**Honors European & Latin American Studies**

**Unit #8 - *The Cold War (1945-1989)***

**Unit Description:** This unit will consist of three parts.

1. Early Cold War: In the first part of this unit we will be looking at what happened immediately following the Nazi capitulation in World War II and how it would affect the world for the next fifty years. We will consider how the Allied Powers interacted at Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam, and what they planned for the world after WWII. We will discuss both the de-Nazification of Germany and the United Nations and its role in the new world order. Then we will look at how all the hopes quickly descended, promises were quickly broken, the USSR occupation began, and how the divide between Eastern and Western Europe came to be. From here we will move on to the rise of the Iron Curtain, and the responses of Containment then NATO and the Warsaw Pact. We will also study the failed revolt in Hungary in 1956. Finally we will look at the conflict over Germany and then Berlin, culminating in first the airlift then the Berlin Wall.
2. Cuban Revolution & rise of dictators: In the next segment of this unit, we will look at how discontent in Latin America boiled over into the Cuban Revolution, merging the Cold War in Europe with Latin America. We will study the ideological and political motives of Castro & Che as well as how they tried to put these ideas into practice in Cuba. Finally we will look at the rise of the Perons in Argentina and other Latin American dictatorships.
3. Cracks in the Iron Curtain: In the last part of the unit by talking about the beginning of the crumbling of Eastern Europe. We will look at the uprising in Prague in 1968 and the Solidarity movement in Poland, examining the impact of the Brezhnev Doctrine on the members of the Warsaw Pact. We will then turn to an easing of tensions studying the era of détente and the SALT I & II Treaties. Finally we will also study Western Europe in the 1970s and 1980s, looking most notably at changing policies in Germany and the United Kingdom.

**Themes & Key Ideas:** Cold War

Truman Doctrine

Iron Curtain

NATO

Warsaw Pact

Domino Theory

Berlin Wall

Mutually Assured Destruction

Che Guevara

“History Will Absolve Me”

United Nations

Dirty War

**Possible Readings:** *Western Civilizations* text

*The Twentieth Century world and Beyond* text

from “The Iron Curtain Speech” by W. Churchill

from “The Long Telegram” by G. Kennan

from *Bloodlands* by T. Snyder

from *To the Castle and Back* by V. Havel

from *Adenauer’s Germany, Nazi Past* by N. Frei

from *The Motorcycle Diaries* by C. Guevara

**Possible Projects:**

1. Che books: We will look at the life and diaries of Che Guevara and you will have to create a book recounting his trip through Latin America & the Cuban Revolution.
2. Violent or non-violent protest: After looking at Havel’s “The Power of the Powerless,” we will discuss the merits of both violent and non-violent protest in modern society, which is more effective, and why.

**Skill Development:** Understanding historical biases

Understanding causation

Analyzing primary and secondary sources

Discussion skills