President George H.W. Bush:
America After The Cold War &
The USA’s Role in The Gulf War
There are many pictures and diagrams in this presentation. Yet, you have a set of notes as depicted to the right. Whenever a slide comes up with the title that matches your note taking guide, that is when you copy down the notes. On the presentation, the sentence will be underlined. This is blank on your note sheet. Simply fill in the blanks with the matching lines.
E. America Enters World War II (1945-Present)
g. Analyze the origins of the Cold War, foreign policy developments, and major events of the administrations from Truman to present
2. Changes at Home

a. Analyze major domestic issues and responses of the administrations from Truman to present

e. Identify the major contemporary social, environmental, and political issues (e.g., immigration, global warming, terrorism), the groups involved, and the controversies engendered by those issues

f. Assess increasing global interdependence, the potential for conflict, and the U.S. role in world events in the present and future
COLD WAR RECAP
During WW II, the Democracies of the world had originally teamed up with the Communist USSR to defeat Nazi Germany.
When World War II was finished, the USA, Britain, and France grew concerned. They wanted the nations of the world to accept Democracy. Yet, it was clear that Stalin wanted Eastern Europe to be dominated by Communism.
After World War II, Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria became Satellite Nations that were controlled by the USSR. Yugoslavia also faced pressure to be Communist by the USSR.
A major concern during the Cold War was that both the USA and the USSR had nuclear weapons. Therefore, if direct fighting between the two nations did break out, the consequences would be devastating for the entire world.
Back in the 1940s, President Truman’s goal of “Containment” was simply to keep Communism from spreading any further into the world. This policy failed.
Communism expanded to China, North Korea, Cuba, and Vietnam from the 1940s to the 1960s.
In the 1960s, the Communist dictator of the USSR, Nikita Khrushchev, supported the Communist takeover of Cuba and wanted to put nuclear missiles on the island. This way, the USSR would have close missiles to attack the USA, if nuclear war broke out. President John F. Kennedy found this action unacceptable. He demanded that the USSR not put any nuclear weapons in Cuba. In the end, the USA agreed to allow Cuba to remain Communist and the USSR agreed to not place missiles on the island. The incident was called the Cuban Missile Crisis.
After World War II, the Democracies of the world, including the USA, were concerned about Communism spreading in Asia. Eventually, China fell to Communism as did North Korea. Then, Communism spread down to Vietnam. The USA got involved to try and keep South Vietnam from falling to Communism. The war became very unpopular in the USA as it lasted from the 1950s to the 1970s. President Lyndon Johnson and President Richard Nixon had to deal with various military campaigns in Vietnam. The USA’s involvement ended while Ford was President. South Vietnam fell to Communism.
By 1980, the Soviet Union (USSR) was still a nation and Communist struggles were occurring in various parts of the world. Reagan argued he had to heavily fund defense spending to remain more powerful than the Communist USSR.
Many Democrats critiqued Reagan because he cut social programs that gave aid to citizens but used vast amounts of money to increase defense spending, which many argued made the tension between the USSR and the USA escalate. Likewise, they asserted the so-called “Star Wars” endeavor wouldn’t even work and was unrealistic.
Since after WW II, when Joseph Stalin dominated Eastern Europe with Communism, the USA and the USSR had a tense relationship. Nikita Khrushchev reduced those tensions as he ruled the USSR in the 1960s. Yet, Khrushchev also experienced the Cuban Missile Crisis against JFK, which hurt the relationship of the two nations. In the 1980s, many viewed Mikhail Gorbachev as the first leader of the USSR that could radically reduce tension with the USA and work with America to pursue peace.
Even though Berlin was in the Eastern Communist area, half the city remained in control of West Germany and was a Democracy. This agreement was reached after WW II.
Khrushchev built a literal wall around the Western Half of Berlin. Communist Eastern Europeans were forbidden from coming into the Western Half of the City.
Eastern Germans building the Berlin Wall
By the 1980s, the Berlin Wall had multiple sections and guards watching from towers. If anyone tried to cross it, they could be shot and killed.
“We welcome change and openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together, that the advance of human liberty can only strengthen the cause of world peace. There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”
-Ronald Reagan, 1987

In 1987, Ronald Reagan demanded the Berlin Wall be torn down. The wall was eventually torn down in 1989.
From the 1950s to 1991, Russia controlled various areas in the world. This alliance of various areas with Russia formed the Soviet Union.
The Soviet Union could no longer maintain its unity. In 1991, Russia became an independent nation and the Soviet Union broke apart. The other “Socialist Republics” became independent nations, no longer under the control of Moscow.
After 1991, Russia became an independent nation and gave up control of the former Soviet Union areas. These areas became individual nations.
The USA After the Cold War

-Ronald Reagan’s Vice President, George H.W. Bush, won the election of 1988 and became President of the USA.

