**Chapter 26, Section 1: Origins of the Cold War**

**I. A Clash of Interests** *(pages 778–779)*

**A.** After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became increasingly hostile, leading to an era of confrontation and competition that lasted from about 1946 to 1990 known as the **Cold War.**

**B.** Soviets were concerned with security and wanted to avoid future attacks from Germany. They wanted all countries between Germany and the Soviet Union to be under Soviet control. Soviets believed communism was superior to capitalism. They were suspicious of capitalist countries because they felt capitalism would lead to war and eventually destroy communism.

**C.** Americans were concerned with economic problems. Roosevelt and his advisers believed that economic growth would keep the world peaceful. American leaders promoted a democracy with protections for individual rights and free enterprise to create prosperity.

**Discussion Question**

What did many American officials believe caused World War II? *(Many American officials believed it was the Depression that had caused World War II. Countries had cut back on trade, making it necessary for a nation to go to war to get the resources it needed.)*

**II. The Yalta Conference** *(pages 779–781)*

**A.** Ameeting of Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin at **Yalta**—a Soviet resort on the Black Sea—was held to plan the postwar world. Although the conference went well, some agreements made would later become key in causing the Cold War.

**B.** At Yalta, a compromise was made with Roosevelt and Churchill agreeing to recognize the Polish Communist government set up by the Soviets. Stalin agreed that the government would include members from the old Polish government before the war. Stalin agreed that free elections would take place in Poland.

**C.** During the meeting at Yalta, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin issued the **Declaration of Liberated Europe,** giving people the right to choose their form of government.

**D.** It was decided at Yalta to divide Germany and Berlin into four zones, with Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and France each controlling a zone. It was also agreed that Germany would pay reparations for damage caused by the war. For the next several years, arguments about these reparations and economic policy in Germany would become one of the major causes of the Cold War.

**E.** Tensions rose when the Soviets did not follow agreements made at Yalta, which caused Soviet-American relations to deteriorate.

**F.** President Roosevelt died and Vice President Harry S Truman became the next President.

**Discussion Question**

How did Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin disagree about what to do with Poland? *(Roosevelt and Churchill felt that the Poles should have the freedom to choose their own government.* *Stalin felt the Polish government and the Soviets needed to be friendly for security* *reasons.)*

**III. Truman Takes Control** *(pages 781–782)*

**A.** Harry S Truman took office, making it clear he would stand firm against Stalin to keep promises he made during Yalta.

**B.** In July 1945, Truman and Stalin met at **Potsdam** near Berlin to work out a deal regarding Germany. Truman was against heavy reparations on Germany, feeling that the reparations would not allow German industry to recover. Agreements were made allowing the Soviets to take reparations from their zone in Germany and a small amount of German industrial equipment from other zones. Stalin was not pleased with Truman’s proposal. Truman then told Stalin of the successfully tested atomic bomb, leading Stalin to think it was a threat to get him to agree to the deal. Stalin agreed, but tensions rose.

**C.** Other issues at Potsdam did not end successfully. The Declaration of Liberation of Europe was not upheld, and the Soviet army’s presence led to pro-Soviet Communist governments being established in Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. These Communist countries of Eastern Europe became known as the **satellite nations.** Although they had their own governments and were not directly under direct Soviet control, they had to remain Communist and follow Soviet approved policies.

**D.** As Communists began taking over Eastern Europe, Winston Churchill’s term, the **iron curtain,** was used to describe the separation of the Communist nations of EasternEurope from the West.

**Discussion Question**

Why did Stalin have to accept Truman’s proposal at Potsdam? *(American and British troops controlled Germany’s industrial center, and Soviets would be unable to receive any reparations unless they cooperated.)*