



CHAPTER
1

Overview: The modern world and Australia

After World War I (1914–18), the world experienced a social revolution. Women gained greater freedom, technology and transport developed, and new fashions, music and dance emerged. The ‘Roaring Twenties’ was an era of change and of financial boom, which ended with the Great Depression.

At the end of the 1930s, the world dived into another global conflict: World War II (1939–45). There was great loss of military personnel and civilians due to battles, the **Holocaust** and the first use of nuclear bombs. Post-World War II, the world was divided and effectively led by two superpowers—the US and the USSR. As communism spread across parts of Europe and Asia, tensions grew into a period known as the **Cold War**.

Post-war changes in the areas of civil rights, environmental awareness and concern about the sustainability of the Earth’s resources, as well as changes brought about by technology, have affected the way people live and see the world.

Since the end of World War II, Australia has experienced many changes, both at home and in its relations with other countries. It has grown to be an independent country with great influence in Asia-Pacific affairs and a strong voice in international forums such as the United Nations (UN) and the G20, a group of nineteen nations plus the European Union which regularly discusses global issues.

Source 1.0.1 Australian Indigenous rights advocates in Sydney in a protest against the Bicentennial celebrations in 1988



Source 1.0.2 Timeline of the modern world and Australia



UNIT 1.1

Post-World War II—UN peacekeeping

The UN and the end of World War II

In June 1945, delegates from 50 countries met in San Francisco to approve the **charter** that founded the UN. The first meeting of the General Assembly and the five-nation **Security Council** took place in London in 1946.

The UN developed during the course of World War II from a series of meetings between the USSR, the US and the UK. Initially, these meetings were to discuss how international relations would be managed after the defeat of Japan and Germany.

The USSR had become the dominant power in Eastern Europe and **communism** was gaining ground in China and South-East Asia. This was perceived as a threat to democratic countries.

In addition, independence movements in some **colonies** had been active during the war, especially in countries such as Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (**Indochina**) that wanted **self-determination** and a forum to express their ideas. In some countries, the colonial power was at war with these independence movements.

Clearly some kind of forum was needed where countries could discuss disagreements and reduce tensions. From this need, the UN was formed.

Peacekeeping during the Cold War (1945–91)

Peacekeeping is the monitoring of peace agreements reached by warring groups before the peacekeepers arrive, although peacekeepers often distribute **humanitarian** aid as well. Not all peacekeeping missions are established by the UN. Some are administered by a smaller, local group of countries.

It was hoped that international assistance would prevent the suffering and even genocide that the world had seen during World War II. However, for peacekeepers to be sent to a country in conflict, the five permanent members—US, Russia (previously USSR), China, the UK and France—of the UN Security Council have to agree. After the Cold War began, UN peacekeepers were not sent to countries where the West or the East had an interest.

In Angola, for instance, civil war broke out after independence in 1975. The US supported right-wing groups and the USSR communist groups, and it was not until 1995 that the UN sent peacekeepers. Both countries wanted post-independence Angola to be governed by systems they supported, so victory became more important than peace.

The opposite situation happened in the Middle East, which was the UN's first peacekeeping mission. When Israel was founded in 1948, there was violence and civil unrest within Israel and the surrounding areas that became the countries of Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. The UN was able to send peacekeepers because all the members of the Security Council believed peace was desirable.

In some cases a mission was sent during decolonisation when colonised countries were taking action to become independent. For example, a mission was sent to West New Guinea during 1962–63 in order to supervise the transition from Dutch to Indonesian rule.

Another example is the UN Operation in the Republic of the Congo 1960–64. Belgium was the colonial government and as it began to withdraw, the Congo's neighbours began to invade or support various independence groups to the detriment of the country as a whole. The UN sent peacekeepers to help the Congo move to a stable government, however they had limited success.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although the Korean War, the first major conflict of the Cold War, officially ended with the signing of an **armistice** on 27 July 1953, a peace treaty was never signed. Technically, South Korea and North Korea are still at war. Australia was part of the UN-sponsored force sent to defend South Korea in 1950, and its peacekeeping presence remained in Korea until 1957.

