

I. **Impact-** Incredible human and economic losses, war crime trials in Nuremberg, occupied nations in Germany and Japan (some democratic and others communist having tensions rise in the Cold War) and the forming of the United Nations.

a. General Assembly of representatives of all nations

b. Security Council with 15 member nations, 5 of which are permanent: the US, Russia, France, China, and Great Britain

II. **Cold War Balance of Power-** After WWII, Japan and West Germany adopted Constitutions that built democratic governments. Two major powers emerged from the war: The United States and the Soviet Union. Political and economic differences between the two led to a division of Europe that would last more than 40 years. The conflict between democracy and communism also spread around the globe, resulting in a buildup of arms as well as a race to explore space. The United Nations experienced both failure and success in its quest to maintain peace in the years after 1945.

A. **Divided Europe-** Western Europe was ruled by democratic governments while the Soviet led Eastern Europe was ruled by communist governments. Europe was divided by an imaginary line known as the Iron Curtain.

B. **Germany** was devastated after WWII and was occupied by Allied nations.

1. It was divided into 4 parts. Three zones were ruled by Western democratic nations of the US, Britain, and France while the other zone was controlled by communist Soviet Union leaders.

2. Nuremberg Trials but Nazi war criminals on trial

3. Set up a Republic and wrote a Constitution

a. Guaranteed political asylum for people who were persecuted for political reasons. (Asylum is protection from arrest)

C. **Japan-** Japan was also devastated and was occupied by the US after WWII

1. New Constitution- drafted by US General MacArthur. It set up democracy in Japan.

D. **The Cold War** was a state of tension and hostility between superpowers US and Soviet Union

1. Western powers feared the spread of communism. Stalin forced pro-communist governments in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and elsewhere which became known as Soviet satellites. When the Soviets started putting pressure on Greece and Turkey, the US took action.