



History of Communism

SS.6.HC.1 Explain the failures of ancient communal systems.

SS.6.HC.1.1 Explain ancient communal systems and the effect on their respective societies.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Spartan communal life, Sparta's dependency on helots (slaves), the Agoge system and Sparta's limited trade and innovation.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Roman society, the latifundia, reliance on slave labor and the role of the Cura Annonae.



SS.7.G.3 Understand the relationships between the Earth's ecosystems and the populations that dwell within them.

- SS.7.G.3.1 Use maps to describe the location, abundance, and variety of natural resources in North America.
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SS.7.G.4 Understand the characteristics, distribution and migration of human populations.

- SS.7.G.4.1 Use geographic terms and tools to explain cultural diffusion throughout North America.
- SS.7.G.4.2 Use maps and other geographic tools to examine the importance of demographics within political divisions of the United States.
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SS.7.G.5 Understand how human actions can impact the environment.

- SS.7.G.5.1 Use a choropleth or other map to geographically represent current information about issues of conservation or ecology in the local community.
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SS.7.G.6 Understand how to apply geography to interpret the past and present and plan for the future.

- SS.7.G.6.1 Use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or other technology to view maps of current information about the United States.
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History of Communism

SS.7.HC.1 Assess the effects of communist governments.

- SS.7.HC.1.1 Assess the effects of communist governments on individual freedoms, political participation, and the economy.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the usage of censorship to restrict free speech, the press, political dissent, and religious expression.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the failures of central economic planning (e.g., the Soviet Union's Five-year Plans, China's Great Leap Forward).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes a comparison of political violence between communist and democratic states.



History of Communism

SS.8.HC.1 Examine early attempts at communal living in American society.

SS.8.HC.1.1 Examine early attempts at communal living in American society and their effect on economic stability and societal prosperity.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes early attempts of collectivism in colonial America (i.e., Jamestown and Plymouth Colony) and reasons for shifting to private ownership (e.g., a lack of incentives to work, mass starvation).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the failures of the Brook Farm experiment.



History of Communism

SS.912.HC.1 Analyze the intellectual, political, and economic origins of communism.

SS.912.HC.1.1 Describe the intellectual origins and nature of utopian thought.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Plato's Republic and Thomas More's Utopia.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes different definitions of utopia (e.g., equality of wealth, sufficiency of wealth, equality of leisure, equality of happiness).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the enduring barriers to achieving a utopia (e.g., self-interest, competition, scarcity of resources, overregulation, corruption).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the dangers of striving to create a utopia by force (e.g., violence, coercion, collectivization, dehumanization).

SS.912.HC.1.2 Examine how the Enlightenment contributed to the development of communism.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Jean Jacques Rousseau's *Discourse on Inequality* and James Madison's subsequent critique in *Federalist #10*.

SS.912.HC.1.3 Assess how the French Revolution provided a framework for revolutionary socialist and communist thought.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes communist elements in the French Revolution (i.e., Gracchus Babeuf's Conspiracy of the Equals).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Jacobins, the Reign of Terror, and the model of state terror as a necessary means of revolution.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the origin of the terms "left-wing" and "right-wing" as referring to those who wished to continue and expand the Revolution and those who did not, respectively.

SS.912.HC.1.4 Examine the influence of the Industrial Revolution on the development of socialist and communist thought.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the effects of the Industrial Revolution on Europe's economy and society.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the political culture of the 19th century European working classes.



SS.912.HC.1.5 Explain how early socialist movements in Europe and the United States influenced the development of communist ideas and revolutionary thought.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the theories, practices, and failures of early nineteenth-century socialists (e.g., Charles Fourier, Henri de Saint Simon, Robert Owen's New Harmony, Brook Farm, and the Nashoba Community).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes anarchism and anarchist critiques of coercive "statist" communism.

SS.912.HC.1.6 Describe the factors that prompted Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels to write *The Communist Manifesto* (1848).

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the political, social, intellectual, and economic issues of the 1830-40s (e.g., legacy of the French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, and the German Philosophical Revolution).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Marx and Engels' views of man and human nature as discussed in their correspondence.

SS.912.HC.1.7 Examine the economic, social, and political theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels as outlined in *The Communist Manifesto* (1848).

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes economic theories (e.g., on private enterprise, capitalism, private property, "despotic inroads on the rights of property," taxes, inheritance, "equal liability for all to work").

Clarification 2: Instruction includes political theories (e.g., dialectical materialism, all history is "class struggles," oppressor and oppressed political change through revolution and violence).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes social theories (e.g., "forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions," abolition of the nuclear family, marriage, religion, education).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the methods Marx determined were necessary to achieve communism (e.g., violence, revolution and the dismantling of all existing social conditions, abolition of private property, forced labor).

SS.912.HC.1.8 Describe various contemporary responses to the theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes conservative responses (e.g., Imperial Germany's State Socialism).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes liberal responses (e.g., the United Kingdom's New Liberalism).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes religious responses (e.g., Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* (1891), the Netherland's Anti-Revolutionary Party).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes socialist responses (e.g., the United Kingdom's Fabian Society, George Bernard Shaw).



SS.912.HC.1.9 Compare *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) and the Bill of Rights in their views on individual rights, property, and government.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the foundational principles in the Bill of Rights.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the 10 measures to achieve communism catalogued in *The Communist Manifesto*.

SS.912.HC.1.10 Compare communist and socialist thought.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes how socialism can lead to a communist regime rising to power.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the concept of socialism as a transitory system between capitalism and communism.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the source of authority in socialism and communism and the means by which they exist and endure.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes socialists who renounced revolution as a means to achieve their ends (e.g., United Kingdom's Labour Party).

SS.912.HC.1.11 Identify the nature of and the response to communist and socialist political parties prior to 1914.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the rise of, and political responses to communist and socialist parties.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes how social reformers responded to the intellectual and political challenges of communist and socialist parties.

SS.912.HC.1.12 Assess how Russian radical movements created a revolutionary culture that contributed to the rise of communism in Russia.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Narodniks.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the People's Will and its assassination campaign.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the rise of the Mensheviks, Bolsheviks, and Socialist Revolutionaries in Tsarist Russia.



SS.912.HC.2 Analyze the tactics and tools utilized by communist movements and states.