1948 Monitoring Arab–Israeli ceasefire

1949 Monitoring India–Pakistan ceasefire in the province of Kashmir

1953 Monitoring ceasefire between North Korea and South Korea and its allies

1956 Supervising withdrawal of troops after the Suez Crisis

1960–64 Protecting the territory of the Congo from its neighbours

1964 Preventing conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots

1974 Maintaining ceasefire between Israel and Syria

1978 Supervising Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and assisting the Lebanese government to restore authority

1988–90 Supervising the Iran–Iraq ceasefire

1991–2003 Enforcing the Iraq–Kuwait border after the Gulf War

1991–93 Assisting in the establishment of a new government for Cambodia

1993–96 Monitoring ceasefire after Rwanda genocide and assisting in relief efforts

1999 Monitoring and supervising administration in Kosovo (ex-Yugoslavia)

1999–2012 Monitoring and assisting in the transition to independent statehood for East Timor

Source 1.1.1 Examples of UN peacekeeping missions

Peacekeeping after the Cold War

The number of UN-sponsored peacekeeping missions increased greatly after the end of the Cold War. Of approximately sixty-eight operations in total, only about eighteen took place during the Cold War.

In some places, the UN was able to intervene because the area was no longer seen as an arena for East-West confrontation. The UN Observer Group in Central America is a good example. A UN team went to Nicaragua to oversee the disarmament of the Contras (1989–92). The Contras were a US-financed group that had been fighting against the government of Nicaragua, which the Americans thought was a communist government modelled on the Soviet model. At the end of the Cold War, tensions had decreased and UN peacekeeping in this area became possible.

Some missions were as a result of the end of the Cold War. Georgia is a country that was formally part of the USSR. After its independence, groups in a region called Abkhazia tried to break away from Georgia. Conflict erupted and, after negotiations, peacekeepers were sent from 1993 until 2009.

Some of the post Cold War conflicts were very bloody. Yugoslavia was a multi-ethnic country that started to break up at the end of the Cold War. There was considerable violence between ethnic groups. This resulted in an ongoing UN peacekeeping presence in ex-Yugoslavia between 1992 and 1995. This is the most prominent example of post-Cold War peacekeeping to date.

Australia and peacekeeping

Australia's efforts in peacekeeping have often been concerned with humanitarian issues and the effects of post-colonialism, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

Indonesia

Australia's first mission was in Indonesia between 1947 and 1951. Indonesia was working to establish national independence in the wake of the withdrawal of the Dutch, who had been the colonial power since the nineteenth century. Australia's presence helped ensure good conduct by the warring sides.

West New Guinea

In 1962–63, humanitarian aid was provided in West New Guinea when Australia assisted during a cholera outbreak. The UN was the temporary government of the area, in preparation for a vote on self-determination after the Dutch had left. The vote was never held and the area is now part of Indonesia.

Papua New Guinea

In 1994, Australia provided security in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, during a peace conference between government officials and rebels who wanted to secede from Papua New Guinea. Peacekeepers returned in 1997–98 and 1998–2003 to monitor the ceasefire and then aid in reconstruction.

East Timor

Perhaps Australia's greatest national success as peacekeepers has been in East Timor, where it led peacekeeping activities during 1999–2000 until UN forces arrived. The country had previously been a colony of Portugal and then became part of Indonesia. Australia organised a UN-sponsored vote in 1999 on the issue of independence. Despite harassment from Indonesian militias, the vote went ahead and Australia began providing assistance in rebuilding the country and laying the foundations for its political and economic security. This process is ongoing.

Solomon Islands

Similarly, Australia has allocated peacekeeping forces to the Solomon Islands since 2003. The country had long been in a state of civil unrest, lawlessness and political chaos, and in June 2003 the Solomon Islands government formally requested outside help, a call to which Australia responded.

Aid was initially provided in the form of troops to restore order, and continued in the areas of police training, taking control of surrendered weapons and monitoring a ceasefire between two warring groups that were on the brink of civil war.

1947–51	Indonesia
1949–85	Kashmir
1956–present	Israel and its neighbours
1964–present	Cyprus
1976–79, 1982–86, 1993–present	Sinai
1979–80	Zimbabwe
1989–90	Namibia
1989–97	Cambodia
1990–2013	Iraq
1991–94	Western Sahara
1992–95	Somalia
1994–95	Rwanda
1994, 1997–2003	Bougainville
1994–1995	Haiti
1994–2002	Mozambique
1997–2003	Former Yugoslav Republic and Bosnia-Herzegovina
1999–2013	East Timor (Timor-Leste)
2000–2013	Solomon Islands
2000–2005	Sierra Leone
2001–2005	Ethiopia and Eritrea
2005–present	Sudan
2005–present	Afghanistan

Source 1.1.2 Australian peacekeeping operations

Outcome

Peacekeeping has improved the lives of millions of people. In addition, participation has allowed countries to deepen their relationships with each other, often leading to friendship and mutual understanding, which may help prevent more violent conflict in the future.

