Name: **Answer questions on a separate sheet of paper**

**Mr. D’s History Book – Chapter: Conflict**

**Key Terms:** World War I, Militarism, Alliance, Imperialism, Nationalism, Stalemate, Western Front, Eastern Front, Lusitania, Zimmerman Note, Big Four, 14 point plan, Treaty of Versailles, Tariff, Federal Reserve, New Deal

**Key People:** Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Gavrilo Princip, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Allied Powers, Central Power, Kaiser Wilhelm, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt

1. Why are we concerned whether something is the *first* of something?

**World War I** (1914-1918) is considered the first global war (one could argue that the Seven Years War was the first global war because it was fought on three continents). It was a devastating war. When we study and learn from the war, we must focus on the cause, the war itself, and the flawed peace.

2. What are the causes of WWI?

The causes of the war are Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, and Nationalism (MAIN). There is not one cause for WWI. It is a combination of all of these factors. Also, remember that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand did not *cause* the war, it *started* the war.

**Cause**

**Militarism** is the belief that a nation must have a strong army and must use it aggressively. It also includes the glorification of war. This belief was common throughout Europe. Thus, it did not take much to push nations towards war.

3. Militarism or Alliances – Which is more to blame for WWI. Defend your argument.

An **Alliance** is an agreement between two nations that if one nation is attacked, then the other will come to its defense. The Triple Alliance and Triple Entente (“alliance”) were originally created as a deterrent (prevention) to war. For example, France would not attack Germany because it would have to fight both Germany and Austria-Hungary. Unfortunately, Militarism, Imperialism, and Nationalism would create the opposite effect.

4. When we studied Imperialism in Africa and Asia, di you believe it could start a world war? Explain your answer.

**Imperialism** is concept of stronger nations (mainly European nations) taking over weaker nations. The competition between European nations to conquer the most land created rivalries. This further fueled the fire leading up to WWI.

**Nationalism** is pride in your country due to similar bonds among people, and this often results in hatred of other countries. In Serbia, there was a strong nationalistic feeling among the people. The Serbs wanted their own nation and did not want to be ruled by Austria-Hungary. The desire for national independence resulted in **Gavrilo Princip** killing the **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** in Sarajevo.

5. How does Serbia remind you of colonies in Africa?

**The War**

I will not spend a lot of time explaining the actual warfare and battles. There are great videos on YouTube that explain the war the battles between the **Allies** (England, US, France, Italy, Russia) and the **Central Powers** (Germany led by **Kaiser Wilhelm**, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire); please check them out. Most nations believed this would be a quick war (this is one of the worst mistakes military generals can make). It was assumed that the **new technology** (machine guns, gas, tanks, submarines, and planes) would expedite (hurry up) the war. What happened was that both sides dug in, literally, and the war turned into a bloody **stalemate** (no one can gain an advantage). This occurred on the **Western Front** (between France and Germany) and on the **Eastern Front** (between Germany and Russia). Battles also took place in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

6. List: the Allied Powers, The Central powers, the new technology, and the geographic location of the Eastern and western front.

The war stayed at a stalemate until two things happened. One, Russia quits the war because of heavy losses and the **Russian Revolution**. Germany then is able to solely focus on the western front, but before they can conquer the capital of France (Paris), the Americans intervene. The US joined the Allied Powers because German submarines had blown up US ships on numerous occasions. The US was neutral (did not pick a side), but we were helping the Allies by selling them supplies. The ***Lusitania*** is the most famous example of American civilians being killed by a German submarine (the Lusitania was also carrying war supplies to help the British). The Germans also attempted to ally with Mexico and attack the US via a telegram known as the **Zimmerman Note**. This was the final straw, and the US joined WWI. When the US troops arrived in Europe we were fresh and well supplied. It was the beginning of the end for Germany.

**The Flawed Peace**

7. Defend Germany’s right to blow up US ships.

8. Write your own Treaty of Versailles. List 4 ideas to prevent another world war from occurring after World War I.

Germany soon realized they were doomed and called for an armistice (agreement to stop fighting). For one year, the **Big Four** (US, France, England, and Italy) met in Versailles (“Ver-Sy”), France to decide the terms of peace. US President Woodrow Wilson’s plan was called the **14 Point Plan**. He believed that his plan would prevent another world war. He believed imperialism was a major cause for WWI. He wanted to allow colonies around the world to become free (self-determination). The European nations did not agree. His plan was ignored. Italy, France, and England wanted to punish Germany, and they got what they wanted.

Germany was forced to pay reparations to the allies. German land was taken away from Germany and became new nations (this also happened to Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, *and* Russia – they quit early).

The **Treaty of Versailles** effectively ended World War I, but it did not make the world a more peaceful place. Many countries lost out (this happens when you lose a war); some winning countries (Japan, Italy) were upset because they did not gain enough new land. The League of Nations (an alliance between all countries of the world) was created to prevent future wars. If one country got out of line, the rest of the world would stop them. The problem was that the US (the most powerful nation in the world) did not join making the League of Nations weak and pointless. Ultimately, the treaty was a major failure. The blame and punishment laid down upon Germany will sew (plant) the seeds of World War II.

