**STANDARD WHII.13a) explaining key events of the Cold War, including the competition between the American and Soviet economic and political systems and the causes of the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe; b) assessing the impact of nuclear weaponry on patterns of conflict and cooperation since 1945.**

Competition between the United States and the U.S.S.R. laid the foundation for the Cold War.

The Cold War influenced the policies of the United States and the U.S.S.R. towards other nations and conflicts around the world.

The presence of nuclear weapons has influenced patterns of conflict and cooperation since 1945.

Communism failed as an economic system in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Beginning of the Cold War (1945–1948)

• The Yalta Conference and the Soviet control of Eastern Europe

• Rivalry between the United States and the U.S.S.R.

• Democracy and the free enterprise system vs. dictatorship and communism

• President Truman and the Policy of Containment

• Eastern Europe: Soviet satellite nations, the Iron Curtain

Characteristics of the Cold War (1948–1989)

• North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) vs. Warsaw Pact

• Korean War

• Vietnam War

• Berlin and significance of Berlin Wall

• Cuban Missile Crisis

• Nuclear weapons and the theory of deterrence

Collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

• Soviet economic collapse

• Nationalism in Warsaw Pact countries

• Tearing down of Berlin Wall

• Breakup of the Soviet Union

• Expansion of NATO