Europe During the Cold War

Cold War Western Europe
- Economic Impacts
  - The Post-War Western European Miracle
    - By 1960s all European Countries GDPs higher than pre-1939 periods
    - West Germany, Italy, France
      - Rapid Recovery and major gains in GDP
    - England
      - Slower recovery and minimal gain in GDP
- Post-War Britain
  - 1945 Beginning of the Welfare State
    - A guarantee of minimum standards, including a minimum income
    - Social protection in the event of insecurity
    - The provision of services at the best level possible
  - “The Sick Man in Europe”
    - Europe mostly rising except Britain
      - Failure to modernize
      - Loss of Market
      - More Competition
  - “The Troubles”
    - Violence in Northern Ireland
      - First begins in Londonderry in 1968
      - Quickly spreads to Belfast
    - Irish Republican Army
      - Fighting to unite Ireland
      - Terroristic activities
        - Bombings, riots
        - British Army called in to restore order
    - Trouble on and off until 1990s
      - Cease-Fire called in August 1994
      - Around 3,000 killed
  - Good Friday Agreement
    - Signed April 10, 1998
    - Allowed for more cooperation between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland
    - Called for an elected assembly of Northern Ireland
    - Major questions over dis-armament of IRA
  - Hillsborough Castle Agreement
    - February 5th, 2010
    - Control of Northern Irelands’ Police and Judicial systems handed over to Northern Ireland
  - Debate ongoing
  - Multinational Britain
    - Many people from colonies began coming to Britain in search of a better life
      - Jamaicans
        - The Windrush
      - Indians
    - Many used for low paying labor
    - Created Job shortage
Many White Brits will move to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada
- Lured by promises of jobs and better salaries

- **Margaret Thatcher**
  - Britain’s first female Prime Minister
  - Conservative
  - Became PM in 1979
  - Served 3 Terms

- **Thatcherism**
  - Trade Unions
  - Privatization
  - End of Government backed full Employment
  - Growth of Welfare State
  - Government no longer universal provider
    - Lessened Inflation
    - At the cost of Un-Employment
  - Victory in the *Falklands War of 1982*
  - Worked with US President Ronald Reagan
    - United against Communism

- **Social Changes**
  - Women’s Rights Movements
    - Women came out of World War II having contributed in all ways
      - **Wanted greater rights, and place in society**
    - **1944 – Education Act**
      - Free Public Education for all for Primary and Secondary
    - **1968 – Women’s Liberation Movement**
      - Women at Miss America pageant threw stilettos in Trash
    - **1975 – Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Bills**
      - England business required to pay women same as men
      - Could not discriminate based on sex
  - **Feminism Movement**
    - Fighting to break out of social constrictions
    - Ex. Women should wear skirts not trousers

- **The Consumer Revolution**
  - With introduction of Social Security there is less need to “Save for a rainy day”
  - Expansion of credit
  - Rising standards of living
  - Rising supply of consumer goods
  - **Higher wages**
  - Rebuilding Europe
    - Urge to fill homes with new appliances
  - Cars
    - European Auto Manufacturers catch onto American methods
      - Cars became cheaper and easier to own
        - 1948 – 5 million cars in Western Europe
        - 1965 – 44 million cars in Western Europe
  - Other Major Inventions
    - **Vacuum Cleaner**
      - Widespread use by 1960s
    - **Dishwasher**
      - Widespread use by 1970s
- **Mass Media**
  - Radio
    - Radio in wide use prior to World War II
  - Television
    - 1936 – BBC begins broadcasting
    - 1950s – Growth of Television into Homes
    - 1961 – Wonderful World of Color
      - Walt Disney
      - Convinced consumers the benefits of color sets
  - Computers
    - Developed from Wartime Computers
    - Univ of Penn
      - 1945
      - ENIAC – Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer
      - Built for US Army
    - By 1960s
      - Computers widely used for scientific, military, and commercial uses
    - 1981
      - IBM PC

- **Generation Gap**
  - Baby-Boomers
    - Children born right after World War II
    - Developed a youth culture
      - Fashion
      - Music
  - Bad Boys
    - Teddy Boys – England
    - Blousen Noirs – France
    - Modeled selves after American “Bad Boys” like Marlon Brando and James Dean
    - Rebellion
      - Street fighting
      - Low level crime
  - Music
    - Rebelled against conventional music
    - Music spread quickly due to LPs and 45s
      - Elvis Presley
      - The Beatles
  - Education
    - 1950 3-4% of Europeans attended universities
    - 1960 12-15%

**Eastern Europe during the Cold War**

- **Soviet Economies**
  - Satellite states send natural resources to USSR
  - At first efficient
  - Collective Farms
  - **COMECON**
    - Soviet and Satellites economic agreement

- **Yugoslavia**
  - Independent of USSR
- Marshall Tito
  - Leader
  - More Freedom
  - Abandoned Collectivization

- East Germany
  - 1953
    - Workers riot
      - East German and Soviet troops ended the riots
    - Repression
      - 330,000 East Germans flee to the West
    - USSR helped improve economic conditions in East Germany
      - More consumer goods
      - Improved recreation
      - International sports
  - Berlin Crisis
    - 1961
      - Standoff between American and Soviet Tanks in Berlin at Checkpoint Charlie
        - Both sides told to return fire if fired upon
      - Khrushchev and Kennedy eventually agree to back off

- Hungary
  - Janos Kadar
    - Took over after Nagy
  - Kadar very skillful
    - Did not antagonize USSR
    - Made some liberal reforms
    - “Goulash Communism”
      - Mixture of communism and liberalism
  - 1989
    - New Constitution
    - Round Table
      - Made Reforms

- Poland
  - 1956
    - Liberal reforms take place while maintaining communism and Warsaw Pact
  - Wladyslaw Gromulka
    - Leader of reform
    - Leader of Polish Politburo
    - Purged Stalinists
    - Catholic Church resumed
    - Halted collectivization
    - Checked activities of secret police
    - Granted amnesty to political prisoners granted amnesty
    - Allowed liberal reforms to take place for the time being

- Czechoslovakia
  - Communist Leaders accused of Stalinism
    - Government agreed that there was need for change
  - Alexander Dubcek
    - January 1968
    - Prague Spring
      - “Socialism with a human face”
      - Greater freedom of expression
- **The Soviet Union**
  - **Khrushchev Era**
    - Détente
    - A general relaxation of tension
  - **Leonid Brezhnev**
    - Re-Stalinization
      - Used KGB to solidify position
      - Repression
    - 1968, The Brezhnev Doctrine
      - "When forces that are hostile to socialism try to turn the development of some socialist country towards capitalism, it becomes not only a problem of the country concerned, but a common problem and concern of all socialist countries."
      - Clamps down on all satellite States
    - Foreign Policy
      - Ends Détente
        - Cold War is as cold as ever
      - SALT talks
        - SALT I - 1969
          - Strategic Arms Limitations Talks
          - Froze number of nuclear weapons
        - SALT II – 1977-1979
          - Tried to stop production of new nuclear weapons
          - Signed but not ratified
    - Afghanistan
      - USSR invades Afghanistan
        - December 1979
        - Trying to help prop up communist government there
      - Charlie Wilson’s War
        - US Senator from Texas
        - Increases funding for CIA operations in Afghanistan
          - Worked with CIA operative Gust Avrakotos
          - Bought anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down soviet helicopters