9. Is it possible for a treaty to make everyone happy? Explain your answer.

**The Great Depression**

Following World War I the world’s economy rebounded. Many nations were producing and selling a large amount of goods and services. Many people around the world were employed and were living a better life than anyone ever before. Then suddenly, it all collapsed.

10. Give an analogy (comparison to help explain) for the events that led to the great Depression.

There are several factors that led to the collapse of the world’s economy. For a better understanding, check out the great depression flow chart on Mr. D’s website. A quick written explanation is - the good times following World War I were too good. Everyone had a job because the world was making TOO MUCH goods. Eventually businesses could not sell their goods. Business had to start making fewer goods, so they fired workers. With more people without jobs, business began selling even less. Thus, they had to fire even more workers! This spiraled out of control.

As businesses failed and people lost their jobs, they were unable to pay back their loans. Banks soon went out of business because money was not being paid back to them. It is almost as if all of the money in the world began to disappear. Without money, the economy does not work. It’s the fuel.

11. What is vital to an economy?

Making matters worse were restrictive **tariffs** (taxes on importing/exporting goods). These tariffs prevented countries from buying and selling with each other. This shrunk the economy to an even smaller size. Some nations could no longer get the vital resources they needed to exist (food, oil, etc.).

12. How did FDR fix the US economy?

During the Great Depression every nation was affected. The US survived the Great Depression through the leadership of **President Franklin Delano Roosevelt**. FDR’s plan was the **New Deal**. The economy needed an influx (entry of as large number) of money. The US government borrowed money from its special bank, **The Federal Reserve**. The government then spent the money by hiring citizens to do jobs around the country (Build roads, bridges, schools, etc.)

Europe had a different plan. Many European nations were hit hard by the Great Depression. These nations are much smaller than America and possess fewer resources. They were not equipped to feed their people. Desperate for help Europe citizens in several nations were willing to turn to anyone for answers. In Italy, Spain, Germany, and Japan (Asia), citizens abandoned their governments and allowed fascist dictators to take control. Fascist dictators did not care about protecting individual rights, they only want to make the NATION stronger. This meant conquering new land to gain more valuable resources (food, oil, etc.).

13. What was Europe’s plan?

14. If a desperate situation would you give away your right to a dictator?

As Fascist Dictators Adolph Hitler (Germany), Benito Mussolini (Italy), The Military (Japan), and Francisco Franco (Spain) overthrew their established governments with fascist government; the rest of Europe set back and watched. When the fascist leaders began to invade and conquer new lands, Europe did nothing. Japan devastated and conquered Asia. Hitler’s NAZI Germany followed a policy of Lebensraum (“living space”). They conquered the Rhineland, and then the Sudetenland. Britain and France’s answer was the policy of **appeasement** (giving in to calm someone down - giving in to Hitler’s aggression). Hitler took Austria and Czechoslovakia and the European powers again chose appeasement. Finally in 1939 Hitler invaded Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany, but it was too late.

15. What is appeasement?

16. If you were in control of Britain, what would you have done when Hitler invade the Rhineland?

Why didn’t Britain, France, or the US do anything? Frist of all, this was during the Great Depression. Most nations had too many of their own problems to deal with. They could not afford to get involved with Hitler’s NAZI Germany. Secondly, World War I was still fresh on many peoples’ minds. No one wanted another world war. Appeasement is horrible for the countries being taken over by NAZI Germany, but it prevents the world from going to war (actually, it only delays the world from going to war). Lastly, what was occurring in NAZI Germany was not well known – notably, the Holocaust. It is a sad but true fact, that in life, we often only look out for ourselves. Do you disagree? Genocides in Rwanda, Darfur, and Bosnia have occurred in the last 20 years. Where was the rest of the world? As you read this, Russia is in the process of taking Crimea and Czechoslovakia could be next. What is the world doing to prevent this?

17. What are the Pros/Cons of appeasement?

18. How is WWII significant today?

**World War II**

19. Who were the Axis Powers?

Being a US citizen, we will analyze World War II from the US perspective. We will start with the European Theater (this is the name for the fighting that occurs in Europe). After Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, war broke out in Europe. Hitler’s Blitzkrieg (“Lightning War”) quickly conquered Europe. Unlike World War I, the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan) conquered France and most of Europe. A map of Hitler’s conquest looks eerily similar to that of Napoleon. This is not the only comparison we will make between Hitler and Napoleon. We will discuss that later.

Learning from previous mistakes in history (WWI), Hitler knew that Germany would be more effective fighting a war on only one side. Thus, Hitler signed the Nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union’s Joseph Stalin. The former enemy nations agreed to not attack each other. After France, Hitler turned its focus on the Bombing of Britain. In mainly air battles, the British prevailed and held off the advance of Germany.

20. What two plans allowed Hitler to conquer Europe quickly?

Similar to World War I, the US remained neutral during the beginning of WWII. As always, America did not want to get involved in European affairs, and did not want to die in European wars. America up until 20th century (1900s) has remained mostly an **isolationist** nation(not getting involved with other countries). Similar to World War I, America once again sided with the allied powers (UK, France, China, and Russia) and provide supplies through the **lend-lease act** (a US law that stated America would give war supplies to the Allies.

