The Cold War

Origins - Korean War

What is a Cold War?

- WW II left two nations of almost equal strength but differing goals
- Cold War – *A struggle over political differences carried on by means short of direct military conflict between nations.*
- Wars over the conflicting political beliefs broke out but the US and USSR never declared war on each other. (i.e. proxy wars -- Korea, Vietnam)
- Also used political and economic pressure to try and obtain goals
- The Cold War dominated international politics for over fifty years.
- Most nations allied with one side or the other

Roots of Cold War

- **Teheran Conference**, 1943: USSR guaranteed to be only power to liberate Eastern Europe

- **Yalta Conference**, 1945:
  - Stalin pledged to allow democratic elections in E. Europe (but later reneged)
  - Germany would be divided into four zones controlled by U.S., France, Britain and USSR
  - After war, Soviets dominated their zone and did not allow reunification of Germany

- **Potsdam Conference**, 1945:
  - Truman demanded free elections in Eastern Europe but Stalin refused
  - Stalin wanted a "buffer zone" between Germany and USSR for protection against future war

Roots of Cold War

- <u>U.S. point of view</u>:
  - Stalin seemed intent on creating **"**<u>spheres" of influence</u> in Eastern Europe
  - Broke pledges at Yalta; refused to allow reunification of Germany
  - **Churchill's "<u>Iron Curtain</u>"** speech in 1946 alerted Americans to a future conflict
  - U.S. wanted democracy spread throughout the world with a strong international organization to maintain global peace

Roots of Cold War

- Soviet point of view:
  - Democracies traditionally hostile towards communism and the USSR
    - e.g., Archangel expedition during WWI; non-recognition by U.S. until 1933
  - US & Britain did not open western front in Europe early enough; millions of Soviet soldiers were dying fighting the brunt of Nazi armies alone until mid-1944.
  - The US and Britain froze Russia out of the atomic bomb project.
  - US terminated lend-lease to Moscow in May 1945 but gave Britain aid until 1946.
  - Wanted "buffer zone" for the Soviet western border esp. in Poland

Differing Goals Lead to Tensions

US

- Encourage democracy/Rebuild European governments to promote stability
- Gain access to raw materials and markets to fuel economies
- Free Trade = Economic Growth = Peace
- Reunite Germany

Soviet Union

- Encourage communism in other countries
- Control Eastern Europe to protect borders and rebuild using their resources
- Keep Germany divided

Symbols of the Cold War

- Capitalism vs. Communism
- "Iron Curtain" – coined by Winston Churchill
- Berlin Wall
- Space Race
- United Nations

Iron Curtain

- The Term "Iron Curtain" came from a speech given by Winston Churchill at an American University in 1945.

- The Division of Europe between East and West.

- Communism in the East v. Capitalism in the West

Containment – Cold War Policy

- The Long Telegram – George Kennan outlined the policy of *containment* – keeping communism within its present territory through the use of diplomatic, economic, and military actions.

- 1946 Soviet Union wanted joint control of the straits of the Dardanelles (a trade route in Turkey).

- Communists in Greece were rebelling against government

The Tension Grows 1946-1947

- Containment- Truman's foreign policy of stopping communist expansion
- Truman Doctrine – The policy of giving aid to nations that reject communism. Speech Truman gave to Congress asking for $400 million dollars money to aid Turkey and Greece.
  - Effects – Short term -eased Soviet pressures in Turkey and stabilized Greek government.
  - Long Term - Pledged US to fight Communism World Wide.

Cold War (1947-1953)

- U.S. adopts policy of containment
  - Truman Doctrine pledges to prevent the spread of communism
- Marshall Plan
  - Provided for the economic rebuilding of Western Europe; → Molotov Plan
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
  - Military alliance between the U.S. and western European nations; → Warsaw Pact

The Marshall Plan

- US would give European Nations aid to rebuild their economies. US pumped billions of dollars of supplies, machinery and food into Western Europe.

- Seen as another means of containment

- Offered aid to Soviet Union and satellite nations but they refused

- Soviets refused to allow U.S. aid to countries in Eastern Europe → responded with their own economic aid plan.

