

# Cold War

## I. Origins

### A. World War II

1. difference in ideologies between US and USSR
  - a. US – democracy and capitalism
  - b. USSR- Communism
2. Agreements during World War II about end of war
  - a. Yalta Conference
    - i. Churchill, Stalin, Roosevelt meet
    - ii. Plan for Europe after war
    - iii. Agreed Germany divided into 4 zones
    - iv. Each zone occupied by a nations troops
    - v. Free elections in all the countries
  - b. Potsdam
    - i. allies meet again
    - ii. differences develop between US and USSR
  - c. Russia wants a buffer zone between Germany and USSR
  - d. Free elections promised in area between Germany and USSR
2. After war ends:
  - a. USSR does not offer free elections
  - b. US begins policy of containment (keep USSR from expanding and spreading communism
  - c. Truman Doctrine (1947) \$400 million in aid for Greece and Turkey to defend against communism
  - d. Marshall Plan (1947) money promised to European nations to rebuild if free elections
  - e. USSR does not take money

### B. Arenas of the Cold War

#### 1. Atomic Race

- a. US drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end World War II (August 1945)
- b. USSR begins to develop atomic program
- c. USSR detonates their first atomic bomb
- d. US developed Hydrogen Bomb in 1952
- e. USSR tests first Hydrogen Bomb in 1953
- f. US adopted Brinkmanship policy (being always ready to go to war using nuclear missiles)

#### 2. Space Race

- a. 1957 USSR launches Sputnik (first satellite)

- b. 1961-62 First humans to orbit USSR (61), US (62)
  - c. 1963 first woman in space (USSR)
  - d. 1969 first lunar landing (US)
  - e. 1970 first Mars landing (USSR)
  - f. 1971 first manned space station (USSR)
  - g. 1975 first joint US-USSR
  - h. 1977 Voyager 2 sent to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune (US)
  - i. 1981 Columbia launched (US)
  - j. 1988 year in space (USSR)
3. Sports
- a. Competition between US and USSR
  - b. Olympic Games
  - c. Drugging of athletes
4. Winning over different developing nations

### C. Alignments

1. In response to Cold War NATO formed (1949)
  - a. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
  - b. US, Canada, 10 Western European nations
  - c. NATO was to protect Western Europe from communist aggression
  - d. collective security (attack against one = attack against all)
2. USSR responds by forming Warsaw Pact in 1955
  - a. Eastern European countries under their control
3. USSR responds by forming Warsaw Pact in 1955
  - a. Eastern European countries under their control
  - b. Poland, E. Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania
4. competition between the two powers to spread their ideas around the world and get countries on their side
  - a. Asia and Africa targeted
  - b. Done through monetary aid
  - c. Done through direct influence
  - d. Done through selling arms
5. Not all nations want to align with the two powers
  - a. Ex. India

## II. Cold War in Around the World

### A. Germany

1. divided into zones after World War II
  - a. US, France, Great Britain merge zones

- b. USSR keeps one zone
  - c. Berlin (capital divided into zones as well) lays within the Soviet zone
2. Berlin Airlift
    - a. June 1948- May 1949
    - b. USSR does not allow access to West Berlin by land
    - c. US, France, Great Britain send in supplies by air
    - d. Blockade fails and USSR lifts blockade
  3. USSR's zone turns into East Germany
    - a. Berlin divided within E. Germany
    - b. East Germans try to leave
  4. Berlin Wall
    - a. August 1961, Berlin wall is built
    - b. Keeps East Germans in
    - c. Check point Charlie is way into West Berlin and freedom
    - d. Thousands try to cross, some succeed, most die
    - e. November 1989 Berlin Wall is opened and then comes down in the year following

## B. Eastern Europe

1. satellite nations set up
2. communist governments
3. conflicts internally with ethnic groups and with Soviet leaders
  - a. many local leaders executed
  - b. many people unhappy and defect

## C. China

1. Civil War between Nationalists and Communists (1937-1949)
  - a. Nationalist leader = Jiang Jieshi
  - b. Communist leader = Mao Zedong
2. By 1945 Mao's red army controlled much of Northern China
3. US gave Nationalist money to fight war but ends up with corrupt officials
4. By Oct 1949 Mao's troops control China
  - a. People's Republic of China
  - b. Nationalist leaders retreat to island of Taiwan
  - c. US supports Republic of China on Taiwan
  - d. USSR supports People's Republic of China

#### D. Korea

1. After World War II, Korea divided into two zones
  - a. North controlled by USSR
  - b. South Controlled by US, GB, France
  - c. 38<sup>th</sup> parallel
2. June 25, 1950 North Koreans invade South
  - a. US helps them resist
  - b. goes to UN about this
  - c. UN agrees to send international force to Korea to stop invasion
  - d. 15 nations send troops
3. fighting goes both ways over years
4. July 1953 North and South sign cease fire
  - a. border set at 38<sup>th</sup> parallel
  - b. two countries
  - c. border an issue to this day
  - d. border patrolled by troops
4. communist North is hurting economically
  - a. ruled by Kim Il Sung
  - b. Kim Il Sung dies 1994
  - c. Son Kim Jon Il takes over
  - d. Nuclear power
5. South rule by series of rulers
  - a. high economic growth
  - b. democracy gaining
  - c. 1987 free elections
6. late 1990's meetings between two sides
7. 2000 allow meetings between families in North
  - a. more to come

