

CHAPTER
18

Section 1

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Analyzing Motives*

How did the Cold War develop so soon after the success of the Allied victory in World War II? When you analyze the motives of the United States and the Soviet Union at the end of the war, look at the experiences, emotions, and needs that compelled each nation to act in a certain way. Read the following passage, and then complete the chart below. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, p. R6.)

U.S. and Soviet War Experiences The Soviet Union suffered more casualties in World War II than all the other Allies combined. The Soviet Red Army lost approximately 7.5 million soldiers, more than twice Germany’s loss of about 3.5 million. Moreover, there were about 19 million Soviet civilians killed during the war and another 25 million refugees left homeless. Much of Russia, Poland, and the Ukraine lay in ruins, having been overrun and scorched several times during the fighting.

Although 405,000 U.S. soldiers died in the war, there were no civilian casualties, and the continental United States was never invaded or bombed. The industrial production necessitated by the war helped the country out of the Depression and revitalized its capitalist economy. By 1945, almost half of all the goods and services produced in the world came from the United States.

U.S. and Soviet Goals It was clear even before the end of the war that the United States and the Soviet Union had different goals for Europe.

The United States wanted to rebuild Europe, especially Germany, so that the burden of feeding so many refugees would not fall on American tax-

payers. It was also in U.S. interests to have economically strong European countries that were able to buy U.S. products. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, wanted to rebuild itself. Stalin thought Germany should pay \$20 million in machinery and raw material as reparations for the wrongs the Soviets had suffered during the war.

After the Soviet experience in the war, Stalin feared invasion from the West. Gaining military and political control of Eastern Europe was his way of creating a buffer from further attack. Since the Red Army occupied the countries it liberated from the Germans, Stalin quickly set up or supported similar Communist governments. According to Stalin, “In this war, each side imposes its system as far as its armies can reach. It cannot be otherwise.”

For its part, the United States feared totalitarian regimes that imposed their own systems on otherwise free and independent nations. Stalin in his desire for absolute control, Truman argued, was every bit as ruthless and dangerous as Hitler. Truman’s efforts to contain communism was a diplomatic compromise between going to war again and stopping the Soviets from gaining any more power in the world than they already had.

	Experiences During War	Emotions After War	Needs After War
SOVIET UNION			
UNITED STATES			