21. What did Hitler want from Russia?

22. Who did Hitler fail to learn from?

21. Explain two parts of US foreign policy early in World War II.

As Hitler’s conquest of Britain stalled, he turned his sights on Russia (Napoleon would make the same move). Hitler planned on another quick defeat similar to his attack on France (once again, NEVER plan on a quick war). Hitler saw Russia as a source for more land and oil. The Germans quickly advanced through Russia (June 1941), conquering land easily. As the German’s advanced, the Russians implemented a **Scorched-Earth Policy** (they destroyed everything of value – bridges, roads, factories, fields of crops - so the Germans could use it). Eventually, the German advance was stalled, and then winter arrived. Hitler had planned on a quick victory, but that did not happen. Hitler also refused to retreat, even when his army was running low on supplies. Slowly, but surely the Russians defeated the Germans (with the help of TWO Russian winters).The turning point of Hitler’s invasion is the NAZI’s loss at the **Battle of Stalingrad** (Almost 2 million people were killed during just this one battle – 1 million Soviet Soldiers and 800,000 Axis soldiers). This was the beginning of the end for Hitler’s NAZI Germany.

The US entered the War following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Japan and Germany were allies, so the US would fight against the Germans as well. The US first began fighting in North Africa under the leadership of **Dwight Eisenhower** and **George Patton** (November 1942). The choice to send US troops to Britain and North Africa, not the Soviet eastern front would anger Allied leader Joseph Stalin. This in part would lead to conflict and mistrust between the US and USSR during the cold war. The US and British troops advanced through North Africa and then through Italy. By 1945, all German forces were removed from Italy and Benito Mussolini was executed.

23. Why did the Axis powers fail to defeat the Russians?

24. Where did the US being fighting WWII? How did this choice cause problems?

The Allied Powers then focused on the western front and liberating France. Operation Overlord was the largest amphibious (by sea) invasion in history. The US troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944 – “D-Day.” The soldiers were met with fierce German resistance. The movie “Saving Private Ryan” horrifically depicts the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach where the human casualties were the worst. The Americans won the day, and began to push against the Germans on the western front while the Soviet Union pushed against the Germans from the eastern front.

25. How did the US liberate France?

Time was running out for the Axis Powers in Europe. The German offense attempted one last ditch effort. Hitler through everything he had at the Allies’ line, but the line did not break. This battle is known as “The Battle of Bulge” because of the bend in the Allies line. On May 8, 1945 the Germans surrendered (VE Day “Victory in Europe” – It is now celebrated as Memorial Day). Hitler had committed suicide day earlier as the Soviet troops had enter Berlin, Germany.

26. What was the Holocaust?

**Atrocities of War**

After liberating Europe, the Allied forces discovered the Nazi’s crimes against humanity. The **Holocaust** was a systematic mass extermination of Jews, Roma, Homosexuals, Slavs, political opponents, and people with disabilities. Approximately (almost) 11 million were killed. This genocide (extermination of an entire group of people) was led by Hitler. He rallied the German people together by blaming the Jews for World War I and the Great Depression.

27. Explain the steps of the Holocaust.

The first step in his plan after rising to power was to seize Jewish property. He did not stop there; on *Kristallnacht* (“night of broken glass”) the Nazis destroyed Jewish homes and businesses. As Hitler began conquering new land, he forced the Jews in those lands to live in **Ghettos**. Later the Jews would be sent to **concentration camps** to be used as slave labors, others were starved to death or executed. In 1942 the Nazis implemented (put into effect) the last stage of their horrific plan, “**The Final Solution**.” Instead of Concentration Camps for slave labor, the Nazis built death camps designed specifically for mass executions. Gas chambers were used to kill large numbers of people. Furnaces were used to cremate the bodies.

28. What was the most notorious concentration camp?

The most notorious (widely and unfavorable known) concentration camp was **Auschwitz**. As Jews entered the gates of the concentration camp, a sign hung overhead that read *“Arbeit macht frei”* (“Work makes (you) free”). Was this a sick joke? Was this a false promise to convince Jews to work?

The US is not without guilt either. During World War II the US forced Japanese Americans to live in internment camps (prisons) during the war. They were forced to quit their jobs and lost their homes and belongings. These citizens had done nothing wrong, but the US government was worried that some may be spies for the Japanese Army. This is isn’t even comparable to the holocaust or the genocide of American Indians by the US government a century before. It is an example of the US government violated American’s right to **due process** (the government must prove that you have done something wrong before it can take your rights away – this is why we have trials and courts).

War in the Pacific

29. What constitutional right was violated by forcing the Japanese into internment camps?

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was surprise attacked by the Japanese. The next day the previous neutral US joined WWII on the side of the allies. As early as 1931 the Japanese had invaded China (far earlier than Hitler’s aggression). When Japan invaded French-Indochina (then French colony, now Vietnam) in 1940, The US implemented an embargo on Japan (stopped exports from entering Japan). The embargo cut off oil supplies to Japan that were needed for its conquest of Asia. Japan retaliated by attacking Pearl Harbor. It hoped that the surprise attack would scare the US away from getting involved in WWII. It had the opposite effect. The next day, anti-war Americans were signing up in droves.

