The Cold War

Origins - Korean War
What is a Cold War?

- WW II left two nations of almost equal strength but differing goals.
- Cold War – A *struggle over political differences carried on by means short of direct military conflict between nations.*
- Wars over the conflicting political beliefs broke out but the US and USSR never declared war on each other. (i.e. proxy wars -- Korea, Vietnam)
- Also used political and economic pressure to try and obtain goals.
- The Cold War dominated international politics for over fifty years.
- Most nations allied with one side or the other.
Roots of Cold War

• **Teheran Conference**, 1943: USSR guaranteed to be only power to liberate Eastern Europe

• **Yalta Conference**, 1945:
  – Stalin pledged to allow democratic elections in E. Europe (but later reneged)
  – Germany would be divided into four zones controlled by U.S., France, Britain and USSR
  – After war, Soviets dominated their zone and did not allow reunification of Germany

• **Potsdam Conference**, 1945:
  – Truman demanded free elections in Eastern Europe but Stalin refused
  – Stalin wanted a "buffer zone" between Germany and USSR for protection against future war
Roots of Cold War

• U.S. point of view:
  – Stalin seemed intent on creating "spheres" of influence in Eastern Europe
  – Broke pledges at Yalta; refused to allow reunification of Germany
  – Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946 alerted Americans to a future conflict
  – U.S. wanted democracy spread throughout the world with a strong international organization to maintain global peace
Roots of Cold War

- Soviet point of view:
  - Democracies traditionally hostile towards communism and the USSR
    - e.g., Archangel expedition during WWI; non-recognition by U.S. until 1933
  - US & Britain did not open western front in Europe early enough; millions of Soviet soldiers were dying fighting the brunt of Nazi armies alone until mid-1944.
  - The US and Britain froze Russia out of the atomic bomb project.
  - US terminated lend-lease to Moscow in May 1945 but gave Britain aid until 1946.
  - Wanted "buffer zone" for the Soviet western border esp. in Poland
<table>
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<th>Differing Goals Lead to Tensions</th>
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<td><strong>US</strong></td>
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<td>• Encourage democracy/Rebuild European governments to promote stability</td>
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<td>• Gain access to raw materials and markets to fuel economies</td>
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<td>• Free Trade = Economic Growth = Peace</td>
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<td>• Reunite Germany</td>
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<td><strong>Soviet Union</strong></td>
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<td>• Encourage communism in other countries</td>
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<td>• Control Eastern Europe to protect borders and rebuild using their resources</td>
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<td>• Keep Germany divided</td>
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Symbols of the Cold War

- Capitalism vs. Communism
- “Iron Curtain” – coined by Winston Churchill
- Berlin Wall
- Space Race
- United Nations
Iron Curtain

- The Term “Iron Curtain” came from a speech given by Winston Churchill at an American University in 1945.
- The Division of Europe between East and West.
- Communism in the East v. Capitalism in the West
Containment – Cold War Policy

• The Long Telegram – George Kennan outlined the policy of containment – keeping communism within its present territory through the use of diplomatic, economic, and military actions.

• 1946 Soviet Union wanted joint control of the straits of the Dardanelles (a trade route in Turkey).

• Communists in Greece were rebelling against government
The Tension Grows 1946-1947

- Containment- Truman’s foreign policy of stopping communist expansion
- Truman Doctrine – The policy of giving aid to nations that reject communism. Speech Truman gave to Congress asking for $400 million dollars money to aid Turkey and Greece.
  - Effects – Short term - eased Soviet pressures in Turkey and stabilized Greek government.
  - Long Term - Pledged US to fight Communism World Wide.
Cold War (1947-1953)

- U.S. adopts policy of containment
  - Truman Doctrine pledges to prevent the spread of communism
- Marshall Plan
  - Provided for the economic rebuilding of Western Europe; Molotov Plan
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
  - Military alliance between the U.S. and western European nations; Warsaw Pact
The Marshall Plan

- US would give European Nations aid to rebuild their economies. US pumped billions of dollars of supplies, machinery and food into Western Europe.
- Seen as another means of containment
- Offered aid to Soviet Union and satellite nations but they refused
- Soviets refused to allow U.S. aid to countries in Eastern Europe → responded with their own economic aid plan.
More Containment

• **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** formed in 1949
  – Collective security organization consisting of democracies in Europe, U.S. & Canada to prevent against Soviet expansion in Europe.

