



# GLOSSARY

## ARMS RACE

When two or more nations compete for superiority in number and overall strength of military weaponry. This competition came to define the effort between the United States and the Soviet Union to gain global dominance following World War II.

## CENSORSHIP

Prohibition or suppression of certain topics or other matters deemed illegal or inappropriate for public discourse.

## CHARTER

A written document that establishes the autonomous and legal power of a governing body.

## COLD WAR

Era of political hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union that lasted from 1947-1991. The conflict remained “cold” as no direct warfare broke out between the two powers.

## COMMUNISM

A political theory based upon the common ownership of property that became the basis of governance in the Soviet Union following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

## CONSUMER SOCIETY

A social order that emphasizes the buying and ownership of commercial or luxury goods.

## CONTAINMENT

A foreign policy strategy adopted by the United States to stop the spread of communism and Soviet influence across the globe.

## CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Deliberate, systematic acts committed either in warfare or peacetime that involve gross violations of human rights.

## DISPLACED PERSON

Someone forced into exile from their home country as a result of war, natural disaster, or persecution.

## DECOLONIZATION

The removal of imperial rule, leaving the former colony an independent power.

## DEMILITARIZATION

The reduction or removal of state-run armed forces.

## DESEGREGATE

The formal end of laws or policies that force the separation of people based upon their racial identity.



(Image: The National WWII Museum, 2008.537.087.)

## **FINAL SOLUTION**

The Nazi policy to exterminate all the Jews of Europe.

## **FRATERNIZATION**

Interactions and relations between people of different classes or groups. In postwar Europe and Japan, this referred to associations between occupying forces and the citizens of the occupied countries.

## **GENOCIDE**

Intentional mass murder of people from a specific ethnic group, religion, or race.

## **GI BILL**

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 that offered benefits for WWII veterans after returning to the United States, including governmental support in education, housing, and employment.

## **IRON CURTAIN**

A term popularized by Winston Churchill in a 1946 speech, describing the barrier separating Soviet-controlled countries across Eastern Europe from those in the West.

## **MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION**

A military doctrine that states an attack of one nuclear power against another will lead to retaliation and the complete annihilation of both sides.

## **OCCUPATION**

A period of time following the end of warfare, in which forces remain on the ground to keep control and enforce the rule of the victorious power over the defeated.

## **OPERATION PAPERCLIP**

A secret postwar program operated by US intelligence to bring 1,600 German scientists, many who were former members of the Nazi Party, to the United States to help give the Americans an advantage over the Soviets in the Cold War.

## **RESERVE CURRENCY**

A currency held in greater quantities by governments due to its greater economic strength and stability in international transactions. Also referred to as a "safe-haven currency."

## **SUMMARY EXECUTION**

The immediate execution of a person accused of a crime, without giving the accused a fair trial.

## **WAR CRIMES**

An act committed during warfare that violates the laws of war and that constitutes anything that falls outside of the legal limits of the conduct of war.

## **ZAIBATSU**

A Japanese term to describe a large business conglomerate, a few of which monopolized the entire economy of the Japanese Empire before the end of World War II.