

Question #5
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Analyze the influence of two of the following on American-Soviet relations in the decade following the Second World War:

Yalta Conference

Communist Revolution in China

Korean War

McCarthyism

Thesis

Although America and the Soviet Union were allies during World War II, by the end of the war they became suspicious of each other's actions and began to distrust one another. There was little hope that America and the Soviet Union would reach cordial understandings about the shape of the postwar world. The Yalta Conference and the Korean War both resulted negatively for American-Soviet relations in the decade following the war.

The Korean War

- * In this war, the soviets were for the north which was communist.
- * America was for the south, which wanted a democracy.
- * Both sides fought hard to make sure that either democracy or communism wasn't shown weak by the other.



The Korean War

- * Eventually war broke out between this North/South boundary. Koreans invaded the U.S. boundary, which the Americans assumed happened with support from the Soviets and Chinese. This obviously caused distraction and even more tension and distrust between the two nations.
- * The Korean War was fought to an eventual withdrawal by United Nations forces, which were mainly American troops.

The Yalta Conference

- * The conference took place in February 1945 in Yalta, a former tsarist resort on the shores of the Black Sea.
- * Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt (the big three) reached agreements to smash the German lines and defeat them once and for all. It was decided that Germany would be divided into four zones- France, Britain, U.S., and the Soviet Union. Stalin agreed that Poland should have a representative government based on free elections, which was a pledge he soon broke. Bulgaria and Romania were promised the same, but that also didn't follow through. After that, the big three announced plans for the new United Nations organization.



The Yalta Conference

- * Tensions rose after the Soviets disregarded agreements made at the conference and cut off the railroads to Berlin, which would have allowed communism to take over most of Europe and Germany.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the relationship between America and the Soviets was destroyed after their close alliance during World War II beginning with the Yalta Conference. The Korean War further worsened relations between the two nations later in the decade following WWII. Both of these events led to the beginning of poor relations between the U.S. and Soviets that would eventually develop into a time referred to as the Cold War.