SS.912.HC.2.1 Examine the methods and rationale of communist nations exercising total information control in their countries.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes why communist nations seize and take control of all means of communication (e.g., print, radio, TV, internet, social media).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes using censorship, self-censorship, and compelled speech to prevent dissent.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the use of lies and propaganda to hide, cover, or excuse regime failures or excesses (e.g., Stalin's Russia and the western press (Walter Duranty) concealment of the Holodomor, Vaclav Havel's *Power of the Powerless*; attempts to control media).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes altering and manipulating history and scholarship to counter perceived enemies or promote regime leaders.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the monopoly on education to indoctrinate and control the population from childhood.

SS.912.HC.2.2 Identify how communist governments use security services as a tool of state terror to maintain power and control of their people.

Example: The ratio of security services personnel to population: East German Stasi 1:180 and Soviet Union's 1:583 compared to United States' 1:25,385.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes a review of the various security services communist leaders have created and used to control their populations (e.g., Soviet Union's Cheka and Komitet gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti (KGB); East German Stasi; Cuba's Ministry of Interior; China's Ministry of State Security; Cambodia's Santebal; Venezuela's Servicio Bolivariano de Inteligencia Nacional (SEBIN)).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes use of imprisonment, torture and forced labor camps to instill fear and compliance (e.g., Soviet GULAG system, Cuba's expansive political prison system, Cambodia's Killing Fields, China's Laogai, and Uyghur re-education camps).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes use of famine as a weapon (e.g., Lenin's famine, Stalin's engineered famine in Ukraine and Kazakhstan (Holodomor), Cambodia's Killing Fields).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the use of surveillance, security forces and informants to monitor and control the population (e.g., the ratio of security services personnel to population, children as informants and enforcers in the Soviet Union, China's Cultural Revolution, Pol Pot's S-21 camp guards).



SS.912.HC.2.3 Recognize how communist states restrict and ban religious expression.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes a review of communist statements on religion and God in society (e.g., Marx on religion as “the opium of the people,” Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Castro statements against religion).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes communist governments' propaganda against religion (e.g., propaganda campaigns against religion in the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin; China's campaigns against religious expression, including the repression of Islam among the Uyghurs).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes violence against faith groups, houses of faith and religious minorities (e.g., Lenin's assault on the Orthodox Church resulting in 22,000 killed; Stalin's League of Militant Godless and execution of 85,000 Orthodox Clergy; Soviet destruction or repurposing of houses of worship; Albania as the first atheist nation; Soviet bloc persecution of religious minorities including Jews and Muslims; China's campaign against Muslim Uyghurs that includes reeducation camps and forced sterilization).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the effect of decades of communist rule on religious belief (e.g., enduringly reduced levels of religious affiliations in post-Communist European nations).

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the establishment of a substitute quasi-religious veneration of leading communist individuals and institutions (e.g., Lenin's Tomb, Palace of the Soviets).

SS.912.HC.2.4 Discuss how communist states use fear to maintain power and control their populations.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the use of denunciations (e.g., Dazibao, Cuba's Comités de Defensa de la Revolución [CDR]), loss of employment, loss of homes, family and friends and imprisonment to gain submission to the state).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes using fear of the other (e.g., foreigners, minorities, other ethnic groups, fifth column and traitors) to amplify a sense of crisis only the state can resolve.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the use of show trials, torture, terror campaigns and purges (e.g., Lenin's Red Terror, Stalin's Great Terror [Industrial party show trial of 1930 and the Old Bolsheviks Trial 1936], execution quotas, executions of 17th Party Congress, China's Cultural Revolution, Pol Pot's terror campaign to eliminate minority groups).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the use of various real, manufactured, or perceived crises as an occasion to call for authoritarian state intervention.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the repercussions for non-compliance within a communist state.

SS.912.HC.2.5 Identify communist governments' restrictions on domestic and international travel.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain as both a metaphor and an actual physical barrier.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the use of student exchanges between communist states and democratic countries.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes bans on leaving the country.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes internal passport systems (e.g., China's Social Credit System, Soviet Union's National Identification Card).



SS.912.HC.2.6 Explain how and why communist governments implemented restrictions on individual rights.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the suppression of freedoms (e.g., speech, religion, press, assembly, fair trial, property, bearing arms, contract, familial autonomy, political affiliation, privacy).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the forcible dismantling of social relationships.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the intrusion of the state into all facets of life.

SS.912.HC.2.7 Examine the role of centralized control on the means of production.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the abolition of private property and enterprise.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the professed desire to eliminate divisions between classes and the creation of a new and privileged ruling class of Communist party members and bureaucrats (e.g., Soviet nomenklatura, Milovan Djilas' analysis of a "new class," China's Princelings).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the desire to focus a nation's resources on the goals of the communist party.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the continual expansion of social welfare to compensate for the lack of a free market.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the elimination of the freedom of workers to choose their place of employment, to bargain with employers, individually and collectively through unions.

SS.912.HC.3 Analyze how communist movements and nations, past and present, use propaganda to gain and maintain power.

SS.912.HC.3.1 Examine communist leaders' use of propaganda to gain followers and power.

SS.912.HC.3.2 Describe how propaganda is used to create a "cult of personality" for communist leaders.

SS.912.HC.3.3 Analyze how communist regime utilize crises (real and manufactured) to rally support for the regime (e.g., sabotage, accusations, show trials).

SS.912.HC.3.4 Identify how propaganda permeates all aspects of society in communist states (e.g., arts, sports, education, war against religion, daily life).

SS.912.HC.3.5 Describe how communist states use consulates and other organizations to propagandize internationally (e.g., Confucius Institutes).

SS.912.HC.3.6 Discuss the usage of "Potemkin Villages" to disguise communist realities.

SS.912.HC.3.7 Examine the use of youth organizations to indoctrinate children.



SS.912.HC.3.8 Analyze the intentional erasure of historical facts and tragedies that did not support the communist narrative.

Example 1: The Soviet Union's reframing of the mass murder of peasantry as dekulakization.

Example 2: Stalin changing the narrative of the Holocaust from a genocide targeting Jews to that of Soviet and communist heroism and suffering to mask his antisemitism.

SS.912.HC.4 Evaluate the rise and development of the Soviet Union and its subsequent decline and eventual collapse.

SS.912.HC.4.1 Analyze the economic and political conditions in Tsarist Russia prior to the 1917 February Revolution.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Russo-Japanese War and the Russian Revolution of 1905.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the failed political liberalization of Russia after 1905, establishment of the Duma, revolutionary terrorism, renewed Tsarist repression of the people and the abortive Stolypin economic reforms.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the immense suffering World War I inflicted on the Russian people (e.g., millions dead and wounded, refugees, the forced removal of civilians, food shortages, extreme hunger, disease).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the role of Tsar Nicholas II's leadership in peace and war and the influence of Rasputin.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II.

