

Dwight D. Eisenhower - Republican, 1953-1961

- New look policy
- influenced by Red Scare
- Eisenhower Doctrine (Stopping spread of communism in Middle East)
- Military/Financial Aid to French in Vietnam
- "Massive Retaliation" - JF Dulles
- Brinkmanship
- CIA
- Iran/Guatemala

Eisenhower's Election

- old general, won by a landslide, first republican president in 20 years
- had campaigned for end of korean war, hard line against communism

New Look Policy:

- defense strategy, relied heavily on nuclear weapons/arsenal
- economic reasons: much cheaper to reduce size of army/navy, used nuclear stockpiling as a fear tactic to prevent confrontation
- aggressive: *Massive Retaliation*
 - if Soviets invaded western europe, US would drop nuclear bombs on large areas of the communist world
 - would lead to total war, 200 million deaths

Kruschev:

- at same time, Stalin dies and is replaced by Kruschev
 - before he takes power, Soviets extends an olive branch
 - Eisenhower responds, but Dulles suggests that peace would never be possible (that olive branch was just propaganda)
- Not insane like Stalin, but more open in his defiance of the US
 - more militant, open about his opposition to the west
 - assumed that USSR was lying about their capabilities
- also much more open to US relations
 - debated with VP, visited US (first soviet to do so)
 - "Long live soviet american friendship" - proposed steps towards peace

1955

- both nations seeking opportunity to lessen cold war tensions
- leaders meet in Geneva for first time since potsdam

Open Skies:

- Kruschev opposed this entirely

U-2:

- gathering data on the Russian intelligence capabilities

- by the time that the U-2 was shot down, had already gathered enough intelligence to know that USSR military capabilities were not as great as they seemed
- this was one last attempt to gather intelligence on the Russians, violated Soviet airspace
 - shot down by soviets, US denied responsibility, said pilot was a civilian (he was charged with espionage and sentenced to 10 years in prison)
 - broke any hope of

Corona Project:

GUATEMALA:

- United Fruit Company controlled most of the land in Guatemala
- **Arbenz government** put into power
 - was close to communists, not actually supported by the USSR
 - US worried about homegrown communism with support from USSR
 - communists were supposedly gaining power within the government
 - tried to nationalize land from UFC, USA backed them against this
 - Guatemala now had to fight the UFC and the USA
 - Church (very important in Catholic country) helped organize resistance against Arbenz
 - succeeded, but US denied all responsibility

VIETNAM:

- French Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand)- colonized by the french
 - until 1940, Japanese came in and took over
- French sought to re-exert control over Vietnam, opposed by Viet Minh & Ho Chi Minh (communist)
- Truman originally not supportive of French intervention in Vietnam
 - however, began to support French in 1947 due to fear of communist victory
 - gave 40 million dollars for economic/military aid, 2.6 billion for cost of war, 400,000 troops

vietnam syndrome - after Vietnam, many Americans lost faith in their government, backed out of foreign affairs

Dien Bien Phu: - 1954 (Eisenhower)

- French defeat and Viet Minh victory
 - termination of French involvement in Indochina
- **Geneva Conference (1954)**
 - purpose to settle outstanding issues from the Korean War & to discuss peace settlements in Indochina
 - armistice follow up from Korean War, no treaty
 - Geneva Accords

- 17th parallel established with a DMZ (temporary)
 - North Vietnam (Communist), Ho Chi Minh
 - South Vietnam (anti-communist), Ngo Dinh Diem
- general election in 1956 to create a unified Vietnamese state
 - US and South Vietnam did not accept this “Final Conference Declaration”
- After cancellation of UN supervised elections by UN, Ho Chi Minh’s guerrilla units (Vietcong, VC) started to invade South
- US provided support to Diem
 - believed South would lose w/out their help
 - Saw Ho Chi Minh’s government as communist, Diem anti communist, used as a way for the US to boost containment
 - “consistent in his overall view of foreign and defense policy, a test of his inaugural promise to ‘pay any price and ‘bear any burden’ to ‘assume the survival... of liberty’” (Patterson, 510)
- When Diem became corrupt, Kennedy excused it by saying “Diem is Diem.. and the best we’ve got.”

Intensifying American Presence in Vietnam:

- “Domestic policy can only defeat us; foreign policy can kill us.” - JFK
- Other foreign policies made Kennedy seem weak (Bay of pigs)
 - fear of losing public support