Basic Outline (Post-WWII):
I. The Cold War
   A. Tensions within the "Grand Alliance"
   B. Emergence of the Cold War, 1945-53
II. Towards the Collapse of Communism
   A. Milovan Djilas and the "New Class"
   B. The (Partial) Break with Stalinism (and Its Repercussions)
   C. Prague Spring (1968) and the Postponement of Reform
   D. Reform Comes Too Late
III. Western Europe after WWII: The End of Ideology
IV. European Integration & the European Union
   A. Deepening
   B. Widening

Terms and concepts and people and places:
Iron Curtain
Marshall Plan
NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
Warsaw Pact
FRG (West Germany)
Nikita Khrushchev (1956-64)
Leonid Brezhnev (1964-1982)
Solidarity (Poland, early 1980s)
Perestroika (Restructuring)
European Union

Timeline on Cold War History (to End of USSR)
1947 Initiation of the Marshall Plan (European Recovery Act)
   Articulation of "Truman Doctrine" in context of Greek civil war
1947-8 Communist seizures of power in Eastern Europe
1949 Formation of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
   Formation of FRG and GDR (West & East Germany)
1955 Formation of Warsaw Pact (military alliance of socialist countries)
1956 Soviet forces put down uprising in Hungary
1957 Soviets launch Sputnik (first man-made satellite)
1961 Construction of the Berlin Wall (separates East & West Berlin)
1962 Cuban missile crisis
1972 Nixon and Brezhnev sign Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)
1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
1980 Carter boycotts 1980 Moscow Olympic Games in protest of Afghanistan invasion
1984 Socialist countries boycott 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles (except Romania).
1985 Mikhail Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party
1989 Gorbachev allows a non-communist government to take power in Poland
   Series of "revolutions" eliminates communist rule in East-Central Europe
1991 End of the Soviet Union
Timeline on European Economic & Political Integration

1951  Creation of European Coal-Steel Community (ECSC) with "the Six."¹
1953  Most west European countries have recovered from war economically
1958  Treaty of Rome creates European Economic Community (EEC) with "the Six"
1959  German Social Democrats definitively reject Marxist doctrine in party program
1967-8  Student and left-wing demonstrations in West Germany
1968  Student demonstrations and general strike in France
1972-3  Extensive strike activity in Britain, led by mineworkers' union
1973  The "Northern Enlargement": Britain, Ireland & Denmark join EC.²
1973  Oil crisis (embargo) pushes European economies into recession
1974  End of Greek military dictatorship (since 1967)
1975  Franco dies in Spain, leading to democratic government there
1981  Greece joins EC in first step of EC's "Southern Enlargement"
1985  "Single European Act" sets goal of achieving "common market" by 1992.³
1986  Spain & Portugal join EC to complete "Southern Enlargement"
1990  Reunification of Germany; former GDR now becomes part of EC
1991  Members of EC conclude Treaty on European Union in Maastricht, Netherlands.⁴
1993  European Union (EU) comes formally into existence
1995  Sweden, Finland & Austria join the EU; eastern Euro states seek admission
2002  Euro replaces national currencies of EU countries⁵
2004  Ten new members – mostly former communist countries – join EU
2007/8  Possible acceptance of Bulgaria and Romania into EU

¹ "The Six," constituting the core of the states of the European union, were Germany, France, Italy, and the Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg).
² The EEC (European Economic Community) had by this time become simply the EC (European Community).
³ The "Single Act" was ratified in 1987.
⁴ Called for creation of single currency, the euro, by 1999 and other elements of further integration.
⁵ The Euro was not introduced into three EU member-states at the time (United Kingdom, Denmark, and Sweden); nor have any of the ten countries admitted to the EU in 2004 met conditions for the Euro's introduction.