Cold War and Asia

China

Europe was not the only part of the world in which the Cold War was fought. China had been involved in a Civil War since 1927 but with the Japanese invasion of China, the Communists under Mao Zedong and the western supported Nationalists under Chiang Kai-Shek cooperated together to defeat the Japanese. After the ending of World War II, the Civil War again erupted.

1. What did the Communists and Nationalists do during World War II?
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2. After War II what happened? __________________________________
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Between 1946 and 1949 the U.S. supported Chiang with about $3 in aid. Unfortunately Chiang’s government was extremely corrupt and he isolated the people with poor policies such as a grain tax during a famine. In May 1949, the defeated Nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan (Nationalist China), while the Communists set up the People’s Republic of China. The United States refused to accept the Communists as the true government and allowed Chiang’s Taiwanese government to keep its position as China in the United Nations.

3. Why were the Nationalists defeated? ___________________________  ____________________________________________________________
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4. How did the U.S. respond? ___________________________________
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KOREA

In August 1945, Japanese troops north of the 38th parallel in Korea surrendered to the Soviet Union where those to the south surrendered to the Americans. Like Germany, two nations developed, one Communist and one Democratic. By June 1949, only 500 U.S. troops remained in South Korea and the Soviets began to supply the north with weapons. On June 25, 1950, the North invaded the south to start the Korean War.

5. How was Korea similar to Germany?
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The South asked for help from the U.N. The Security Council, minus the Soviet Union who were boycotting due to Nationalist China being present instead of the Communist Nation, voted to go to Korea.

6. Why was the Soviet Union absent from the Security Council? ________________________________

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The south had almost been defeated, but General Douglas MacArthur landed deep behind enemy lines with U.N. troops to push the North Koreans to the Yalu River (the border with China). China, fearing the American fleet and its troops so close to the border invaded and pushed the U.N. troops back to Seoul, the South Korean capital. MacArthur asked Truman to expand the war to China and use Atomic weapons, to which Truman refused. After attempting to go over Truman’s head, MacArthur was replaced and after some time the public agreed with the decision. In July 1953 after a continued stalemate, a cease-fire was signed.

7. Why did China get involved? ___________________________________________________

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Iran

The Far East was not the only area where there was fighting. In 1951 Iran’s Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh nationalized the oil industry, mostly owned by Great Britain. The British protested and stopped buying oil which greatly weakened the Iranians economy. The U.S. feared Mossadegh would turn to the Soviet Union for help. The CIA gave millions of dollars and support to the pro-American Shah and his supporters who took over the government.

8. How did Mossadegh upset the British? ________________________________

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9. Why did the CIA decide to overthrow Mossadegh? ________________________________

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Eisenhower Doctrine

In 1955 the U.S. and Great Britain offered loans to Egypt to build a dam on the Nile River. Gamal Abdel-Nasser, the Egyptian head of government tried to get more aid by also making deals with the Soviets which caused the U.S. to cut off its aid. An angered Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, causing the British, French, and Israel to invade. The United Nations ended the fighting. The Soviets support of Egypt allowed their prestige in the Middle East to rise. In 1957, President Eisenhower, fearful of the Soviets, issued his Eisenhower Doctrine which stated that the U.S. would defend the Middle East from any Soviet Invasion.
10. Why did Soviet prestige rise in the Middle East?

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11. What is the Eisenhower Doctrine?

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