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The return of the Australian Labor Party to government in 1983 ... quickly led to attempts to wind back Australia's peacekeeping commitments ... Only the observers in the Middle East ... and the police in Cyprus survived the change in government. In 1988 [there was a new Minister of Foreign Affairs] and Australia's attitude to peacekeeping changed again. [Foreign Minister Gareth] Evans was an internationalist ... and was especially keen to work through the United Nations ... Australia was back in the game immediately [in Iran-Iraq, Namibia, Western Sahara, Cambodia and Iraq].

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Source 1.1.3 Political influence on peacekeeping. From Peter Londey, *Other People's Wars*, 2004

ACTIVITIES

Remembering and understanding

- 1 Where and when was the UN charter signed?
- 2 Why was the UN founded?
- 3 What are the main duties of peacekeepers?
- 4 Why have most UN peacekeeping missions taken place since the end of the Cold War?

Applying and analysing

- 5 Look at Source 1.1.2. When was the most active period for Australian peacekeeping?
- 6 Read Source 1.1.3. With a partner, brainstorm how you think changes in government might influence or complicate peacekeeping efforts. You may want to consider government policies or political alliances in your discussion.
- 7 Examine Source 1.1.4. What does the photograph tell us about the kind of work done by the Australian peacekeeping force in East Timor?
- 8 Consider Australia's role in the conflicts that are discussed in this unit. What does this tell you about Australia's involvement with the UN's peacekeeping operations?



Source 1.1.4 Australian peacekeepers in East Timor, 2010



UNIT 1.2

Decolonisation, and rights and freedoms

Decolonisation after 1945

There have been several periods of decolonisation during the modern era, but the term is normally used to describe the period after 1945, when colonial powers relinquished control over dependant territories, often called colonies.

Colonies were generally established on the continents of Africa and Asia. Colonial powers were mainly European powers such as the UK, the Netherlands and France, although Japan also acquired colonies throughout Asia, particularly during World War II. Countries that were previously colonised and wanted independence were seeking self-determination, which is the right to decide their own affairs. Colonial powers responded to this challenge to their control in several different ways.

The UK granted independence to India in 1947 because of a growing political pressure in both India and the UK. In addition, there had been years of tension and civil unrest in India and the UK no longer had the resources to maintain its imperial power. The cost of maintaining a colony proved too much for some imperial powers, and was deemed to outweigh the benefits. In addition to this, war efforts had weakened the position of countries such as the Netherlands and France, which lost Vietnam and eventually Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia as its colonies.

Major movements for rights and freedoms

The UN Human Rights Charter

When the UN was founded in 1945, human rights were mentioned in its charter, but the General Assembly did not proclaim the Universal Declaration of Human Rights until 1948. After World War II and the Holocaust, it became apparent that unprecedented atrocities had been committed on the Jewish people and other groups by Nazi Germany.

Many of the leaders of Germany stood trial during the Nuremberg Trials. The publicity from these trials made it clear to the international community that a well-defined set of human rights had to be articulated.

The purpose of the Declaration can be seen in its first two articles, which refer to 'human dignity, liberty, equality and brotherhood'. In 1948, the UN also legally defined genocide—the process of deliberate and widespread killing of people based on race, religious beliefs or ethnicity—as a crime. When the International Criminal Court was established in 2002, genocide was included in the crimes it was meant to prosecute.

Despite the Declaration, the UN has been criticised for not responding more strongly when serious human rights violations have occurred. Nevertheless, the Declaration remains an important document. It has led to the introduction of human rights laws in individual countries. Most of all, to those searching to have their own rights respected it has provided a foundation for their arguments.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2008, a one-armed man was arrested in Belarus for clapping, which is a sign of peaceful political protest in that country.

Rights and freedoms in the world

Since World War II, Australia and other countries have seen the development of movements for rights and freedoms.

In the 1960s, the civil rights movement in the US advanced the cause for equality for African Americans. This movement inspired similar movements among indigenous populations in Canada and New Zealand. In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's protests led to the right to vote in Federal elections in 1962, and to an important and successful national referendum in 1967.



Source 1.2.1 FIAT advertisement from the 1970s

The women's movement also developed in the 1960s to fight for equality between the sexes. In 1983, Australia signed the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In the US, a law was passed against sexual discrimination in 1964. In the UK, a similar law was passed in 1975. In Australia, equal pay for equal work for men and women was phased in after 1969.