SS.912.HC.4.2 Assess the intellectual and political history and nature of the Russian Bolshevik Party prior to the 1917 February Revolution.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the emergence of the Bolshevik Party as a radical faction of the Marxist Russian Social Democratic Labour Party and its distinctive belief that a small revolutionary vanguard should possess centralized control of both the party and the state.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the execution of Vladimir Lenin's brother by Tsar Alexander III, Vladimir Lenin's leadership of the Bolshevik Party, his individual role in developing Bolshevik theory, and his relationship with foreign governments during his decade of exile between 1907 and 1917.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the decision of most European socialist parties to support their nations' war efforts during World War I and the Bolsheviks' consistent and uniform opposition to the "imperialist war."



SS.912.HC.4.3 Examine the history and nature of the Russian Revolutions.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the February Revolution, the role of Alexander Kerensky, the Provisional Government, the Petrograd Soviet (Ispolkom), Order No. 1, and the Kerensky offensive.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the October Revolution, the Bolshevik seizure of power, the overthrow of the Duma and Provisional Government, the establishment of one-party dictatorship, and the treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) withdrawing Russia from World War I.

SS.912.HC.4.4 Trace the cause, course, and consequences of the Russian Civil War.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Russian Civil War, creation of the Cheka, the Red Terror and Lenin's Hanging Order of 1918, the murder of Tsar Nicholas and the royal family, the use of poison gas during the Tambov Rebellion, the Kronstadt Rebellion, and the formal establishment of the Soviet Union in 1922.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes War Communism, including brutal repression of political opposition, the intentional destruction of the Imperial Russian Ruble, expropriating private industry, banning private enterprise, requisitioning and rationing food, mass famine and food relief distributed by the American Relief Administration, suppression of strikes, expropriation of the Church and the mass murder of priests.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the historical roles of prominent individuals including Alexander Kerensky, Vladimir Lenin, and Leon Trotsky.

SS.912.HC.4.5 Analyze the key events, policies, and experiences of life in the Soviet Union from 1922 to 1945.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the political history of interwar Soviet Russia, including the New Economic Policy, the rise of Josef Stalin and the purge and murder of Leon Trotsky and his other rivals, collectivization and the First Five Year Plan, and the Great Terror.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the domestic policies of interwar Soviet Russia, including the destruction of individual rights, government seizure of most privately owned industry and commerce, introduction of internal passports to control people's movements, rejection of any religion, the politicization of science (Trofim Lysenko), and the "cult of personality" that glorified Stalin.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes Soviet Russia's systematic use of state terror, including the development of the secret police (Cheka, NKVD), the GULAG forced labor network, purges of the military officer corps, terror against the citizenry, dekulakization (mass murder of peasants), genocidal starvation of an estimated 6-10 million Ukrainians and Kazakhs (Holodomor), and democide (estimated 10% of Soviet population murdered).



SS.912.HC.4.6 Describe Soviet foreign policy during the interwar period between World War I and World War II.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes interwar Soviet foreign policy and Soviet support for foreign Communist parties and popular fronts, including the Communist Party of the United States of America.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the opposition to reform socialists that catalyzed the rise of fascist governments, and foreign policy in Asia, including support for Chinese Communists.

SS.912.HC.4.7 Examine the effect of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact on Europe prior to the start of World War II.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Soviet alliance with Nazi Germany from 1939 to 1941, Soviet annexations and population deportations (e.g., Baltic States and Poland).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the German and Soviet invasions of Poland, the division of Poland, the entry of France and the United Kingdom into the war, and the Katyn massacre.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the Winter War between the Soviet Union and Finland.

SS.912.HC.4.8 Identify the key events, policies, and experiences of World War II in the Soviet Union.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes wartime Soviet history from 1941 to 1945, including the German invasion, the Holocaust, the Siege of Leningrad, and the Battle of Stalingrad.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Soviet war policy, including ethnic cleansing, abuse of American prisoners of wars, looting operations in conquered countries, the Yalta Conference, the occupation of Eastern Europe, and atrocities and rampant violence committed against foreign civilian populations.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the Western decision to support Yugoslav Partisan leader Josip Tito instead of Colonel Draza Mihailovic.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the debate among American and British leaders during and immediately after World War II about whether to occupy larger portions of Central and Eastern Europe to protect them from Communist takeover or, as was eventually decided, to agree to Soviet occupation of the region.



SS.912.HC.4.9 Examine the key events, policies, and experiences of the Cold War.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Soviet Union's communization of Eastern and Central Europe after World War II, including the 1948 coup d'état in Czechoslovakia, the Stalin-Tito split, the Show Trials, and the formation of the Warsaw Pact.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the chronic rebellions in the Eastern Bloc, including the East German Uprising (1953), the Hungarian Uprising (1956), the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia (1968) and Solidarity in Poland (1980-1989).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the West's response to communism in the early Cold War (e.g., the policy of containment, the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, the formation of NATO, the introduction of atomic weapons and disarmament movements, the construction of the Berlin Wall, the standoff at Checkpoint Charlie, and the 4,300 mile wall dividing Eastern and Western Europe from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes Soviet penetration of Western intelligence services (e.g., the Cambridge Five).

SS.912.HC.4.10 Describe the postwar decay of the Soviet Union.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the major periods of the postwar Soviet Union, including Stalin's renewed repression (Doctor's Plot), the dismantling of the GULAGs (1953-1960), Nikita Khrushchev's Thaw (1956 Secret Speech), and Leonid Brezhnev's Era of Stagnation (declining economic growth, corruption, dwindling belief in Communism).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes growing security challenges to the Soviet Union, including the Sino-Soviet split, rising defense costs, Soviet defeat in the Soviet-Afghan War and the role of Ronald Reagan's military rearmament (Strategic Defense Initiative).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes how the Chernobyl disaster (1986) and the Armenian earthquake (1988) exposed the decay of Soviet institutions.

