

## **COLD WAR LESSON PLAN**

**Teacher Name:** Mary Barcroft    **Grade Level(s):** 9-12    **Course:** American Government  
American or World History  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Studies  
Geography

### **Type of classroom or homework activity to be performed:**

This lesson will be a cooperative learning activity using primary sources, maps, technology, and will address cross-curricular studies through the use of a writing assessment.

**Rationale:** This lesson will allow students to create a visual representation of the perceived threats to Europe during the Cold War. By placing cities on maps and evaluating the surrounding topography, the students will analyze the Soviet War Plan to determine the reason certain cities were chosen. By comparing it to plans from previous wars, they will decide the validity of the plan and create a document stating their findings, with supporting information.

**Required time frame:** One to two class periods (Blocks) or 2-3 regular class periods.

### **From where in this Cold War conference did you get the idea for this activity or assignment?**

Dr. Mastny's presentation of the Parallel History Project website gave me the idea. I really wanted to do something with the Soviet War Plan.

### **Lesson Objectives—the student will:**

- Use map and technology skills to find the cities in the war plan on a map of Europe.
- Analyze the map to determine the value of targets listed in the war plan.
- Evaluate the plan as compared to Hitler's blitzkrieg or Schlieffen's plans for World War I, to determine the feasibility of the plans.
- Create a short statement revealing their findings with supporting data.

### **District, state, or national performance and knowledge standards/goals/skills met:**

Missouri: Show Me Standards

- Social Studies 3: The principles and processes of governance systems.
- Social Studies 5: the major elements of geographical study and analysis (such as location, place, movement, regions) and their relationships to changes in society and environment.
- Social Studies 6: The relationships of individuals and groups to institutions and cultural traditions.
- Social Studies 7: The use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps, documents).
- Performance Goal 1: Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas.