

Cold War Notes

United States

- At the end of WW2 the US is predominate
- 20 billion dollars worth of the world's 33 billion gold reserves
- 33% of the world's exports
- 50% of the world's shipping
- Unlike WW1 the US did not slip back into isolationism
- Military 12.5 million men, 7.5 million of which are stationed overseas
- Navy 1200 ships
- Airforce 2000 bombers, 1000 new B-29 and B-36 bombers
- Monopoly on nukes until 1950's
- US still believed it had moral superiority much like Wilson and WW1
- Wanted to impose the doctrines of capitalist economics, free trade, entrepreneurship and democracy

Soviet Union

- Immediately after the war controlled an enormous empire although had suffered incredible losses of men and military during the conflict
- Each country Stalin liberated he created a communist regime controlled by himself
- To ensure control he used the old totalitarian tools of secret police and suppression
- Returning POW's were shot or imprisoned for fear they bring democratic ideas with them.
- Old army leaders like Zhukov were relieved of command as they had too much power
- Censorship was tightened in all forms of the media
- Stalin as did USSR foreign policy for the next few decades was worried about invasion by the US or Europe, don't forget they had foreign soldiers on Russian soil in both WW1 and WW2

- Stalin wanted to create buffer states as a defence against invasion (Poland, Czech, East Germany, Romania, etc.)

Cold War

- Ideological struggle for supremacy between US and USSR
- Made more complicated in 1949 with Mao's communist revolution in China
- Both wanted to expand their influence through economics, military aid, alliances, propaganda, conquest
- This is not a war in the traditional sense in that it is not a "hot" open war and bloodshed but this is a cold economic war, although there will be periodic localized hot spots such as Korea and Vietnam
- Imperialism and nationalism are still used here but there are some new wrinkles
- Both feared the other would ruin the others way of life

Imperialism

- New form far more subtle, yet still featured the mother country having control
- For example the Soviet Bloc countries were technically independent but still completely controlled politically, militarily and economically by Moscow
- US also did this in Taiwan, South Korea, South Vietnam
- In the new imperialism, clients rather than colonies
- New imperialism could here also take the form of corporate control where companies have influence just by the fact that they own and control such a large section of the company.
- Also known as the Coca-Cola politics or dollar imperialism
- Still there is a military aspect US-Vietnam USSR-Afghanistan

"Iron Curtain"

- Churchill made a speech in the U.S. in 1946 that said Europe had seen an Iron Curtain descend across the continent. All behind the curtain were coming under increasing control by Moscow
- Would be used to describe the Cold War until 1989
- Created fear in the West, what was happening behind the curtain??

Containment

- West had great fear of the Domino Theory
- Established plans to combat it
 - o Truman Doctrine (political)
 - 1944 Communists and Royalists tried to take control of Greece
 - Churchill and Stalin agreed Britain would continue their influence in the region
 - Brits backed Royalists, by 1947 could not financially keep it up
 - US responded – "support free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures"
 - Asked Congress for \$150 million for Turkey, \$250 million for Greece for economic and military support and to do this for any country in danger of falling to communism
 - Further divided the world, either with us or against us
 - o Marshall Plan (economic)
 - Needed to help rebuild war torn Europe
 - US believed communism preyed on financially weak countries
 - June 5, 1947 Secretary of State George C. Marshall recommended financially strengthening these countries.
 - Provide money to reconstruct 16 European countries outside of the Soviet sphere

- Rebuild economies, balance budgets, be free of US aid in 4 years.
- Countries had to promise to balance budgets, reduce inflation, stabilize currency, remove abnormal restrictions on trade
- OEEC (Organization for European Economic Co-op) established to administer it, distributed \$28 billion
- Goals were never met, but some countries did experience rapid recovery thanks to the plan
- Went hand-in-hand with the Truman Doctrine to contain the spread of communism

Cominform/Comecon

- Cominform replaced Comintern, was an organization of Communist parties founded in Sept. 1947
 - Was to consolidate all communist governments in Eastern Europe under command of the Soviet Union = Soviet foreign policy and Stalinism in Eastern Europe
 - Communist revolutions from 1940 – 1950 (Greece, Vietnam, China and the Philippines) none sought help from the Soviets, wanted to increase their role again, called the US and expansionist power wanting total control of Europe
 - Comecon, established in 1949, in response to Marshall Plan, lead economic and social development in the Soviet satellite states

Berlin Blockade

- Stalin's response to Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan
- 1948, West was preparing to create a new German state (West Germany)
- West Germany was stable thanks to the Marshall Plan, East was falling apart
- Amalgamated West Berlin on June 18, 1948, introduced the Deutschmark in West Berlin/Germany

- Soviets did not recognize the new currency, feared a strong West Germany – wanted West out of Berlin because the East was looking bad (image).
- Soviets responded by blockading all road and rail traffic into Berlin from the West in the spring of 1948, also cut gas and electricity to West Berlin = force allies out
- Domino Theory kept West from leaving Berlin, feared loss of all Germany if they left.
- U.S., Britain began airlifting of supplies, would need 5,500 tonnes of supplies each day just to survive
- Lasted 15 months, a cargo plane landed every two minutes
 - U.S. stationed B-29 bombers in Britain with A-Bombs to convince the Soviets to not mess with the supply drops.
 - Blockade was lifted thanks to UN intervention on May 12, 1949
- May 23, 1949 Allies created the Federal Republic of Germany, formally splitting the country in two. Stalin opposed this, and reacted by copying them = Oct. 1949 created the German Democratic Republic in East Germany = however was just another Soviet satellite state

NATO (military)

- Berlin blockade = need for a Western European military alliance with support from the U.S.
- Red Army was massive, needed a united front to oppose it.
- Mar. 17, 1948 Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Great Britain signed the Treaty of Brussels = pooling of military resources in Western Europe against the Soviets
- Apr. 4, 1949 added Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, the U.S. and Canada = signed the North Atlantic Treaty – Greece and Turkey would join in 1952 and West Germany in 1954.
- Treaty said an act of aggression against one was against all (defensive alliance)
- West would stand united against Soviet expansion

- Permanent headquarters in Paris = all members contributed armed forces – air, ground bases and nuclear weapons now positioned throughout Western Europe
- By 1950 there were 1 million U.S. troops in 47 countries manning 675 bases – NATO had 5 divisions in West Germany and a Mediterranean naval fleet = small compared to the Soviets but they still had a monopoly on nuclear weapons.