

Student Sample 1

World War II culminated with the Allied powers of the United States, United Kingdom, France, and the USSR prevailing over Nazi Germany, Imperialist Japan, and Fascist Italy. The end of the war resulted in Europe being absolutely destroyed, with many war-torn countries turning to communism as a way to help rebuild. To contextualize, the end of World War II resulted in raising tension between the United States, and the USSR, as both countries held entirely different ideologies for rebuilding Europe. These opposite ideologies in turn led to drastic differences between the two countries, creating tension. The main causes of the Cold War during the period of 1945-1950 was the ruined economic state of Europe, the opposing social views of the USA & USSR, and the polar-opposite political systems the USA and USSR operated under.

To begin, one of the causes of the Cold War in the period from 1945-1950 was the opposing social views of the USA and USSR. Soon after World War II, the United States became extremely fearful of communism, and the potential for it to spread across the globe. This was highlighted by the trial of Alger Hiss, who was guilty of spying for the USSR and giving them secret documents. This led to the American public believing that the USSR had spies throughout the U.S. Government, even at the highest level. This can also be seen through the "Testimony of Whittaker Chambers before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, August 3, 1948." This document states that Alger Hiss was a member of "an underground organization of the United States Communist Party." The American public also experienced a heightened fear of communism during the Rosenberg trials. The Rosenbergs were accused of spying for the USSR and giving them secret documents about the Atomic bomb, which enabled the USSR to accelerate the speed of building the atomic bomb. This also led Americans to believe that they have Soviet spies throughout the United States. This heightened fear of communism helped contribute to the Cold War because the American public was constantly afraid of a Soviet takeover, which provided tension between the USA and USSR.

The ruined Economic state of Europe also contributed to the Cold War because many devastated countries saw communism as a way to speed up the reconstruction process. This led to the United States attempts to turn a country away from communism in a variety of ways. One example of this is the implementation of the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan has an economic aid program offered by the United States to all of Western Europe, the USSR and the USSR's satellites. The Marshall Plan was created to (...) and keep European countries from turning into communist spheres, which helped enforce Harry Truman's policies of containing communism. Truman uses trial to keep countries from turning communist through the creation of the Truman Doctrine. The Truman Doctrine essentially told all countries resisting communist influence that the United States would come to their aid. This can be seen when Truman requested \$400 million dollars in military and economic aid to support Greece and Turkey, who were resisting the influence of the USSR. President Harry Truman "Speech to Joint Session of Congress" shows this. The purpose of this document was for Truman to tell the government that he wanted to prevent as many nations as possible from becoming communist, and that the United States would support any country resisting communism through financial aid. The destroyed economic state of Europe helped contribute to the

Cold War because it caused many nations to turn towards communism, which created tension, as the United States wanted to prevent any country from turning into a communist state.

Political issues between the USSR and USA immensely contributed the start of the Cold War. The USSR and the USA held completely different goals after the end of World War II, which helped cause tension between the two nations. One example of this was the Yalta Conference in 1945. This conference agreed to split Berlin into four separate zones, one for each Ally, and acknowledged that the USSR would allow for free elections in any liberated country in Eastern Europe. The USSR did not come through with this agreement as it only held elections with the communist party as the elections only valid choice. The other promises made at Yalta increased tension between the USA & USSR, as it caused the USA to not trust the USSR. This can be seen through the "Task of Our Time: Unite Against the Enslavement of the People." This document's purpose is to tell the Russian people that the United States and the U.N. XXX democracy, and the Yalta Conference. Political tensions also rose from the creation of the containment policy. This policy was originally created by George Kennan, in order to prevent communism from spreading. This can be seen in the document of George Kennan describing containment. This document's purpose is to explain the viability of the containment policy, and how it would eventually lead to the destruction of the USSR. Since the USSR wanted to spread communism, containment was a way to help prevent it. This can be seen in the cartoon by David Low. The cartoon's purpose is to show how the USSR intended to control almost every country within Europe, which displays the need for the containment policy. Another example of tension being caused through political differences was Stalin's control of Poland. After World War II, Stalin wanted to ensure that Germany could never attack the USSR. This caused tension, due to the fact that Stalin did not allow Poland to freely vote. The document of "Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference" shows this. The purpose of this document is to show that Stalin wanted to control Poland in order to guarantee Russian security.

