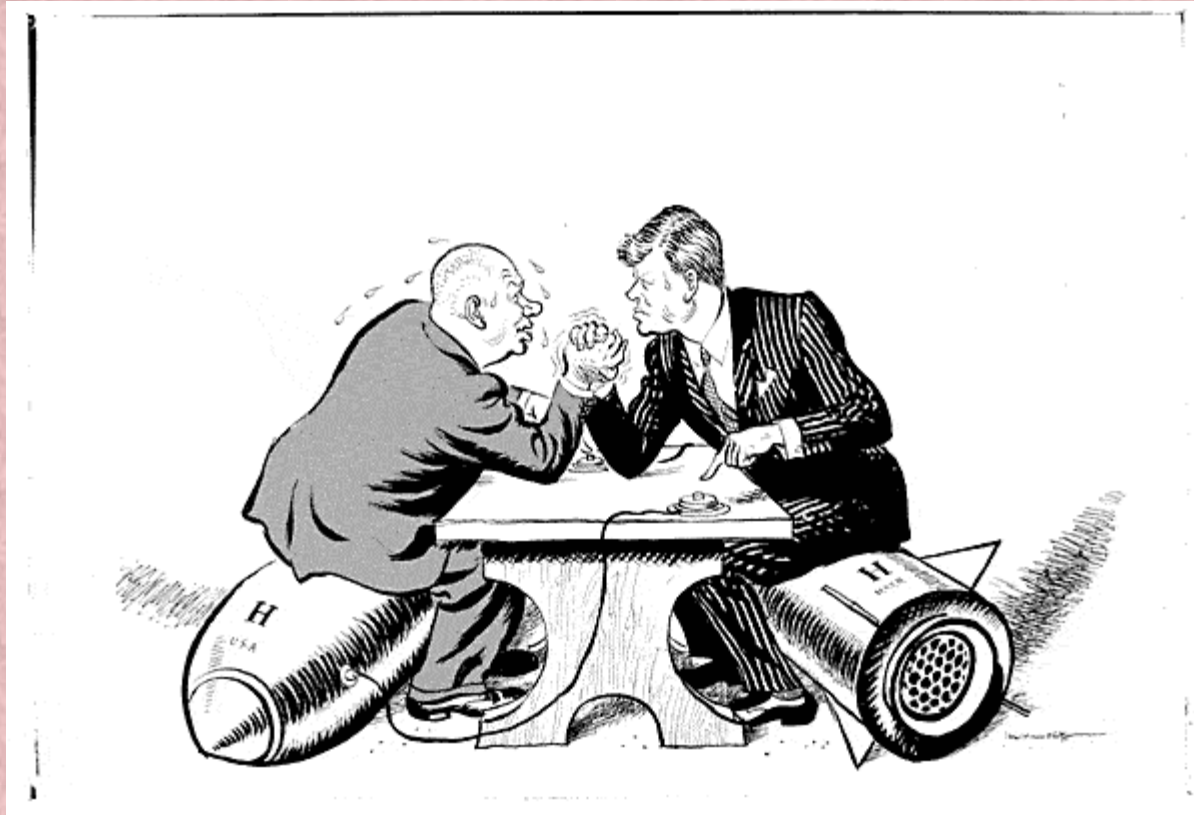


The Cold War

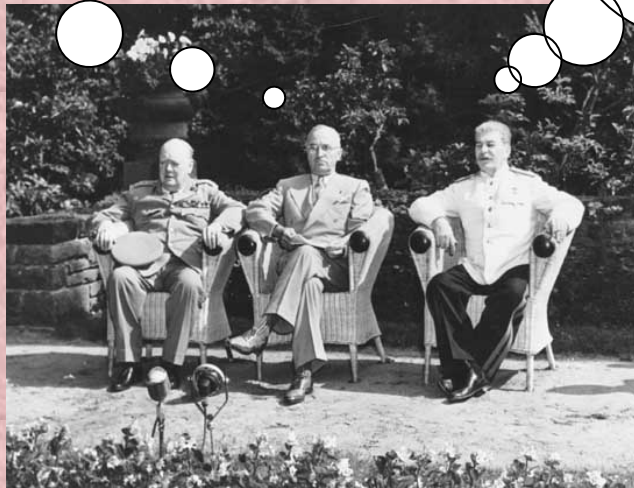
TOWARD A GLOBAL COMMUNITY (1900 – PRESENT)



- Throughout WWII the U.S. and the Soviet Union began to view each other with increasing suspicion.

