

Inquiry Journal

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Directions: Read each of the supporting questions. For each “K,” write what you already **KNOW** about the topic. For each “W,” write what you **WONDER** about the topic.

Topic 1: Onset of the Cold War Supporting Questions	
LESSON 1	<i>How did the Cold War become a global struggle for power, ideas, and survival in the nuclear age?</i>
	K:
	W:
LESSON 2	<i>How did power global power struggles impact political developments in China compared to Europe?</i>
	K:
	W:



Topic 1: Onset of the Cold War **Compelling Question**

In what ways did different visions for the post-World War II world lead to a new global conflict?

Directions: Read the compelling question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.



Directions: Read each of the supporting questions. For each “K,” write what you already **KNOW** about the topic. For each “W,” write what you **WONDER** about the topic.

Topic 2: Decolonization and Nationalism Supporting Questions	
LESSON 3	<i>How did religious and political tensions shape the outcome of India's independence movement?</i>
	K:
	W:
LESSON 4	<i>In what ways did Pan-Africanism influence independence strategies across different African nations?</i>
	K:
	W:
LESSON 5	<i>What arguments did postcolonial leaders use to support their nationalist visions for the future of their countries?</i>
	K:
	W:



Topic 2: Decolonization & Nationalism

Compelling Question

How did people in formerly colonized regions fight to reclaim control over their futures?

Directions: Read the compelling question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.



Directions: Read each of the supporting questions. For each “K,” write what you already **KNOW** about the topic. For each “W,” write what you **WONDER** about the topic.

Topic 3: Global Revolutions Supporting Questions	
LESSON 6	<i>In what ways did revolutionary movements respond to both local and global pressures?</i>
	K:
	W:
LESSON 7	<i>What makes a revolution historically significant?</i>
	K:
	W:



Topic 3: Global Revolutions

Compelling Question

How did revolutions during the Cold War reflect and reshape both global conflict and local life?

Directions: Read the compelling question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.



Directions: Read each of the supporting questions. For each “K,” write what you already **KNOW** about the topic. For each “W,” write what you **WONDER** about the topic.

Topic 4: Confrontations & Proxy Wars Supporting Questions	
LESSON 8	<i>How did the Korean War reflect Cold War rivalries?</i>
	K:
	W:
LESSON 9	<i>In what ways did Cuba become a site of Cold War conflict?</i>
	K:
	W:
LESSON 10	<i>How did foreign powers shape the outcome of the Vietnam War?</i>
	K:
	W:
LESSON 11	<i>Why was Afghanistan a key site of Cold War rivalry?</i>
	K:
	W:



Topic 4: Confrontations & Proxy Wars

Compelling Question

To what extent were Cold War conflicts expressions of internal resistance rather than external manipulation?

Directions: Read the compelling question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.



Essential Question

How did revolutionary and anti-colonial movements for sovereignty and justice intersect with Cold War political agendas and rivalries?

Directions: Read the essential question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.



Paragraph Template

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning

CLAIM (Your argument)	
EVIDENCE #1 (Facts, examples, sources)	
REASONING #1 (Explanation of how the evidence supports the claim)	
EVIDENCE #2 (Facts, examples, sources)	
REASONING #2 (Explanation of how the evidence supports the claim)	



Unit 9: Cold War & Global Transformations

Inquiry Journal (Exemplar)

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Directions: Read each of the supporting questions. For each “K,” write what you already **KNOW** about the topic. For each “W,” write what you **WONDER** about the topic.

Topic 1: Onset of the Cold War Supporting Questions	
LESSON 1	<i>How did the Cold War become a global struggle for power, ideas, and survival in the nuclear age?</i>
	K: The nuclear age began when the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Japan to end World War II.
	W: Why were the U.S. and USSR in conflict if they were allies in World War II?
LESSON 2	<i>How did power global power struggles impact political developments in China compared to Europe?</i>
	K: World War II caused major destruction in both Europe and Asia.
	W: Did the Chinese Civil War resume after World War II?



Topic 1: Onset of the Cold War

Compelling Question

In what ways did different visions for the post-World War II world lead to a new global conflict?

Directions: Read the compelling question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.

