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# Explain

Global Era: Essay and Discussion Questions

1. What was the fundamental conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War?
2. What are the major factors that explain why the Cold War stayed cold?
3. What was so humiliating about China’s century of humiliation? How has this era inspired the Chinese Communist Party’s policies and worldview?
4. Which post–World War II historical events led to the rise of mass production and mass consumption?
5. What factors led to the end of colonialism?
6. What challenges did former colonies face? How did they meet those challenges?

# Analyze

1. How did deterrence work during the Cold War?
2. How did Mao Zedong’s rule transform China?
3. Who has benefited most from the rise of mass production and mass consumption? Who has been hurt by this trend?
4. How have mass production and mass consumption changed everyday life for Americans?
5. How did the Cold War complicate decolonization?
6. In what ways is decolonization still an issue?

# Evaluate

1. How important do you think decisions by American and Soviet leaders were in explaining why the Cold War stayed cold? Were they more or less important than structural factors such as balance of power and nuclear weapons?
2. Has the rise in mass production and mass consumption been a generally beneficial development?
3. Do you see decolonization as an ongoing process? What additional legacies of colonialism do you think need to be reckoned with?