Other civil rights movements that experienced significant growth from the 1960s onwards in Australia and throughout the world included those which fought for the rights of migrants, homosexuals and asylum seekers, all of whom strived for equality and fairness of treatment. In many cases, they are still striving for civil rights. Gay rights movements in the US and Australia, for example, now focus on achieving equality in the areas of pensions, immigration rights, parenthood and marriage.

ACTIVITIES

Remembering and understanding

- 1 In your own words, explain the process of decolonisation.
- 2 In your own words, explain the term 'human rights'. Give examples that apply to life in Australia.

Applying and analysing

- 3 Look at Source 1.2.1. What are the messages of the poster and the graffiti?
- 4 Look at Source 1.2.2. The government had considered testing new migrants for 'Australian values'. What point is the cartoonist making about this idea?



Source 1.2.2 Testing for Australian values, Michael Atchison, *The Advertiser*, September 2006



UNIT 1.3

The Cold War and Australia

Eastern and Western blocs

The Cold War lasted from the end of World War II in 1945 until the collapse of the USSR (or Soviet Union) in 1991. Since the end of the war, Europe had been divided by the 'Iron Curtain', a term that was adopted to describe the boundary, both physical and ideological, that separated East from West. In the East, communism was adopted as the political system, based on the Soviet model. In contrast, Western countries promoted multi-party democracies and **capitalism**. This is a simplified view, but the two ideologies were incompatible and this became a source of tension.

The Cold War was an economic, ideological and technological struggle between two power **blocs**, the leaders of which were the USSR and the US. Both sides had a large number of nuclear weapons that were never used, but which were a constant source of tension. At no time during the Cold War did the US and the USSR go to war against each other directly.

The West

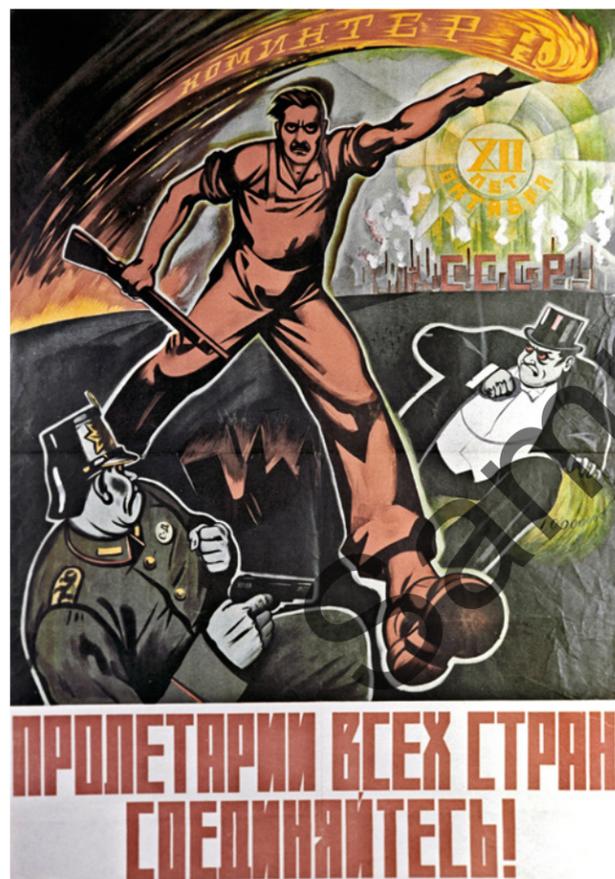
The 'Western bloc' was generally understood to be the US and its allies, although this could be misleading as countries such as Japan and South Korea were important allies of the US and are obviously not in the West. Australia was included in this group. The leading military alliance of the West was the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The East

The 'Eastern bloc' was the term used to describe the USSR and its communist allies. In the West, these allies were often referred to as **satellites**. These countries included East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania among others. These countries formed a military alliance officially established by the Warsaw Pact, which was established in 1955.

Other countries

It is important to realise that there was not a neat division of the world into two opposite camps. China, for example, was a communist power like the USSR, but was not allied to it. Some countries, especially in Africa and South America, were referred to collectively as the **Third World**, and were seen as potential allies and areas for economic and political competition between the two powers. Others, such as Yugoslavia and India, remained neutral.



Source 1.3.1 A USSR propaganda poster created in 1966 by an unknown artist. The text reads, 'Proletarians of all countries, unite!'

