Assignment 2: Journal

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# Part A: Weekly Journal (From Week 5 to Week 12)

## **Weekly Journal for Week 5**

**Title of text:** Love in the time of McCarthyism: The Rosenberg & Spying and Betrayal:

Famous Spy Cases of the Cold War

**Author**: Phillip Deery & Mario Del Pero

**Essential Reading Topic:** Repression in a democratic state – McCarthyism and the Red

Scare

**Important Quote**: Justice Kauffman who wrote the decision remarked "I consider your crimes worse than murder. You are the ones who helped to put in the hands of Russians the A-bomb(Deery and Del Pero, 2011)”.

**Summary:** The Rosenberg trials is one of the most controversial trials in the history of the United States. This reading has been compiled by historians Philip Deery and Mario Pero who are famous for their accounts on controversial trials in history. In this reading, they have presented one such account, in the context of the strained relations between the U.S and Russia right after the end of WWII. Rosenberg and his wife Ethel were convicted on the charges of espionage. It was believed that they both were Russian spies and for their own assistance, they have recruited some other Russians too. Their espionage activities were based around the Manhattan project which was crucial for United States nuclear weapon manufacturing. This couple helped the Russian authorities in making of their nuclear bomb which was ready in 1949. Ethel's connection with the communist regime developed during the years the 1930s when she was a member of the young communist league. Rosenberg and his team consisted mainly of engineers, pilots, network engineers, civil design engineers and many other people working in the assistants capacity. Rosenberg and Ethel's arrest was the result of a chain of event that started with the arrest of one of their colleague Fuchs from the United Kingdom. On April 5th, 1951, the court led by Judge Kaufman convicted them death sentence (Deery and Del Pero, 2011). It was widely believed that both were offered a deal that could change their death sentences to life imprisonment but they denied accepting the offer. Their other colleagues were however given life imprisonment. Many U.S citizens supported the death sentence of Ethel and her husband.

## **Weekly Journal for Week 6**

**Title of text:** ‘Terror’, Soviet Politics: 1917-1991

**Author:** Mary McAuley

**Essential Reading Topic:** Repression in a totalitarian state: From the ‘Great Terror’ to the listening post.

**Summary:** Terror in theSoviet Politics 1917- 1991 was an interesting read. It helped in understanding how the Soviet domestic policy led in the upbringing of their cruel global image. The book has been written by Mary McAuley(McAuley, 1992). The author is known for her works in the field of International humanitarian law. Most of the work is related to Soviet politics and how domestic politics helped in changing the mindset of masses in Russia. The context of this book is the authoritative and historical kind of regime in Russia. This book helped in providing a thorough understanding of how the rise of Lenin and the October revolution of 1917, helped in changing the course of domestic politics in Russia. It also covers some aspects of the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Mary has also explored how Lenin's party transformed itself from the Tsarist Empire and how the industrialization program went on being too horrific for the Soviets. She coupled this horrific industrialization with the formations of the global image of the Russian state. A complete reading of this book suggests that how firsthand knowledge is important in creating a sense for the readers about any state's image. In the last chapters, Mary linked all developments throughout the years from 1917 to 1991 with the current sense of developments. Mary's book is an interesting compilation of events.

## **Weekly Journal for Week 7**

**Title of text:** ‘Equivalent Response: Berlin Blockade and Airlift, in Dawning of the Cold

War: United States’ Quest for Order

**Author:** Randall B. Woods and Howard Jones

**Essential Reading Topic:** Standoff: From Berlin to Budapest (1948-1956)

**Summary:** Equivalent response from the Dawning of the Cold war: United States quest for the order was interesting in making an understanding about how the events in history shaped the crisis for mighty contender Russians and Americans (Woods, 1994). Bennett Woods who has been a writer on international relations and history have compiled this book based on the true accounts of the events of the cold war. This part of the book also presents an understanding of the historical events which shape the relations between them East and West. The equivalent response was basically how the chain of events led to manipulate the understanding of each other's motive. This perception than helped in shaping the response from either side. The authors have titled this as Equivalent Response because it covered the aspect in each form I: e diplomatic, military, and political. In this part of the book, there was a chronological mentioning of events in mutual relations of the United States and Russia. Each side was so apprehensive of other intention that zero tolerance was practised. It that's how presents an understanding of the Yalta Conference, the Iron Curtain Speech and other important events of the cold war. This chapter was therefore also important in making understand what was the immediate impacts of the Cold War on Europe.

