

Cold War 1945-1960

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and explain how the United States and the USSR differed in their post-war goals.
- Explain what helped achieve American goals in postwar Europe.
- Explain Communist advances on American foreign policy and the establishment of the iron curtain.
- Summarize the effects of the Cold War on American Life.
- Identify and explain the fundamental pieces of containment policy.



- Wartime cooperation between U.S. and USSR was only a temporary arrangement
 - Soviets disagreed bitterly with their American and British allies over battle tactics and post-war plans
- Yalta Conference...February 1945
 - Very tense
 - Divided Germany and Berlin into occupation zones
 - France, U.S., Great Britain zones became West Germany
 - Soviet zone became East Germany
 - Soviets also controlled Poland...new Polish government must be sympathetic to Soviets
 - This put a strain on U.S. – Soviet relations
- Yalta Conference...February 1945
 - Created United Nations...a new international peacekeeping organization
- April 1945...delegates from 50 nations met in San Francisco to create a charter
 - Vowed to try to settle disputes peacefully and avoid war
- FDR died on April 12, 1945
 - Vice-President Harry Truman took over
- Potsdam Conference
 - Pres. Truman's first meeting with Joseph Stalin
 - Continued debate over fate of Germany and Poland
 - Stalin demanded that Germany make war payments to USSR
 - Truman demanded that Poland have free elections
 - Truman also announces that U.S. had a new weapon of extraordinary force (Atom bomb)
 - Stalin already knew of bomb from Soviet spies...tried to play it off

- The Western European nations were freed from the NAZIS by the U.S. and its allies. The U.S. allowed them to choose their own form of government and they chose democracy.
- The Eastern European nations were freed from the NAZIS by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union forced them to become Communist.

Communism

- Motto = Everyone is financially equal. You are not paid based on how productive you are. Working hard and fast does not benefit you financially.
 - Problem: Factories are not as productive as they could be.

Capitalism

- Motto = The harder you work the more money you make. It benefits you to work harder and faster than your competitor.
 - Problem: Wealth for a few, poverty

Conflicting Post-War Goals

- The U.S. and USSR (Soviets) are both superpowers after WWII. The other countries are weaker. They both fear that the other country will attack.
 - U.S. wants to bring democracy and economic opportunity to the conquered lands of Europe and Asia
 - Soviets lost more than 20 million people in WWII and suffered great destruction
 - Needed to rebuild and protect its own interests
 - Built *satellite nations*...countries subject to Soviet domination and friendly to Communist goals
 - Installed and supported totalitarian Communist governments in Eastern Europe

Conflicting Postwar Goals-

United States Goals:

1. Maintain democracy for European nations
2. Maintain economic opportunity (capitalism) for European nations
3. Develop strong capitalist economies, which would provide good markets for American products (trade and make \$)

Soviet (USSR) Goals:

1. Recover from the huge losses it suffered during WWII
2. Control satellite nations - countries controlled by the Soviets which could act as a buffer zone
3. Spread communism throughout the world

Satellite Nations = Buffer Zone

(through force and fear)

1. **East Germany**
2. **Poland**
3. **Czechoslovakia**
4. **Hungary**
5. **Romania**
6. **Albania**
7. **Bulgaria**
8. **Finland**
9. **Yugoslavia**

- USSR quickly took control over nations formerly held by Nazi Germany
 - Albania and Bulgaria
 - Albanian anti-Communists silenced by Soviets in 1944, took control of Bulgarian gov't in 1948.
 - Czechoslovakia
 - Soviets replaced all non-Communist police officers in 1946-47. Was a Communist gov't in 1948
 - Hungary and Romania
 - Soviet troops demanded Communist control of police after failed elections. Communists win elections in 1947 in Romania.
 - USSR quickly took control over nations formerly held by Nazi Germany

- East Germany
 - Stalin determined to never have Germany threaten Russia again and established a brutal totalitarian gov't in E. Germany
- Finland and Yugoslavia
 - Finland signed treaty of cooperation with Soviets in 1948
 - Yugoslavia fell under Communist control in 1945, albeit an independent Communist separate from Stalin's influence

The Iron Curtain

- Joseph Stalin gives a speech in Feb. 1946 predicting the ultimate triumph of Communism over Capitalism
 - called on Communists to spread their system by any means
 - Establishes *Cominform*...Soviet agency intended to direct the activities of Communist parties throughout the world

Winston Churchill responds with a famous speech:

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of...Central and Eastern Europe...The Communist parties, which were very small in all these Eastern States of Europe, have been raised to pre-eminence and power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control...This is certainly not the Liberated Europe we fought to build up. Nor is it one which contains the essentials of permanent peace.”