31. Why did the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor?

30. During war, should the government take away the rights of the people to help win the war? Defend your answer.

The Pacific belonged to Japan. By the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese had conquered Asia and just about every Pacific island. US forces led by **General Douglas MacArthur** were defeated when attempting to defend the Philippines (former US colony). When MacArthur was retreated, he pledged, “I shall return.” The prisoners of war left behind in were forced by Japanese on the **Bataan Death March** across 80 miles in the Philippines. Approximately 10,000 allied soldiers died on the March.

The US began to turn things around with Doolittle’s raid. Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle led several air raids on Tokyo that were similar to the Japanese strike on Pearl Harbor. The allies then scored wins at the **Battle of the Coral Sea** off the coast of Australia and a major naval win at the **Battle of Midway** (midway between Japan and Hawaii). Midway marks a major turning point in the Pacific. The allies would go from being on the defensive to the offensive with its **island hopping** plan (winning one island back at time from the Japanese).

33. What was the military strategy in the Pacific?

32. What was the turning point in the Pacific?

In August of 1942, the US clashed with the Japanese at **Guadalcanal** (referred to as “The Island of Death”). This was the first time the Japanese had lost a land battle during WWII. As the war turned in the Americans’ favor, the Japanese began to employ a new military tactic: Kamikazes (suicide plane attacks).

After retaking the Philippines the US moved on to **Iwo Jima** (in Japanese this translates to “Sulfur Island”). The island is a worthless rock in terms of natural resources, but its geographic location was vital. From Iwo Jima, the US could establish a base and easily bomb Japan. The Japanese knew the geographic value, and 20,700 Japanese troops fiercely defended this otherwise meaningless rock in the ocean. 6,000 marines died during the fierce battling that occurred on this island (watch “flags of our fathers” for a depiction of the events of Iwo Jima. Also, check out the song, “Ira Hayes” by Johnny Cash that tells the tragic story of a Native-American Marine that fought at Iwo Jima.)

34. Describe the fighting in the Pacific?

The allies faced a similar challenge to Iwo Jima when they attacked **Okinawa**. This time the Japanese were even more aggressive. There were more kamikazes. The allies prevailed, but they were concerned. How difficult would it be to conquer the main island of Japan?

The Americans would never have to answer the question. The invasion of the Japanese homeland would not occur. Instead the US dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. American physicists **J. Robert Oppenheimer** led the **Manhattan Project** (a top secret science project that created the **atomic bomb**) in New Mexico.

President **Harry Truman** was given a difficult task: Decide whether to drop a bomb and kill hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians or risk thousands of American soldiers by invading Japan. He chose to use the atomic bomb. Another angle to analyze is that as the war was ending, tension between the US and the USSR was heating up. Was the use of the atomic bomb a message to the USSR?

35. Who invented the Atom Bomb?

Many scientists, soldiers, historians, and just about everyone else debate the use of the Atomic Bomb. General Eisenhower believed that it was unnecessary. Many believed that the US should have shown a test demonstration of bomb to the Japanese to scare them. Still, others argue that the bomb saved thousands of American lives. Also, lots of money was spent on developing the bomb. To not use the bomb would be a giant waste or money, time, and valuable resources.

On August 6, 1945, a bomber plane named the *Enola Gay* dropped an atomic bomb code named *little boy* on **Hiroshima**. Three days later an atomic bomb code-named *fat man*, was dropped on **Nagasaki**. 200,000 Japanese were killed. Emperor Hirohito was devastated by the horrific loss of life and surrendered. The most devastating war in the history of mankind had come to an end.

36. Should we have bombed Japan? Defend your answers with FACTS.

**The Cold War**

After World War II, two super powers emerged: The USA and the USSR (Soviet Union). Although these nations were allies during World War II, they became bitter rivals following the war. There are numerous reasons why the two nations could not get along. The US was slow to enter the war in Europe, and when they did they helped Britain first (not USSR). The US offered loans to Britain after the war. The US did not let the USSR know that they had the atomic bomb.

37. What two nations were conflicted during the Cold War?

The biggest difference was their **ideologies** (beliefs). The US believes in **democracy** (government run by the people. The USSR believed in a **totalitarian government** (the government tells the people what to do). The USA believed in **capitalism** (the economy is run by the people, some people will be rich and some will be poor). The USSR believed in **communism** (the government runs the economy, so all wealth is share). As if these divergent (different) views were not enough to create tension, both countries wanted to spread their ideologies across the world.

38. What were the main differences between the two nations?

Before we go through the list of disagreements between US and USSR between 1947 and 1991, let’s get some facts straight. The US and UN did agree to join the **United Nations** (basically the League of Nations part 2, but with power). The United Nations may job is to prevent conflicts (like another world war). Today, the UN consists of 192 nations, but most of the power belongs to the **Big 5**: The US, USSR, Britain, France, and China.

39. Who polices the world?

We also need to clarify (make clear) what a **cold war** is. A cold war is when there is a conflict between two nations, but they never fight each other directly. **The Cold War** is the conflict between the US and the USSR following World War II until the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s. Also, occasionally I will change between USSR and the Soviet Union; it’s the same thing. I could also say Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (the nations around Russia that were communist/socialist).

