**Chapter 26, Section 4: Eisenhower’s Policies**

**I. Eisenhower’s “New Look”** *(pages 797–799)*

**A.** The election of 1952 placed Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson against Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower, the general who organized the D-Day invasion, was a national hero. Eisenhower won by a landslide.

**B.** Eisenhower felt the way to win the Cold War was through a strong military and a strong economy. Eisenhower believed a conventional war would be too expensive and would hurt the economy. He believed the use of atomic weapons was necessary. Eisenhower felt the United States needed a “New Look” in its defense policy.

**C.** Eisenhower wanted to prevent war from happening in the first place. A policy called **massive retaliation** was used to threaten the use of nuclear weapons on any Communist state that tried to gain territory through force. This resulted in a cut in military spending and an increase in America’s nuclear arsenal.

**D.** New technology brought the B-52 bomber, which could fly across continents and drop nuclear bombs anywhere in the world. Intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarines capable of launching nuclear missiles were also created.

**E.** Americans discovered that the Soviets had developed their own nuclear missiles. On October 4, 1957, the Soviets launched ***Sputnik,*** the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth. The Americans felt they were falling behind in missile technology.

**F.** The next year, Congress created the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** (NASA) and also passed the **National Defense Education Act** (NDEA).

**Discussion Question**

Why did Eisenhower feel a strong economy would win the Cold War? *(Eisenhower felt that the United States needed to show that free enterprise would produce a more prosperous society than communism. Economic prosperity would also prevent Communists from gaining support in the United States, protecting the U.S. from subversion.)*

**II. Brinkmanship In Action** *(pages 799–801)*

**A.** President Eisenhower’s willingness to threaten nuclear war to maintain peace worried some people. Critics argued that **brinkmanship,** the willingness to go to war to force the other side to back down, was too dangerous.

**B.** The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice in 1953. This came after Eisenhower had gone to the brink and threatened to use nuclear weapons. The battle line became the border between North Korea and South Korea. Although there was no victory, it had stopped communism from spreading.

**C.** In 1954 China threatened to take over two of the islands from the Nationalists. Eisenhower threatened the use of nuclear weapons if China tried to invade Taiwan. China retreated.

**D.** Eisenhower wanted to prevent Arab nations in the Middle East from aligning with the Soviet Union. To gain support, the United States offered to help finance the construction of a dam on the Nile River for Egypt. Congress forced the United States to withdraw the offer. Egyptians took control of the Suez Canal to use its profits to pay for the dam. British and French troops responded by invading the Suez Canal. Soviets threatened rocket attacks on Britain and France. Eisenhower put American nuclear forces on alert, and through strong American pressure the British and French called off their invasion.

**Discussion Question**

Why did the United States withdraw its offer to Egypt to finance the dam on the Nile River? *(The offer was withdrawn because Egypt had purchased weapons from Communist* *Czechoslovakia.)*

**III. Fighting Communism Covertly** *(pages 801–802)*

**A.** Brinkmanship would not work in all situations, and it could not prevent Communists from revolting within countries. To prevent this, Eisenhower used **covert,** or hidden, operations conducted by the **Central Intelligence Agency** (CIA).

**B.** The CIA operations took place in **developing nations,** or those nations with mostly agricultural economies. In many of these countries, leaders felt European imperialism and American capitalism were the causes of their problems.

**C.** Two examples of covert operations that achieved American objectives took place in Iran and Guatemala in the 1950s.

**D.** Covert operations did not always work. After Stalin died, **Nikita Khrushchev** became the new leader of the Soviet Union in 1956. He delivered a secret speech to Soviet leaders, which the CIA broadcast to Eastern Europe. Eastern Europeans, frustrated by Communist rule, staged riots, and a full-scale uprising took place in Hungary. Soviet tanks entered Budapest, the capital of Hungary, and stopped the rebellion.

**Discussion Question**

Why did Eisenhower respond to the crisis in Taiwan? *(Eisenhower felt that Taiwan was a part of the “anticommunistic barrier” in Asia.)*

**IV. Continuing Tensions** *(page 802)*

**A.** Eisenhower and Soviet leader Khrushchev agreed to a **summit** in Paris in order to improve relations. Khrushchev stopped the summit after the Soviets shot down an American spy plane piloted by **Francis Gary Powers.**

**B.** In his farewell address, Eisenhower warned Americans to be on guard against the influence of a **military**-**industrial complex** in a democracy. It was a new relationship between the military establishment and the defense industry.

**Discussion Question**

What happened when the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 spy plane? *(Eisenhower first claimed it was a weather plane that had strayed off course. Khrushchev dramatically* *produced the pilot, and after Eisenhower refused to apologize, Khrushchev stopped the* *summit in Paris.)*