

Standard 5-6: The student will demonstrate an understanding of developments in the United States since the fall of the Soviet Union and its satellite states in 1992.

5-6.6 Compare the position of the United States on the world stage following World War I, World War II, and the collapse of the communist states. (P, H)

Taxonomy Level: B2 Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge: The comparison of the United States' position on the world stage following World War I, World War II, and the collapse of the communist states is new for 5th grade students. However, an analysis of the outcome of each of these should have been addressed previously in 5th grade.

In 7th grade, students will explain the outcome and effects of World War I, including the conditions and failures of the League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles and the effects of major treaties on population movement, the international economy, and shifts in borders (7-5.2). They will explain the worldwide depression that took place in the 1930s, including the economic crash of 1929 and political responses to the depression such as the New Deal in the United States, the rise of Nazism in Germany, and the economic retrenchment in Britain (7-5.3). Students will also summarize aspects of the rise of totalitarian governments in Germany, Italy, Japan, and the Soviet Union, including Fascist aggression and the responses of major powers and the rise of Joseph Stalin (7-5.4). Students will demonstrate an understanding of international developments in the post–World War II world, including the impact of the Cold War on the world (7-7).

In Global Studies, students will summarize the worldwide changes that took place following World War

I, including the significance of the Russian Revolution; the rise of nationalist movements in India, Africa, and Southeast Asia; the revolutions and political change in China; and the creation of new states in Europe (GS-5.2). Students will summarize the ideologies and global effects of Communism and democracy, including the effects of totalitarianism and Communism in China and the effects of Communism in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union (GS-6.1). They will summarize the worldwide effects of the Cold War, including the competition for power between the United States and the Soviet Union, the changing relationships between the Soviet Union and China, the response by popular culture, and the collapse of the communist states. (GS-6.2) They will also summarize the impact of economic and political interdependence on the world, including efforts to control population growth, economic imbalance and social inequality and efforts to address them, the significance of the world economy for different nations, and the influence of terrorist movements on politics in various countries. (GS 6.4)

In United States History, students will outline the causes and course of World War I, focusing on the involvement of the United States, including the effects of nationalism, ethnic and ideological conflicts, and Woodrow Wilson's leadership in the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations. (USHC-6.4) Students will also summarize the origins and course of the Cold War, including the containment policy; the conflicts in Korea, Africa, and the Middle East; the Berlin Airlift and the Berlin Wall; the Bay of Pigs and Cuban missile crisis; the nuclear arms race; the effects of the "Red Scare" and McCarthyism; and the role of military alliances. (USHC-9.2) They will summarize the key events and effects of the Vietnam War, including the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and the Tet offensive; the protests and opposition to the war; and the policies of presidents John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon. (USHC-9.3) Students will summarize key events in United States foreign policy from the end of the Reagan administration to the present, including changes to Middle East policy, the impact of United States involvement in the Persian Gulf, and the rise of global terrorism (USHC-10.1).

It is essential for students to know:

The position of the United States on the world stage has changed over the course of the twentieth century and into the 21st century. The power and influence of the United States in international affairs has continued to grow from the conclusion of **World War I** to the fall of the Soviet Union and the present. However, the role of the United States is being called into question today.

Following the success of the Allied powers in **World War I**, the United States became a major voice at the peace talks, however the United States retreated into isolationism in the post-war period. Woodrow Wilson helped to forge the nation-states of eastern Europe and championed the establishment of an international peace organization, the League of Nations, through his influential role at the negotiation of the Treaty of Versailles. However, the United States Congress refused to ratify the treaty. During the 1920s, the United States took a role in world affairs, but did not join the League of Nations. In the 1930s, Congress passed the Neutrality Acts limiting America's role in the world in an attempt to avoid involvement in any future wars. However, this became impossible when the Japanese attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor.

In the years following **World War II**, the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union required that the United States take an increasingly more active role in world affairs in order to contain communism. In order to carry out this policy of containment, the United States assisted in the rebuilding of Europe through the Marshall Plan and its defense through the North American Treaty Organization (NATO). The U.S. provided military protection and supported the economic development of its World War II enemies, Germany and Japan, in order to contain the USSR. The United States fought wars in Asia to prevent the spread of communism as part of the policy of containment. The Korean War resulted in a stalemate, while the Vietnam War ended in the communist takeover of that nation. In Latin America, the United States attempted to contain the spread of communism by isolating Cuba and supporting dictators who were pro-American. In the Middle East, the United States guaranteed the right of Israel to exist and warned the Soviet Union not to become involved [Eisenhower Doctrine] in disputes in the region. Both the United States and the Soviet Union developed nuclear weapons and space technology in order to protect themselves from each other and became the world's military "superpowers."

With the **collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s**, the United States was left as the sole economic, diplomatic, and military superpower. However, today the United States' economic position is being called into question by changes due to globalization of trade. Diplomatically, other countries are questioning the United States' unilateral decisions that have global implications such as the war in the Middle East, energy policy and global warming. The military resources of the United States are being stretched to their capacity as a result of the continuing commitments of the Cold War and commitments of the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It is not essential for students to know:

Students do not need to be able to recall all of the personalities, locations, and events of World War I, World War II, and the collapse of the Soviet Union, except those that are listed in previous indicators in 5th grade.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessments require that students **compare** the position of the United States on the world stage following World War I, World War II, and the collapse of the communist states. Students should be able to **explain** the positions of the United States following World War I, World War II and in the period after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Appropriate assessments also require students to **infer** causes of possible changes to the United States' position on the world stage following each period.