• **Radio Free Europe & Voice of America** set up to send pro-democracy messages to countries behind the "iron curtain"
Eastern Bloc

- Countries in Eastern Europe dominated by Soviet Union after WW II
  - Included Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Rumania, Bulgaria
- Communist parties of eastern Europe established one-party states by 1948, with help of Red Army and KGB (Soviet secret police)
- Only Yugoslavia, led by Marshal Tito, is not dominated by Soviets
- Postwar economic recovery in eastern Europe proceeded along Soviet lines.
- Changes went forward at slow & uneven pace; came to almost a halt by the mid-1960s.
- Five-year plans in USSR reintroduced to tackle massive economic reconstruction
Eastern Bloc

• **Stalin re instituted oppressive rule**
  – Great Patriotic War of the Fatherland had fostered Russian nationalism and a relaxation of dictatorial terror.
  – Stalin’s new foe, the U.S., provided an excuse for re-establishing harsh dictatorship.

• After war, Stalin repressed millions of Soviet citizens living outside Soviet borders when the war ended.

• Stalin revived many forced labor camps, which had accounted for roughly 1/6 of all new construction in Soviet Union before the war

• Culture and art were also purged
Czechoslovakia

- Czechoslovakia – the economic exception in Eastern Europe: industrialized, strong middle class and industrial working class and experience of political democracy between the wars.
- During “dualist period”, President Benes and Foreign minister Jan Masaryk proposed to govern a social democracy while maintaining close voluntary relations with the USSR.
- In response to Marshall Plan in 1947, Stalin replaced government in 1948 with 1-party communist rule to prevent nation from courting the West.
Partition of Germany (1)

- USSR, U.S., Britain & France would each occupy a part of Germany but would allow for German reunification once she was no longer a threat.
- Germany was to pay heavy reparations to USSR in form of agricultural and industrial goods.
- Soviets dominated their Eastern German zone
  - Did not want revitalized Germany that could once again pose a threat.
  - Stripped East Germany of much of its resources.
The Berlin Crisis

- 1948 - US concludes that Soviet Union is deliberately trying to keep Germany’s economy weak.

- US, GB, France unify their zones (including Berlin) and create West Germany.
  - Created new government.

- Separate economy from the Soviet zone (East Germany).
Partition of Germany

• U.S. and Western Europeans felt German economy vital to recovery of Europe

• 1949 - **West Germany** became an independent country when US, France and Britain gave back each of their zones
  - **Federal Republic of Germany** – led by **Konrad Adenauer**
  - **East Germany** formally established – **Democratic Republic of Germany** led by **Walter Ulbricht (1883-1973)**; communist regime influenced by Moscow
The Berlin Airlift

- Soviets still wanted reparations from Germany ➔ the creation of West Germany made them think they would not receive them.
- Soviets responded by starting a blockade: stopping all road and rail traffic to West Berlin.
- US response ➔ for 11 months cargo planes dropped food and supplies on West Berlin.
The Creation of NATO

- Berlin crisis convinced Americans that they needed a military alliance with Western Europe → 1949, North Atlantic Treaty Organization
  - NATO members agreed to come to the aid of one another if one was attacked.
  - 1955 – US and NATO members agreed to let West Germany rearm
- Prompted the Soviet Union to create the Warsaw Pact → a military alliance of Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations.
The Korean War – Surrogate War

• Both Soviet and US forces entered Korea during WWII to disarm the Japanese.

• The Soviets and the US divided Korea at the 38th Parallel. (Soviets controlled the North and US controlled the South)
  – Two governments set up → both claiming legitimate rule over all of Korea.

• Soviets gave arms to North – the North Invaded in 1950
The Korean War

• Truman viewed the Communist invasion of South Korea as a test of the Containment policy.
  – Ordered US troops to Korea and got the United Nations involved.

• The Communist forces were able to push the Americans all the way to the Port of Pusan

• Once US / UN reinforcements arrived they launched a surprise attack behind enemy lines and were able to drive the Communist forces all the way back across the 38th parallel.
Korean War Continued

- China entered war because of NATO troop advancement in North Korea.
- Truman remained committed to a limited war—a war fought to achieve a limited objective such as containing communism.
- By 1951 stalemated at the 38th Parallel.
- Once Eisenhower was elected his policy of Brinkmanship—threatening Nuclear war to get the other side to back down—contributed to the signing of the Armistice in 1953 at its pre-war boundary.
Significance of the Korean War

• Prior to 1950 Cold war was fought with political pressure and economic aid
• US and Soviet Union began a huge military buildup
• Expanded the Cold War from Europe to Asia
• Americans began to give aid to the French who were trying to hold onto their colony in Vietnam.
Brinkmanship and the Arms Race

• (1949) Soviets set off their own Atomic Bomb.

• (1953) Eisenhower’s policies of “Brinkmanship” and “Massive retaliation” (threat to use nuclear weapons if a Communist state tried to seize territory by force):
  • brought both nations to the edge of war and encouraged a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and a strengthened military
  • The arms race begins
  • MAD- Mutually Assured Destruction