More Containment

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** formed in 1949
  - Collective security organization consisting of democracies in Europe, U.S. & Canada to prevent against Soviet expansion in Europe.

- **Radio Free Europe** & **Voice of America** set up to send pro-democracy messages to countries behind the "iron curtain"

Eastern Bloc

- Countries in Eastern Europe dominated by Soviet Union after WW II
  - Included Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Rumania, Bulgaria
- Communist parties of eastern Europe established one-party states by 1948, with help of Red Army and KGB (Soviet secret police)
- Only Yugoslavia, led by **Marshal Tito**, is not dominated by Soviets
- Postwar economic recovery in eastern Europe proceeded along Soviet lines.
- Changes went forward at slow & uneven pace; came to almost a halt by the mid-1960s.
- Five-year plans in USSR reintroduced to tackle massive economic reconstruction

Eastern Bloc

- <u>Stalin reinstitutes oppressive rule</u>
  - Great Patriotic War of the Fatherland had fostered Russian nationalism and a relaxation of dictatorial terror.
  - Stalin's new foe, the U.S., provided an excuse for re-establishing harsh dictatorship.
- After war, Stalin repressed millions of Soviet citizens living outside Soviet borders when the war ended.
- Stalin revived many forced labor camps, which had accounted for roughly 1/6 of all new construction in Soviet Union before the war
- Culture and art were also purged

Czechoslovakia

- Czechoslovakia – the economic exception in Eastern Europe: industrialized, strong middle class and industrial working class and experience of political democracy between the wars.

- During "dualist period", **President Benes** and Foreign minister **Jan Masaryk** proposed to govern a social democracy while maintaining close voluntary relations with the USSR.

- In response to Marshall Plan in 1947, Stalin replaced government in 1948 with 1-party communist rule to prevent nation from courting the West.

Partition of Germany (1)

- USSR, U.S., Britain & France would each occupy a part of Germany but would allow for German reunification once she was no longer a threat.

- Germany was to pay heavy reparations to USSR in form of agricultural and industrial goods.

- Soviets dominated their Eastern German zone
  - Did not want revitalized Germany that could once again pose a threat.
  - Stripped East Germany of much of its resources.

The Berlin Crisis

- 1948 - US concludes that Soviet Union is deliberately trying to keep Germany's economy weak.

- US, GB, France unify their zones (including Berlin) and create West Germany.
  - Created new government.

- Separate economy from the Soviet zone (East Germany).

Partition of Germany

- U.S. and Western Europeans felt German economy vital to recovery of Europe

- 1949 - **West Germany** became an independent country when US, France and Britain gave back each of their zones
  - **Federal Republic of Germany** – led by **Konrad Adenauer**

  - **East Germany** formally established – **Democratic Republic of Germany** led by **Walter Ulbricht (1883-1973)**; communist regime influenced by Moscow

