

## **GLOSSARY AND CREDITS**

Whatever happened to peace and quiet? That is a question the entire world was asking during this era. In just twenty years, the world had to deal with:

- the Great Depression;
- World War II;
- the Holocaust;
- nuclear bombs;
- the Cold War; and
- the Korean War.

This unit covers the war years from 1937–1953. It was a time of almost constant international conflict that saw the lives of millions altered forever. The era witnessed how sick and demented leaders could be in their treatment of others. It was an era that ushered in an age of rockets and nuclear weapons. Ultimately, sound minds prevailed, and the world returned to relative peace. The quiet was short-lived as conflict broke out on the Korean peninsula. This war ended with nothing gained on either side.

### **Chapter 1 - Another World War**

World war came once again on two major fronts; Europe and Asia. Germany and Japan attempted to create empires, and in the process, killed millions of innocent people. The United States tried to remain neutral during the early years, but was forced into it by the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor. Nations around the globe fought together to defeat these two powers. The war in Europe ended with the Soviet Union taking Berlin and Hitler killing himself. The war in the Pacific ended with two nuclear bombs dropped on cities in Japan. After the conflict, two superpowers emerged, signaling the beginning of a different kind of war.

### **Chapter 2 - The Truman Years**

Harry Truman became president during the waning months of World War II and had to make the tough decision of using atomic bombs to end it. Afterward, he was forced to deal with increasingly aggressive Communism. His Truman Doctrine outlined America's response to this conflicting ideology. The goal was to stop and contain the spread of

Communism around the world. At the same time, America began to help its citizens and the world rebuild after World War II. Even as peace was prevailing, another threat loomed on the horizon.

## **Chapter 3 - In the Grips of Cold War**

The emergence of the Soviet Union as a superpower complicated international matters considerably. The Communist ideology was spreading across the globe, alarming Western nations. The People's Republic of China removed the Nationalist Party and established a Communist regime in Asia. When the Korean War broke out, China assisted Communist North Korea, helping it win a stalemate against U.N. forces. Communism was also spreading across Southeast Asia and Latin America, signaling the need for additional confrontations in the future by Western nations, including the United States.

## **VOCABULARY**

accentuate	to highlight or stress particular details
adage	a traditional saying, motto, or proverb
appeasement	the act of making concessions or pacifying a bullying nation
armistice	a temporary halt to armed conflict
autonomy	the state of being independent or practicing self-rule
belligerent	openly aggressive or hostile actions displaying an eagerness to fight
brazen	a harsh or bold action
chagrin	the state of being angry or disappointed
coalition	a union or alliance between a number of people or nations
codified	arrange according to a plan or system
commodity	an item a nation possesses that has value on the trading market

daunting	a difficult or intimidating situation or challenge
decisive	describes an action or event that settles a matter
demobilize	to greatly reduce or disband military personnel
demoralize	to lower the spirit or morale of people
diametric	completely opposite of something else
elicit	to cause a reaction to some kind of stimulus
embargo	refusal to trade goods with another nation
euphoria	a sense of extreme happiness or satisfaction
expedient	necessary to achieve a means to an end regardless of its ethical value
fanatic	having extreme beliefs about something to the point of being irrational
fascism	a dictatorship where one person controls all aspects of a nation
fledgling	a person or nation with little to no experience
genocide	the attempted extermination of a culture, race, or religion
ghetto	a poor section of a city where Jews or minorities lived
harbinger	an omen of an impending event or storm
helical	in the shape of a spiral or helix; DNA, for example
ideology	a closely organized system of beliefs, values, and ideas
incentive	something that is used to encourage or stimulate good behavior

indiscriminate	doing something without thinking carefully or caring about the results
internment camp	forced relocation area
issei	first-generation-born Japanese American
juggernaut	an irresistible force or power
mothball	to store away items for future use
nisei	second-generation-born Japanese American
oversight	supervision provided for a nation or group of people
overture	an advance or proposal to establish a relationship
precursor	a person or idea that comes before all others
propaganda	the use of various kinds of media to mislead the public
provisional	temporary, such as a government
sovereign	freedom from outside interference; the right to self-government