## **Weekly Journal for Week 8**

**Title of text:** The Cuban Missile Crisis in The Cold War: A History

**Author**: Martin Walker

**Essential Reading Topic:** Flashpoint: The Cuban Missile Crisis

**Summary:** Before this reading, the Cold war events appears disconnected. There are very few readings which help in making a chronological understanding of the events of the cold war (Walker, 1995). This was one of those reading which clarifies the controversies attached to the cold war in one's mind. The author has European dissent and is an expert on detective series. This is the reason why he wrote the book in such an orderly manner. This part connects the cold war with the global; politics of that time. It shows that in one way or another the global politics were getting influenced by the cold war rivalries. The important constituent of this part was how victory appeared unassured. He based his opinion on such facts which depicts that any miscalculation might have erupted immense damage to the world. The understanding it developed about the cold war is that it was more than a bilateral conflict. Walker has attached the causes of the cold war with what was strategically happening in the world. The smaller state of that time who were not the part of active conflicting engagements were also influenced by the rivals. This reading was important to make some misunderstandings clear about the causes and repercussions of the cold war.

## **Weekly Journal for Week 9**

**Title of text:** Vietnam and the Cold War in The Cold War: An International History

**Author:** S.J. Ball

**Essential Reading Topic:** The American War in Vietnam

**Summary:** Vietnam and the Cold War in S.J's Cold War: An International history was really an interesting read. It helped in understanding how the Vietnam War changed the strategic scenario of the cold war (Ball, 1998). S.J ball who is a sociologist has written various books on the theme that how societies get affected by the interstates conflict. This book is also *kind of* relevant to this theme. S.J has analyzed in this part that how Vietnam caused the U.S enough damages and how it's moral went down after fighting in Vietnam. It was also interesting in analyzing the military capabilities of the U.S at that time. The lasting impact of this war on the U.S society as presented by the author was dividing. More than half of the population of that time Americans believed that the Presidential actions in Vietnam are unjustified. Such negative thoughts about the Presidential actions in Vietnam led President Roosevelt to make the decision of withdrawal of the forces from Vietnam. It was mentioned in the chapter that by that time the communist forces were successful in seizing South Vietnam. This all reading is based on the events happened in the year 1970. This book also broadened the concept of how dynamism in national communism was important in the eventual decay of the United States actions.

## **Weekly Journal for Week 10**

**Title of text:** Statement of the Domino Thesis

**Author:** Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Essential Reading Topic:** The American War in Vietnam

**Important Quote:** There are broader considerations that might follow the “falling domino” principle (Eisenhower, 2014).

**Summary:** Statement of the Domino thesis was put forward by President Eisenhower during a press conference on April 7, 1954. This press conference is important in order to understand how communism was considered an existential threat to the United States. President remarked that if communism was not controlled in any specific geography it might then spread to other parts of the world, which will be dangerous for the United States interests at land and abroad (Eisenhower, 2014). The U.S administration of that believed that communism was just not a threat for the U.S interest but it could threaten the interests of its allies also. This was the basic idea which forced President Eisenhower to think in this way. It is referred to as the Domino effect because as one domino slide falls upon the next, communism was expected to spread that way. Eisenhower had gone much far in thinking bad for the communist ideology. He believed that everything as like the economy, the social setting and other pressing interests might come in effect of this ideology. He actually feared that if the U.S remains to fail in curbing this ideology, it will sooner or later impact on the ideological narrative of its people. This appeared an actual threat which is many where is referred to as a primary threat.

## **Weekly Journal for Week 11**

**Title of text:** The End of Communism in Europe

**Author:** Archie Brown

**Essential Reading Topic:** The end of the Cold War?

**Summary:** Archie Brown has provided an interesting account on Communism as an ideology in the Rise and Fall of Communism (Brown, 2009). Archie Brown is among the critiques of Communism. For him, communism is what has raised the fears among the US population and its citizens are slowly thinking a kind of positive for communism. He argues that this is not how the American system can survive. He has actually taken forward the approach of Karl Marx, which he believes threatens the many aspects of the society in the U.S. He has described communism as ‘spectre haunting Europe. He has then observed the causes of how Communism has affected masses in the twentieth century. In his compilation, he has mentioned communism as a living reality for many million people of the world. The interesting aspect in this part remains that despite being too critical on communism, Archie has not presented an alternative to that. Nor he has talked about how capitalism might be beneficial as an alternative of Communism. The author has presented to the reader's many appealing aspects of communism in front of the readers. This appears not for the purpose that one might get any kind of fascination from them, rather it appears continuation of his critique on Communism.