Origins of the Cold War

During World War II, the UK, the US and the USSR had been allies against Germany and Japan. After the war, the UK and US quickly found that their interests were different from the Soviets. The USSR had lost many more soldiers and civilians and suffered significantly more destruction in fighting Nazi Germany than had the US or the British Commonwealth. The Soviets had a fear of encirclement by unsympathetic nations, having recently been invaded by the Nazis, and were also reluctant to give up the influence they had gained in Eastern Europe during their military occupation. In addition, the Americans had destroyed two Japanese cities with atomic bombs towards the end of the war. Although the bombs may have been seen as necessary to end the war quickly, it was generally felt that the Americans had also been demonstrating their power to intimidate the USSR. Eventually the Soviets created their own atomic bombs, thus beginning the arms race.

The Korean War

The Korean War was initially fought between North and South Korea. North Korea had fallen to communist forces shortly after China established a communist government in 1949. Australia joined the US and the UN in support of South Korea. Beginning in 1950, the Korean War was therefore a civil war joined by outside forces trying to either advance or stop the spread of communism.

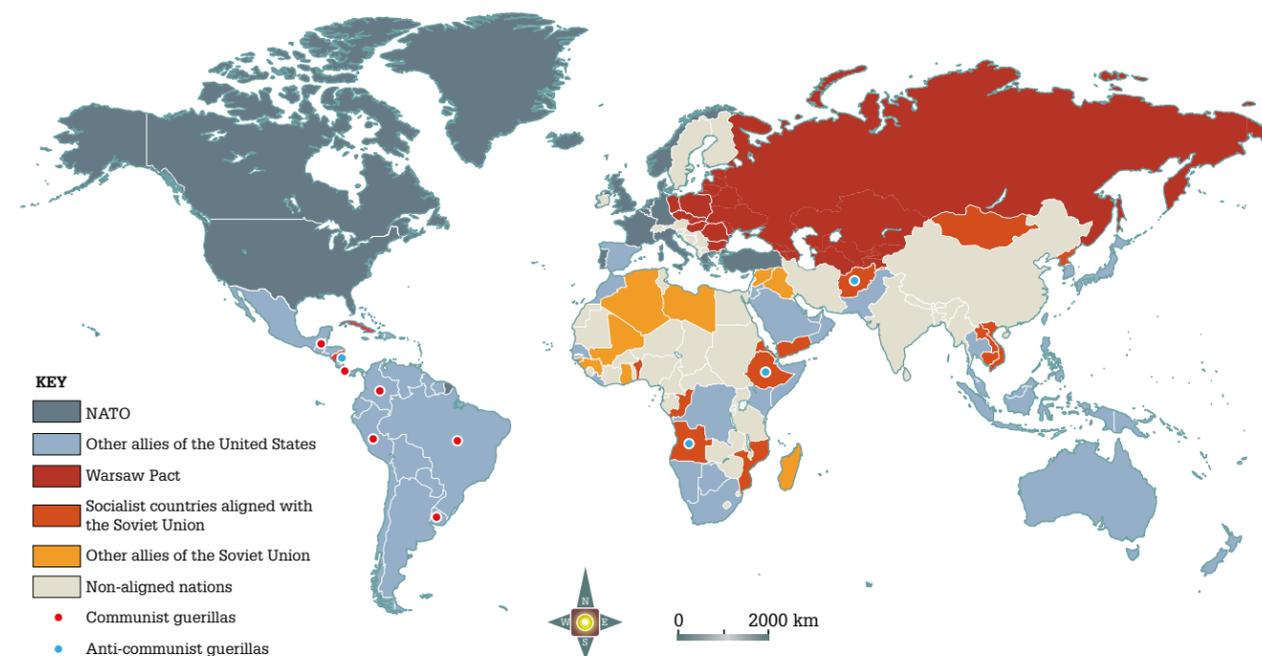
The UN Security Council condemned the war as an act of communist aggression, and despite objections from the USSR, the Security Council passed a resolution allowing member states to give military assistance to South Korea.

Australia participated in the US-led efforts to stop the North Koreans from taking over the entire Korean peninsula. From October 1950, Chinese troops also became directly involved in the war. The war continued until a ceasefire was agreed upon to start from 27 July 1953. To this day, Korea has remained divided between communist North Korea and capitalist, democratic South Korea. The relationship between the two Koreas remains one of distrust and suspicion.

The Vietnam War

US opposition to communism was a prime cause of the Vietnam War, which is an example of prolonged Cold War conflict. Vietnam had been a French colony and the Vietnamese nationalist movement to oust the French had been active since the 1920s.

Communism was established in China, and the US feared that it would continue to spread. North Korea was a communist ally of the USSR, and received financial backing and military advice from the Soviets. The US, on the opposite side, had given huge financial and military aid to the French, who tried unsuccessfully to claim the north, surrendering in May 1954. The US began sending their own troops to Vietnam in March 1965.