-From the late 1940s to the late 1980s, the vast majority of America’s military strategy was to focus on ensuring the spread of Communism, and the nation of the USSR in particular, did not harm American interests around the world.

-The Soviet Union began to break apart in the late 1980s. In December of 1991, Russia declared that the Soviet Union had officially broken apart. The areas controlled by Russia began to be independent nations. Russia itself embraced Democracy as is its form of government. Gorbachev stepped down as leader of the USSR and Boris Yeltsin rose to be Russia’s President.
One Military Focus Ends and Others Appear

- In 1992, President Bush and President Yeltsin signed an agreement officially declaring the Cold War was over. Many were encouraged by this new relationship between the USA and the USSR.

- The USA emerged as the undisputed superpower in the world. This meant America was positioned to take a leading role in the world within a variety of political dealings.

- Although the tension between the USA and Russia reduced dramatically in the late 1980s and early 1990s, many other conflicts abounded in the world. The USA had to restructure its approach and the focus of its military to address the variety of conflicts occurring in numerous nations.
President of the USA, George H.W. Bush, and Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, brought Russia and the USA into a new relationship by declaring the Cold War was officially over in 1992.
Communism Remains in China

As the USSR declined, many Chinese citizens wanted more Democratic reforms as well. In 1989, in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, college students led marches against the government.

China's leader, Li Peng, ordered the military to end the protests. The nations of the world watched on CNN as the military attacked the students. After the event, it was clear China was going to remain Communist, despite their small changes.

President Bush harshly critiqued China's actions. However, he continued a relationship with China after the incident.
Tiananmen Square Protests Against Communism in 1989.
The Students of the Tiananmen Square Protests made a Statue of Liberty to symbolize their demand for Freedom. Li Peng, pictured above, the Premier of China, sent in the military to force the protests to cease.
A lone protestor stood in front of a line of tanks, when Li Peng sent in the military. His identity is unknown as is his fate after this incident. Yet, this picture became an iconic image that showed the brutality of the military invasion.
After World War II, Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria became Satellite Nations that were controlled by the USSR. Yugoslavia also faced pressure to be Communist by the USSR.
Tension in Eastern Europe

-When the USSR broke apart, it brought instability to the nations in the former Soviet Union and in the Satellite Nations of Eastern Europe. Yugoslavia, which was a declared Socialist Nation, also saw massive tension in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

-Ethnic tensions led to various ethnic groups claiming territory in Yugoslavia. The Serbs were the most populace people group. As the various ethnic groups sought independence from the Serbs, the Serbs tried to maintain control of the other ethnic regions.

-A leader named Slobodan Milosevic tried to establish a government in which each citizen had one vote. Yet, many argued this would allow the Serbs to dominate politics. Slovenia and Croatia tried to establish Republics with less ties to the entire nation. The Serbs in Slovenia and Croatia tried to rebel and support Milosevic’s plan. Various ethnic conflicts led the area into a horrific Civil War.
After Communism fell, Yugoslavia began to experience tension. Various ethnic groups started competing for power. This eventually led to the breaking up of Yugoslavia into various separate nations. Yet, that process led to massive hostilities and plunged the area into a horrific civil war.
By the 1990s, sections of Yugoslavia strived to be more independent from the dominant Serb population. Yet, as they drifted toward independence, the minority of Serbs in each area rose up and wanted Serbia to stop the independence movements. Serbia kept intervening in these areas seeking independence trying to thwart the movements. This led to massive ethnic conflict.
Slobodan Milosevic, a Serb, was the President of Yugoslavia when various ethnic fights came about. As other ethnic groups tried to establish their own governments, with less control from the dominant Serb population, Milosevic tried to prevent their attempts. Serbs were the dominant ethnic group in Yugoslavia and, in the regions seeking independence, Serbs rose up against the independence movements. Though the Serbs were a minority in these areas seeking independence, they were the majority in Yugoslavia and wanted Milosevic to stop the independence movements in their regions. In the 1990s, Milosevic was prosecuted for war crimes.
After Yugoslavia abandoned Communism, massive ethnic fighting led to the breaking apart of Yugoslavia into various ethnic areas.
Yugoslavia and the West

-Manging the fall of Communism in various nations created a problem for the world. Instability in these areas could impact the nations of the West.

