

# THE USA IN THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1945-1991

Cold war: war by proxy

To take the lead= to be the leader

A crisis, two crises

To question to be questioned

## **I/ THE USA TOOK THE LEAD OF THE WEST**

### **A/ It was active in post-war conferences**

Yalta ( Crimea) February 45, Potsdam ( Berlin) July(August 45, San Francisco June 45.

Roosevelt Stalin Churchill, then Stalin Truman and Atlee. UNO 50 members in 1945

Bretton wood 1944- IMF in 1944 as well

To be an instigator : to be the one at the roots of

### **B/ It showed capitalism as the « best » economic system**

1-What is capitalism: an economic system characterized by a private ownership of the means of production, a low state intervention, prices which depend on supply and demand and research of maximum profit.

#### 2-The USA used its economic power to « rescue » the « old continent »

« Manifest Destiny »: so called God-given mission to spread freedom and democracy in the world

2/3 of the world God stocks- Marshall plan, economic branch of the Truman doctrine: containment.

The dollar became a standard currency: “as good as gold”: economic domination

STUDY OF MARSHALL TEXT: black and white/ Manichean vision, a two-camp face off, antagonistic, propaganda, rivalry, to rival someone, to compete with someone, to stand up for/against, to spread, to tighten someone’s grip on, to eradicate, to contain, a threat, to threaten, to praise, to surpass.

### **C/ The USA used its hard power to create a military alliance :**

1949 NATO, Pactomania: a series of Pact for example ANZUZ, arms race, Atomic monopoly, A Bomb

## **II/ THE USA WAS INVOLVED INTO TWO MAJOR COLD WAR CONFLICTS ( 2 examples)**

### **A/ Cuba October 1962**

A small Island, Caribbean’s, Florida’s coast ( 300km), to overthrow, Batista, Castro 1959, to get closer ties with, missiles, missiles launchers, U2 spy planes, to take a photo, to reach an agreement, to negotiate, to withdraw from, hot line, Détente, to underestimate, a nuclear apocalypse, to reach a climax, bay of pigs in 61 under Kennedy, to fail, a failure, to thwart a plan.

### **B/ Vietnam 1965-1973**

Ho chi Minh, Vietminh, Dien Bien Phu defeat, to defeat a country, to surrender, to be stuck, a quagmire. Jungle, a guerilla warfare, to be poorly equipped, safe village policy in 1961 by the green berets under Kennedy. 1965 troops landed in Da Nang under Johnson even drafted young boys. Intense fight. To use a hammer to break an egg. To be vain= to be to no avail- to retreat- Paris accords 1973- Nixon- Vietnamization of the conflict 1970-1973.

Criticisms: to be tarnished, to be criticized, Agent Orange, napalm, daisy cutter bomb, long-lasting side effect, land poisoning, radiation poisoning, cancers, deformed children, deformities, to ask reparation, to apologize, to recover, to be questioned, to be seen as “the black sheep”, international stage.

### III/ THE USA WAS QUESTIONED

#### A/ Within the Country, the Civil Rights movement was very destabilizing

1955 Rosa Parks, MLK ( assassinated 68) and the Montgomery bus boycott, 1965 full civil rights for the blacks. Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam ( assassinated in 65), then the Black Panther linked with communism and violence and the « black power » ( Olympics 68) .Desegregation, to discriminate someone against, voting right act 1965, to sweep something away, domestic policy, to kill two birds in one stone, to win/lose on all fronts, peaceful disobedience, terrorism.

#### B/ The hippie movement was another form of criticism but it spread worldwide

Hippies, make love not war, pacifism, communitarian life, to share, classless group, rejection of the consumer society, counter culture, conscientious objectors, Woodstock 1969, youngsters, protests, to protest, idealism

### YEAR 1968 IN THE WORLD

#### Politics :

- Turning point in Vietnam :Tet Offensive, the USA is about to be defeated.
- My Lay massacre
- North Korea capture a US navy Ship : release is to be negociated
- Senator Robert Kennedy willing to run for presidency in November is assassinated
- 1968 Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia
- Nixon elected in November

#### Social : -MLK isassassinated

- May 68 in France
- Biafra famine in Nigeria
- Black power assertion in the Mexico Olympics( Tommy Smith and John Carlo 200-meter race)

#### Sciences :

- Apollo 8 orbits the moon for the first time( 1<sup>st</sup> steps on the moon July 1969)

#### Presidents

Roosevelt: 32-36-3-40-44 death 45	Dem	WW2 Post war conferences
Truman march 45-48-52	Dem	Truman doctrine Marshall Pan
Eisenhower 52-56-60	Rep	Korean War, save UNO, desegregation of schools 54
Kennedy 60-death 63	Dem	green berets Vietnam, Cuba bay of pigs, assassinated
Johnson 63-64-68	Dem	Vietnam war, napalm, orange agent....Hippies
Nixon 68-72 74 ( Watergate)	Rep	Withdrawal of Vietnam, closer to Mao, Watergate
Ford 74-76	Rep	Only followed the current domestics affairs