40. What was containment?

The US saw the spread of communism and totalitarian governments as a threat to democracy, the safety of the world, and individual rights. The **Truman Doctrine** made containment the focus of foreign policy (plan of how to deal with other nations). **Containment** is the idea that America must do everything possible to prevent communism and totalitarian governments from spreading throughout the war.

41. Do you support containment? Explain.

Let’s get to the disagreements. The US wants to rebuild Europe (Germany included). This is called the **Marshall Plan**. The Soviets disagree; they were attacked by the Germans in WWI and WWII. They do not need a World War III. Economically, rebuilding Europe makes a lot of since for capitalistic America. A lot of money can be made rebuilding Europe. Also, if Europe is lifted out of devastation and Europeans lives are better than will not go to war with each other. Finally, it’s just the right thing to do – help those in need.

Helping Europe turns into a problem between the US and USSR. After the war Germany was split up into 4 parts between the US, France, England, and the USSR. However, it was really just two parts; West Germany (democratic capitalists –US, England, and France) and East Germany (Totalitarian Communists – USSR). That shouldn’t be a problem if everyone just stays on their side, but come on it’s social studies – nothing is ever that easy.

Inside of East Germany (USSR controlled) is the capital of Germany: Berlin. The US wanted part of the capital so it was divided as well. In the middle of East Germany sat West Berlin (US controlled) and East Berlin (USSR). To get to West Berlin, the US had to go through East Germany (USSR Territory), and the Soviets weren’t having it.

42. Explain the Berlin Airlift.

In order for the US (and allies) to get aid to West Berlin, the US had to fly over and drop it. The **Berlin Airlift** was successful, and eventually the USSR lifted its blockade (blocking goods from being shipped).

After the end of the Berlin Airlift in 1949, nine western European Nations and the US created **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). This was basically a mini UN created to protect each other from the USSR. In turn, the USSR and Eastern European nations created their own alliance (**Warsaw Pact**) against the NATO.

In China (1949), **Mao Zedong** led the communist party in overthrowing the **Nationalist Party** (supported by the US). Many Americans were afraid that communism would soon spread to other parts of Asia. One major concern was Korea. After WWII, Korea was divided along the 38th parallel (latitude). The northern half belonged to the USSR, and the southern half belonged to the US. Americans feared that North Korea might invade South Korea. There fears became a reality in June of 1950.

At first the North Koreans nearly conquered all of Korea. When the US and the United Nations arived they were able to push the North Koreans back to the Chinese border. In response, the chinese sent in their soldiers and the line of division was back to where it began (38th parallel). US General Douglas MacArthar wanted to use air strikes and possibly an atomic bomb. He publically ciriticized President Trumans refusal to escalate (increase) the war. Ruman fired MacArthur. To this day, the 38th parallell still divides North Korea and South Korea. North Korea is a major concern and nuclear threat to the United States.

43. Who won the Korea War? Defend your answer.

**Cold War at Home**

America was worried about the spread of communism to Asia and to *America.* During the Bolshevik Revolution (Russian revolution of 1917), Russia’s government was overthrown, and a communist economy was established. In America, the first Red Scare occurred at this time. This was the fear that Americans would overthrow the US government and establish a communist economy. The second Red Scare occurred during the 1950s as parts of Asia and Europe began to turn to communism.

The US Congress attempted to prevent a communist revolution by establishing the **House Un-American Activities Committee** (HUAC). Their job was to investigate the Hollywood movie industry. Supposedly, Hollywood films and the filmmakers were secretly planning to brainwash Americans into becoming communists. People suspected of being communists or communists sympathizers (a person who agrees with or supports) were **blacklisted** (denied work). Does that sound American to you? We love to say “that’s not fair,” is that fair?

During this time, the secret plans to the Atomic bomb were stolen by a spy and given to the Soviet Union. **Julius and Ethel Rosenberg** denied that they were spies, but they were found guilty and executed in 1953. The threat was real, but the Red Scare was exaggerated. Innocent people were being accused of being spies, or were being condemned for attending one communist meeting. It was a witch hunt.

Senator Joseph McCarty intensified the Red Scare. He claimed that he had the names of 57 government workers that were communists (he did not). If anyone criticized him, he would attack that person and claim that they must be communist sympathizer. Eventually, McCarthy’s bullying tactics caught up to him. TV Journalist Edward R. Murrow and the CBS News caught McCarthy in a lie, and McCarthy’s political career came to an end. This is a perfect example of regular citizens standing up to injustice and preserving (saving) democracy.

44. What was the Red Scare? What are your thought on the Red Scare?

In the 1950s, the US developed a Hydrogen Bomb (more powerful than the Atom Bomb). I hope you are asking yourself why? As we read earlier, the USSR also had an atomic bomb. Soon a competition began; a proliferation (build up) of weapons among the US and USSR. The **Arms Race** was the belief that if one nation had more weapons than the other, they would win The Cold War. During this time, every American was afraid that each day was their last. An atomic bomb could drop at any moment killing them. Many Americans built their own fallout shelters (underground building that would survive an atomic bomb blast) in their backyards.