SS.912.HC.4.11 Identify the causes of the Soviet Union's dissolution.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the role of Soviet dissidents (e.g., Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* and *The Gulag Archipelago*, Andrei Sakharov, Vladimir Bukovsky).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Samizdat System (self-publication, smuggling and distribution) (e.g., Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, The Beatles, and The Velvet Underground).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt to reform the Soviet Union, including perestroika, glasnost, and the 1989 Soviet legislative election.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the end of Soviet control of East Germany, including President Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" speech in 1987, protests in Poland and Hungary that inspired protests in East Germany, the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the reunification of Germany in 1990.



SS.912.HC.4.12 Analyze the course of the Soviet Union's dissolution.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the end of Soviet control of Eastern Europe, including the Solidarity Movement's role in bringing about free elections in Poland, Vaclav Havel and the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia and the Christmas Revolution in Romania.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the rise of Boris Yeltsin, uprisings in Lithuania and Latvia, the unsuccessful August Coup and Gorbachev's resignation.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the dissolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the declarations of independence of the now-former Soviet republics, and the lowering of the Kremlin's Soviet flag for the last time.

SS.912.HC.4.13 Examine the consequences of the Soviet Union's dissolution.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes voucher privatization and the rise of Russian oligarchs.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, and Russia's subsequent violations.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the authoritarian dictatorship of Vladimir Putin..

SS.912.HC.4.14 Examine the realities of life in the Soviet Union through notable literary works.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes selections from notable literary works, such as Anna Akhmatova's *Requiem*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Heda Margolius Kovály's *Under a Cruel Star*, Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon*, and Boris Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*.

SS.912.HC.4.15 Evaluate the rise and development of the Soviet Union and its subsequent decline and eventual collapse through primary sources.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes government documents, speeches, Soviet propaganda, diaries, letters, and memoirs.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the totalitarian ambition of the Soviet state and the suffering of the victims of communism.



SS.912.HC.5 Evaluate the rise and development of communism in East and Southeast Asia.

SS.912.HC.5.1 Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the Chinese Communist Revolution.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the fall of the Qing Dynasty, the establishment of the Republic of China, the roles of Sun Yat-sen, Chiang Kai-Shek and the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang or Guomindang), the Warlord Era and Japan's attempts to dominate and conquer China (1915-1945).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the rise of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) including the May Fourth Movement (1919), the Communist alliance with the Nationalist Party in the First United Front (1924-1927), the civil war between the Chinese Communist Party and the Nationalist Party and shifting Soviet support from the Nationalist Party to the Chinese Communist Party.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949; the CCP's early consolidation of power, land redistribution, and the suppression of opposition; and the escape of the Republic of China's government to Taiwan.

SS.912.HC.5.2 Discuss the rise and rule of Mao Zedong.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Long March and Mao Zedong's emphasis on the peasantry as the primary revolutionary force, contrasting with classical Marxism's focus on the urban proletariat.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Mao Zedong's use of propaganda, the development of a cult of personality, the suppression of dissent through purges and re-education campaigns.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the estimated 65 million people who died due to Mao Zedong's policies.

SS.912.HC.5.3 Analyze the causes, course, and consequences of the Great Leap Forward.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Mao Zedong's goals of rapid industrialization and forced agricultural collectivization.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes government policies and their consequences, including iron quotas resulting in pig-iron and backyard furnaces, crop production experiments, lying about production levels by farmers and party members, using food for export rather than consumption and censorship of discussion about famine or starvation.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the resulting mass famine and the program's broader effect on Chinese society and the economy.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the estimated 15-55 million people who died due to the Great Leap Forward.



SS.912.HC.5.4 Describe the causes, course, and consequences of the Cultural Revolution.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Mao Zedong's motivations for launching the Cultural Revolution, including fears of opposition within the Chinese Communist Party, desire to eliminate all capitalist influences from Chinese society, his response to perceived threats after the Hundred Flowers Campaign, and the subsequent Anti-Rightist Campaign.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the role of the Red Guards, Shock Troops, the Little Red Book, the persecution of intellectuals, and the destruction of historical and cultural artifacts.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the long-term economic, political, and social consequences of the Cultural Revolution, including its effect on China's leadership.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the long-term consequences of the Cultural Revolution on the Chinese educational system, including the closing of schools and universities, intellectuals targeted by the state, millions of youths, including Xi Jinping, sent to the countryside to be "re-educated" (Down to the Countryside Movement).

SS.912.HC.5.5 Examine the political and economic reforms of Deng Xiaoping.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the shift toward a "socialist market economy" and the introduction of capitalist elements (e.g., open-door policy, special economic zones, foreign investment policies).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the contrast between economic liberalization and continued political repression under Deng Xiaoping's rule.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the One-Child Policy established in 1980.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the Household Responsibility System established in 1982.

SS.912.HC.5.6 Identify the causes and significance of the Tiananmen Square Massacre.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the origins of the pro-democracy movement, the role of students and intellectuals, and the key events leading to the 1989 protests centered at Tiananmen Square.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Chinese government's military response to remove protestors from Tiananmen Square and the death toll of at least several hundred protestors.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the effect of the massacre on China's domestic policies and global reputation.

SS.912.HC.5.7 Explain the transition of China into a global power.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes China's economic expansion, global trade influence, and competition with the United States.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the One-China policy and the United Nation's recognition of the People's Republic of China as the legitimate government of China in 1971.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes China joining the World Trade Organization in 2001 the effect that had on the country's economic growth.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes China's mimicry of successful organizations and policies originating from the United States.



SS.912.HC.5.8 Analyze the domestic policies of China during the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes internal repression, including policies in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Uyghur oppression and genocide (e.g., re-education camps, slave labor, torture, forced sterilization, execution by organ harvesting).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the government's use of surveillance, facial recognition, and artificial intelligence for political and social control (i.e., the Social Credit System).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the policies and rule of Xi Jinping (e.g., National Security Law of 2020 for the purpose of extraditing civilians to mainland China, censorship of media).

SS.912.HC.5.9 Analyze the foreign policies of China during the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes China's influence in the United States, including corporate and political espionage, economic leverage, and use of educational organizations for the purpose espionage and technological influence.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes China's investment in international infrastructure projects (i.e., China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Belt and Road Initiative) and their strategic implications.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes international complicity with China's oppressive policies due to a reliance on Chinese manufacturing and labor.

SS.912.HC.5.10 Examine the connections between the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese corporations (e.g., Huawei, Temu, and Tencent).

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the obligations of corporations to report to the Chinese Communist Party.

