In your selection of a topic for investigation, consider one that will help you prepare for the IB Exam. Suggestions include:

1. EVENTS OR INCIDENTS OF THE COLD WAR
   - What the Cold War caused more by conflicting ideology or by geopolitical concerns?
   - How did personalities and leadership of individuals impact the Cold War?
   - What events led to the specific crisis investigated?
   - What were the short and long-term impacts of a particular development?
   - How did domestic issues impact developments of the Cold War?

SPECIFIC EVENTS:

A-Bomb Decision
Bay of Pigs
Berlin Airlift
Berlin Wall
Cuban Missile Crisis
Cuba—Rise of Castro
Czechoslovakian Coup (1948)
Czechoslovakian Crisis (1968)
Geneva Accords (1954) — division of Vietnam
Guatemalan Intervention (1954)
Hungarian Uprising (1956)
Iranian Intervention (1953)
Korean War
Marshall Plan
NATO-WARSAW PACT
Non-aligned Movement
Nuclear Arms Race
Post-War expansion of Soviet control in Eastern Europe (Yalta-1953)
Sino-Soviet Split
Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
Suez Crisis (1956)
Truman Doctrine
U.S. in Vietnam
Wartime diplomacy/breakdown of wartime alliance (Casablanca—A-Bomb)
Yalta Conference and Agreements

2. RISE AND RULE OF SINGLE PARTY STATES:
   - What factors led to the rise/fall of this single party state?
   - What successes and/or failures were achieved by this SPS?
   - What techniques were used by the SPS to maintain itself in power? (Corruption? Repression? Popular support? etc.)
   - What major policy initiatives were undertaken & with what results? (foreign &/or domestic)
   - Who benefitted most or who suffered most under the SPS?

Single Party States (SPS):
Cardenas (Mexico) Lenin Nyere (Tanzania) Stalin
Castro (Cuba) Mao Peron (Argentina) Suharto (Indonesia)
Chiang Kai-shek Mussolini Pinochet (Chile) Khrushchev
Diaz (Mexico) Nasser (Egypt) PRI (Mexico) Sukarno (Indonesia)
Franco (Spain) Nehru (India) Saddam Hussein (Iraq) Tito (Yugoslavia)
Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam) Nkrumah (Ghana) Samoza (Nicaragua) Vargas (Brazil)
Idi Amin (Uganda)

3. CONFLICTS: Choose any 20th century war, civil war, or revolution.
   - What issues led to the conflict?
   - To what extent were these issues resolved as a result of the conflict?
   - What new problems arose from the conflict?

SOME CHOICES:

Wars/Revolutions for Independence: United States Cuba 1898 Haiti Algeria 1954-64
Civil Wars/Revolutions:
Argentina "Dirty War" 1960s-70s
Chilean Coup 1973
Chinese Civil War
Cuba 1953-59

Foreign Wars:
Arab-Israeli War 1948
Arab-Israeli War 1967
Arab-Israeli War 1973
German invasion Poland 1939
German invasion Russia 1941
Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor 1941
Japan's invasion of China 1937
Japan's invasion of Manchuria 1931
Korean War 1950-53

U.S. and Vietnam War 1964-73
U.S. entrance into WWII
U.S. entrance into WWI
World War I

4. U.S. FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS
• Choose any 20th century U.S. foreign policy decision.
• What were the official / public reasons or goals for the decision?
• Were there unofficial motives for the decision (ulterior motives)?
• To what extent were the goals achieved? What factors contributed to the success or failure of the policy?

SOME CHOICES:
- Annexation of Philippines (and war to subdue Filipinos)
- Any tariff policy
- Camp David Accords
- Dawes Plan
- Dollar Diplomacy
- Germany-First strategy
- Hoover-Stimson Doctrine
- Kellogg-Briand Pact
- Lend Lease Act
- Neutrality legislation of 1930s
- Open Door Policy
- Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe
- SALT I / II
- Support for Contras/ Nicaragua
- U.S. intervention in Mexican Revolution
- Washington Naval Conference
- Five Power Treaty
- Four Power Treaty
- Nine Power Treaty
- Yalta Conference Decisions
- Other?

5. THE STALIN YEARS: From the end of the Russian Civil War through his rise to sole leadership of the USSR

How and why did Lenin’s policies change (War Communism to NEP)?

What were the causes and results of the purges?

What were the goals of Stalin's foreign policy (before WWII and after WWII)?

Who benefited most and who suffered most under Stalin?

In the long term, was Stalin's rule beneficial or detrimental for the Soviet Union?

6. THE MAO YEARS—and beyond...

Mao Zedong:

What major policy initiatives were introduced by Mao?

What issues led to the Sino-Soviet split?

How successful or unsuccessful were they?

How was that split manifested in specific events or developments?

Analyze their impact. (Maybe choose one policy)

Who benefited most and who suffered most under Mao?

What important was ideology in Mao's policies?

In the long term, was Mao's rule beneficial or detrimental for China?

What tactics did Mao use to maintain his power in China?

...and beyond...

Who and what was involved in the struggle for power following Mao’s death?

What role does Hua Guofeng and the Gang of Four play?

How does Deng Xiaoping re-emerge and what role does he play in the defeat of the Gang of Four?

What economic policies were emphasized under Deng Xiaoping? What were the Four Modernizations?

What political changes were brought about under Deng Xiaoping? What limits would still exist regarding Tiananmen Square?

7. Beyond Khrushchev: The USSR under Brezhnev and Gorbachev

What domestic and foreign problems existed in the Brezhnev era?

What did the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan serve?

What were Gorbachev’s aims? Where did glasnost and perestroika fit in? What were the consequences for the Soviet state?

What were the consequences for Eastern Europe? Where did the reform movements of Poland and Czechoslovakia fit in?

8. TREATMENT OF MINORITIES: Choose one minority to investigate.

• What policies has the government adopted towards this group? Why?
• Are these policies supported by the majority of the population?
• How has the minority responded to their treatment? With what effect?
• How has world opinion responded to this situation? Why? With what effect?

SOME CHOICES:
- Balkan Peninsula (choose group)
- Canada (Quebecois)
- India (Muslims)
- Indo-China (choose group)
- Israel (Arabs)
- Mexico (Chiapas)
- Nigeria (Ibo)
- Northern Ireland (Catholics)
- South Africa (Blacks)
- Soviet Union (Jews)
- U.S. (any immigrant group)
- U.S. (Native Americans in the 20th Century)
- Zaire (choose group)
- Other (teacher approved)