Chapter 21

Section 4  Eisenhower’s Policies

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Chapter Objectives

Section 4: Eisenhower’s Policies

- Evaluate Eisenhower’s military policy known as the “New Look.”
- Debate the effectiveness of Eisenhower’s foreign policy.
Guide to Reading

Main Idea

As president, Eisenhower developed plans to reduce world tensions while containing and competing with communism.

Key Terms and Names

• massive retaliation
• Sputnik
• brinkmanship
• covert

• Central Intelligence Agency
• developing nation
• military-industrial complex
Eisenhower’s “New Look”

- The election of 1952 placed Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson against Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- Eisenhower, the general who organized the D-Day invasion, was a national hero.
- Eisenhower won by a landslide.
Eisenhower’s “New Look” (cont.)

- Eisenhower felt the way to win the Cold War was through a strong military and a strong economy.

- Eisenhower believed a conventional war would be too expensive and would hurt the economy.

- He believed the use of atomic weapons was necessary.

- Eisenhower felt the United States needed a “New Look” in its defense policy.
Eisenhower’s “New Look” (cont.)

- Eisenhower wanted to prevent war from happening in the first place.

- A policy called **massive retaliation** was used to threaten the use of nuclear weapons on any Communist state that tried to gain territory through force.

- This resulted in a cut in military spending and an increase in America’s nuclear arsenal.
Eisenhower’s “New Look” (cont.)

- New technology brought the B-52 bomber, which could fly across continents and drop nuclear bombs anywhere in the world.

- Intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarines capable of launching nuclear missiles were also created.
Eisenhower’s “New Look” (cont.)

- Americans discovered that the Soviets had developed their own nuclear missiles.
- On October 4, 1957, the Soviets launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth.
- The Americans felt they were falling behind in missile technology.
Eisenhower’s “New Look” (cont.)

- The next year, Congress created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and also passed the National Defense Education Act (NDEA).
Why did Eisenhower feel a strong economy would win the Cold War?

Eisenhower felt that the United States needed to show that free enterprise would produce a more prosperous society than communism. Economic prosperity would also prevent Communists from gaining support in the United States, protecting the U.S. from subversion.
Brinkmanship In Action

• President Eisenhower’s willingness to threaten nuclear war to maintain peace worried some people.

• Critics argued that brinkmanship, the willingness to go to war to force the other side to back down, was too dangerous.
Brinkmanship In Action (cont.)

• The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice in 1953.

• This came after Eisenhower had gone to the brink and threatened to use nuclear weapons.

• The battle line became the border between North Korea and South Korea.

• Although there was no victory, it had stopped communism from spreading.
Brinkmanship In Action (cont.)

- In 1954 China threatened to take over two of the islands from the Nationalists in Taiwan.
- Eisenhower threatened the use of nuclear weapons if China tried to invade Taiwan.
- China retreated.
Brinkmanship In Action (cont.)

- Eisenhower wanted to prevent Arab nations in the Middle East from aligning with the Soviet Union.
- To gain support, the United States offered to help finance the construction of a dam on the Nile River for Egypt.
- Congress forced the United States to withdraw the offer.
- Egyptians took control of the Suez Canal to use its profits to pay for the dam.
Brinkmanship In Action (cont.)

- British and French troops responded by invading the Suez Canal. ↓
- Soviets threatened rocket attacks on Britain and France. ↓
- Eisenhower put American nuclear forces on alert, and through strong American pressure the British and French called off their invasion.
Why did the United States withdraw its offer to Egypt to finance the dam on the Nile River?

The offer was withdrawn because Egypt had purchased weapons from Communist Czechoslovakia.
Fighting Communism Covertly

• Brinkmanship would not work in all situations, and it could not prevent Communists from revolting within countries. ↓

• To prevent this, Eisenhower used covert, or hidden, operations conducted by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
Fighting Communism Covertly (cont.)

- The CIA operations took place in developing nations, or those nations with mostly agricultural economies.
- In many of these countries, leaders felt European imperialism and American capitalism were the causes of their problems.
- Two examples of covert operations that achieved American objectives took place in Iran and Guatemala in the 1950s.
Covert operations did not always work.\footnote{69}

After Stalin died, Nikita Khrushchev became the new leader of the Soviet Union in 1956.\footnote{70}

He delivered a secret speech to Soviet leaders, which the CIA broadcast to Eastern Europe.\footnote{71}

Eastern Europeans, frustrated by Communist rule, staged riots, and a full-scale uprising took place in Hungary.
Fighting Communism Covertly (cont.)

- Soviet tanks entered Budapest, the capital of Hungary, and stopped the rebellion.
Fighting Communism Covertly (cont.)

Discussion Question

Why did Eisenhower respond to the crisis in Taiwan?

Eisenhower felt that Taiwan was a part of the “anticommunistic barrier” in Asia.
Continuing Tensions

- Eisenhower and Soviet leader Khrushchev agreed to a summit in Paris in order to improve relations.
- Khrushchev stopped the summit after the Soviets shot down an American spy plane piloted by Francis Gary Powers.
Continuing Tensions (cont.)

• In his farewell address, Eisenhower warned Americans to be on guard against the influence of a military-industrial complex in a democracy.

• It was a new relationship between the military establishment and the defense industry.
What happened when the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 spy plane?

Eisenhower first claimed it was a weather plane that had strayed off course. Khrushchev dramatically produced the pilot, and after Eisenhower refused to apologize, Khrushchev stopped the summit in Paris.
Checking for Understanding

**Define** Match the terms on the right with their definitions on the left.

1. **D** not openly shown or engaged in

2. **F** an informal relationship that some people believe exists between the military and the defense industry to promote greater military spending and influence government policy

3. **B** the willingness to go to the brink of war to force an opponent to back down

A. massive retaliation

B. brinkmanship

D. covert

E. developing nation

F. military-industrial complex
### Checking for Understanding

**Define** Match the terms on the right with their definitions on the left.

| **E** 4. a nation whose economy is primarily agricultural | A. massive retaliation |
| **A** 5. a policy of threatening a massive response, including the use of nuclear weapons, against a Communist state trying to seize a peaceful state by force | B. brinkmanship |
| | C. covert |
| | D. covert |
| | E. developing nation |
| | F. military-industrial complex |
Checking for Understanding (cont.)

Reviewing Facts  What was the significance of the Soviet Union’s launching of *Sputnik* in 1957?

It stunned Americans and led to the creation of NASA and the passage of the NDEA.
Science and Technology  How did technology shape Eisenhower’s military policy?

It allowed him to pursue the policy of brinkmanship since the nuclear arsenal was a real threat. It also allowed covert operations in Iran and Guatemala.
EISENHOWER’S “NEW LOOK”

MILITARY SPENDING

During the 1950s

Billions of Dollars

$0

$10

$20

$30

$40

$50

$50 billion

$34 billion

NUCLEAR ARSENAL

During the 1950s

Number of Bombs (In Thousands)

1,000

2

4

6

8

10

12

14

16

18

20

18,000

Directions: Answer the following question based on the line graphs.

During his presidency, how did Eisenhower modify military spending and the nation’s nuclear arsenal?

F  He reduced both military spending and the number of bombs in the arsenal.

G  He increased both military spending and the number of bombs in the arsenal.

H  He increased military spending and reduced the number of bombs in the arsenal.

J  He reduced military spending and increased the number of bombs.