

APWH
The Rise and Fall of World Communism, 1917-present

Guided Reading Questions for **The Rise and Fall of World Communism, 1917-present**. Notes must be in outline form AND must restate the question or state as a topic. Do not simply answer the question, you must explain fully.

I. Opening/Introduction

1. Identify the significance of communism in the 20th century.

II. Global Communism

1. How is Russia an example of the Marxist ideas that arose during the 19th century?
2. Describe the rise of communism and how by the 1970s 1/3 of the world's population was communist. Include the specific locations and communist influence in these places.
3. Identify and explain how the various expressions of communism shared "common links."

III. Comparing Revolutions as a Path to Communism

A. Communist Revolutions and the French Revolution

1. How were the communist revolutions similar to the French Revolution? How did they differ? WHY?

B. Comparison-

1. Create a chart comparing the path to communism in Russia and China. Make sure to include historical evidence and fully explain.
2. What was the appeal of communism China before 1949?
3. After reading this section-Identify and explain the major similarities and differences between the Russian and Chinese path to communism. Account for these similarities and differences.

IV. Building Socialism in Two Countries

A. Rise of Stalin (1920s) and Mao (1950s)

1. Identify and explain the goals of these communist regimes.
2. Describe the political system that arose in these communist states and how these political systems impacted most other aspects of life under Mao and Stalin.
3. Examine the differences (political, economic,) between Russia's and China's "starting points" to implement a communist society. Why was China's conversion to communism easier than Russia's?

B. Communist Feminism

1. What changes did communist regimes bring to the lives of women?
2. Chart-Compare and contrast feminism in communist USSR to that of communist China. What are the major similarities and differences? WHY?
3. Identify and explain the limitations on communist women's liberation.

C. Socialism in the Countryside

1. Describe collectivization in China and USSR. How did collectivization differ between the USSR and China? Why did they differ? What were the major impacts of these programs? Make a chart if necessary with EVIDENCE.
2. Describe the Great Leap Forward and its impacts.

D. Communism and Industrial Development

1. How did both states view industrialization? How did both China and USSR implement this idea?
2. What were the achievements of communist efforts industrialization? What problems did these achievements generate? Why?
3. What were the major differences between industrialization and its impacts when comparing China and USSR?
4. What was the role of Mao's leadership in the industrialization of China? How is this unique to China?
5. What was the purpose of the 1960s Cultural Revolution?

E. The Search for Enemies

1. Compare and contrast the use of terror and violence in China and USSR. Account for similarities and differences.
2. Why did communist regimes generate terror and violence on such a massive scale?

V. East versus West: A Global Divide and a Cold War

A. Military Conflict and the Cold War

1. Describe the arena of the Cold War. How did this lead to the creation of military alliances? Identify the military alliances and their purpose.
2. Where and why did communism spread into Asia? Provide examples of the conflicts that ensued due to this spread.
3. Describe the Cold War in Cuba.

4. In what different ways was the Cold War expressed?

B. Nuclear Standoff and Third World Rivalry

1. Describe the role of the arms race and nuclear weapons in the Cold War. How did the superpowers avoid total destruction.

2. Describe how the US and the USSR used third world countries as pawns during the Cold War.

Provide specific examples of these proxy wars/covert operations.

3. What is nonalignment? Example of country.

C. The United States: Superpower of the West, 1945-1975

1. Describe the rise of the US as a superpower. Causes? Impacts?

2. How did the flourishing economy sustain the military effort of the US?

3. Identify and explain the cultural changes that occurred in the US during this time? Impacts?

4. In what ways did the US play a global role after WWII?

D. The Communist World, 1950s-1970s

1. Compare and contrast the communist worlds of China and the USSR. Account for similarities and differences and provide evidence.

2. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the communist world by the 1970s.

VI. Comparing Paths to the End of Communism

A. Introduction

1. What explains the rapid end of communism?

2. Identify and explain the TWO failures of the “communist experiment.”

B. China: Abandoning Communism and Maintaining the Party

1. How did Deng Xiaoping change China? Provide political, economic, and cultural examples.

2. What was the outcome of these reforms?

3. Why did the communist party keep its political monopoly in China?

4. Explain the quote, “China is now a strange and troubled hybrid.”

C. The Soviet Union: The Collapse of Communism and Country

1. How did Mikhail Gorbachev reform USSR? Provide specific policies.

2. What is *glasnost* and why was it significant?

3. How did USSR democratize?

4. What was the outcome of these policies? Why?

5. Other contributors to the fall of the USSR?

6. Describe the communist world by the year 2000. Provide examples.

**7. How did the end of communism in the USSR differ from communism’s demise in China?

VII. Reflections: To Judge or Not to Judge: The Ambiguous Legacy of Communism

A. Evaluate the communist experiment. Was it beneficial? Harmful? Should we judge?

VIII. Second Thoughts- Make sure you can define and explain the significance of the terms listed at the end of the chapter.

IX. Big Picture Questions...