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Literature Review Source

17Oct19

**Literature Review on the Cold War**

The events that took place after the Second World War made many countries, including the Eastern European nations, to end up devastated.Issues like unemployment, inflation, famine, and the lack of democratic leadership made life hard for citizens in these nations. The conflict that emerged between America and USSR spurred rivalry based on the ideologies that there was unbalanced power in the two superpower nations.The article, Ideology, and the Cold War, by Kramer, is a resourceful peer-reviewed journal that I chose to use to answer the research question in the course assignment.

In this assignment, the research question is providing information about why Eastern European nations ended up with socialist governments after World War II.I selected this article since the author has provided an overview of historical events that contributed to the rivalry of the two superpowers, America and the USSR.The past events offer detailed information on factors that contributed to the Cold War after the Second World War ended. Although one may think the selected journal only focuses on the Cold War, the source has a detailed overview of challenges that Eastern European nations encountered that influenced their merge with the socialist government. Apart from that, I focused on using this article since it is a scholarly and credible source. I emphasize the credibility of this source since the information provided has been supported by references that are transparently cited and outlined in the footnotes of every page. One can justify this since the citing format used in this article follows the Chicago style.Further, the article is published by a university press, which in this case, is the Cambridge University Press. Hence, this justifies that adequate research was conducted, and the article was reviewed before being published by the university press. For scholarly sources, academic institutions like university presses, as well as professional organizations, usually publish them. Additionally, the author has indicated the purpose of publishing the article, which is evident in the introductory part of the journal. This is an element that is considered in scholarly journals. As such, the outlined purpose, according to the author, is identifying whether an ideological explanation can surpass the power-based answers of reasons that inspired the Cold War.

From the article, I have learned that there are two ideologies from different scholars that explain factors that contributed to the war. For instance, one ideology is supported by the theory of neorealism by Kenneth Waltz, who argues that the unequal distribution of skills and power and anarchic aspect of foreign policies influenced the divide of the Western and Eastern European countries.The other argument is that factors like external threats, material power, as well as incompatible ideologies, influenced the differences. However, once the difference ended, the Soviet Union became less hostile. This ideology can be used to respond to the research question stated in the second paragraph. On this note, due to the hardships that the Eastern European nations faced,they were enticed to collaborate with socialist governments. The governments, which followed communism ideologies, promised to offer economic opportunities and equality to the Eastern European nations.

In conclusion, the article enlightens me on how the merge of the Eastern European countries with the Soviet Union led to the term Eastern Bloc or Socialist Bloc.It is evident that the then leader, Joseph Stalin, was hungry for power. Therefore, his use of strategies to entice Eastern Europe nations such as Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine, among others, made USSR more powerful. However, this threatened the United States of America due to the perception that the Russian leader, Stalin, would take over the world, thus causing more harm than good through his leadership.

Reference

Kramer, Mark. "Ideology and the cold war." *Review of International Studies* 25, no. 4 (1999): 539-576.

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