Source 1.3.2 The world during the Cold War



UNIT 1.4

Developments and challenges in technology and environment

Technology and its impact on standards of living

Household goods

After World War II, the prices of many labour-saving consumer goods fell to the extent that ordinary people could afford them. Washing machines, vacuum cleaners, electric ovens and steam irons were now affordable. In a time when women were expected to do most domestic work, these were important time-savers, providing opportunities for more leisure time and paid work outside the home.

Cars

The car revolutionised life in the West. It made it easy and cheap for middle-class people to travel for work or leisure, changing not only people's leisure activities, but also their work opportunities. This in turn led to extensive road and highway building.

Housing

People in Western countries, especially in the US and Australia, were more prosperous than they had been before the war, but housing was still expensive. In addition, populations were rapidly increasing as returned servicemen started families and from increased immigration. This led to a housing shortage. Cheaper, easier to build housing was seen as part of the solution. 'Fibro' which is a thin cement sheet reinforced with asbestos fibres, became very popular for building houses and in turn led to expansion of the suburbs.

Fibro was most popular in Australia, where comparatively cheap housing meant 40 per cent of the population owned their homes in 1947 and 70 per cent by 1960. Planned cities such as Levittown in the US, with its cheap housing mass-produced by one company was another approach. Affordable housing probably had the single greatest impact on people's standard of living and suburbs are now a defining characteristic of developed countries.

Environmental costs

Improved living standards for millions of people have taken their toll on the environment in the form of pollution.

Industrial production, electricity generation and other production processes release carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. This results in an increase in the atmospheric temperature of the planet—global warming—which results in climate change. Climate change is having many negative and sometimes disastrous effects on the environment such as floods and fires. Drastic changes in agricultural conditions, including rainfall levels, make it difficult to grow crops in affected areas.

Pollution can also be found in the air in the form of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and hydrocarbons (which are partially responsible for smog), and in the water from sewerage and chemicals such as fertiliser and pesticides, and even in light pollution (over illumination).

Currently, developed nations rely on non-renewable fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas). The reserves of these will soon be exhausted, and there are moves to develop alternative forms of energy generation such as biofuels, which are produced from plant crops.

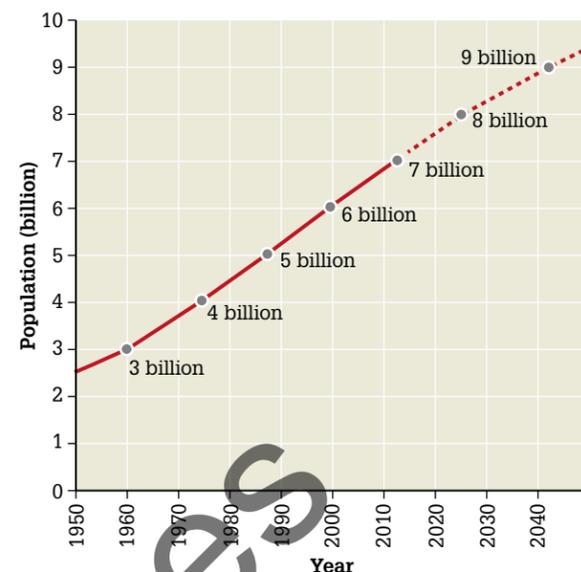
DID YOU KNOW?

In 2010, Australia recycled only 67.4 per cent of its aluminium cans, even though 93 per cent of Australians had access to kerbside recycling services.

Future challenges

Population

Although the population is expected to stabilise during the second half of this century, rapid population growth presents a threat to the natural environment, especially if developing countries with large populations begin to consume resources in the way Western countries presently do. China, which has a booming economy, is an example of this. Its population is over 1.3 billion. The population of India, another rapidly growing economy, is now over 1.2 billion. Both countries are already facing serious environmental threats such as water scarcity and water contamination, the result of pollution caused by their industrial production.



Source 1.4.1 World population growth

The population of developing nations is expected to see the greatest growth in the next forty years, with Africa's population expected to more than double.

Resources

At the moment, developed countries with smaller populations, consume much more natural resources per person than people in developing countries. This is particularly true in the case of non-renewable resources such as oil and coal. The US, for example, with 5 per cent of the world's population is responsible for 25 per cent of its oil consumption.

The environment movement is responsible for an increasing awareness of the importance of **sustainability**. This has led to investigations into alternative energy sources in order to reduce dependence on irreplaceable and damaging fossil fuels.



