

The cold war

[History](#)



The paper "The Cold War" is a wonderful example of a history essay.

Week one readings gave attention to the Cold War. The Cold War began after the World War II where the United States emerged as the dominant power together with the USSR. The U. S. was, however, economically stable and its vast interests in Europe worried the other power bloc. The rise of the nuclear issue also fuelled the tension between them. I was quick to note that the zenith of the rivalry came in 1947 upon the establishment of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. The plans were keen on stabilizing European nations and eradicating all communist programs. The rivalry was evident, and its effects were felt all over the world. It is interesting to note even with the mounting rivalry, they avoided direct military confrontations. I believe the preceding World Wars had taught them bitter lessons.

Another aspect of the readings that caught my attention was the acceleration of the arms race. The American and Soviet military spending increased at a very high rate. The spending was, however, a burden on the Soviet's economy and it ended up dedicating more than a quarter of its national income to military activities. The tension tightened further when the two sides enhanced their nuclear bomb production. The readings comprehensively explain that although none was ready to lose, the two avoided going to war and opted to search for opportunities elsewhere. I find their decision remarkable because engaging in war would have led to massive destruction of property and loss of lives.

As mentioned earlier, the United States emerged from the World War II with the most stable economy. Other nations had to depend on it for their recovery. It opted to work with nations that had high stakes for recovery and production. It is interesting to note that even Britain had placed its recovery

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hopes on the U. S. in spite of the Britons bragging of having intelligent minds. It would be appropriate to say that the economic powerhouse had the autonomy of driving the world's economy at whichever pace and direction it wanted.