**He's a commie,
and once made
an alliance with
Hitler . . .**

**Why didn't they open
up that second front
sooner, why not tell me
about the bomb . . .**





- Democracy and capitalism
- Believed that nations had the right of self-determination
- Rebuild European governments to ensure stability and new markets for U.S. goods



- One political party controlled the government, which also controlled the economy
- Rebuild its war-ravaged economy using Eastern Europe
- Keep Germany divided and weak

In a sense, the Cold War began because of . . .

- Ideological differences (democracy vs. totalitarianism & capitalism vs. communism)
- Disagreements on what to do about postwar Europe
- Fear of each other's *real* intentions



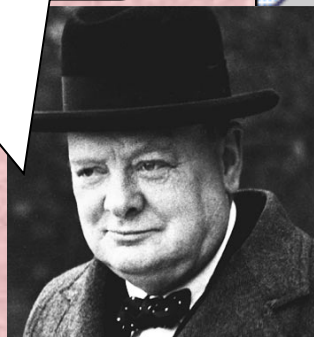
- In 1945, following WWII the **United Nations** was formed as a way of preventing future global conflicts. (Member nations had to renounce war and territorial conquest).
 - General Assembly, representative body of all member states
 - Security Council, 5 permanent members (China, France, Great Britain, U.S., & Soviet Union) and 7 rotating members
- The year before Allied nations had agreed to revamp the international monetary system at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire (the IMF, & World Bank were created).
- Although the Soviet Union signed the agreements, they were clearly opposed to capitalism and had different intentions for their postwar future.

- The Soviets wanted control over eastern Europe as a buffer zone, the West viewed this as aggression.

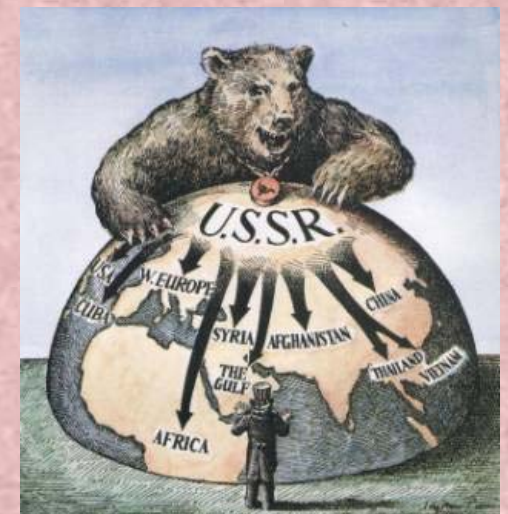


“ . . . an iron curtain has descended across the Continent . . . ”

WINSTON
CHURCHILL



- The United States proposed a foreign policy of **containment** against the Soviets. It called for taking measures to prevent any expansion of communist rule to other countries.
- Early examples of containment in action:
 - **Truman Doctrine:** President Truman granted \$400 million in economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey.
 - **Marshall Plan:** \$13 billion in aid was given out to more European nations to help them rebuild after the war and become prosperous economies.



- Western Europe was in ruins following WWII, and the Marshall Plan greatly helped the region get back on its feet.
- Although there was a long history of conflict between these nations, beginning in the 1950s they began to lower trade barriers and collaborate together in their industries (coal & steel). The European Economic Community is the predecessor of the modern European Union.
- Although capitalist, many nations in Western Europe began to expand social welfare (health insurance, unemployment benefits, etc.) to their citizens.

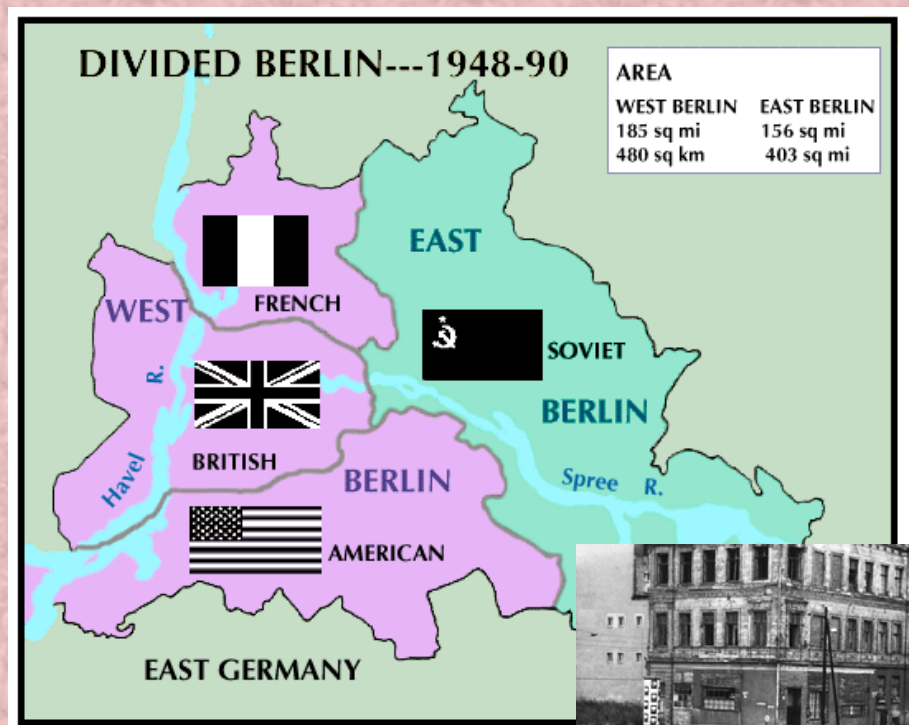
- In contrast to Western Europe or the U.S. where consumer goods became readily available (TVs, cars, etc.) the Soviet Union's communist economic model was less responsive to domestic demand. As a result shortages of food and goods became common.