-Initially, President George H.W. Bush was hesitant to get involved with the conflict in Yugoslavia. He felt that the USA would get tangled in various ethnic fights that did not have a clear solution.

-By 1992, the USA and members of the United Nations did get involved in the conflict. They tried to intervene in Bosnia between the ethnic fights of the Serbs and Bosnians. By then, over 100,000 people had died in the ethnic conflicts.
The USA and South Africa

-In South Africa, segregation between Whites and native Africans still persisted all the way until 1990. This wicked system of segregation was called apartheid.

-A South African leader, Nelson Mandela, opposed apartheid and asserted it was an immoral system. He went to jail in 1962 for his protests. Many American businesses stopped trading with South Africa to protest apartheid. Congress also began to restrict trade with the area in protest.

-President George H.W. Bush met with Mandela, who was released from prison in 1990. Mandela led South Africa to end apartheid and establish Democracy for all South African citizens. Mandela served as President of South Africa from 1990 to 1999.
President George H.W. Bush met with Nelson Mandela to show his support for the end of the segregation system of apartheid in South Africa.
The Gulf War Begins

-In August of 1990, Iraq, a nation in the Middle East, led by a dictator, Saddam Hussein, invaded the neighboring country of Kuwait. Iraq had accumulated a great deal of debt in its war with Iran. The goal of Iraq was to takeover Kuwait’s oil fields to gain wealth off of oil profits.

-If Hussein succeeded, he would control a massive section of the oil industry, which impacted all industrial nations. The USA feared Hussein would also try to invade Saudi Arabia to control their oil fields as well.

-President George H.W. Bush quickly opposed the military invasion of Kuwait and began forming a coalition to fight against Hussein and push him out of Kuwait.
The Middle East possesses a large amount of the world’s oil supplies.
In August of 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait to takeover Kuwait’s oil fields. President George H.W. Bush formed an alliance to challenge this move and remove Iraq from Kuwait.
Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, led his nation to invade Kuwait. This initiated The Gulf War.
Operation Desert Storm

- President George H.W. Bush formed an alliance that included Egypt, Britain, Saudi Arabia, France, and others. The United Nations also insisted that Iraq leave Kuwait. Hussein refused.

- Hundreds of thousands of soldiers were involved in this alliance, including nearly half a million American soldiers. The alliance initiated aerial attacks against Iraq’s strongholds in Kuwait in January of 1991. General Colin Powell and General Norman Schwarzkopf managed the attacks.

-In February of 1991, the coalition forces invaded Kuwait and removed Iraq’s troops from the nation. Iraq had lost the Gulf War. America had led the coalition to a decisive victory and protected Kuwait. They did not invade Iraq, however, and Saddam Hussein stayed in power.
The USA was able to use new technology, such as computer guided missiles, in the Gulf War.

Pictured to the top left, you see oil fields burning. As Iraq fled Kuwait, they set fire to oil fields trying to ensure the Coalition Members could not use the oil fields once Iraq left. These efforts failed. Kuwait was able to still get oil from their oil wells after the war.
General Colin Powell, to the left, and General Norman Schwarzkopf, to the right, led in efforts to manage the USA led coalition and its war efforts in The Gulf War.
The End of George H.W. Bush’s Presidency

-After the Gulf War ended, President George H.W. Bush experienced a surge in popularity in 1991. It seemed inevitable that he would be elected to a second term.

-However, the economy entered into a downturn in the early 1990s. This led to a recession and many people wanted to see the economy change. Bush also had to raise taxes, something he said he would never do in his campaign.

-Although he experienced a surge in popularity following the Gulf War, Bush was not able to achieve victory in the Election of 1992. He was defeated by a Democrat, Bill Clinton.
Although he had great popularity after the Gulf War, President George H.W. Bush, pictured to the right, lost the Election of 1992 to a Democrat, Bill Clinton, pictured to the left, partially due to the poor economy that had occurred while he was President.
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