Source 1.4.2 The level of waste generated by growing populations is a dire problem faced by many societies in developed nations.

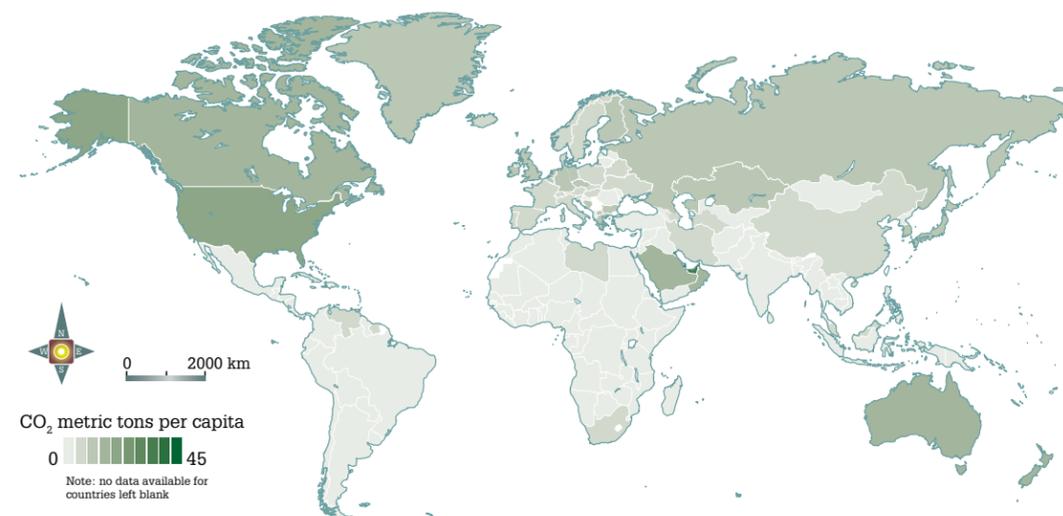
ACTIVITIES

Remembering and understanding

- 1 Give examples of technology most people did not have before World War II.
- 2 Summarise the effects of industrial and agricultural production and how it affected people's lives in the post-World War II period.

Applying and analysing

- 3 Examine Source 1.4.2. What activities do you think humans will have to change in order to reduce this problem?
- 4 Look at Source 1.4.3. What kind of countries are the darkest on the map and why?



Source 1.4.3

CO₂ emissions per capita, 2009–13



Superpowers in space

- 1 Analyse Source 1.5.1. For what reason was the photograph taken?
- 2 Astronauts in the USSR were called cosmonauts. One of the most famous was Yuri Gagarin, the first human in space and the first human to orbit the Earth in 1961.

Imagine you are Yuri Gagarin and it is early 1967. You have been invited by the President of the USSR to give a speech to the nation that celebrates Soviet triumphs in space exploration. To do this, use the library and the internet to research key events and achievements between 1953 (Sputnik) and the first soft landing of a spacecraft on the moon in April 1966. Use the following scaffold to help you research and structure your ideas.

- a Identify the key events and record them in your work book as dot points.
- b Outline your experiences and the significance of what you did.
- c Present your ideas in a 2–4 minute speech.

Cold War mock trial

This is a mock trial activity and the jury will decide on the guilt or innocence of the defendant. You will need a legal team for the USSR, a legal team for the US, and two witnesses representing developing countries or allies/satellites. Your teacher can be the judge and your classmates the jury.

- a The charge is: 'You are responsible for the Cold War'. Flip a coin to decide who will be the defendant—the USSR or the US. The other team will be the plaintiff.
- b The legal teams put forward their case and rebut the opposing arguments. Both sides can call witnesses.

Use the following issues to help you construct your argument:

- Western hostility to Soviet Communism since the Russian Revolution
- suffering of the USSR during World War II
- historic Russian/Soviet sense of encirclement
- inability of the US to understand Soviet fears
- Stalin's wish to dominate Europe
- American free-trade policies, meaning that the Americans wished to have capitalist countries with free market policies to trade with
- US use of the atomic bomb on Japan, the beginning of the arms race
- influence of the military-industrial complex (the political and financial connections between the military, legislators and private industry) in the US, which had a vested interest in high defence spending
- conflicting ideological differences
- conflicting geopolitical needs, for example developing countries where Eastern and Western ideologies clashed
- poor communication between the superpowers.

Consumerism timeline

With a partner, prepare a poster. The poster will feature an illustrated vertical timeline that includes the years 1900, 1950, 1980 and 2013. Put 2013 at the top and 1900 at the bottom.