## **Weekly Journal for Week 12**

**Title of text:** Thatcher told Gorbachev Britain did not want German reunification

**Author**: Michael Binyon

**Essential Reading Topic:** The end of the Cold War?

**Summary:** This article is important to analyze how the Berlin war crisis shape the course of history for the European Continent (Binyon, 2009). The Berlin wall helped some of the European states to meet their gains and interests during the cold war, similarly, some like the United States felt that their interests become at stake if the Berlin war crisis continues. This article primarily refers to a conversation that was made between Russian Gorbachev and Britain's Iron lady Margaret Thatcher. She has referred to the Western European countries and her own country which don't want the reunification of Germany. For her and many other European allies, it was evident that the Berlin war demise might end the leverage of Britain and many western European countries. The article is relevant in the context that it shows despite the worst strategic scenario during those times, each state was busty in a conspiracy against its arch rivals. Thatcher that's why urged the Russian leaders to do so, as she knew that doing this might hurt her own credibility as a global leader (Zalewski, 2015). This meeting took place in the year 1989, which was never fully reported in the international media. The meeting in which Thatcher made such demand to Gorbachev held in an extraordinary frank mood which again leaves some space to think opposite to what one understand before.

# Part B: Reflective Analysis

## How the Cold War has shaped our present?

There are many scholars who believe that the cold war episode left an impactful image on the course of present-day global politics. Such scholars view the cold war episode in the spectrum of military advancements coupled with the increasing vulnerability of the sates in the present world (Bowie and Immerman, 2000). The end of history by Francis Fukuyama has no space in such an analysis.

The world has grown and has witnessed immense modernity in many spheres of life. Now, there remains no reason for anyone to argue or remain stick with the notion of Fukuyama's arguments that world had witnessed any end or is near to witness that (Kalyvas and Balcells, 2010). This was also not relevant at the times during which it was written. There are views which support this notion. For example, if there was such an end of the world was evident, the states must have halted their military preparedness, or any global change might have indicated it already (Kalyvas and Balcells, 2010). Therefore, it is right to opine that the end has never been that much evident as mentioned or predicted by Fukuyama (Fukuyama, 1989).

The cold war, on the other hand, has considerably impacted the present global world order. The much evident aspect of it is *Restraint*. Restraint during the cold war has shown that huge dangers can be terminated if some calculation is made correctly and some decisions are made rationally (Woods, 1994). The cold war terms such as restraint, miscalculation, strategic rapidness, and military preparedness are all viable today, rather they have become much more modernized. This is how strategically cold war is impactful in today’s world.

It has also shaped this present world in the context of military preparedness. The inventions of offensive-defensive weapons, the modernity in Ballistic Missile Defense Systems, the emergence of tactical nuclear weapon technologies (although it was a product of the cold war itself) and the accuracy of the long-range weapons should all be credited to the episode of the cold war. S. J. Ball's analysis of the America- Vietnam war suggests that a huge number of military personals might not give that much edge as the advanced military technology can (Ball, 1998). Similarly, it is true in the sense that how masses can influence the critical decisions of the leadership.

The present world appears more cooperative in nature. There are aspects which makes space for the validity of Huntington's Clash of Civilization, but generally, this collaboration is what the cold war didn't teach (Huntingdon, 1993). Still it is the cooperation in any sense remained apparent among states. Britain was in contact with the one of the mightiest the USSR (Binyon, 2009), but not in the classic sense of today. The clash of civilization at that time could have interpreted in the form of physical conflict, which could have resulted in larger immigration. This could be how the clash of civilization theory might have suited that time's strategic scenario.

## Lessons of the Cold war and contemporary world affairs

There are many lessons for states left by the cold war. It is up to every state to analyze and come up with what is relevant for it or what not (Bourgois, 2001). As argued by LaFeber that each country is not every time ready to indulge in world affairs, there are constraints to it. This is an important lesson of the cold war. The non- aligned states get more chance to succeed and flourish (LaFeber, 1997). For example, both India and China refrained from playing an important role in world affairs during that time. It helped in making their economies more strong and for this reason, they appear more vibrant countries today (Giddens, 2003). This is why they are categorized as Runaway world.

The contemporary world affairs are more prone toward the material, economic and financial gains. Countries at present are benefiting from each other in many ways. They built relations, they work together, they interact and they form alliances. This benefits them in many ways (Westad, 2005). But here again, some factors are a source of continuous distress as highlighted by Robert Kaplan in the coming anarchy. The anarchy in his sense is what the distressing factors are. Like state contends each other at many fronts also, which hints toward the prevalence of anarchy (Kaplan, 1994). This anarchy than limits the chances of cooperation and instil fear and chaos among the community of nations. This then leads a series of mistrusts which starts from interstate relations, regional relations and ends at impacting on international relations in the world (Buzan and Little, 1996).

The pressing lessons of the cold war are rapid responses, continuous diplomatic engagements, and military preparedness and strategic know how. Although the states of this world are much prepared in all these this at the same time raises the chances of more conflict. As what happened in the cases of Iraq and Syria. It was based on miscalculations which brought death to millions of people (Hussain, 2013). These repaid responses and all such strategic engagement preparedness have brought an environment of prolonged peace as well. States refrain from using coercive means to intimidate other states. This is what the cold war has impacted positively on world affairs.

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