

Chapter 31: The Cold War (1945-1975)

Lesson 1: The Cold War Begins

Lesson 2: China After World War II

Lesson 3: Cold War Conflicts

Lesson 1: The Cold War Begins

I. Balance of Power after WW II

- A. Prior to the conclusion of WWII feelings of animosity & distrust between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. had begun to develop
 1. The Soviet Premier, Joseph Stalin feared the capitalist West
 2. Western leaders had a fear of communism
 3. After the surrender of Germany, the USSR was not willing to part with its territorial acquisitions and control of Eastern Europe
 4. The U.S. not willing to allow its new role as the world's super power to be Diminished
- B. Eastern Europe became the first area of dispute between the world powers
 1. Suspicious of each side's motives, the US and USSR soon became rivals
 2. The U.S. & Great Britain felt as though the newly liberated countries of Eastern Europe should be allowed the right of self-determination (determine their own governments)
 3. Stalin feared that the Eastern Europe would become anti-communist
 - a) The Soviet military occupied the nations that it had previously liberated
 - b) Pro-Soviet governments were established in Poland, Romania, Bulgaria & Hungary (Soviet Satellites)
- C. 1946 > a civil war in Greece becomes a second area of dispute
 1. The Communist Peoples Liberation Army and the anticommunist forces supported by Great Britain fought for control of Greece
 2. The economic woes of G.B. forced the U.S. ally to withdrawal from the conflict

II. The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan (a.k.a. "Containment")

- A. 1946 > U.S. President Harry Truman, under the advice of his undersecretary of state, Dean Acheson promised economic support to nations in the Mediterranean region (Greece & Turkey) to resist Soviet expansionism
- B. June 1947 > The Marshall Plan (The European Economic Recovery Plan) proposed by General George Marshall, the U.S. Secretary of State
 1. 13 Billion \$\$ by the U.S. to boost the economies of countries of Europe
 2. Marshall's belief - communism was the greatest threat to those nations whose economies were weakened
 3. The Soviet Satellite nations refused to participate in the Marshall Plan
- C. George Kennan, a U.S. diplomat introduces "Containment" as American policy to prevent the spread of communism
 - a) The Long Telegram

III. 1948 - The Division of Germany and the Berlin Airlift

- A. Germany had been divided into four zones by the U.S., USSR, G.B., & France
 1. Berlin, located deep inside of the Soviet zone, was divided into the same four zones
 2. The Soviets established a blockade of West Berlin
 - a) Railroads, roads, & barges were blocked by Soviet forces
 - b) food & supplies were not allowed to reach the 2.5 million people of W. Berlin
 - c) The Soviets hoped to prevent the West from uniting its three zones of occupation

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3. U.S. & Great Britain responded w/the [Berlin Airlift](#)
 - a) Food & supplies were flown in non-stop for over 10 months (200,000 + flights)
4. Soviets relent & remove the blockade

IV. The Spread of the Cold War

- A. New military alliances
 1. 1949 - The U.S. creates the military alliance of [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\)](#) to put its allies under the nuclear umbrella of the U.S in the event of a Soviet invasion
 2. 1955 > Soviets respond w/their own military alliance, [The Warsaw Pact](#)
 3. 1950 > the Korean War
 - a) Chinese Communist allied w/N.K. to attack American backed South Korea
 - b) American fears of Soviet intentions to dominate the world is heightened
 4. Divided World
 - a) 1st World Countries = [NATO](#)
 - b) 2nd World Countries = [Warsaw Pact](#)
 - c) 3rd World Countries = [All others](#)

V. The Arms Race Begins

- A. Both the U.S. & the Soviets developed atomic, hydrogen, and [intercontinental ballistic missiles \(ICBM"s\)](#) through the late 1940's & into the 50's in an effort of deterrence
 1. Mutual annihilation would result if one initiated an attack
 2. 1957 > the Soviets launch [Sputnik](#), the first space satellite to orbit the earth
 - a) Americans are crippled by the fear that they are losing the arms race

VI. A Wall in Berlin

- A. 1961> Soviet Premier [Nikita Khrushchev](#) is angered and embarrassed by the droves of civilians fleeing East Berlin for West Berlin
 1. Soviets construct a 15' tall wall ([Berlin Wall](#)) to prevent the passage of those fleeing to the West
 - a) The [28-mile wall](#) divides East & West Berlin and serves as a symbol of the animosity between the two superpowers