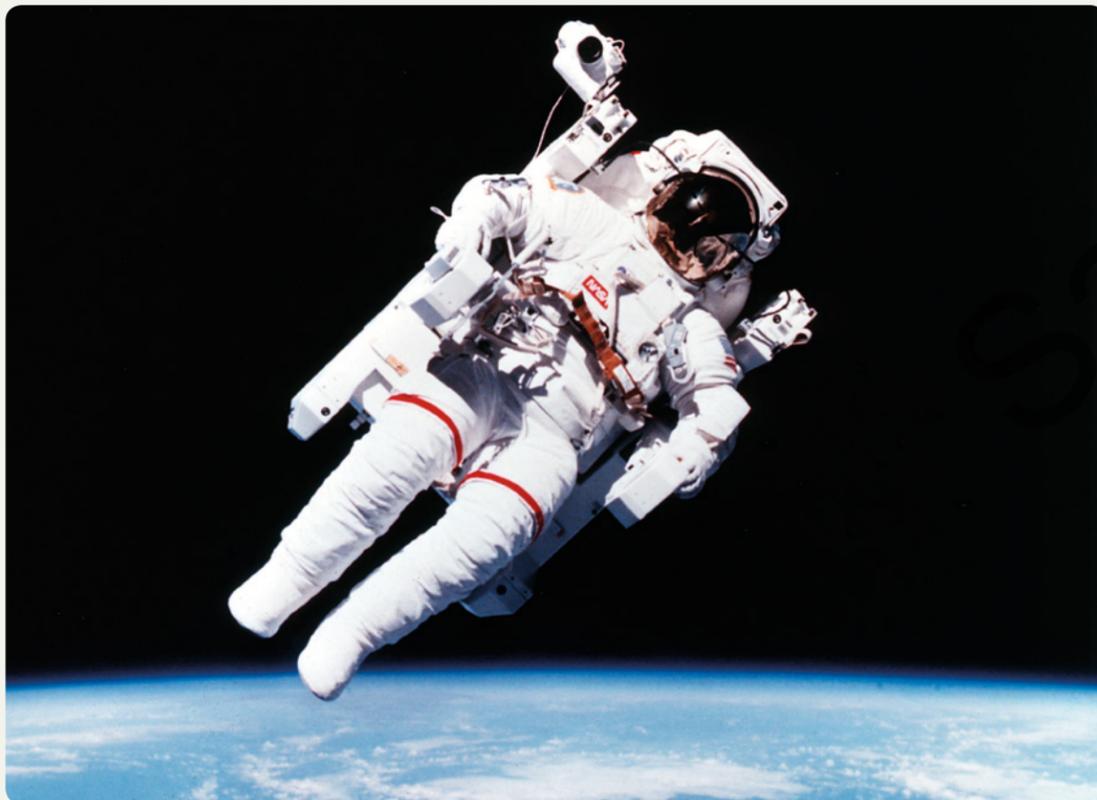
You should include the following points:

- means of travel
- communications—physical such as letters and electronic
- entertainment
- household labour-saving devices.

As you go back in time, you should notice that there are fewer and fewer consumer and household products available. With another group compare what life was like in the years 1900, 1950 and 1980.

Source 1.5.1

US astronaut during a spacewalk, 1984



Glossary

armistice agreement to stop fighting; it does not necessarily mean the war is over

bloc group of countries or political parties with shared aims

capitalism economic system that allows private ownership of property and encourages a free market; often to support democracy

charter formal written statement laying out the aims, principles and procedures of an organisation

colony country or area controlled by another country

Cold War period of political and military tension between the Eastern and Western blocs after World War II and up until 1991

communism political system in which all property is in theory owned collectively; in practice, government holds ownership of farms, factories, businesses and banks

conscription compulsory enlistment in the military or similar service

Holocaust genocide of Jews and others by the Nazis during World War II

humanitarian in a political context, an attempt to reduce suffering, usually through aid in the form of food, water, clothing, accommodation and so on

Indochina peninsula of South-East Asia, including Vietnam, which was colonised and occupied by the French from 1862 to 1954

satellite in a political context, country of Eastern Europe dominated by the USSR

Security Council part of the UN with responsibility for peace and security

self-determination freedom of a people to decide their own political status

sustainability management of the environment and natural resources in order to maintain long-term ecological balance

The Pentagon headquarters of the US Department of Defence

Third World countries that were not aligned with either the Western or Eastern blocs during the Cold War, usually developing economically