The Cold War – The Early Years

Origins of the Cold War

- Berlin Crisis
  o 1948 Stalin cuts off all Rail and road access to western Allies
    - Truman responds
      • Knows he can not appear weak to Soviets
      • Berlin is symbol of American-Soviet Standoff
      • Refuses to remove forces
    - Organizes Berlin Airlift
      • Millions of tons of food, medical supplies, materials flown into Berlin
    - Huge victory for Americans
      • Stalin eventually opens roads and railroads up again in 1949

- Changes in Russian Foreign Policy
  o “Iron Curtain”
    - Winston Churchill Speech
    - March 5, 1946
    - Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri
    - Warned of growing Soviet Threat
  o Stalin dictated policy in Eastern Europe
    - Used countries as a “buffer zone”
      • Soviet Red Army helps establish Communist governments in eastern countries
        o East Germany
        o Poland
        o Hungary
        o Czechoslovakia
        o Yugoslavia
        o Ukraine
        o Belarus
        o Lithuania
        o Estonia
        o Latvia
        o Romania

- Changes in US Foreign Policy
  o “Containment”
    - 1947 – State Department analyst George F. Kennan
    - Writes an Essay denouncing Soviets
      • Claims they are trying to spread communism everywhere
        o Direct military intervention
        o Supporting Pro-Communist Revolutions
    - Recommends US adopt policy of “Containment”
      o Stopping spread of Communism abroad
      o Deny the Soviet Union allies or support
    - Generally accepted as US policy from 1940s to 1990s
  o The Truman Doctrine
    - Truman adopts Kennan’s Ideas
    - March 1947 – Special Address to Congress
      • Calls for supporting countries against “outside minorities”
        o Soviet Agents
- Used immediately
  - Raises money to help factions in Turkey and Greece
- Seen as quickly polarizing the world
  - Either Pro-American or Pro-Soviet
- Blame Soviets
  - Blocked attempts to unify and stabilize Germany
- The accepted foreign policy during the next 50 years

- **Formation of NATO**
  - North Atlantic Treaty Organization
    - Est 4th April, 1949
  - Truman’s idea
  - United countries of North America and Europe against any attack
    - Mutual Protection Pact
      - USA
      - UK
      - France
      - Italy
      - Canada
      - Netherlands
      - Luxembourg
      - Belgium
      - Denmark
      - Norway
      - Iceland
      - Portugal
      - Greece (1952)
      - Turkey (1952)
      - West Germany (1955)

- **The Warsaw Treaty Organization of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance (Warsaw Pact)**
  - Response to West Germany joining NATO
  - Essentially created by Soviet Union and imposed on its satellite nations
    - Mutual Protection Pact
      - Albania
      - Bulgaria
      - Czechoslovakia
      - East Germany
      - Hungary
      - Poland
      - Romania
      - USSR

- **The Post-War Scientist Grab**
  - After World War II countries tried to get as many Nazi scientist as they could
    - Top two countries being USA and USSR
    - Some were convicted of War Crimes
    - Others they looked the other way
  - During World War II Germany had the most advanced weapons
    - ME 262
    - V2
  - *Operation Paperclip*
    - America’s top catches
- Warner Von Braun
  - Worked on V2 Project
  - Developer of NASA
- Arthur Rudolph
  - V2 Project
  - Helped design Saturn V rocket
- Operation Osoaviakhim
  - Saw German’s forced labor as part of war reparations
  - Information hazy about how many prisoners they had and what they were being used for
    - Ran by NKVD
- Soviet’s top catch
  - Helmut Grottrup
    - Electrical Engineer
    - Did not want to work under Von Braun
    - V2 Project
    - Helped develop Soviet Long Range Missiles

- Arms Race
  - 1949 – Soviet Union successfully tested first atomic bomb
    - Sooner than Americans had predicted
  - Foreign Policy at risk for America
    - America had upper-hand before
  - 1952 – Americans successfully test Hydrogen bomb
    - More devastating
    - Developers feared its possible use
      - Means for Genocide?
    - Soviets test first H-Bomb 1953
  - Race to make more, and more powerful weapons
    - Developments in weapon delivery systems
      - ICBMs and Bombers
        - First ICBM tested 11 June, 1957
          - 2 months before Soviets
  - 2011 – est. 20,500 nuclear bombs

- Space Race
  - Race to develop Nuclear carrying systems
  - Race for Space Exploration
  - Necessity
    - National Security
      - Satellites
      - Nuclear Domination
    - Ideology
      - Governmental superiority
      - Technological Superiority
  - Sputnik 1
    - Oct 4, 1957
    - Start of Space Race
    - Fear of Soviet Capabilities
  - Yuri Gagarin
    - April 12, 1961
    - Vostok 1
    - First Human in Space
o Neil Armstrong
  ▪ July 20, 1969
  ▪ Apollo 11
  ▪ First Man on the Moon

o Apollo-Soyuz Test
  ▪ July 15, 1975
  ▪ Joint Project between USA and USSR
    • Began easing tension between two sides