- “Iron Curtain” speech, Winston Churchill

- Churchill calls on Americans to help keep Stalin from closing the *iron curtain* of Communist domination and oppression around any more nations
 - These two speeches set the tone of the *Cold War*...the competition that developed between the United States and the Soviet Union for power and influence in the world.
 - “hot” war...direct military engagement
- *Containment*...foreign policy used by United States to “contain” the spread of Communism
 - Based on the analysis that Soviets wanted no cooperation between capitalism and Communism...just domination
 - Recognized that Eastern Europe already lost to Communism
 - Called for the U.S. to resist Soviet attempts to form Soviet governments elsewhere in the world
 - Rather than an outright attack on Communism, this policy focused on the inevitable “decay” of the Communist system
 - we knew it would fall apart some day...we just had to keep it from spreading

Truman Doctrine

- 1945-47...Greece and Turkey threatened by Soviet Communist expansion
 - Economically devastated Great Britain cannot afford to aid those countries anymore...war debt
- U.S. takes over
 - At that time, it is said that Great Britain handed the reins of world leadership to the United States

“Great Britain handed the job of world leadership, with all its burdens and glory to the United States. Only two great powers remain in the world, the United States and the Soviet Union.”

- Undersecretary of Defense Dean Acheson

- *Truman Doctrine*...US will support free people who resist attempted Communist conquest. (They will help countries resist against becoming Communist.)
- First applied to Greece and Turkey.
- statement of principles laid out in a speech by U.S. President Truman, calling for U.S. leadership in the struggle against Communism

“Nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one. One way of life is based upon the will of the majority...The second way of life is based upon the will of the minority forcibly imposed upon the

majority...I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation (conquest) by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way."

- Truman Doctrine Speech by Harry Truman to Congress, 3/12/1947

- *Truman Doctrine*...statement of principles laid out in a speech by U.S. President Truman, calling for U.S. leadership in the struggle against Communism
 - Congress approves \$400 million in aid for Greece and Turkey
 - U.S. military bases established in both countries
- Truman Doctrine and policy of Containment guides the foreign policies of the United States for the next 40 years
 - Leads the U.S. into controversial "hot" and "cold" conflicts around the world

Causes of the Cold War

- United States and USSR clash over the postwar administration of Poland
- USSR's totalitarian government is increasingly at odds with Western ideals
- Stalin pledges to ensure the survival of the Soviet system, while Churchill urges the West to oppose it

Effects of the Cold War

- United States adopts a policy to "contain" Communism
- Truman Doctrine offers U.S. aid to countries opposing communism.
- NATO and Warsaw Pact are formed
- Fear of Communism at home leads to a climate of suspicion in American culture

The Cold War affected life in the United States, as people began to fear communism within the nation.

- *Marshall Plan*...1947...Foreign policy which called for the nations of Europe to draw up a program for economic recovery from WWII. The U.S. would then support the program with financial aid.
 - Sec. of State George C. Marshall the author of the plan
- George Marshall
 - WWI veteran
 - The top American Army General during WWII
 - Roosevelt's Army Chief of Staff (Presidential Cabinet) during WWII
 - British P.M. Winston Churchill credited Marshall with being "the true organizer of the Allies victory" in WWII
- Goals of the Marshall Plan:
 1. Help European nations rebuild from WWII damage.
 2. Stop the growth of Communism
 3. Promote the growth of Democracy
 4. Improve the European economy so they would buy more from America.
- Two reasons why U.S. used the Marshall Plan:
 - 1) European economic recovery would create strong democracies
 - 2) Recovery would open up new markets for American goods

Who accepted the Marshall Plan Money?



- 17 Western European nations joined the Marshall Plan
 - U.S. provided \$13 billion in financial aid
 - **Britain, France, Belgium, W. Germany, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Czech, Denmark, Austria, Iceland, Lux, Netherlands, Portugal, Switz.**
 - The Soviets refused!
 - Both the Soviet Union and the Communist Bloc (Satellite Nations) would not take the financial help
- 1948...France, Great Britain, United States all convinced that Stalin and USSR not going to allow the reunification of Germany
 - Those three countries merged their zones into West Germany
 - Berlin split in half, part of which would belong to West Germany and become democratic
 - Soviet controlled zones became East Germany and communist
 - Hundreds of thousands flee Soviet controlled East Germany for the freedom of West Germany
 - In response, Stalin closes off West Berlin to Allied access...no shipments in or out
 - This created a severe food shortage
- Berlin was divided into West Berlin (capitalist) and East Berlin (Communist)
- In June 1948, Stalin created the **blockade** which cut off supplies to West Berlin.
- *Berlin Airlift*...Truman's non-military response to bring necessary supplies to West Berlin without giving up West Berlin to the Soviets
 - Over a 15 month period British and American aircraft made more than 200,000 flights to deliver food, fuel, and other supplies...flights round-the-clock
 - Soviets finally gave up the blockade in May 1949