

Unit #7: Cold War 1945-1991

Former Allies Clash

- Prior to the end of WWII, US and Soviet Union see potential for future conflict
 - Ideological differences:
 - US- capitalist democracy government
 - Soviet Union- totalitarian communist government
- June 26, 1945 United Nations is formed
 - Both countries use their status in UN to attempt to spread their ideas
- At the Potsdam Conference (1945), Stalin breaks his word by disallowing free elections in eastern Europe- increasing Soviet influence in the region

Tensions Increase

- Following the Potsdam Conference, Soviets strengthen grip on eastern Europe
 - Wanted to spread Communism
 - Also wanted access to raw materials to boost their economy
 - Viewed eastern Europe as a buffer zone to prevent another future invasion from the west
- Stalin establishes communism in satellite nations of Poland, Romania, Hungary, and nearly all of eastern Europe- nations politically and economically ruled by another country

Containment

- Stalin foresees another war viewing communism and capitalism as incompatible
- US pursues policy of containment with Soviets- attempt to stop the spread of another government's influence
- While speaking in Fulton, Missouri, Churchill first uses the phrase iron curtain to describe the division between democratic western Europe and communist eastern Europe

Cold War in Europe

- Cold War- state of conflict between US and Soviet Union from 1945 to 1991 without the use of direct military action
- Following the war, western Europe lay in ruin
- Secretary of State George Marshall proposes Marshall Plan to assist western Europe
 - From 1947 to 1951 western Europe receives \$13 billion in US aid
 - Helped restore western European economies and prevent spread of communism

Struggle for Germany

- Debate raged over whether Germany should be unified following the war
- Country eventually divided in two:
 - Democratic West Germany including West Berlin
 - Communist East Germany including East Berlin
- Out of fear of Soviet aggression 10 western European nations + US and Canada create North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
 - Each member pledges to assist the other in the event of an attack
 - US enters military alliance during peace time for first time ever

China Falls to Communism

- At the end of WWII, China lead by nationalist politician Chiang Kai-shek opposed communism
- Communist movement in China begins to take root at this time led by Mao Zedong
 - Peasants drawn to communism
- War breaks out between two groups in 1944
- Ultimately communists win and take over control of China

Korean War

- Prior to end of WWII, Korea occupied by Japan
- At conclusion of war, Japanese troops north of 38th parallel surrender to Soviets, troops south of 38th parallel surrender to US
 - Two separate countries develop- communist in north, democratic in south
- On June 25, 1950 North Korean troops surge across 38th parallel starting the Korean War

Korean War (cont.)

- UN votes to send troops to Korea- over 90% of 520,000 troops are from US
 - Troops lead by General Douglas MacArthur
- North Korean troops successful early on
- In September 1950 MacArthur leads raid at Inchon behind enemy lines
 - Defeat North Koreans by dividing their forces in half
- By late November North Koreans driven all the way back to Chinese border

Korean War (cont.)

- 300,000 Chinese join the fight on the side of the North Koreans
- Chinese drive UN forces back into South Korea

Korean War (cont.)

- MacArthur calls for US to drop nukes on mainland China
 - China and Soviets had defense pact
- Fearful of World War III Truman denies request
- UN offensive drives Chinese forces back to the 38th parallel

Korean War (cont.)

- MacArthur continues to assert need to attack mainland China by criticizing Truman
- In April 1951 Truman fires MacArthur from his position
- Two warring parties reach truce in July 1951:
 - Border drawn up along 38th parallel
 - Demilitarized zone established along border
- War costs \$67 billion and 54,000 American lives

Fear of Communism in US

- As communism spreads into eastern Europe and China, Americans fear its influence at home
- Loyalty Review Board- government organization set up to investigate potential government employees sympathetic to communism
 - 3.2 million government employees are investigated

Fear of Communism in US (cont.)

- Other agencies investigate people with communist ties outside of government
- House Un-American Activities Committee- congressional committee which investigated communist influence inside and outside of government
 - Set their sights on Hollywood
 - Believe movie industry was sneaking communist propaganda into films
 - Hollywood Ten- ten witnesses working in Hollywood who refused to testify before committee because they felt it infringed upon their constitutional rights

Spies in America

- Alger Hiss
 - Former employee of US State Department
 - Accused of spying for Soviet Union by a colleague who was a known communist spy
 - Eventually convicted of perjury due to faulty evidence of spying
- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg
 - Members of American Communist Party
 - Linked to American scientist who gave Soviets information on how to produce atomic bomb
 - Tried and executed for their crime in 1953

Joseph McCarthy

- Republican Senator from Wisconsin
- Believed communists were taking over US government
- Made unsupported accusations on people from all parts of the government
- McCarthyism- allegations, usually with little to no evidence, against people suspected of being communists in the early 1950s

Joseph McCarthy (cont.)

- Typically only 'called out' people while on the Senate floor where he had legal protection from slander
- McCarthy loses public support when he makes allegations against US army
- Outcomes of McCarthyism:
 - Many people from all walks of life investigated or forced to take loyalty oaths
 - People become afraid to speak out on public issues for fear of being labeled a communist

Brinkmanship

- After Soviets develop nuke in 1949- arms race begins
- By 1952 US develops even more potent weapon the H-bomb- hydrogen bomb
- Brinkmanship- policy under President Eisenhower where the US was willing to go to the edge of all-out war
 - US trimmed size of army and navy and built up the air force

Worldwide Spread of the Cold War

- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)- used spies to gather intelligence around the world
 - CIA conducts covert operations around the world to weaken or overthrow governments unfriendly to the US
- In 1955 out of fear of the west Soviet Union signs Warsaw Pact- military alliance between Soviets and seven eastern European countries

Worldwide Spread of the Cold War

- In 1957 President Eisenhower issues warning known as the Eisenhower Doctrine- stated US would defend the Middle East against an attack by a communist country
- Anti-communist Revolt in Hungary
 - New Hungarian president in 1956 demands Soviet troops leave Hungary
 - Soviets respond by killing ~30,000 Hungarians
 - US stands idly by

Cold War in the Air

- Nikita Khrushchev becomes leader of USSR following Stalin's death in 1953
 - Believed economic and scientific competition between US and USSR would decide fate of nations
- Space Race:
 - On October 4, 1957 Soviets launch Sputnik-first satellite to orbit around the world
 - Nearly four months later US matches the feat

Cold War in the Air

- US uses U-2 spy planes to gather information about Soviets- planes that flew at high altitudes without detection
- Eventually one plane is shot down over Soviet territory – known as the U-2 incident