Colloquy about the Cold War

Hi Folks:

I'm glad we will have some time together to explore this important post WWII phenomenon. I believe the Cold War continues to this day.

The long-standing "standard" text about the Cold War is the 2005 volume by John Lewis Gaddis, which largely concentrates on the post WWII rivalry between Soviet Communism and liberal democratic form of government, i.e. between Stalin and his successors in the USSR, and Eisenhower and his successors in the U.S.

The principal reading for our discussion will be from a volume entitled "The Cold War, A World History" by Odd Arne Westad, (Basic Books 2017). This book is long and detailed, so I am suggesting parts of it for reading in preparation for our discussion:

>   Chapt. 1 - A brief biography of the author. In particular, I recommend the last Page- (P17).
>   Chapt. 2. Especially, pp 51 – 53
>   Chapt. 3 Especially, pp 88 – 94
>   Chapt. 5 Post WWII Asia
>   Chapt. 7 Westad's account of post WWII soviet attempt at global expansion. Also, Chapters 14 & 20 about the Soviet leaders, Brezhnev and Gorbachev are of interest. A detailed description of the collapse of the Soviet Union can be found in a Wikipedia write-up "Dissolution of the Soviet Union", as well as in Marshall T. Poe's book "The Russian Moment in History" (Princeton Univ. Press 2003). Chapt. 8 (P 86-90).
>   Chapt 8 The account of western Europe's recovery post WWII. Also, Chapt. 19
>   Chatp 10 The end of colonialism and the decline of the European colonial Powers. Also, Chapt. 16 & 17. The end of colonial rule in India and The Middle East.
>   Chapt. 21 "Global Transformations". Westad's view of the changes wrought by new technologies, new forms of global communication, and the globalization of capital and financial markets.
>   Chapt 22 This details the final collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. In particular pp. 610-615.
>   Chapt 23 "The World the Cold War Made" (pp. 617 - ff.).

Please be in touch with questions and or comments!

I look forward to our discussions beginning Nov 28th.
Cheers,

Court Haight