**Cold War Decision Making Exercise**

Background: “Following WWII the global balance of economic and political power shifted after the end of World War II and rapidly evolved into the Cold War. The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as **superpowers,** which led to ideological struggles between capitalism and communism throughout the globe. The cold war produced new military alliances, including **NATO** and the **Warsaw Pact**, and promoted **proxy wars** in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.” – AP World History framework

**Part I: Expert Groups.** Your group is responsible for choosing US policy towards **four** of the conflicts or developments that followed WWII. Read through each and record the decision **you** would make if you were advising the US President (not necessarily what you think which action/s the US took). Try to make decisions in the context of the time period, as if you were living then – and not from historical hindsight.

Your group is assigned **four** of the following conflicts. Be prepared to share your information in mixed groups.

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| 1. Turkey, 1946 | 2. Greece, 1947 | 3. China, 1948 | 4. Korea, 1950 |
| 5. French Indo-China, 1954 | 6. Middle East, 1956 | 7. Cuba, 1961 | 8. 3rd World Nations, 1961 |
| 9. Laos & Cambodia, 1960’s | 10. Vietnam, 1963 | 11. Middle East, 1973 | 12. Afghanistan, 1980 |

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| **Conflict** | **Crux of the issue** | **Choice** | **Reason for choice** |
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**Part II: Mixed Groups.** After sharing your information and listening to the decisions others made, respond to the following statement on the back of your handout by identifying the best “pro” and “con” points:

The Cold War and proxy wars that resulted were **inevitable.**

Best “Pro” point:

Best “Con” point: