

CHAPTER  
**34**  
SECTION 4

# Note Taking Study Guide

## SECURITY IN A DANGEROUS WORLD

**Focus Question:** What kinds of threats to national and global security do nations face today?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the chart below to compare threats to global security.*

Threats to Security	Nuclear weapons are unsecured in Soviet Union.					
	Nuclear Weapons					

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## Section Summary

### SECURITY IN A DANGEROUS WORLD

#### READING CHECK

What is terrorism?

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#### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *priority* mean in the underlined sentence? Notice the sentence that follows it. What did the United States do because security was a *priority*? Use this context clue to help you understand the meaning of the word *priority*.

#### READING SKILL

**Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast information about nuclear weapons before and after the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

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Weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) include nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. During the Cold War, the United States and Russia built up arsenals of nuclear weapons. To ensure that nuclear weapons did not **proliferate**, or spread rapidly, many nations signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968. However, the treaty does not guarantee that nuclear weapons will not be used. Four nations have not signed the treaty, and other nations, such as Iran and North Korea, are suspected of buying and selling nuclear weapons even though they are treaty members. Stockpiles of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union are a special concern. This is because the Russian government has not had money to secure the weapons properly.

In the 2000s, terrorist groups and "rogue states" began to use WMDs for their own purposes. **Terrorism** is the use of violence, especially against civilians, to achieve political goals. Terrorist groups use headline-grabbing tactics to draw attention to their demands. Regional terrorist groups, such as the Irish Republican Army (IRA), operated for decades. They commit bombings, shootings, and kidnappings to force their governments to change policies. Increasingly, the Middle East has become a training ground and source for terrorism. Islamic fundamentalism motivates many of these groups. One powerful Islamic fundamentalist group is **al Qaeda**, whose leader is Osama bin Laden. Al Qaeda terrorists were responsible for the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

Al Qaeda's attacks triggered a global reaction. Fighting terrorism became a central goal of both national and international policies. In 2001, Osama bin Laden and other al Qaeda leaders were living in **Afghanistan**. When Afghanistan's Islamic fundamentalist leaders, the **Taliban**, refused to surrender the terrorists, the United States attacked Afghanistan and overthrew them. Because President Bush believed that Saddam Hussein of Iraq was secretly producing WMDs, the United States also declared war on Iraq. In addition, increased security at home became a priority. As a result, the United States created a new Department of Homeland Security and instituted more rigorous security measures at airports and public buildings.

#### Review Questions

1. Why are nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union a special concern?

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2. Why did the United States declare war on Iraq?

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