World War II – Forming Post-War Europe

Peace conferences
- Teheran November 1943
  - Concerned with war tactics
    - Agreed to partition postwar Germany
- Moscow Conference
  - Between Stalin and Churchill
  - Concerned with postwar spheres of influence
- Yalta February 1945
  - Soviets were strong
    - Stalin had 11 million soldiers in Eastern and Central Europe
  - He wanted a buffer against any future Western aggression
    - Spheres of influence
    - Also wanted resources and strategic military position
  - Roosevelt moved toward “self determination”
    - Similar to Wilson
  - Declaration on Liberated Europe
    - Liberated countries could create democratic institutions of their own choice through free elections
  - Roosevelt wanted Soviets to help them with Japan
    - Promised Stalin territory
  - UN
    - Postwar international organization
    - All big three would be involved
  - Other issues
    - Unconditional surrender of Germany
      - 4-way partition of Germany
      - Zones for Soviets, Britain, and US
        - French share out of US and Britain
    - Poland
      - Provisional government with both Polish Communist Lublin Poles and non-Communist London Poles
        - They both hated each other!
      - Future free election but government also supposed to be pro-Soviet
        - Problem with self determination
          - These countries had to be pro-Soviet
            - If they had free elections, they would not choose to be Soviet
- Potsdam July 1945
  - Much less friendly
  - Soviets were upset at the end of Lend-Lease
    - US no longer spent fortunes to send them equipment
      - US refusal to give $6 billion loan
  - West was upset with Soviet failure to honor the Declaration on Liberated Europe
    - Soviets put dictators in charge of these places
      - Romania- Soviet coup installed Petra Groza “little Stalin”
      - Poland- London Poles were arrested and Lublin Communists took power
  - Truman (much stronger and tougher attitude, especially towards Stalin) learned at the conference that the A bomb worked
- He did not need the Soviets anymore against Japan
  - Stiffer approach
  - Truman- tougher line to Stalin, and Stalin refused free elections in Eastern Europe

Post-War Developments

- Postwar Problems
  - Had to deal with War Criminals
  - Europe had to be re-built
  - Japan had to be re-built
  - Build global economy
  - Create lasting peace

- Key Postwar Figures
  - Harry S. Truman
    - American President
    - Little International Political Experience
      - Learned quickly
        - Took a hard-line against Soviets
        - Had the Atomic Bomb
  - Josef Stalin
    - Hailed as a war hero in Soviet Union
      - Still had strangle hold on political structure
    - Wanted Revenge and protection from invasion
      - Hard headed
        - Knew what he wanted and fought to get it

- New Economic Institutions
  - Bretton Woods Conference
    - Bretton Woods, New Hampshire
    - July, 1944
    - Met to decide on new World Economic system
      - World Bank
        - Loan system to help stimulate economies of third world
      - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
        - Regulate Exchange Rates
    - Russians not interested
      - Too “Capitalist”

- The creation of the United Nations
  - April 1945
  - Days after death of Roosevelt
  - Drafted organization’s founding charter
    - Very similar to League of Nations
  - US Forced to pass through senate
  - United Kingdom weakened
    - US sees that it has to pick up where UK was leaving off
      - Forced out of Isolationism
  - Creation of Permanent “Security Council”
    - Had Veto powers on UN Resolutions
    - Permanent members
      - United States
      - Great Britain
      - France
      - China
• USSR
  o Serve as a way to solve problems
    ▪ Could openly discuss issues instead of going directly to war
    ▪ All nations have a voice
    ▪ Can draft resolutions
    ▪ Plans of Action

- Nuremburg Trials
  o War Crimes court
    ▪ Set up to deal with Nazi officials
  o Mostly Americans and British Judges
    ▪ French and Russians not so concerned
      ▪ French had officially allied
      ▪ Russia scared they might be next
  o Mostly went after high up officials in Nazi Party and people associated with the Holocaust
    ▪ Main Trial 21 people
      • Final Verdict
        ▪ 13 Death Sentences
        ▪ 6 Imprisonment
        ▪ 3 Acquitted
      • Hermann Goering
        ▪ Hitler’s chosen successor command
          ▪ Highest ranking official captured
          ▪ Head of Luftwaffe
          ▪ Sentenced to death
            ▪ Committed suicide night before
      • Karl Donitz
        ▪ Head of Kriegsmarine
          ▪ Unrestricted submarine warfare
        ▪ 10 years
      • Wilhelm Keitel and Alfred Jodl
        ▪ Both Generals
        ▪ Death sentences
      • Albert Speer
        ▪ Hitler’s Architect
        ▪ Came up with idea of slave labor in arms production in occupied territories
        ▪ 20 years

- Rebuilding Germany
  o Many Problems
    ▪ British, French, America, USSR controlled different regions
    ▪ Berlin
      ▪ Located deep inside Russian zone
        ▪ Also divided
  o Eventually British, French, and US territories Merge into West Germany
    ▪ West German Federal Republic
      ▪ Independent in Sept 1949
      ▪ Allies maintain bases to “ensure stability”
        ▪ Protect against Soviet movements into Germany and rest of Western Europe
East Germany remains heavily controlled by Soviets
- German Communist Party Walter Ulbrecht
- German Democratic Republic – Oct 1949
- Germany will remain split until Nov 10, 1989
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Rebuilding Japan
- US takes almost sole responsibility for Japan
  - Japanese accept responsibility and accept American occupation
    - Work with Americans to re-build country
- General Douglas MacArthur
  - Controlled Democratization and re-building efforts
  - Tokyo Trials
  - Convicted Japanese War Criminals
- Within a year Japan accepts new Democratic constitution
  - Accepts pledge to not rearm
  - In return for US Military protection

