

Cold War Essay Questions from Contested Spaces (Briggs, 2005)

1. Explain the development of the Cold War from 1945 to 1953?
2. Account for the increasing tension between democratic and communist governments from 1945 to 1953.
3. Assess Stalin's role in the origins of the Cold War from 1945 to 1953.
4. Assess Truman's role in the origins of the Cold War from 1945 to 1953.
5. Assess the value to communism of peaceful coexistence during the development of the Cold War (1953-68).
6. Assess the importance of containment in the period of growing nationalism during the development of the Cold War (1953-68)
7. Assess the roles of individuals in the promotion of either democracy or communism during the development of the Cold War (1953-68)
8. Assess the effectiveness of détente in the period from 1968 to 1979?
9. Account for the emergence of détente in the period from the early 1960s.
10. Discuss the importance of the Sino-Soviet split to the emergence and promotion of détente as a foreign policy position in the USSR and the United States.
11. Discuss the significance of the Middle East in the Cold War conflict in the period of détente from 1967 to 1979.
12. Assess the significance of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) and the disarmament agreements in ending the Cold War.
13. Account for the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the USSR from 1989 to 1991.
14. Assess the significance of the policies of Mikhail Gorbachev in ending the Cold War.
15. Account for the ending of the Cold War from 1985 to 1991.
16. Assess the significance of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan and its impact on the collapse of the communism and the end of the Cold War.
17. Assess the significance of President Reagan's contributions in ending the Cold War.