Different political and economic visions held by the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II led to growing tensions that sparked the Cold War—a global conflict driven by fear, ideology, and the pursuit of influence. At the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences, the Allied leaders disagreed over how to rebuild Europe, especially regarding the future of Eastern Europe. The United States promoted democracy and capitalism, offering economic aid to rebuild Western Europe through the Marshall Plan in 1947, aiming to prevent the spread of communism by stabilizing economies. In contrast, the Soviet Union wanted to expand its influence and protect its borders by installing pro-communist governments in Eastern Europe and demanding reparations from Germany. In Asia, the rise of communism in China in 1949 added to the global dimension of this ideological conflict, as Western powers viewed it as part of a broader communist expansion. George Kennan's 1947 policy of containment outlined the U.S. strategy to resist Soviet influence wherever it appeared. These opposing visions—freely elected governments and open markets vs. state-controlled economies and one-party rule—were incompatible and led both powers to view each other as a threat to global stability. The U.S. feared that poverty and instability would make countries vulnerable to communism, while the Soviet Union feared Western encirclement and ideological subversion. As each superpower attempted to spread its system globally, areas like Eastern Europe and China became battlegrounds not of direct war, but of influence, propaganda, and proxy conflicts. This competition created an atmosphere of distrust and rivalry, marking the beginning of the Cold War as a worldwide struggle.



Directions: Read each of the supporting questions. For each “K,” write what you already **KNOW** about the topic. For each “W,” write what you **WONDER** about the topic.

Topic 2: Decolonization & Nationalism Supporting Questions	
LESSON 3	<i>How did religious and political tensions shape the outcome of India's independence movement?</i>
	K: India was a British colony for a long time.
	W: Did Britain give Indian independence willingly?
LESSON 4	<i>In what ways did Pan-Africanism influence independence strategies across different African nations?</i>
	K: African nations had been colonized by many different European nations during the “Scramble for Africa.”
	W: Were African groups able to unify across regions to oppose Europeans?
LESSON 5	<i>What arguments did postcolonial leaders use to support their nationalist visions for the future of their countries?</i>
	K: Nationalism is pride in one's country.
	W: How did the Cold War tensions impact these visions?



Topic 2: Decolonization & Nationalism

Compelling Question

How did people in formerly colonized regions fight to reclaim control over their futures?

Directions: Read the compelling question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.

People in formerly colonized regions reclaimed control over their futures by organizing around national identity, uniting across shared experiences of colonialism, and promoting new political visions through powerful leadership and grassroots movements. In India, leaders like Gandhi promoted nonviolence and civil disobedience. Despite tensions between various groups, the independence movement ultimately led to the end of British rule, though it also resulted in the partition of India and Pakistan. In Africa, Pan-Africanism helped unify resistance across national boundaries. Leaders like Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana used Pan-African ideas to argue for African solidarity and self-rule. Many leaders emphasized that true freedom required political independence and continental unity. In other regions, postcolonial leaders like Fidel Castro, Mao Zedong, and Ho Chi Minh used nationalism to justify dramatic changes to society. They argued that sovereignty could only be achieved by rejecting imperialism, empowering the working class or peasantry, and building new governments. These movements, though varied in strategy and ideology, reveal a common goal: to end foreign domination and build a future shaped by the people themselves. Whether through nonviolent protest, continental solidarity, or revolutionary speeches, postcolonial leaders and citizens claimed their right to define what independence, justice, and progress should look like in their own terms.



Directions: Read each of the supporting questions. For each “K,” write what you already **KNOW** about the topic. For each “W,” write what you **WONDER** about the topic.

Topic 3: Global Revolutions Supporting Questions	
LESSON 6	<i>In what ways did revolutionary movements respond to both local and global pressures?</i>
	K: Revolutions occur when people are dissatisfied with their government.
	W: Where did revolutions occur during the Cold War?
LESSON 7	<i>What makes a revolution historically significant?</i>
	K: A revolution is significant if it succeeds, like the American Revolution.
	W: Can a revolution be significant even if it fails?



Topic 3: Global Revolutions

Compelling Question

How did revolutions during the Cold War reflect and reshape both global conflict and local life?

Directions: Read the compelling question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.