The Cold War Heats Up
  - Malayan Emergency
    o 1948 -1960
      o Malayan National Liberation Army
        ▪ Militant arm of Malayan Communist Party
        ▪ Used Guerilla Tactics
          • Jungle Fighting
      o British Commonwealth
        ▪ British Strategies
          • Isolate
            o “Hearts and Minds”
      o British Win
        ▪ Grant Independence in 1957

  - Korean War
    o Stalin’s Gamble
      ▪ Stalin urged Kim Il Sung to invade South Korea
        • Did not Think that USA would actually come to defense of South Korea
    o Invasion of South Korea
      ▪ Summer 1950
        ▪ UN adopts resolution to come to the aid of South Korea
          • US led movement by President Dwight D. Eisenhower
            o Sends trusted General MacArthur
          • Soviet Union was boycotting Security Council so could not use veto power
            o Instead supplies North Korean forces
              ▪ Mig Fighters
              ▪ “Advisors”
    o The War
      ▪ US Troops land and help South Koreans secure Pusan Perimeter
      ▪ Sept 1950 Force lands near Inchon
        • Cuts off North Korean troops from supplies
          o North Korean soldiers forced to surrender
      ▪ Nov 1950 UN forces push all the way to the Yalu River
        • Border with China
        • China gets scared with ferocity of attack
          o Orders Chinese Red Army into the battle
      ▪ Winter 1950-1951
        • Fierce Winter fighting
        • Chinese rely on numerical superiority
        • UN troops rely on technological advantages
      ▪ Stalemate 1951 – 1953
        • Able to re-establish line along 38th Parallel
        • Armistice signed July 27, 1953
A New Era in Russia
- **End of Stalin**
  - Post-War Russia Oppression
    - Returning veterans questioned
    - Sent to camps
    - Executed
  - **Doctors Plot**
    - Letter warning Stalin of plot to murder him
    - 7 doctors (including Stalin’s personal physician) arrested, tortured, confessed
  - Stalin very paranoid in late years
    - Convinced of a Jewish Plot
    - Another Purge seems at hand
  - Mar 5, 1953
    - Stalin dies from a stroke
    - Buried next to Lenin in mausoleum
    - Considered to be a hero
    - Oct 31, 1961 body moved to burial at Kremlin Wall
    - Part of process of *de-Stalinization*
  - Nikita Khrushchev Takes over
- **De-Stalinization**
  - *Khrushchev’s Secret Speech*
    - June 4, 1956
    - Critical of Stalin’s Rule
    - Reaffirms Communist ideals
  - Attempt to eliminate the mythical perceptions about Stalin
  - Begin to free prisoners from Gulags
    - Camp conditions improved
- **Nikita Khrushchev**
  - Reforms
    - Tried to improve standard of living
    - Allowed greater intellectual freedom
      - *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*
    - “Virgin Lands”
      - Encouraged agriculture in Kazakh Republic
    - Spent more money on scientific advancement
      - Sputnik
  - Eastern Europe
    - Established Warsaw Pact
    - Hungary
      - Imre Nagy took de-Stalinization as meaning that communist states had more freedom
        - Released state controls
        - Freed Anti-Communist Prisoners
        - Tried to break away from Warsaw Pact
      - Khrushchev sends in Red Army
        - 20,000+ Killed
        - Nagy replaced by Janos Kadar
          - Nagy Executed in 1958
    - East Berlin
      - August 12/13, 1961
      - Wall built dividing East and West Berlin
- **Closed border**
- **Divided city for 28 years**

- **Foreign Relations**
  - Visited USA in 1959
  - Offered the West “peaceful competition”
    - “We will bury you”

- **U-2 Incident**
  - May 1, 1960
  - American U-2 shot down over Soviet Airspace
    - Americans deny
    - Soviets had intact remains, pictures taken, and pilot
      - Francis Gary Powers
  - Came right before Four Powers Paris Summit
    - Fell apart when Eisenhower refused to apologize to Soviets
  - Huge embarrassment for Americans

- **The Cuban Crises**

  - **Bay of Pigs Invasion**
    - John F. Kennedy President
      - Told about it when he became president
      - Did not want to appear soft on communists
      - Joint Chiefs assured him that Castro was un-popular and the people would rise against him
    - April 14, 1961
      - American bombers attack Cuba airfields
        - Left with only 7 planes and 6 pilots
      - Invasion 4 days later
        - 1,400 anti-Castro fighters
        - CIA trained
        - 2 of the ships sank
        - Within 72 hours all fighters either killed, wounded, or captured
    - HUGE embarrassment for USA

  - **Cuban Missile Crisis**
    - September 1962 U-2 spots SAM sites in Cuba
      - Increase in Soviet ships arriving in Cuba
    - October 15, 1962 Long range missiles found in Cuba
      - National Security advisors advised an air strike and/or invasion
        - Kennedy did not trust them, instead decided to wait
      - Come up with idea of Blockade
        - Also positioned 125k soldiers in Florida
        - Navy held maneuvers off the coast
      - Oct 24th Soviet Ships turned around!
    - USSR and USA make a deal
      - Oct 26
      - USSR offers to take missiles out
      - USA promises to not invade Cuba
    - Seen as Humiliating defeat for Soviets
      - Khrushchev forced to resign in 1964
        - Because of Missile Crisis, and Agriculture reforms
          - Soviets forced to import wheat from USA and Canada