- What to do about Germany was at the center of the differences between the Soviets and the other Allies. The country was eventually divided between East and West, as was the capital Berlin.
- In 1948, Stalin had hoped he could take all of Berlin if he closed all highways and rail routes into West Berlin. Without food and fuel the 2.1 million residents of West Berlin would have only survived a month.
- To break the blockade, American and British officials began the **Berlin Airlift** by dropping supplies into the city by airplane. After 327 days the blockade was finally lifted.



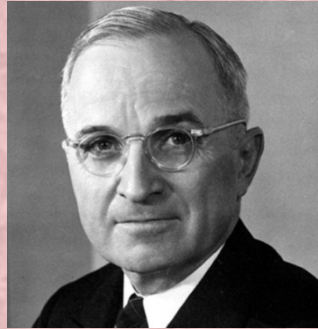
- As time went on East Berliners living under communism often moved to the West where economic conditions were better.
- In 1961, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev built a wall to keep the people from fleeing. The Berlin Wall physically divided the city for almost thirty years.



- Even before the construction of the Berlin Wall it was clear that the Soviet Union and the United States were involved in a **Cold War**.
- Before long, both nations would form military alliances (**NATO & Warsaw Pact**) with other nations.



- In 1949, aid was not enough from preventing a Mao Zedong and his Communists from coming into power.



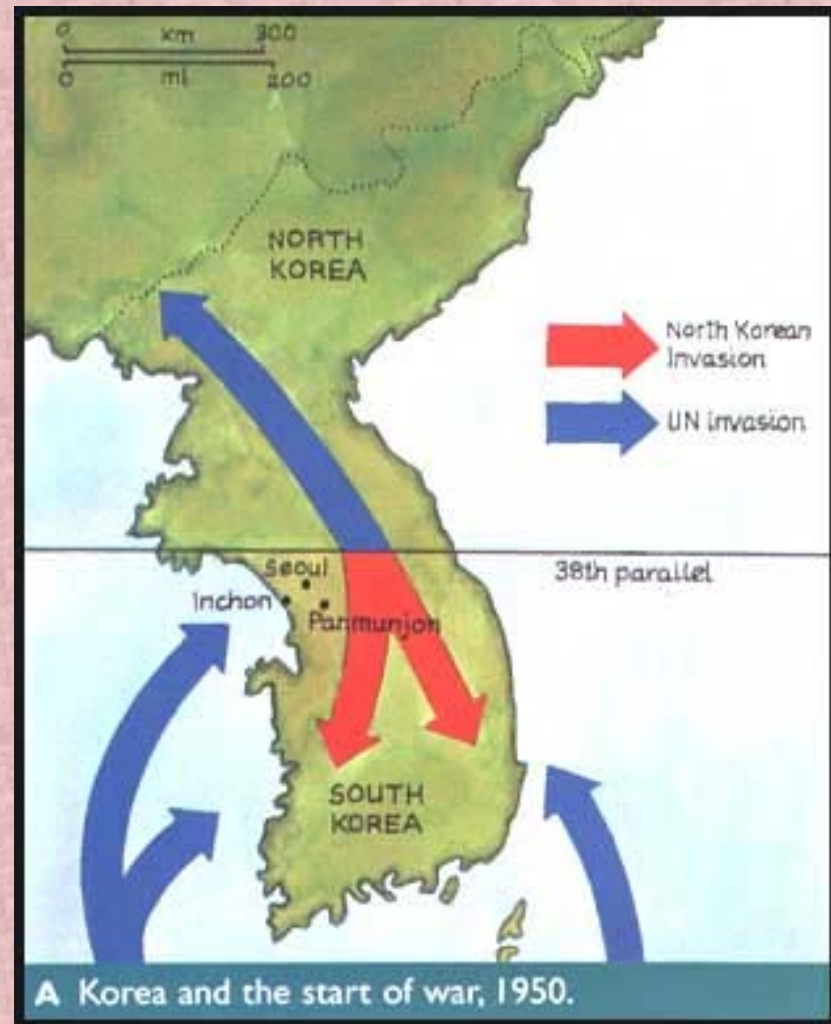
- The American public was stunned and blamed Truman. Many U.S. politicians vowed to never let another country fall to communism, as a result the Cold War would heat up!