FDR

GDR

Federal Republic of Germany

German Democratic Republic

The division of Berlin
1949-1989

Germany divided 1949-1989
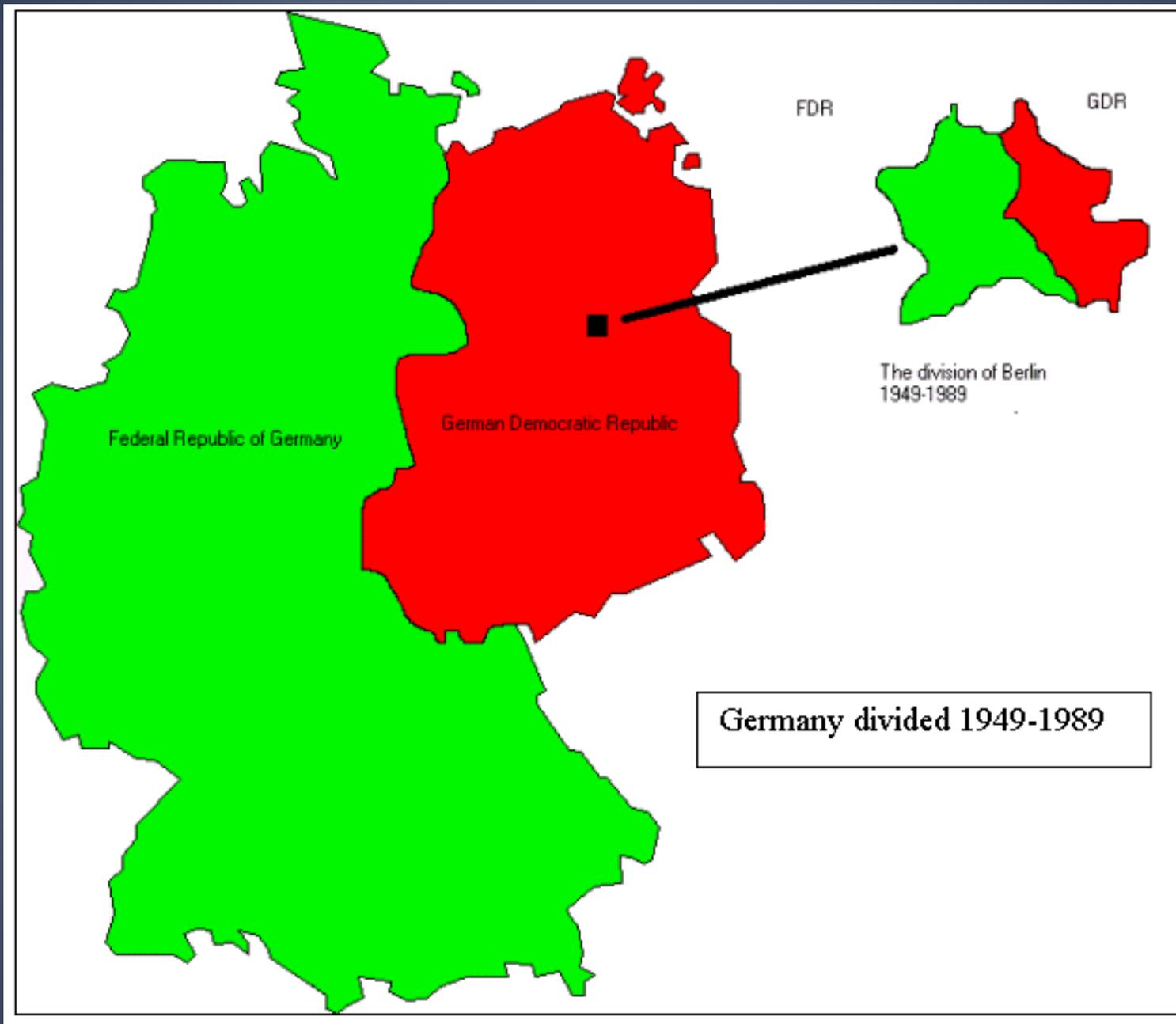
The Berlin Airlift

- Soviets still wanted reparations from Germany → the creation of West Germany made them think they would not receive them.
- Soviets responded by starting a blockade: stopping all road and rail traffic to West Berlin
- US response → for 11 months cargo planes dropped food and supplies on West Berlin

The Creation of NATO

- Berlin crisis convinced Americans that they needed a Military alliance with Western Europe → 1949, North Atlantic Treaty Organization
  - NATO members agreed to come to the aid of one another if one was attacked.
  - 1955 – US and NATO members agreed to let West Germany rearm
- Prompted the Soviet Union to create the Warsaw Pact → a military alliance of Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations.

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
Members of the Warsaw Pact
Non-aligned states
Other communist states

250 Miles
500 Miles
250 Kilometers
500 Kilometers

Area of detail
EUROPE
AFRICA

ICELAND
Reykjavik

NORTHERN IRELAND
SCOTLAND
Edinburgh
Belfast
IRELAND
Dublin
UNITED KINGDOM
ENGLAND
WALES
Birmingham
London
NORTH SEA
ATLANTIC OCEAN

SWEDEN
FINLAND
Helsinki
Leningrad
NORWAY
Oslo
Stockholm
Tallinn
ESTONIAN S.S.R.
LATVIAN S.S.R.
Riga
Dvina R.
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
Moscow
BALTIC SEA
LITHUANIAN S.S.R.
Vilnius
Minsk
BELORUSSIAN S.S.R.
KAZAKH S.S.R.
Ural R.