#### E. Vietnam

1. France controlled the area
2. World War II Japan invades and controls
3. France wants to control after WWII
  - a. war breaks out
  - b. Vietnamese nationalists and communists vs. French (1945-1954)
  - c. Ho Chi Minh requests aid from US and is rejected
  - d. Defeat at Dein Bien Phu ends French hold (1954)
4. US afraid the Communists would take over all the area
5. Divide Vietnam at 17 parallel
  - a. communist in north
  - b. anti communist gov't in south
6. Ho Chi Minh leader of North gains popularity
  - a. land redistribution
  - b. people opposed to corrupt govt. in south

- c. Vietcong begins (guerilla forces)
- 7. US gets involved
  - a. 1964 US sends military advisors
  - b. US boats attacked in Gulf of Tonkin
  - c. US send troops (1965)
  - d. Losing battle
  - e. Tet Offensive (1968)
  - f. 1969 Nixon plans to take troops out (vietnamization or South Vietnam fighting North only)
  - g. US leaves in 1973
- 8. 1975 Saigon (south capital) falls renamed Ho Chi Minh City
- 9. Communist control all of Vietnam
  - a. people flee tight control (boat people)
  - b. now foreign investment encouraged

#### F. Kampuchea (Cambodia)

- 1. French influenced before World War II and after
- 2. During Vietnam War, Vietcong troops hide in Cambodia
- 3. US bombs Cambodia to drive out Vietcong
- 4. 1975 Khmer Rouge comes to power
  - a. try to rid country of foreign influence
  - b. people rounded up and sent to labor camps
  - c. mass starvation and execution of people
  - d. communist government
  - e. leader = Pol Pot
  - f. over 2 million die
  - g. mine fields
- 5. 1979 Khmer Rouge removed from power
  - a. Pol Pot goes into hiding
  - b. People flee the country and come to West Coast of America
- 6. Pol Pot dies in August 25, 1998

#### G. Afghanistan

- 1. independent after World War II
- 2. 1950's USSR begins to influence
  - a. communist regime in place
  - b. 1970's Muslim fundamentalism grows
- 3. December 1979 USSR sends troops to put down revolt
  - a. US responds by refusing to attend summer Olympic Games in Moscow.
  - b. US arms the Afghan rebels (mujahideen)
- 4. Ten year occupation by USSR
  - a. Unpopular war with many casualties for USSR

- b. Feb 1989 USSR forces leave Afghanistan
- c. One of factors leading to downfall of USSR

## H. Cuba

1. US supports Cuba's unpopular dictator during the 1950's
  - a. Fulgencio Batista
  - b. Cubans resented him
2. January 1959 popular revolution overthrows Batista
  - a. Fidel Castro leads the revolution
  - b. Takes over the country
3. Castro popular at first for
  - a. Reforms in government
  - b. Improve health care
  - c. Improve economy
  - d. Conditions for women
4. Castro suspended elections
  - a. Jailed and executed opponents
  - b. Tight press control
  - c. People flee to US "brain drain"
5. Castro nationalizes economy
  - a. sugar mills and refineries nationalized
  - b. US reacts with embargo
  - c. Castro asks USSR for help with economy and military
6. April 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion
  - a. US supports group of Cuban exiles in attempt to overthrow Castro
  - b. The invaders are stopped by Cuban army
7. Cuban Missile Crisis
  - a. July 1962 USSR starts building 42 missile sites in Cuba
  - b. October 1962, US spy plane discovers sites
  - c. US demands removal
  - d. US blockades Cuba
  - e. US troops assemble in Florida
  - f. WWII feared
8. After USSR falls, Cuba's economy struggles
  - a. Relationships still strained with Cuba

## III. Thawing the Cold War

### A. Détente

1. US faces unrest due to policies toward communism
  - a. Vietnam War
  - b. Brinkmanship
2. Policy of lessened tensions
  - a. Détente

- b. President Richard Nixon
    - c. Grew out of realpolitik
  - 3. 1972 President Nixon visits China
  - 4. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
    - a. Levels number of missiles to 1972 level
    - b. SALT for short
  - 5. 1975 33 nations agree to commitment to Détente and cooperation at Helsinki Accords
  - 5. 1979 SALT II Signed by Jimmy Carter and USSR's Breshnev

B. Problems

- 1. Ronald Reagan's attitude changes
  - a. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) Star Wars
  - b. Able to knock missiles out from space in attack.
- 2. US concerns over human rights violations and repression