SS.912.HC.5.11 Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the Korean War.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the division of Korea after World War II, the Soviet Union's Communization of North Korea, and the North Korean invasion of South Korea in 1950.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the 1950 Soviet boycott of the United Nations that made possible the resolution deploying United Nations troops to support South Korea during the Korean War.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the United States' and United Nations' defense of South Korea, the role of China and the Soviet Union, violations of the Geneva Convention by the communist forces, the treatment of American POWs, and the war's military and political outcomes (i.e., Demilitarized Zone).



SS.912.HC.5.12 Examine the long-term effects of communism in North Korea.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the establishment of the Kim dynasty, the development of a totalitarian regime, severe human rights abuses, political repression, the 1990s North Korean Famine, and the role of state ideology (i.e., Juche).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes comparisons of North and South Korea's governance, economic performance, standard of living and international relations (e.g., KORUS Agreement).

SS.912.HC.5.13 Describe the rise of communism in Vietnam.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the rule of Ho Chi Minh, the role of the Viet Minh and Vietnam's war for independence from France, the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, and the signing of the Geneva Accords in 1954.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes land redistribution campaigns, forced collectivization, the execution of landlords, and broader class struggle policies.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the flight of hundreds of thousands from North Vietnam to South Vietnam.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the tactics of the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the North Vietnamese invasion of Laos in 1958.

SS.912.HC.5.14 Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the Vietnam War.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Domino Theory which drove United States involvement in the region.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the assassination of President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963, the 1968 Tet Offensive, and subsequent response by South Vietnam and the United States.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the role of the media, propaganda, and protests in shaping public opinion in Vietnam and the United States about the war (e.g., Walter Cronkite, *The Pentagon Papers*, protests by Buddhist monks).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the outcomes of the United States' withdrawal from the region (e.g., 1 million killed, re-education camps, "Vietnamese boat people").

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the Pathet Lao's establishment of a communist government in Laos following the fall of South Vietnam in 1975.

SS.912.HC.5.15 Evaluate the policies of modern Communist Vietnam.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the effects of the Doi Moi reforms beginning in 1986 (e.g., shifting from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one, promoting private enterprise, promoting foreign investment, increasing trade).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the economic effects of modern ties between Vietnam and the United States.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes human rights abuses in Vietnam (e.g., political repression, restrictions on movement, use of violence, arbitrary arrests, lack of rights).



SS.912.HC.5.16 Examine the rule of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Pol Pot's rule, the establishment of an agrarian communist state, the Year Zero Policy, and the restructuring of Cambodian society.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Khmer Rouge's targeted persecution of intellectuals, professionals, educated individuals and any who were viewed as threats to the regime's agrarian ideology.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the Cambodian genocide, forced labor policies, and the mass murders in the Killing Fields that led to the death of approximately 2 million people or 25% of the Cambodian population.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the Khmer Rouge's conflict with Vietnam, the Vietnamese invasion that led to the regime's collapse in 1979, and the subsequent establishment of a Vietnamese client regime in Cambodia.

SS.912.HC.5.17 Assess anti-communist movements in Southeast Asia.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes British efforts to suppress communist insurgencies in Malaya (i.e., the Malayan Emergency) and their counterinsurgency strategies (e.g., New Villages, "winning hearts and minds," Operation Starvation).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes anti-communist purges in Indonesia under Suharto, including mass killings and political repression.

SS.912.HC.5.18 Compare the economic, political, and social systems of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore with those of communist states in Asia.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the distinctively Asian economic model of state industrial policy, export-driven growth, forced savings, domestic protection, and opportunistic participation in the American-led global free-market system.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the dramatically greater economic growth and improvement in standard of living in the Asian state-capitalist countries as compared to Asian Communist countries.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the later imitation by China and other communist states of the state-capitalist economic model.



SS.912.HC.6 Evaluate the rise and development of communism in Latin America, including the rise of communist states in South America.

SS.912.HC.6.1 Describe the causes and course of the Cuban Revolution.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the leading role of Fidel Castro in the Cuban Revolution including the assault on Cuartel Moncada on July 26, 1953, his 15-year jail sentence, Fidel Castro's History Will Absolve Me speech, and subsequent amnesty, his stay in Mexico where he prepared an armed group for guerrilla warfare in Cuba with Che Guevara, his arrival in Cuba and the murder of 200 civilians in the mountains, and the execution of 5,000 people following his return to Havana.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the role of Che Guevara in the Cuban Revolution including his leadership of the guerilla forces in Cuba's Sierra Maestra mountains and executions of civilians.

SS.912.HC.6.2 Examine how Fidel Castro imposed Communism on Cuba.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the presidency of Manuel Urrutia and Castro's appointment as prime minister.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Fidel Castro's declaration of being a Marxist-Leninist (1961).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the Cuban government's nationalization of business, agriculture, and industry.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the Cuban Exodus.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes Che Guevara's roles as President of the National Bank, as commander of La Cabaña prison, and in revolutionary tribunals.

SS.912.HC.6.3 Describe the attempts of Cuban exiles to overthrow the Communist government.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Manuel Artime and his preparations for an invasion of Cuba.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the activities of Brigade 2506 and selection of the Bay of Pigs as the invasion point.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes President John F. Kennedy's cancellation of United States air support during the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the exchange of medical supplies for prisoners held by Cuba.



SS.912.HC.6.4 Analyze the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the proximity of Cuba to the United States and its relevance in the use of nuclear missiles.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Soviet Union's installation of missile platforms in Cuba, and the United States' subsequent discovery of these platforms.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes President John F. Kennedy's response to the Soviet Union's involvement in Cuba and the installation of a naval blockade around the island.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the secret agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to resolve the crisis and cease further United States intervention against the Castro regime.

SS.912.HC.6.5 Examine internationally recognized crimes committed by the Cuban government against civilians.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the sinking of tugboat 13 de Marzo on July 13, 1994, which resulted in the deaths of 41 passengers.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Cuban Air Force shooting down two aircraft operated by Brothers to the Rescue, the role of Juan Pablo Roque, the passage and application of the Helms-Burton Act and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1067.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the 2021 Cuban protests and subsequent government crackdown resulting in 5 deaths and 710 arrests.

SS.912.HC.6.6 Examine how Cuba has exported its revolution internationally.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Cuba's compulsory military service and foreign interventions by Cuba during the Cold War (e.g., Angola, Ethiopia, Grenada).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Che Guevara's desire to export the revolution and the exportation of guerilla movements to South America.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the establishment of the Pioneer Organization and Young Communist League, mandatory agricultural work and military instruction for students and student exchanges with other communist countries for the purpose of indoctrination.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the use of medical professionals and teachers to promote communist ideology while performing their services.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the usage of consulates and associations for the purpose of espionage, youth recruitment, and propaganda.