45. What does nuclear proliferation mean?

**Cold War Showdowns**

**Fidel Castro** led a revolution to overthrow the unpopular Cuban dictator (1959). Some Americans celebrated his action, but when he allied with the communist Soviet Union and become a dictator himself, he became public enemy number one. In 1961, US President John Kennedy approved of an invasion of Cuba by Cuba exiles (Cuban’s kicked out or that fled Cuba during the revolution). It was a disaster and an embarrassment to JFK. One year later, US spy plans discovered that the Soviets were installing nuclear bombs in Cuba.

46. Why are Cuba and the US enemies?

US wanted to resolve this conflict as peacefully as possible. One false move and nuclear bombs could launch from Cuba and destroy major America cities in minutes. The **Cuban Missile Crisis** may have been the closest the world has come to ending. The whole US sat on the edge of their seat glued to their TVs worried that a nuclear war could start at any moment.

47. Why are Cuba and the US enemies?

President JFK set up a naval blockade outside of the Cuba. Soviet ships sailed straight for the blockade, but at the last minute they turned around. This was a small, but important victory for the US. Secretary of State (in charge of foreign matters) Dean Rusk remarked: "We're eyeball to eyeball, and I think the other fellow just blinked." After talks between JFK and Soviet leader Khrushchev, the nukes were removed from Cuba. Secretly the US agreed to remove our nukes from Turkey (a nation close to USSR), but this was not announced to the public at the time. The US and JFK prevented a nuclear war, and also appeared to have gotten the upper hand on the USSR.

48. Explain the conclusion of the Cuban missile crises.

**Vietnam**

I am going to spend a lot of time on the Vietnam War. It’s a BIG DEAL. It’s tragic. It’s a war. Conflicts are always fun to argue about. Most importantly, it’s one of my favorite topics in history, and this is my book.

49. Why do we enjoy discussing conflicts (think of your own life)?

From the US perspective, the Vietnam War stretches across 2 decades from the mid-50s to the mid-70s. To the Vietnamese, they have been fighting for freedom for centuries. Vietnam constantly fought with China to maintain independence. During the late 19th century into the 20th century (late 1800s -1900s), the Vietnamese fought colonization by the French. During WWII, the Vietnamese fought against the Japanese. When the Japanese were defeated, the French returned. Ask yourself, does this really seem like a mess the US should get into? Guess what – the information that I just gave you, our government ignored that.

50. Which is the longest War – Korea, Vietnam, WWI, WWII?

The story of the Vietnamese fighting for independence should remind you of a familiar country. When the Japanese were defeated in WWII, Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam military leader) announced Vietnam’s independence by quoting the Declaration of Independence. The thing is they weren’t free. They were France’s colony.

The US doesn’t normally get involved in defending other nation’s colonies. Normally, the US looks down upon colonies. The US knows what it is like to be a mistreated colony. The problem is that thing called communism. Ho Chi Minh was a communist, and they did not want communism to spread. The Americans believe that if Vietnam turned to communism, then nearby countries would also turn to communist economies. This is called the **Domino Theory**.

51. Explain the Domino Theory.

We can now look back through the lens of time and better understand the situation. The US mistakenly approached the Vietnam War as an effort to prevent the spread of communism. The real story was that this was a war for independence. This was a war that had been going on for centuries. It is a war that the Vietnamese would never stop fighting. The truth is that in a way, we were fighting ourselves. Vietnam was a small, underdog country that wanted independence and was willing to stand up to the strongest nation ever created (USA). Vietnam is just like the 13 colonies that defeated the British against all odds.

52. Why was the Vietnam War fought?

The **Battle of Dien Bien Phu** (1954) was one of the few major battles during the war. At this time, the US played a small role in helping the French. The Vietminh (communist Vietnamese army) defeated their French imperialist rulers. After the battle, France left Vietnam and the Vietnam was split into two side: North (communist) and South (democratic and supported by the US). The split is similar to that of Korea.

Soon the North want to liberate the entire country, not just the North. Making matters worse was **Ngo Dinh Diem** (South Vietnam leader handpicked by the US). Diem turned into a crazy dictator in south, and many southern Vietnamese began to turn on the government. The southern Vietnamese became communist guerilla warfare fighter known as the **Vietcong** (once again this should be reminding you of the American Revolution).

53. What was one the US 1st big mistakes in Vietnam?

Through the 50s and 60s the US steadily increased the amount of troops in Vietnam, but the numbers were still small. As Diem continued to abuse his power, Buddhist monks protested by setting themselves on fire in public (**self-immolation** – you can view the disturbing images on the internet). Sit-ins made a statement?!? These guys made a statement! In November of 1963, JFK was assassinated and **Lyndon Baines Johnson** took over as President. LBJ believed the US had the resources to win the war. He would escalate the Vietnam War and approximately 3 million Americans would be sent to Vietnam.

54. What is self-immolation (not a heavy metal band)?

LBJ did not have the power to declare war. In 1963, Vietnam was not a war, so the US could not send a large amount of troops. According to the **US Constitution** (the document that explains our government), the power to declare war belongs to the US Congress. LBJ needed a reason to convince the US Congress to go to war. He got that reason in the Gulf Tonkin.

US ships exchanged fire with two North Vietnamese boats off the North Vietnamese coast in the Gulf of Tonkin. Days later a US ship was supposedly attacked again (the evidence is unclear). Nonetheless, LBJ went to congress and asked for the power to take action. Congress granted the President this power. Thus, the increase of US troops in Vietnam began (summer 1964).

