

THE COLD WAR:

- "Clash of civilization"
 - soviet socialism/communism vs capitalism
 - soviets trying to take over other countries
 - capitalism trying to increase power
- increased threat of a war that could destroy the world
- lasted from 1945-1990

Communism and democracy first come into conflict during WWI

WWI is also the origin of communism in Russia

Russia:

- soldiers were "sacrifices to the war god"
 - no food, weapons
- leads to 1917 rebellion, Kerensky promises democracy
- Lenin has own revolution based on Marxism
 - growing disparities between the rich and poor, capitalism would be replaced in revolution with communism
- October Revolution 1917, Bolsheviks take control over government
- Lenin is intolerant of dissent, had his enemies killed

US refused to recognize new Russian govt.

- conflicted w/ Wilson's "safe for democracy" principles
- sent troops to fight Bolsheviks during their civil war

WWII, 1945:

- Allied powers (USA/Truman, UK/Churchill, USSR/Stalin) defeat Germans, invade France
 - alliance was already falling apart by the end of the war
- US vs USSR
 - both born from revolutions, wanted to extend their home ideologies to the rest of the world, largest countries land wise,
 - differences:
 - revolution in US created freedom by restricting government's role in everyday life
 - revolution in USSR required mass overthrow of the current system, creating authoritarian state in the process
 - *were fighting different wars:*
 - US fighting from afar in 2 separate wars (Japan & Germany)
 - few casualties (300,000), no significant attacks on its soil
 - was able to choose where it would fight
 - emerged with thriving economy
 - Soviet Union only fighting one war, but was "arguably the most terrible one in history" (Gladdis, 9)
 - defensive - cities, towns and villages destroyed, circumstances of battle chosen by the Germans

- 27 million casualties
- almost entirely destroyed by 1945

Potsdam Conference:

- July 1945, meeting between allied powers to discuss:
 - control over defeated Germany
 - securing lasting peace
 - winning war with japan
 - redrawing nation lines
- Germany is divided into 4 occupation zones:
 - within Berlin, divided into west/east Berlin



- Soviets had significant advantages despite their disadvantages during the war:
 - sustainable economy that had survived the depression
 - troops would remain on mainland europe
 - communism was widely respected in Europe (communists had been the main opposition to the germans)
 - their army took disproportionate losses - moral claim
- US had just thrown Truman into office after Roosevelt's death, Labor party had just won over Churchill in UK (Atlee = PM) -- Soviets had trusted leadership (Stalin)

stalin's goals:

- "security for himself, his regime, his country and his ideology in precisely that order" (Gladdis, 11)
- believed that wartime expenditures should be main factor in determining postwar gains
 - bc the soviet union put in a lot, expected to get a lot in response
- territorial gains:

- Acquisition of territories lost in war and gained in non aggression pact w/ Hitler (parts of Finland, Poland, Romania, Baltic states)
- territories of ottomans and turks
- occupation of postwar germany
- losses “robbed that country of the power required to secure those benefits unilaterally”
 - needed to seek cooperation from the Americans/British to get back their economy
- seen as wistful thinking by govts of US/UK
- Stalin believed that capitalists would not be able to cooperate together for very long bc of competing interests
 - “the inevitability of wars between capitalist countries remains in force” - Stalin
- ***didnt want to restore balance of power to Europe, but instead domination of the continent***

US goals:

- concerned about stability, but posed dilemma in how they would achieve that
- long policies of isolationism, despite “an international ideology”
 - had maintained a vast sphere of influence in western hemisphere without any real interference from europe since their independence
 - WWI was first breach of this policy - world had to be “safe for democracy”
 - instead just increased fear of over engagement in many americans
 - FDR attempted to reverse this - only persuaded US to go to war after pearl harbor
- Roosevelt's wartime priorities:
 - gain allies (UK, USSR, China) who would cooperate in postwar
 - UN - international security organization, which would deter/prevent further wars from breaking out
 - refused to return to isolationism

mounting tensions between the US and Russia:

- US refusal to recognize Bolshevik govt and subsequent deployment of troops against them
- US “freezing” USSR from atomic weapons project
- US terminating land lease aid, denying reconstruction loans to USSR in 1945

The Atomic Bomb

- US development allowed them to win war in Japan and provided leverage against the USSR
- tested 1st day of Potsdam
- Stalin was already aware of its existence, but still shocked that he was prepared to use it

Spheres of influence

US:

- Contain communism
- aid any country fighting communism

USSR:

- soviet domination
- indirect ideological rule
- Wanted defensive sphere in west
 - to be bordered by communist nations
 - US saw this as building an empire

Churchill-Stalin Deal:

- Soviets would maintain control over eastern europe - Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania
- in exchange for recognition of UK control over Greece

Containment: 1946-1949

- *Iron curtain*: line of communism drawn across Europe
 - all those east of this lived within “soviet sphere”
 - “buffer zone” - protection against future wars
 - each of these states became increasingly more communist, “satellite states”



- US leaders at a loss to explain Stalin's actions
- Kennan (Diplomat to Russia), sends telegram attempting to outline USSR's platform

- <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm>
- called for containment

Truman Doctrine

- March 12th 1947, Truman requests aid from congress for defense of Greece and Turkey
- dramatic change for US foreign policy
- Stop/contain the spread of Soviet Communism and to financially/militarily support a country actively fighting against communism

Marshall Plan

- Marshall (Secretary of State) proposes Marshall Plan
 - economic assistance to Europe - \$17 billion
 - feared that without this, Europe would fall to communism as alternative to poverty
 - "investment in peace, in those terms - the cost is low" - Marshall
 - funding was approved after czechoslovakia fell to communism
 - largely a success

Berlin Blockade - 1948

- Berlin becomes a microcosm for Germany's split
- Soviets plunder Germany to rebuild Soviet Union while Western zones thrive
- Americans introduce new currency
 - Stalin sees this as a method for US to exert power
- In response, Stalin created blockade around West Berlin
- "we are going to stay. Period" - Truman

Berlin Airlift:

- US response to Berlin Blockade
 - airlifted in supplies
- unchallenged by the Soviet Union - why?
 - only response would be to shoot down planes, that would lead to an outright war
- as a result, Germany becomes permanently divided

1949 - NATO formed

- North Atlantic Trade Organization

Warsaw Pact -

- competing alliance formed in response to NATO

1949:

- huge year for communism
- Soviets successfully tested own atomic bomb
- Mao ZeDong, communist in China, ends civil war and supports communist uprisings in Asia

Red Scare:

- Very real fear/panic of eminent nuclear war
 - “all out offensive” against communism
- J. Edgar Hoover - FBI director
 - communism “spreads like an epidemic. Like an epidemic it needs to be quarantined”
- House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)
 - propaganda, part of anti-communist witch hunt
 - those accused were not given civil rights
 - went after movies for imposing communism
 - Hollywood 10, group of actors that refused to comply
 - result? film industry creates movies that impose great fear of communism
- Congress passes Internal Security Bill of 1950
 - allowed congress to take action against someone they think is a communist
 - Truman called it greatest threat to American democracy

Alger Hiss

Rosenbergs

- jews who were killed for being communist

Army-McCarthy hearings

- media circus, inconclusive
- McCarthy was revealed to be an “arrogant, blustering tyrant”
- overnight, McCarthy’s popularity evaporated

Truman’s biggest achievements (Democrat - 1945-1953)

- Atomic Bomb
- Creation of the UN
- Truman Doctrine
- Containment
- Marshall Plan
- Berlin