Clarification 6: Instruction includes the foreign dissemination of a cult of personality for both Fidel Castro and Che Guevara.



SS.912.HC.6.7 Compare Cuba's social, political, and economic landscape before and after socialism.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the societal prosperity, strong economy, and high standards of living that existed in Cuba prior to the Cuban Revolution.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes human rights abuses of the Cuban government (e.g., freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the use of censorship, fear, intimidation, and surveillance to control the population.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the harsh punishments inflicted on dissidents (e.g., imprisonment, physical abuse).

Clarification 5: Instruction includes how Cuba's tax-payer funded universal healthcare falsifies data to present favorable medical outcomes (e.g., low infant mortality rates).

SS.912.HC.6.8 Describe the surge of radical socialist thought in Venezuela.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Hugo Chavez and his oath at Samán de Güere.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement-200.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes Hugo Chavez's attempted coup d'état against President Carlos Andres Perez (1992), Hugo Chavez's imprisonment, and his later pardon by President Rafael Caldera.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the multiple leftist parties that exist within Venezuela.

SS.912.HC.6.9 Evaluate how Hugo Chavez seized power politically.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes how Hugo Chavez won the 1998 election.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes how Hugo Chavez used calculated ambiguity to describe his ideological affiliation.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes Hugo Chavez's use of his political mandate to support allied political and military elites.

SS.912.HC.6.10 Analyze how Hugo Chavez maintained power in Venezuela.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes unsuccessful attempts to remove Chavez from power, including the Venezuelan coup d'état attempt (2002) and the Venezuelan general strike (2002-2003).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the United Socialist Party of Venezuela, Bolivarian Circles (party militias), abuse of voting machine technology (Smartmatic) and expropriation of private businesses.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes Cuban support for Chavez's regime, including medical assistance, support for security services, and Venezuelan oil exported to Cuba.



SS.912.HC.6.11 Discuss the effects of Hugo Chavez's policies on Venezuela's economy.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the result of hyperinflation and extreme deterioration of living standards, with a lack of basic necessities.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Venezuela's economic decline due to price controls and the establishment and growth of social welfare programs.

SS.912.HC.6.12 Describe how Nicolas Maduro maintained power in Venezuela following the death of Hugo Chavez.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Nicolas Maduro's education in Cuba under the Communist Party, his career as Secretary of State and Vice President, and his ties with the Iranian government.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the National Assembly's declaration of Juan Guaido as interim president, international recognition of Juan Guaido's presidency, and the United States' support of Juan Guaido.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the disqualification of Maria Corina Machado as a presidential candidate, the fraudulent nature of the 2024 Venezuelan Presidential Election and international recognition of Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia's victory.

SS.912.HC.6.13 Compare Venezuela's social, political, and economic landscape before and after socialism.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes political repression, media censorship, abuse against journalists (i.e., imprisonment and forced exile), and human rights abuses against Venezuelans.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the lack of transparency in Venezuelan elections and election fraud.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the lack of food, medicine, and basic services in Venezuela which has forced over 7 million citizens to flee the country.

SS.912.HC.6.14 Describe communist attempts to spread revolution throughout Latin America.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes radical non-communist movements in twentieth-century Latin America, including the Mexican Revolution and Justicialism (Peronism) in Argentina.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes revolutionary socialist and communist movements, such as those in Chile and Nicaragua.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the United States' actions to oppose communism, including the Alliance for Progress and interventions in Guatemala, Chile, and Nicaragua.



SS.912.HC.7 Analyze communism in the United States and the role of the Communist International.

SS.912.HC.7.1 Analyze the role of the Communist International (Comintern) throughout the West.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the purpose of the Communist International for “world revolution and the overthrow of existing capitalist governments.”

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the recruitment tactics of the Soviet-backed Communist Party.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the trips to the Soviet Union for training, beginning in 1922 with Claude McKay and then followed by Lovett Fort-Whiteman.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the communist assault on and takeover of the socialist movement in the United States.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the strategies of the Third Period (e.g., using demonstrations and strikes to inspire revolution, destruction, and absorption of other leftist parties, advocacy of dual unions).

SS.912.HC.7.2 Examine the formation of the Communist Party of the United States of America.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes how the Communist Party splintered the socialist movement into the Communist Party, the Communist Labor Party, and the Socialist Party by the end of 1920.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the policies and conduct of the Communist Party of the United States of America under the leadership of Charles Ruthenberg, Jay Lovestone, William Z. Foster, and Earl Browder.

SS.912.HC.7.3 Identify tactics utilized by the Communist Party of the United States of America.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes front organizations of the Communist Party (e.g., African Blood Brotherhood, Sharecroppers Union, Unemployed Councils).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes infiltration of other organizations and movements (e.g., Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Bonus Army).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the recruitment of prominent individuals to spread propaganda (e.g., Nancy Cunard, Jane Fonda, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes attempts to censor speech through the Cain Plan and the opposition group, the American Writers Association.



SS.912.HC.7.4 Describe the course of American communism between 1917 and 1956.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes communist use of causes célèbres, including Sacco and Vanzetti, Angelo Herndon, the Scottsboro Boys, and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the effects of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, (e.g., mass defections from the American Communist Party and communist anti-war propaganda until the German invasion of the Soviet Union) and the shift in Communist Party policies regarding Nazi Germany, civil rights, labor, and military intervention after Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes Popular Front culture, including the Hollywood Ten, the Weavers, and Lillian Hellman.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the disillusioning effects of Nikita Khrushchev's 1956 Secret Speech.

SS.912.HC.7.5 Discuss the effects of anti-communists on American communism between 1917 and 1956.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the role of defectors from communism in the anti-communist movement, including James Burnham, Whittaker Chambers, Sidney Hook, Frank Meyer, and Richard Wright.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the roles of anti-communist politicians, including Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, the House Un-American Activities Committee, and Joseph McCarthy.

SS.912.HC.7.6 Describe America's involvement the causes and course of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration's recognition of the Soviet Union in 1933.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes American interactions with Soviet Russia under President Woodrow Wilson and President Herbert Hoover.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Soviet Union's use of diplomatic recognition by other nations during the 1920s to promote espionage and revolutionary politics.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes support for seeking diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia, (e.g., trade to help the economy, the role of businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, and the role of *The New York Times* reporter Walter Duranty in shaping American perceptions of the Soviet Union).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the opposition to diplomatically recognizing the Soviet Union from such groups as the Daughters of the American Revolution, labor unions, churches, the American Legion, and political leaders such as outgoing President Herbert Hoover.