55. What happened that allowed LBJ to increase US Troops in Vietnam?

Vietnam is a tropical country. The fighting took place in jungle, not out in the open. **Rolling Thunder** was a US strategy that took advantage of US resources. Basically, we blew up the Jungle in attempt to kill the Vietcong and destroy their supply line (**Ho Chi Minh Trail**). A new bombing method used during this war was **napalm**. This jellied gas would exploded and burn nearly anything. We turned jungles into burned out planes, and literally toasted anyone underneath (sometime South Vietnamese civilians).

56. What was the baby boom?

Vietnam is not World War II. You may have heard the phrase, “this is not your father’s war.” This phrase alludes (suggests) the idea that wars are not the same. During this time period, the phrase was literal. Most Vietnam soldiers were a part of the **Baby Boom** (after World War II most soldiers returned home and started families). Their fathers fought in World War II, now the sons were fighting in Vietnam.

Technology, life, environment, basically all of the circumstances around the war are different. Thus, the fighting is different. Vietnam is a Jungle, not a battlefield. The combatants do not face off one on one. There isn’t a front or a line of division. The war is everywhere. The Vietcong use guerilla warfare (once again, a similarity to the American Revolution). The American enemy is the Vietcong, but they look the same as the US’s allies the South Vietnamese. In WWII, the enemies were German. They wore German uniforms and spoke German. In Vietnam, you did not know who the bad guy was. The enemy could be the 5 year old boy standing next to you.

57. What was the turning point in Vietnam?

**Tet Offensive** was the beginning of the end was. Tet is the Vietnamese New Year. The Vietcong and North Vietnamese launched a full scale surprise attack on this day in 1968. This was a major defeat for the US. The American public started to question if the US could win this war.

Vietnam quickly became a quagmire or a quicksand (a mess, or a complex, dangerous situation). Americans attempted **search-and-destroy missions**. US troops would patrol the jungle in search of enemy camps. Many of these bases were underground in tunnels. It was very dangerous, and many soldiers did not come back from Vietnam alive, or were deeply affected by what they had been through. As the years passed and the war drug on, many Americans became dissatisfied with the war. War protests broke out across the United States in the late 60s and early 70s. In 1970, 4 students were killed by the National Guard following a protest at Kent State University in Ohio.

59. Describe warfare in the Vietnam War?

58. What was the turning point in Vietnam?

In the 70s, **President Nixon** began a process known as **Vietnamization** (pull US troops out, hand the war over the South Vietnamese). The US had attempted to implement the same strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan. Eventually, the US troops left Vietnam, and the inevitable happen. The North Vietnamese and the Vietcong invaded South Vietnam. In 1975, Saigon (capital of South Vietnam) fell to the hands of the communists. Some were able to escaped, others were not. Communist Dictators spread throughout Southeast Asia. Genocides (systematic extermination) occurred and millions of innocent people were killed.

Many students ask the question “has America ever lost a war?” This is a hard question to answer. Winning and losing is easy to define in games and sports, but in other aspects of life it’s unclear. Americans fought heroically and many died for our country. We must always remember and honor the troops. However, we are not obligated to salute and agree with the decisions our political leaders make. Our leaders believed that we were fighting for democracy and the prevention of the spread of communist dictators. The Vietnamese were fighting for freedom and had been for centuries. We were just another nation trying to tell them what do.

I know you want, and some of you need an answer. In terms of loss of life and the amount of gains, yes we lost. In terms of America as super power, then no. Losing Vietnam did not destroy America. If anything, most of us have learned from this mistake and become a stronger nation. Unfortunately, not everyone agrees with Mr. D’s perspective. Some of our political leaders have not learned from this tragedy. Some students do not learn from history. Remember, life is cyclical, not linear – everything that has happened, will happen again.

60. Did the US win Vietnam? Explain.

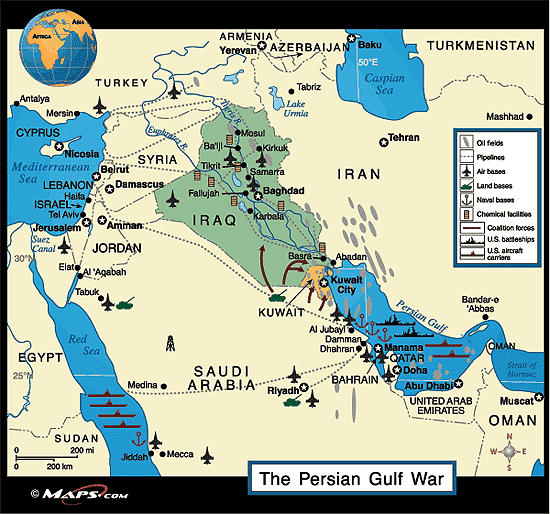
**Détente**

It was clear that most of the world’s problems were being cause by the rift (split) between the US and the USSR. President Nixon and his expert advisor **Henry Kissinger** came up with a solution, **détente** (the easing of hostile relations between nations). Instead of going to wars, setting up blockades, or threatening nuclear war; the US and communist nations would talk through their problems. Another guiding concept for President Nixon was the concept of **realpolitik** (government should do what is possible and practical, not attempt to fulfill fantasies or the ideals of a perfect world).