In summation, the Cold War was mainly caused by the ruined economy of Europe, the opposing social views in the USA & USSR, and the different political ideas used by both the USA and USSR. To summarize, the beginning of the Cold War led to many significant conflicts throughout the 20th century, and led to the nuclear and space race between the United States and USSR.

Student Sample 1 Scoring Guidelines

This response presents a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The last sentence of the first paragraph asserts a number of causes of the rise of the Cold War and earns the thesis point.

This response develops and supports a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradiction, corroboration, and/or qualification. In this case the response introduces multiple causes and develops each with evidence drawn from the documents and outside knowledge, demonstrating a cohesive response with many corroborative features. The complexity comes not only from providing multiple causes, but also by demonstrating an understanding of topics such as the economic status of Europe.

This response earns a point for utilizing the content of at least six of the documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument. The response uses document 7 in the second paragraph, linking a heightened domestic fear of communism in the US to the Hiss and Rosenberg trials, and the response then connects the fear clearly to the Cold War in arguing, “This heightened fear of communism helped contribute to the Cold War because the American public was constantly afraid of a Soviet takeover, which provided tension between the USA and USSR.” The response similarly develops arguments using documents 4 in the third paragraph linking economic troubles in Europe to an increasing possibility of people there turning to communism, and hence a US effort to prevent communism through the Truman Doctrine. In the fourth paragraph the response demonstrates use of documents 5, 3, 6, and 1 to support arguments that “Political issues between the USSR and USA immensely contributed to the start of the Cold War.”

This response earns a point for explaining the significance of the author’s point of view, author’s purpose, historical context, and/or audience for at least four documents. In this case the response introduces the historical context of the Rosenbergs to situate the Hiss case (document 7) into a series of events raising American fears. The response explains the significance of the Truman Doctrine and aid to Greece and Turkey in analysis of document 4, and the elections in Eastern Europe in which the USSR only allowed communist candidates as a breach of Yalta that the response connects to document 5. Lastly, the response places George Kennan’s comments in document 3 into the historical context of “containment.” Successful analysis of documents 7, 4, 5, and 3 earned the point. The response’s purpose statement about document 1 falls short; in essence the response interprets document 1 reading the source line and the document, and introduces nothing not found through a direct reading of the document.

This response earns the point for contextualization by situating the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question. The contextualization is found at the beginning of the response, in the section that begins “World War II culminated with the Allied powers of the United States, United Kingdom, France, and the USSR prevailing over Nazi Germany, Imperialist

Japan, and Fascist Italy.” This developed argument explains the ways in which WWII and the state of Europe led to opportunities for two different ideologies to clash over reconstruction.

This response provides an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument this response earns a point. This response introduces outside knowledge and uses it to present arguments about ways the post-WWII economy in Europe contributed to the Cold War. The use of history to develop arguments is strong enough to be considered an exemplar and is worth quoting at length: “The ruined Economic state of Europe also contributed to the Cold War because many devastated countries saw communism as a way to speed up the reconstruction process. This led to the United States attempts to turn a country away from communism in a variety of ways. One example of this is the implementation of the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan was an economic aid program offered by the United States to all of Western Europe, the USSR and the USSR’s satellites. The Marshall Plan was created to (...) and keep European countries from turning into communist spheres, which helped enforce Harry Truman’s policies of containing communism. Truman uses trial to keep countries from turning communist through the creation of the Truman Doctrine.”

This response does not earn the point for synthesis, since it does not extend the argument by explaining connections between the argument and a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area. (C4) or between the argument and a different course theme or approach to history (C5). In no place does the response attempt to extend the argument in one of these ways.