Revolutions during the Cold War both reflected global ideological conflicts and reshaped local societies by transforming political systems, social structures, and foreign relations. In Cuba, the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro reflected Cold War tensions as it established a communist government aligned with the Soviet Union and directly challenged U.S. influence in Latin America. Locally, the revolution drastically changed Cuban society by nationalizing industries, redistributing land, and expanding access to education and healthcare, while also limiting freedoms and political dissent. Similarly, the 1979 Iranian Revolution reshaped the Middle East by overthrowing a Western-backed monarchy and establishing an Islamic Republic that rejected both U.S. capitalism and Soviet communism. It reflected Cold War dynamics by disrupting Western influence in the region. Locally it replaced secular leadership with religious governance, changing laws, gender norms, and civil society. These revolutions were not isolated events. They emerged from local grievances but were shaped by the global Cold War struggle between capitalism and communism. In turn, they redefined their countries' international alignments and altered the daily lives of citizens through changes in leadership, rights, and national identity. Thus, Cold War revolutions were both products and drivers of global conflict and local transformation.



Directions: Read each of the supporting questions. For each “K,” write what you already **KNOW** about the topic. For each “W,” write what you **WONDER** about the topic.

Topic 4: Proxy Wars Supporting Questions	
LESSON 8	How did the Korean War reflect Cold War rivalries?
	K: The Cold War was “fought” between the U.S. and the USSR.
	W: What caused the Korean War?
LESSON 9	In what ways did Cuba become a site of Cold War conflict?
	K: There was a revolution in Cuba to overthrow a dictator.
	W: Did the new government support communism?
LESSON 10	How did foreign powers shape the outcome of the Vietnam War?
	K: The U.S. and USSR intervened in other parts of the world to push for their ideology.
	W: Did Vietnam want the support from foreign powers?
LESSON 11	Why was Afghanistan a key site of Cold War rivalry?
	K: There was a rivalry in the Cold war between nations who supported democracy and capitalism and those that supported communism.
	W: Did the events in Afghanistan during the Cold War contribute to tensions that eventually led to 9/11?



Topic 4: Confrontations & Proxy Wars

Compelling Question

To what extent were Cold War conflicts expressions of internal resistance rather than external manipulation?

Directions: Read the compelling question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.

Cold War conflicts were often rooted in internal resistance, but they were heavily shaped by the involvement of the United States and the Soviet Union. In Vietnam, people had long resisted foreign rule, first from France and later from the South Vietnamese government, but the conflict escalated when the U.S. supported Ngo Dinh Diem and the USSR and China backed the North. Similarly, Cuba's revolution against Batista was driven by popular frustration with dictatorship and foreign influence. However, it quickly turned into a Cold War hotspot with events like the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis. In Korea, both North and South claimed to be the rightful government after Japan's occupation ended, but the war became a major proxy battle once the U.S. and Soviet Union got involved. Finally, Afghanistan's civil war began with local resistance to a communist government, but when the Soviets invaded in 1979 and the U.S. armed the mujahideen, it turned into another front of Cold War rivalry. These examples show that internal struggles for power, independence, and reform were often taken over or intensified by Cold War superpowers.



Essential Question

How did revolutionary and anti-colonial movements for sovereignty and justice intersect with Cold War political agendas and rivalries?

Directions: Read the essential question. Explain what you **LEARNED** throughout the unit with a Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) paragraph.

Revolutionary and anti-colonial movements for sovereignty and justice often became entangled with Cold War political agendas and ideological rivalries. After World War II, many nations in Africa and Asia pushed for decolonization to gain independence from European empires. They sought self-rule, economic justice, and social reform. However, these movements unfolded at the same time the United States and the Soviet Union were competing to spread their ideologies—capitalism and communism—around the globe. In Vietnam, for example, Ho Chi Minh's fight for independence from French colonial rule became a Cold War battleground. The U.S. intervened to prevent a communist victory, turning the conflict into a proxy war. In Africa, countries like Ghana gained independence peacefully, while others like Algeria experienced violent struggles. As these new nations formed, Cold War powers tried to influence their political direction. In Cuba, Fidel Castro's revolution began as a local effort to overthrow a corrupt dictatorship but quickly aligned with the Soviet Union, escalating tensions with the U.S. In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge came to power claiming to represent a communist revolution, but their regime resulted in genocide and was influenced by Cold War alignments with China. In Nicaragua, the leftist Sandinista revolution against U.S.-backed dictatorship led to civil war and U.S. support for the opposing Contras. These examples show that while many movements were rooted in local demands for sovereignty and justice, Cold War ideological divisions often shaped their outcomes. Revolutionary efforts were no longer just about independence—they became sites where global superpowers projected their visions of how the world should work.