61. Does Barack Obama believe in Realpolitik? Explain.

The Cold War ended when the Soviet Union collapsed. The fall of a super power in not new, the end was the way most nations and all things end. Not with a bang, but with a whimper. In the 1980s, The Soviet Union fought a costly war in **Afghanistan** (sound familiar to another county). The war plus excessive spending on weapons during the arms race diverted (took away) money from the Soviet economy. As the economies of the soviet republics fell apart, the people of each nation revolted. As quickly as Iron Curtain dropped after World War II, it was lifted and the world was now a different place.

62. How did the cold war end?

**Persian Gulf War**

Iraq’s dictator, **Saddam Hussein**, invaded oil-rich Kuwait in 1990. When told to withdraw (remove) his troops, Hussein refused. President **George H.W. Bush** and coalition (alliance) of other nations launched **Operation Desert Storm**. The US unleashed its new military technology. After six-weeks of bombing, ground forces easily entered Kuwait and Iraq quit. The victory was nearly flawless (perfect). Only 223 soldiers died for the US’s coalition force, while 22,300 Iraqi soldiers and civilians were killed. Kuwait remained free, but so did Saddam Hussein.

**Last Man Standing**

Winning the Cold War is not all roses. Now, America is the only superpower. When you’re on top, there is a target on your back, and the world’s safety is your responsibility. Following Vietnam, the US did its best to keep peace in the Middle East, South America, and the Balkans (Portion of Eastern Europe that is northwest of the Middle East). After the fall of the Soviet Union, even more of burden to protect the world was place on the US.

During the 90s **terrorism** (use of violence by small groups or individuals to achieve political goals) became America’s new threat. The **Sons of Liberty** beat tax collectors and tossed British tea in to Boston Harbor perfecting the act of terrorism. America gained its independence. Now, our own weapon was being used against us. American terrorists killed 168 people in the **Oklahoma City Bombing** (1995).

63. Explain how terrorism is cyclical?

**Timothy McVeigh**, a gulf war veteran, detonated a rental truck full of explosives in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. McVeigh was upset by several actions by the federal government. He was caught and executed. His accomplice (assistant in crime) was arrested and sentenced to life in prison.

McVeigh’s actions pale in comparison to the **September 11th** attacks. The fundamentalist Islamic (an extreme, violent, but rare form of Islamic worship) terrorist group, al Qaeda, hijacked four commercial airliners. Two planes were intentionally crashed in to the World Trade Center towers in New York City. One plane was crashed in to the Pentagon (US Military Headquarters). The fourth plane was set to be flown in to the white house, but heroic passengers overcame the hijackers and crashed the plane in a Pennsylvania field sparing more losses of life.

**The War on Terror**

64. Why is the US fighting a war in Afghanistan?

Before the grieving process was over, America wanted justice. **Osama bin Laden** was the leader of the operation and was living in Afghanistan. The US ordered the **Taliban** (Afghanistan’s extreme Islamic government) to turn him in. They refused, and the US invaded Afghanistan. The US drove the Taliban out of power, but has had trouble rebuilding the country due to constant terrorist attacks. As of 2014, US soldiers are still in Afghanistan fighting terrorists while attempting to build a stable nation. By the end of December 2014, **President Barack Obama** has set forth plans to withdraw all US troops from Afghanistan.

Osama bin Laden was killed by US troops while hiding in Pakistan in 2011.

Often linked to the war on terror is the **War in Iraq**. We now know that they are not related, but at the start of the war, many Americans were led to believe that there was a connection. The War in Iraq is commonly misunderstood. Much of this has to do with how **President Bush** and his advisors handled the war. If we examine the facts, the only reason that America went to war was to remove Saddam Hussein (a violent dictator) from power and gain access to oil in the Middle East.

65. Why is the US fighting a war in Iraq?

Ten years ago, if you claimed that the War in Iraq was about oil, you were called un-American and attacked for your beliefs. Through the passage of time documents have come to light that reveal the truth. The evidence is quite clear: Hussein needed to be removed to ensure the steady flow of oil that was needed to build world markets.

65. What was the original reason for War in Iraq?

Originally, President Bush and his advisors led Americans to believe that Iraq had **weapons of mass destruction** (WMDs - nuclear bombs, biological weapons, or worse) and was connected to the September 11th attacks. Although many Americans protested the invasion of Iraq, the majority of Americans supported the war based on the threat of WMDs and the connection to 9/11. When Americans learned that Iraq was not connected to 9/11 and did not have WMDs, support for the war dropped (support for the troops remained high). It is unclear whether the president knew the truth and was misleading the public, or if he was being misled by his advisors.

66. Why is the US fighting a war in Iraq?

The US easily defeated the Iraqi army and government (2003). Sadden Hussein was captured and executed. Unfortunately, the war would not be this easy. Soon after the US troops arrived, Iraqi insurgents (rebels or revolutionaries) began fighting against US soldiers and the new Iraqi government. The US withdrew its troops from Iraq in 2011, but insurgents are still a problem.

67. Why do we use the word “insurgents”, and not revolutionaries?