)**- (1938–1975) The U.S. House of Representatives created HUAC to investigate disloyalty and subversive organizations. Its first chairman, Martin Dies, set the pattern for its anti-Communist investigations. The committee's methods included pressure on witnesses to name former associates, vague and sweeping accusations against individuals, and the assumption of an individual's guilt because of association with a suspect organization. Witnesses who refused to answer were cited for contempt of Congress. A highly publicized 1947 investigation of the entertainment industry led to prison sentences for contempt for a group of recalcitrant witnesses who became known as the Hollywood Ten. In 1948, Whittaker Chambers made sensational accusations of Soviet espionage against former State Dept. official Alger Hiss. Those hearings kept the committee in the headlines and provided the first national exposure for committee member Richard Nixon. Critics of the committee contended that it disregarded the civil liberties of its witnesses and that it consistently failed to fulfill its primary purpose of recommending new legislation. After 1950, Sen. Joseph McCarthy borrowed many of the committee's tactics for his own Senate investigations. The committee (renamed the House Internal Security Committee in 1969) was abolished in 1975.

**Iron Curtain**- Phrase used by Winston Churchill in 1946 to describe the imaginary line between democratic and communist countries. The Iron Curtain became a military, political, and ideological barrier between the Soviet bloc and Western Europe from 1945 to 1990.

**Korean War**- Korea is a nation in northern Asia divided following World War II between North Korea, which was occupied by Soviet troops, and South Korea, occupied by U.S. forces. Following the withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. troops, communist North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950. President Harry S. Truman ordered General Douglas MacArthur to intervene in the civil war. Truman chose MacArthur because of his knowledge and experience in the region. MacArthur had commanded Allied forces in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded during World War II. In 1950 President Truman named MacArthur commander of United Nations forces and ordered him to lead troops in a “peace action” in Korea. Differences of opinion between Truman and MacArthur over the application of force in bringing about an end to the conflict, which ended in MacArthur’s firing, mirrored public sentiment. Some felt the United States should not be involved in the war and others felt that the

United States should intervene in a decisive way to bring an end to the conflict and to the expansion of communism. President Dwight D. Eisenhower negotiated peace in 1953, but communism continued as a presence in Asia.

**Marshall Plan**- Officially the European Recovery Program, ERP, this was the American program to aid Europe in which the U.S. gave economic support to European economies after the end of World War II in order to prevent the spread of Soviet Communism and named after Sec. of the State George Marshall. The Marshall Plan was in operation for four years beginning in April 1948. The goals of the United States were to rebuild a war-devastated region, remove trade barriers, modernize industry, and make Europe prosperous again. It offered the same aid to the Soviet Union and its allies, but they did not accept it. During the four years that the plan was operational, the U.S. spent $13 billion in economic and technical assistance to help the recovery of the European countries. Many historians and economists consider the Marshall Plan a "great success".

**McCarthyism**- During the Cold War, Americans viewed the Soviets as a threat to national security and cultural survival. The fear of communism increased throughout the 1950s as Americans became sensitized to the threat through publicized investigations of critics of the government. Extreme opposition to communism gained the name “McCarthyism” from the efforts of Joseph R. McCarthy, a senator from Wisconsin elected in 1947. In 1950 he announced that communists worked in the State Department. He and his followers worked to identify known communists and accused others based on association. McCarthyism resulted in the ruin of many public figures who were unable to find work because they were blacklisted. Employers refused to hire those suspected of communist activities because McCarthy’s tactic of guilt by association made the employee suspect. In 1954 through 35 days of televised hearings before a Senate investigating committee, McCarthy failed to substantiate his claims of communist collusion and lost favor with the Senate, and with the American public.

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**- An international organization composed of the U.S., Canada, Britain, and a number of European countries. The purpose of the organization was one of collective security against the Soviet Union and countries that supported Soviet Communism. (See Warsaw Pact)

**Population Shift**- Americans during the 1950s were on the move. The population was shifting from the country to the city, then to the suburbs. More people moved from the Northeast and Midwestern sections of the country to the West and the South.

**Satellite Nation**- A political term for a country that is formally independent, but under heavy political and economic influence or control by another country. The term was coined by analogy to planetary objects orbiting a larger object, such as smaller moons revolving around larger planets, and is used mainly to refer to Central and Eastern European countriesof the Warsaw Pact.

**Sputnik I**- Launched in 1957 by the Soviets, it was the first man-made satellite to orbit the earth. (see 1957)

**Truman Doctrine**- In 1947, President Harry S. Truman’s policy of providing economic and military aid to any country threatened by communism or totalitarian ideology.

**U.S. As a World Power**- Several factors contributed to the rise of the United States as a world leader. In the 1880s the United States experienced an industrial revolution which allowed the country to compete with Britain for dominance of the world economy. Increased transportation and ports-of-call in major trading areas increased the economic and military strength of the United States around the world. Following World War II, the United States surpassed Britain as a world power. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R) and the United States were considered world powers because their foreign policy impacted world decisions. The United States remains a prominent nation in the world system in spite of a staggering national debt. The U.S. economy is strong, the standard of living is high, and the nation remains a hub of world trade and diplomacy.

**U-2 Incident**- During the Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower on May 1, 1960, a United States U-2 spy plane was shot down over the airspace of the Soviet Union (under the leadership of Nikita Khrushchev). At first the U.S. government denied the plane’s purpose and mission. Later, the U.S. was forced to admit its role as a covert surveillance aircraft when the Soviet government produced its intact remains and surviving pilot, Francis Gary Powers, as well as photos of military bases in the Soviet Union (Russia) taken by Powers. Coming roughly two weeks before the scheduled opening of an East–West summit in Paris, the incident was considered a great embarrassment to the United Statesand prompted a marked deterioration in its relations with the Soviet Union. Powers was convicted of espionage and sentenced to three years of imprisonment plus seven years of hard labor, but he was released on February 10, 1962 during a prisoner-exchange with Soviet officer Rudolf Abel.

**United Nations (UN)**- An international organization composed of most of the countries of the world. It was founded in 1945 to promote peace, security, and economic development. The UN headquarters are in New York City, NY.

**Warsaw Pact**- A military treaty and association of Eastern European countries, formed in 1955 by the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania in response to NATO. (See NATO)