- Beginning in the 1950s the fight against communism got more intense. In 1950, North Korean forces moved into South Korea.
- Before long the U.S. was sending troops and equipment to aid the South Koreans, the Chinese government aided the North Koreans.

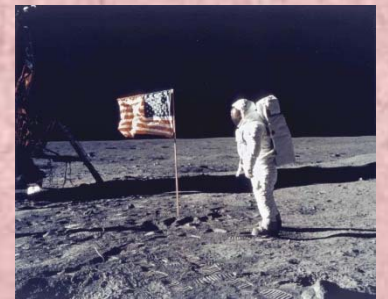
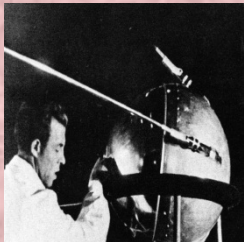


- Fighting ended in 1951, and a formal truce was signed in 1953 declaring that the 38th parallel would politically divide North and South Korea.



- On the home front:

- The threat of communism caused hysteria ([McCarthyism](#)).
- The government investigated union workers, librarians, scientists, and added the phrase “under God” into the Pledge of Allegiance as way of showing the “godless” Soviets God was on our side.
- In general people were afraid of communism and the “evil” and “godless” Soviet Union.
- The ‘57 launching of the Soviet satellite Sputnik started a space race with the U.S. ([U.S. landed on the moon in 1969](#)).
- A stronger emphasis was put on American education especially math and science.



- The Cold War was considered “cold” because the U.S. and the Soviets weren’t actually fighting one another. However, a great deal of espionage and number of proxy wars took place between them. (For example, the Korean War or the CIA overthrows of leaders in Iran & Guatemala).
- Both were also trying to build bigger and more destructive bombs, which caused an arms race and put the world on the brink of nuclear war.



Iran, 1953



Guatemala, 1954



- Nations that tried to remain “unaligned” with either the U.S. (1st World) or the Soviet Union (2nd World) were collectively called the Third World.
- The super powers often attempted to use these nations (many of which were former colonies and were newly independent) as pawns in the greater Cold War struggle.



- When Fidel Castro came to power in 1959 it appeared the Soviets had a new ally. As a result the U.S. tried to overthrow the Castro regime (assassination attempts, the Bay of Pigs fiasco).
- In order to protect the Castro government the Soviet Union sent missiles to Cuba. The revelation of this became known as the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962).



- In 1965 the United States started sending troops to Vietnam to prevent the North Vietnamese communists from taking over the South. Over the next eight years nearly 60,000 U.S. soldiers died, while at the home the country became divided over the war.
- However, to the Vietnamese it was a war for independence; they used guerilla tactics against U.S. troops. America failed to achieve its objective, the Communists took over in 1975.



- In 1968, during the **Prague Spring** liberal reforms began to take place in Czechoslovakia. The Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact allies invaded the country and halted the extension of political freedoms being granted to citizens.
- Whereas American policy was centered around containment, many Soviets dreamed of the communist revolution ([economic justice](#)) taking place around the world, which involved strict rule in order for implementation to take hold.





- Part of the reason why the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. did not go to war was because of M.A.D. (mutually assured destruction: they blow us up we will blow them up). Therefore, the Cold War remained cold with “heated” battles of containment.

- In the late 60s early 70s the U.S. & Soviet Union began taking steps to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons (The Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed by 137 countries in 1968).
- Throughout the 1970s West / East relations continued to improve:
 - Helsinki Accords (agreed to refrain from using force & increased cultural contacts)
 - Nixon's policy of détente





	NATO countries
	Other U.S. allies
	Warsaw Pact countries
	Other allies of the Soviet Union
	Cold War crisis areas

Map 22-3
Ways of the World, First Edition
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