SS.912.HC.7.7 Explain the purpose and role of communist front movements in the United States.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes recruitment strategies for communist front movements (e.g., deceptive labeling as a civil rights, art, or labor rights movement, and financial rewards to recruits).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the tactics of communist front groups to acquire power (e.g., organizing protests, mail campaigns, propaganda, and union-organizing in order to influence policy and legislation).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the range of communist front organizations, including the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League, the World Peace Council, the American Negro Labor Congress, the National Youth Congress, and the Civil Rights Congress.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes sources of support for communist front organizations (e.g., the revelation of “Moscow gold” upon the opening of the Soviet archives, donations by wealthy individuals and donations from foundations infiltrated by communist sympathizers).

SS.912.HC.7.8 Discuss responses to communist front movements in the United States.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the purge of communists by organized labor, and the roles of Walter Reuther, Mike Quill, Joseph Curran, and Ronald Reagan.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes those who worked to expose front groups (e.g., House Committee on Un-American Activities, and writers like George Schuyler, Zora Neale Hurston, George Sokolosky, and Stan Evans).

SS.912.HC.7.9 Explain the harm done by communist espionage.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes communist spies (e.g., the Rosenbergs, Alger Hiss, Stanley Graze, Lauchlin Currie, Harry Dexter White, V. Frank Coe, and Harrold Glasser) and sympathizers (e.g., Harry Hopkins, Owen Lattimore).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Amerasia Affair.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes methods of espionage (e.g., recruitment strategies, copying government and technological secrets, network of agents, and methods of disseminating information).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes how espionage harmed the United States (e.g., giving the Soviet Union an advantage in diplomatic talks and war strategy, use of military secrets obtained to kill American soldiers in Korea and Vietnam, the Soviet Union’s building of the atomic bomb).

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the efforts to expose and prevent espionage (e.g., House Un-American Activities Committee, the McCarran Act and various political leaders such as Congressmen Hamilton Fish and Martin Dies, President Harry Truman, and Senator Joseph McCarthy).

Clarification 6: Instruction includes efforts to ignore downplay espionage in politics and popular culture.



SS.912.HC.7.10 Analyze aspects of American Communism since 1956.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes America's normalization of relations with Communist China and the Shanghai Communiqué.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the Marxist origins of the Weather Underground and its bombing campaign.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes academic normalization of historical communist violence and the reframing of communists as historical civil rights leaders (e.g., Bill Ayers, Angela Davis, Louise Thompson Patterson).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the rise of modern Marxist theories of oppression in academia and education schools (e.g., Critical Race Theory, Intersectionality, Paolo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* and *Politics of Education*).

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the public's changing perception of communist iconography in popular culture (e.g., Che Guevara on clothing).

SS.912.HC.8 Analyze resistance to communism and authoritarianism internationally and within individual states.

SS.912.HC.8.1 Examine the establishment and continuance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the differing motivations for NATO's creation among the United States and European powers.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes NATO's expansion into additional European states (e.g., Greece, Turkey, Germany, Spain).

SS.912.HC.8.2 Compare global anti-communist movements and their effects.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes socialist anti-communism (e.g., United Kingdom's Labour Party).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes liberal anti-communism (e.g., the Fund for the Republic, the Union for Democratic Action, the CIA front organization, Congress of Cultural Freedom, the American Committee for Cultural Freedom).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes conservative anti-communism (e.g., Knights of Columbus, John Birch Society, Young Americans for Freedom, the American Legion, Jewish League against Communism).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes religious anti-communism (e.g., Pope John Paul II).

Clarification 5: Instruction includes anti-communist publications (i.e., *The New Leader* and the anti-détente *Washington Quarterly*).



SS.912.HC.8.3 Examine the post-World War II creation and continuation of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the United States' desire to improve intelligence capabilities against the Soviet Union (e.g., espionage, spy planes, satellites).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the use of covert actions as a counter to global communist expansion (e.g., CIA actions in Iran, Chile, Guatemala, and Francis Gary Powers and the 1960 U-2 Incident).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the role of civilian control and Western legal and moral norms.

SS.912.HC.8.4 Describe the resistance to communist parties in Western European nations.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the popularity of communist parties funded by the Soviet Union following World War II (e.g., France's 1945 election, Italy's 1948 election).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the influence of the United States' support for non-communist parties (e.g., Italy's 1948 election).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the role of the United States' economic aid in stabilizing Western Europe (e.g., Marshall Plan).

SS.912.HC.8.5 Identify nations that have outlawed communism.

SS.912.HC.9 Analyze how communist movements and tactics have evolved from the 20th to 21st centuries.

SS.912.HC.9.1 Explain how disillusionment with the Soviet Union, internally and externally, affected the efforts of communist movements and organizations.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin in 1956.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the Soviet Union's use of violence, which reduced faith that communism could be reformed or deliver on its promises.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the contrast between the post-war prosperity in the Free West and the Soviet Union's increasing economic decay.



SS.912.HC.9.2 Evaluate alliances between communist and non-communist groups.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes Red-Green Alliances between communists and Islamists.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes communist alliances with socialists (e.g., Popular Front Strategy, François Mitterrand's government in France, Hugo Chavez's government in Venezuela, Lula da Silva's government in Brazil).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes alliances between communists and terrorist organizations (e.g., Carlos the Jackal, Palestine Liberation Organization, Irish Republican Army, National Liberation Army in Colombia).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes alliances between communists and academic groups or institutions.

SS.912.HC.9.3 Describe the emergence of modern Marxist thought in education and media.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the influence of the Frankfurt School on the modern education system (e.g., Critical Theory).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Antonio Gramsci, Paulo Freire and Howard Zinn and their work (e.g., the oppressor vs. oppressed dichotomy, historical revisionism).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the repackaging of Marxist ideology using modern terminology and concepts to disguise the underlying Marxism (e.g., Howard Zinn's *People's History of the United States* as a recasting of William Z. Foster's history books, Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*, James W. Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me*).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the dangers of pro-communist propaganda in entertainment and media industries.