The Marshall Plan
- Soviet Union wants revenge
  - Huge war reparations
  - Dismantle German Factories
- Truman sees this as a problem
  - Learns from History
    - Did not work before
      - Treaty of Versailles
- US Secretary of State George C. Marshall comes up with idea
  - US would give $10 Billion to re-build Europe
    - Only if Europe agreed to work to this end
      - Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany all agreed
    - Seen as huge success
      - Stabilized economy
      - Prevented post-war economic collapse
      - Boosted European economies
        - Within 10 years European factories exceeded pre-war production levels
      - Ensured communism would not take root
  - Pre-cursor to European Union

The Fall of European Empires
- Irony: One of motives for going into World Wars was to defend its empire
  - The wars were one of the major reasons for the downfall
- Loss of Military supremacy
  - Destroyed myth of European Supremacy
    - They fought and died like everyone else
    - British loses to Japan destroyed Racial Supremacy claims
  - Most importantly naval
    - USA is now undisputed Naval superpower
- Loss of face among colonies
  - Europe needed colonies, they did not need Europe
    - Strengthens pushes for home rule
    - Throw in the fact that many colonials were just armed and trained
- UK deeply in debt to the US
  - Could not afford to maintain empire
Decolonization
- Process by which Imperial governments withdraw and allow autonomy
- Mostly left many countries with “puppet governments” who were pro-British, pro-French etc...
  - Not necessarily strongest group in a country
    - Will cause many civil wars in places like Africa
- The “Third World”
  - Countries who used to be colonies, now independent and economically down trodden
    - Many still rich in natural resources
- New Power Struggle
  - With UK and France out of the picture, power vacuum created that USA and USSR race to fill up
    - Looking for allies
    - Looking for new markets
    - Looking for new places for military bases

Asia
- Creation of Israel
  - Creating a Jewish Nation
    - One of the first tasks for United Nations
  - Land in traditional homeland
    - British Palestine
  - Mass Migration
    - Displaced Jews from Europe
      - Hoping to get away from persecution
      - New problems in Palestine
        - Surrounded by Palestinians
  - Israel as a pawn of the Cold War
    - United States hopes to win the favor of Israel
      - Keep the Soviet Union out
    - United States officially recognizes Israel as a Nation
      - Against advice of foreign policy advisors
      - Election Year
        - Truman hoping to secure Jewish Vote
      - Post-War Sympathy
        - Popular move with the people because of Holocaust
  - Impacts
    - USA gains an ally in the Middle East
    - Loses many allies
      - Arab/Muslim states very un-happy with move

- India
  - British Colony
  - Early Grievances
    - Famine
      - Exhausted land and produced non-essential crops
        - Cotton
    - Heavy Taxes
      - Forced to pay for an Army that subjected them
  - World War I
    - Indian troops brought to Europe to fight
  - World War II
    - Indian troops again used in Europe and Africa
    - India directly attacked
- Heavy losses
  - World War II was idealistically an anti-Imperial war for Americans
- Quit India Movement
  - India forced to fight in war against imperialism
- Pressured England to give up its empire after war
  - Resistance movements
  - **Mohandas Gandhi**
  - Heavily nationalistic
  - Served in Indian National Congress
  - **Non-Violent opposition**
    - Salt Marches
    - Home-Spun
  - **Indian Independence Act 1947**
    - British withdraw
    - Allowed for self-rule in British India
      - Sovereign rule in India and new country of Pakistan
      - August 14th (Pakistan) and 15th (India)
        - Great Migration – 10-15 million people move to respective countries
          - Muslims to Pakistan
          - Hindu to India

- **China**
  - Nationalist vs. Communist
    - Nationalist = Chiang Kai-Shek
      - Minimally backed by USA
        - Money and Weapons
    - Communists = Mao Zedong
  - Civil War begins again after World War II
  - Mao’s Forces popular with farmers
    - Eventually able to win full control on Oct 1, 1949
  - Huge loss for Americans
    - ¼ of world population now Communist
    - New Chinese Government does not like America
    - Chiang Kai-Shek and nationalists flee to Taiwan
      - USA Still does not recognize PRC’s sovereignty over Taiwan

- **Vietnam**
  - French Colony
  - World War II
    - **Ho Chi Minh**
      - Communist
      - Vietnamese leader who fought with French against Japanese
        - American Supplies
      - Planning on throwing off French Rule
  - Post War Vietnam (1950s)
    - French try to reassert control over area
    - Americans back plan after fall of China
    - First Indochina War
      - French Expeditionary force sent
      - Facing Viet Minh
        - Communists backed by China and USSR
      - Dien Bien Phu
- Major loss for French
- Forced into unfavorable position at peace talks
  - Geneva Accords of 1954
    - Ended French Colonization
    - Split Vietnam along the 17th Parallel
      - North = Communist under Ho Chi Minh
      - South = Loyalist Bao Dai

Africa
- World War II
  - North Africa was a battle ground
  - African Colonial troops were only given train ticket and thanks for support of European
  - Many Africans trained as soldiers
    - Returned home and hoped to use skills in nationalistic movements
- Decolonization
  - British Method – Gradual Transfer of Power
    - Accepted by Africans
    - Resentment by Whites
      - Wanted favorable constitutions in place
    - Tanganyika 1961 – led by African Majority
    - South Africa 1961 – led by White Minority
  - French Method – Assimilation
    - Allowed Morocco and Tunisia to declare independence, held onto Algeria
  - Belgium – Hold on at all costs
  - United States – De-Colonization
    - Pressured Europeans to give up colonies, by 1980 all independent
- Post-Imperial Africa
  - Africa became power vacuum
  - USA and USSR both sought to control areas
    - Used espionage and control of dictators to get what they wanted