

The Global Cold War

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Course Description

This course examines the origins, strategy, and consequences of the Cold War from a global perspective. Students will discover the conflict's impact not only in the United States and Russia but also in sometimes unexpected nations across Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia. Through narratives that illustrate the Cold War's many complexities, twists, and turns, students will consider how the events following World War II irrevocably shaped the modern world.

Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 12 hours of instruction presented by Professor Suri, split into 23 lecture videos ranging from 20 minutes to 35 minutes. Below are the lecture titles and major themes as identified by Professor Suri. The videos provide the content needed to answer the course quizzes.

1. "Introducing the Pre-History of the Cold War"
2. "Dilemmas for the United States in World War II"
3. "Total War and Human Rights in World War II"
4. "Origins of the Cold War: Manhattan Project Begins"
5. "Origins of the Cold War: Using the Atomic Bombs"
6. "War Ends, Division Begins"
7. "Kennan and Containment"
8. "The Rise of Mao in China"
9. "War Begins in Korea"
10. "Joe McCarthy and McCarthyism"

11. "Cold War Universities"
12. "Kennedy and the New Frontier"
13. "Berlin and the Wall"
14. "Cuba"
15. "Vietnam"
16. "Detente, Carter, and Early Reagan"
17. "Reagan as President"
18. "Gorbachev's Reforms"
19. "The End of the Cold War"
20. "Cold War Legacies: Neoconservatives"
21. "Cold War Legacies: September 11th, Afghanistan, and Iraq"
22. "Cold War Legacies: Surges and Drones in Afghanistan and Iraq"
23. "Cold War Legacies: Demobilization, Arab Spring, and Syria"

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute's online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms discussed in the videos. They are not part of the History U program.

Resources

Select the Resources link for information about the secondary resources and videos referred to in the course. Please note: History U participants are not required to read or purchase print materials. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

Quizzes

The purpose of the quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching the videos for the lectures, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

Certificate of Completion

After you finish watching all of the lectures, score an 80% or higher on each quiz, and complete the History U Feedback Survey you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email historyschool@gilderlehrman.org with any questions.