SS.912.HC.9.4 Identify propaganda and defamation utilized to delegitimize anti-communists and anti-communist movements.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes campaigns to shut down the House Committee on Un-American Activities by communists and communist sympathizers, including protests in San Francisco in 1960 to disrupt the meeting.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes a change in policy by President John F. Kennedy's administration, forbidding explicitly anti-communist speeches in the military.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes using "McCarthyism" as an insult and shorthand for all anti-communism.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes slander against anti-communists, such as red-baiter and Red Scare.



SS.912.HC.9.5 Describe the adaptation of communism to exploit the anti-colonialism movement.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Soviet Union's support for communist movements in developing nations and former colonies (e.g., Angola, Ethiopia, Iran).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes radical Maoist movements in independent states (e.g., India, Nepal).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes Cold War American pressure on European states to end their colonial empires to reduce the appeal of communism.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the strength of alternate traditions that limited the appeal of communism (e.g., religion, nationalism, economic freedom).

SS.912.HC.9.6 Identify the dangers of communists holding leading positions in the United Nations.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the Soviet Union and China as members of the Permanent Security Council and Cuba's membership in the Human Rights Council.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes communist nations securing the support of smaller nations in the United Nations through economic and military aid.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the role of communist politician Irina Bokova as the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the dangers of sacrificing national sovereignty to international organizations that may support communist initiatives.

SS.912.HC.9.7 Examine the influence of modern technology on communist ideology and methodology.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes communist usage of social media to influence foreign nations (e.g., TikTok, Reddit, botnets, fake social media accounts).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes products developed in communist nations that contain spyware.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the usage of the internet to organize "educational" content, recruitment, movements, and violent protests and to fundraise.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the ability to disguise the source of information to conceal its communist origins (e.g., front websites, fake social media accounts, online front organizations, fake job applications for remote positions).



SS.912.HC.10 Analyze the consequences of communism and communist movements on individuals and society.

SS.912.HC.10.1 Identify the historical death toll of communism.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes differing estimates for communism's death toll (i.e., *The Black Book of Communism* estimating ~100 million people killed, R.J. Rummel's *Democide* estimating ~170 million killed between 1900-1987).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the definition of democide as the intentional killing of unarmed or disarmed people by a government.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the unprecedented scale of the communist death toll.

SS.912.HC.10.2 Compare the death toll of communism to wartime casualties, national and state populations, and sports stadiums.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes visual representations of communism's death toll.

SS.912.HC.10.3 Analyze why the estimates for the death toll of communism vary so dramatically.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes intentional efforts to hide casualties by communist governments (e.g., lack of record keeping, destruction of evidence, limiting mobility to prevent the spread of information).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes data manipulation to manipulate public sentiment by communist governments (e.g., acts of genocide being justified as self-defense, attributing deaths to disease, drought, or malnutrition).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the silencing of dissidents by communist governments.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes the intentional minimization of communist atrocities by communist-aligned Western scholars.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes the difficulty of assessing accurate casualty numbers within a changing political landscape (e.g., Poland's annexation by the Soviet Union).

SS.912.HC.10.4 Identify the 10 stages of genocide.

SS.912.HC.10.5 Demonstrate how communist policies worsened the conditions they were designed to improve.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes communist promises of peace, safety, economic security, well-being, property, representative government, and improved living conditions (e.g., Lenin's promises of "Peace, Land, and Bread").

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the realities of starvation, shortages, constant fear, poverty, low life expectancy, and totalitarian rule.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes resources being used primarily for the benefit of the state and ruling elite and not for the general population.



SS.912.HC.10.6 Evaluate the dehumanization resulting from forced collectivization.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes how forced collectivization fosters a dependency on the government.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes how forced collectivization removes an individual's desire to seek incentives or rewards for work.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes how forced collectivization removes the ability to own private property.

Clarification 4: Instruction includes how forced collectivization requires mass surveillance to maintain itself.

Clarification 5: Instruction includes how forced collectivization promotes internal divisions within communities and families, and the resulting psychological effect on individuals (e.g., higher rates of alcoholism, depression, suicide).

Clarification 6: Instruction includes how forced collectivization mandates where an individual works and lives.

SS.912.HC.10.7 Identify nations still under communist and radical socialist rule.

SS.912.HC.11 Analyze how Communism and Totalitarianism are antithetical to the American ideals of liberty, justice, and equality.

SS.912.HC.11.1 Discuss the value of individual rights and freedoms.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes how widespread individual freedom is incompatible with communism.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes how the communist state has absolute authority to override any individual rights.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes that communist governments consistently strip individuals of rights and freedoms (e.g., speech, religion, press, assembly, fair trial, property, bearing arms, contract, familial autonomy, political affiliation, privacy).

SS.912.HC.11.2 Compare the application of justice in communist and non-communist states.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes that the United States Constitution guarantees equal application under the rule of law (e.g., 4th Amendment, 5th Amendment, 6th Amendment, 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the arbitrary application of the law in a communist state (e.g., show trials, rampant governmental corruption, weaponization of the judicial system against real and perceived enemies, summary executions, GULAG System).



SS.912.HC.11.3 Examine the concept of equality within a communist system.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the broken promise of equality under a communist system.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes the disparity of the standard of living between the ruling elite of the Communist Party and the people (e.g., access to healthcare, wealth, employment, housing, possessions, access to food).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the abject poverty experienced by the general population in a communist system.

SS.912.HC.11.4 Describe the essential role of private ownership of property in securing political freedom, economic freedom, and societal prosperity.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the role of personal incentives in promoting and achieving economic prosperity.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes how an individual's economic prosperity leads to societal economic prosperity.

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the economic disparity between nations with property rights and those without property rights using gross domestic product per capita.

SS.912.HC.11.5 Trace the decision to pursue a market economy in the United States.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes the reasons for Plymouth Plantation moving from a communal society to one of private ownership (e.g., the free-rider problem, Governor William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*).

Clarification 2: Instruction includes Enlightenment philosophers who influenced the Founders conception of economic freedom (e.g., John Locke, Adam Smith, John Trenchard, Thomas Gordon).

Clarification 3: Instruction includes the role of *Federalist No. 14* in determining the economic system of the United States.

SS.912.HC.11.6 Compare the role and purpose of the United States' government as described by the founding documents to the role and purpose of governments in totalitarian systems.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction includes that the U.S. government upholds its citizens' natural rights.

Clarification 2: Instruction includes that totalitarian governments consistently strip their people of individual rights and have absolute authority to do so.
