

The Cold War

1945 - 1991



Cold War

- 1945 – 1991
- After WWII, the Soviets and the U.S. only two world powers left
- Soviets want to spread Communism
- U.S. wants to defend democracy

Post World War II Views

■ United States

- Fought the war for democracy and economic opportunity for Europe and Asia
- Provide markets for products
- Rebuild European governments to ensure stability
- Reunite Germany

■ Soviets

- Encourage the spread of Communism
- Protection of own interests
- **SATELITE NATIONS** countries subject to Soviet domination in Eastern Europe
- Keep Germany divided and weak

Origins of the Cold War

■ Yalta Conference

- February 4, 1945 Meeting between the "Big Three" (FDR, Churchill, and Stalin)
- Discussed strategies for the end of the war and how Europe would be divided after the war, especially Poland
- Temporarily divided Germany and Berlin into 4 zones
- Russia agreed to allow free elections in Poland and return of Polish government in exile
- Russia agreed to join the United Nations



Winston Churchill, FDR, and Stalin (left to right)

United Nations

- April 1945 50 nations adopt charter in San Francisco
- Goal is to find peaceful resolutions to conflicts in the world
- All nations are members of the General Assembly
- 11 nations make up Security Council
- U.S., Soviet Union (Russia), Britain, France and China permanent Security Council members with veto power

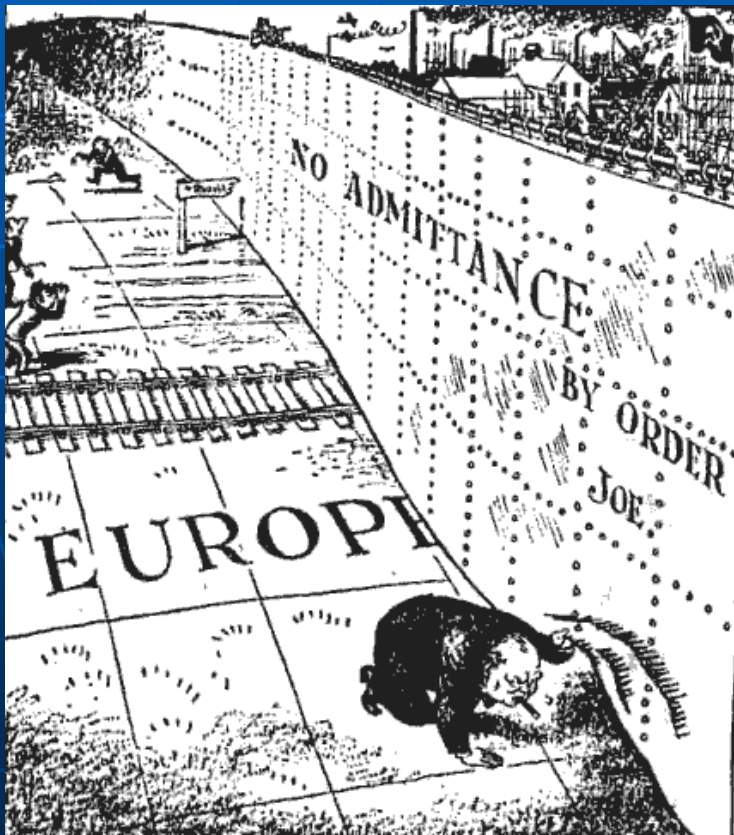
Potsdam Conference

- July 1945 meeting between Truman and Stalin to discuss future of Germany and Poland
- Stalin want large war reparations from Germany, U.S. refuses
- U.S. wants free democratic elections in Poland, won't happen for 45 years
- Truman agrees to new border between Russia and Poland
- Truman tells Stalin about the atomic bomb



Iron Curtain

- Winston Churchill's term for the extension of Communist control across Eastern Europe after WWII



Division of Germany

- 1949 Soviet zone becomes the Republic of East Germany
- Remaining three zones become West Germany
- Berlin, located in the Soviet zone, divided as well into East and West Berlin
- Berlin Airlift – Massive supply effort for West Berlin by the U.S. after Soviets cut off access.



From the website:
http://www.opb.org/education/coldwar/berlincrisis/maps/map_germany.html

Containment

- George Kennan's policy that expressed the need to keep Communism from spreading
- Communism would collapse if it could be contained



The Truman Doctrine

- 1947 declaration by President Truman stating that the U.S. would support nations that were threatened by Communist aggression
 - Communist aggression in Turkey and Greece
- U.S. takes over leadership role in the world from Britain



Marshall Plan

- Created in 1947 by Secretary of State George C. Marshall
- Called for European countries to create an economic plan for recovery from the war. The U.S. would then support them with financial aid.
- Goals
 - Combat Communism
 - Economic recovery = strong democracies
 - Create markets for American goods
- \$13 billion in 4 years in Western Europe

NATO and Warsaw Pact

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – Alliance formed by the U.S., Canada, France, Great Britain, and other Western European nations pledging to support one another in the event of a Soviet invasion.
- Warsaw Pact – Soviets response to NATO, formed an alliance with Eastern European nations.