DENMARK
Copenhagen
Hamburg
NETHERLANDS
Amsterdam
The Hague
BELGIUM
Brussels
WEST GERMANY
Bonn
Frankfurt
Paris
LUX.
FRANCE
Berlin
EAST GERMANY
Prague
Gdansk (Danzig)
Warsaw
POLAND
Oder R.
Elbe R.
Vistula R.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Kiev
Lemberg
UKRAINIAN S.S.R.
Kharkov
Dnieper R.
Don R.
Volga R.
Volgograd (Stalingrad)

Seine R.
Loire R.
Rhone R.
Bordeaux
Lyons
Berne
SWITZ.
Vienna
AUSTRIA
HUNGARY
Budapest
Danube R.
SLOVENIA
Zagreb
CROATIA
Milan
ITALY
Florence
Belgrade
YUGOSLAVIA
BOSNIA
SERBIA
ROMANIA
Bucharest
Danube R.
MOLDAVIAN S.S.R.
Kishinev
Odessa
Yalta
BLACK SEA
GEORGIAN S.S.R.
Tbilisi
Baku
AZERBAIDZHAN S.S.R.
ARMENIAN S.S.R.
Yerevan
CASPIAN SEA

PORTUGAL
Lisbon
Madrid
SPAIN
Seville
Gibraltar
Barcelona
Tagus R.
BALEARIC ISLANDS
CORSICA
SARDINIA
Rome
Naples
Marseilles
BULGARIA
Sofia
Tirana
ALBANIA
GREECE
Athens
Istanbul
Ankara
TURKEY
IRAN

MOROCCO
Rabat
Algiers
ALGERIA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Palermo
SICILY
Tunis
TUNISIA
Valletta
MALTA
CRETE
SEA
Nicosia
CYPRUS
Beirut
LEBANON
SYRIA
IRAQ
Tigris R.
Euphrates R.

The Korean War – Surrogate War

- Both Soviet and US forces entered Korea during WWII to disarm the Japanese.
- The Soviets and the US divided Korea at the 38th Parallel. (Soviets controlled the North and US controlled the South)
  - Two governments set up → both claiming legitimate rule over all of Korea.
- Soviets gave arms to North – the North Invaded in 1950

The Korean War

- Truman viewed the Communist invasion of South Korea as a test of the Containment policy.
    - Ordered US troops to Korea and got the United Nations involved.
- The Communist forces were able to push the Americans all the way to the Port of Pusan
- Once US / UN reinforcements arrived they launched a surprise attack behind enemy lines and were able to drive the Communist forces all the way back across the 38th parallel.

Korean War Continued

- China entered war because of NATO troop advancement in North Korea.
- Truman remained committed to a limited war- a war fought to achieve a limited objective such as containing communism.
- By 1951 stalemated at the 38th Parallel.
- Once Eisenhower was elected his policy of Brinkmanship – threatening Nuclear war to get the other side to back down – contributed to the signing of the Armistice in 1953 at its pre-war boundary.

Significance of the Korean War

- Prior to 1950 Cold war was fought with political pressure and economic aid
- US and Soviet Union began a huge military buildup
- Expanded the Cold War from Europe to Asia
- Americans began to give aid to the French who were trying to hold onto their colony in Vietnam.

Brinkmanship and the Arms Race

- (1949) Soviets set off their own Atomic Bomb.

- (1953) Eisenhower's policies of "Brinkmanship" and "Massive retaliation" (threat to use nuclear weapons if a Communist state tried to seize territory by force):
    - brought both nations to the edge of war and encouraged a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and a strengthened military
    - The arms race begins
    - MAD- Mutually Assured Destruction