# The Cold War – The Early Years

## **Origins of the Cold War**

- Berlin Crisis
  - $\circ$  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
    - 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
        - Supporting Pro-Communist Revolutions
      - Recommends US adopt policy of "Containment"
        - Stopping spread of Communism abroad
        - 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"
          - 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 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1949
- o 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)



- 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

- o 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
- o 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

0

- Race to develop Nuclear carrying systems
- Race for Space Exploration
- Necessity
  - National Security
    - Satellites
    - Nuclear Domination
  - Ideology
    - Governmental superiority
    - Technological Superiority
- o Sputnik 1
  - Oct 4, 1957
  - Start of Space Race
  - Fear of Soviet Capabilities
- o Yuri Gagarin
  - April 12, 1961
  - Vostok 1
  - First Human in Space



- Neil Armstrong
  - July 20, 1969
  - Apollo 11
  - First Man on the Moon
- 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** 

.

- 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"

- British Win
  - Grant Independence in 1957

### - Korean War

- Stalin's Gamble
  - Stalin urged Kim II Sung to invade South Korea
    - Did not Think that USA would actually come to defense of South Korea
- 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
      - Sends trusted General MacArthur
    - Soviet Union was boycotting Security Council so could not use veto power
      - 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
      - $\circ$  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
    - 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 38<sup>th</sup> 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
- <u>Doctors Plot</u>
  - Letter warning Stalin of plot to murder him
  - 7 doctors (including Stalin's personal physician) arrested, tortured, confessed
- o Stalin very paranoid in late years
  - Convinced of a Jewish Plot
  - Another Purge seems at hand
- o 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
- o Attempt to eliminate the mythical perceptions about Stalin
- Begin to free prisoners from Gulags
  - Camp conditions improved

#### - Nikita Khrushchev

- o 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
- o 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





- $\circ \quad \text{Closed border} \\$
- Divided city for 28 years
- o Foreign Relations
  - Visited USA in 1959
    - Offered the West "peaceful competition"
      - "We will bury you"
- o 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
      - o 1,400 anti-Castro fighters
      - o <u>CIA trained</u>
      - 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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





