

The Cold War The U.S. Vs The U.S.S.R.

Beginnings

- [America and the Soviet Union were allies in World War 2, against the common enemy of NAZI Germany.
- [Beginning at the 1945 Yalta conference, differences between the two began to emerge.
 - War on Japan
 - Poland
- [All sides agreed on the need for a "United Nations".

From Roosevelt to Truman

- [April 12, 1945, Franklin Roosevelt dies of an Aneurism while vacationing in Georgia.
- [Harry Truman becomes president.
- [During the Potsdam Conference, the Atomic bomb becomes ready. Soviets already know of the bomb from spies.

America versus U.S.S.R.

- [The U.S. Wanted free elections in all areas previously controlled by Germany. Democracy
- [The Soviets wanted a buffer between them and possible invaders.
 - Satellite nations: Dominated by USSR.
 - Wanted to spread communism

Soviet Domination

- [Soviets dominated the nations of:
 - Poland
 - Albania & Bulgaria
 - Czechoslovakia
 - Hungary & Romania
 - East Germany
 - Yugoslavia* & Finland *

U.S. Response

- [Iron Curtain: term for soviet domination (Churchill)
- [Cold war: competition between US & USSR.
- [Containment: Eastern Europe is lost, US should resist Soviets elsewhere. Keep communism where it is.
 - Created by George Kennan, American diplomat. Soviets not likely to easily surrender.
- [Truman Doctrine: US will assist any nation in efforts to remain free from "subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures."

US Response

- [Marshall Plan: US financial aid to European nations recovering from World War II.
- [As west unified to create West Germany & West Berlin, Stalin would not join. Cut off West Berlin from supplies, food, etc...
- [Berlin Airlift: U.S. Planes made round-the-clock deliveries of food, medicine and other supplies to West Berlin for 15 months
 - 200,000 flights, 13,000 tons of supplies per day.

NATO

North Atlantic Treaty Organization formed in 1949
Military alliance of US, Canada, and Western Europe.
Hoped to deter Soviet advances.
Collective Security: Safety in numbers.
Soviets countered with the Warsaw Pact, after the US admitted a re-armed West Germany

NATO 1949

United States, Canada, United Kingdom
France, Denmark, Iceland
Italy, Norway, Portugal
Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg
Greece & Turkey (1952), West Germany (1955)

Communist Advances

The Atomic Bomb (USSR) - Believed created in 1949. U.S. Begins working on Hydrogen Bomb (tested 1952)
China "falls to communism": Mao Zedong creates Peoples Republic of China.
"Loss" of China caused much criticism of Truman.
Gave ammunition to politicians like Joe McCarthy and Richard Nixon.

HUAC

House Unamerican Activities Committee: Investigated claims of suspected communists in the US.
Hollywood was an initial target.
Many actors, writers and others were "black-listed" and not able to work.
McCarren-Walter Act: Made it more difficult for immigrants from communist nations to move to the U.S.

The Spies who loved us

Alger Hiss: Accused of being a communist in the 1930s while working for the State Department.
Convicted to lying under oath (perjury).
Rosenbergs: Julius and Ethel Rosenberg accused of passing atomic secrets to the Soviets
Convicted and executed.
Both cases were a bit sketchy

The Forgotten War

At the end of WWII, The Soviets occupied part of the Korean Peninsula (North of 38° N.) and the U.S. Occupied the southern part.
These two zones eventually became separate countries – North (communist) & South Korea (pro-US)
U.S. And Soviets left in 1948 & 1949, leaving 2 countries where 1 had once stood.

The Forgotten War

Both countries wanted reunification.
June 1950 - North Korean troops invade South Korea.
U.S. Passed a United Nations Security Council resolution to defend South Korea.
U.S. And 16 other nations sent troops, to be commanded by General Douglas MacArthur.

Forgotten War

After the ferocious North Korean advance, MacArthur devised the Incheon Landing, which cut off N. Korean supply lines.

As N. Korean forces retreated across the prior border, the UN forces pursued.

Nov. 24, 1950: Despite Chinese warnings not to cross into China, MacArthur's forces did.

MacArthur and Truman disagreed on the coming strategy, with Truman firing MacArthur on Apr. 11, 1951.

Forgotten War

MacArthur returned to the U.S. A hero, and Truman was deeply unpopular.

After the dust settled, MacArthur faded away, but the war dragged on for another 2 years.

Finally, after threat of Nuclear action, the two sides reached an agreement, leaving the borders where they had been before.

Forgotten War

1948 - Truman integrates the armed forces. (Korea was the first war under this policy)

War causes huge increase in military spending. By 1960, military would account for half of the federal budget.

Military-industrial complex: combination of military and industries that support the military. Employed 3.5 million Americans by 1960.

War leads to worse relations with China.

McCarthyism

Joe McCarthy was the Junior Senator from Wisconsin.

Needing an issue to raise his profile, he began accusing government employees of being communists.

President Truman had already begun a loyalty review program to root out communism in government.

McCarthy accused Truman of being soft on communism, and launched his own investigations.

McCarthyism

The issue propelled McCarthy to re-election and national prominence.

McCarthy became feared by average Americans and fellow congressional representatives.

After one of his aides was drafted, McCarthy accused the army of harboring communists.

In a series of televised hearings, McCarthy's accusations were revealed to be baseless, and he lost credibility.

Hearings

I Like Ike

Despite hopes that Dwight Eisenhower would begin a more active cold war policy, Eisenhower largely continued containment.

U.S. Aided France to keep control of French Indochina (Vietnam) and after the French left, U.S. supported the South Vietnamese.

The U.S. also played a key role in supporting Israel against its Arab neighbors in 1948 and thereafter.

U.S. Policy

US also tried to keep oil-rich Arab nations from allying with the Soviets.

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Eisenhower defused the Suez crisis by convincing NATO to withdraw from the peninsula, averting conflict with the Soviets.

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Eisenhower reaffirmed the Truman Doctrine with the Eisenhower doctrine specifically supporting the Middle East.

Latin America

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Supported non-communist leaders in Latin America

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Signed the Rio Pact with 18 nations and helped to form the Organization of American States (OAS)

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1954 - CIA overthrew the Guatemalan government, restoring American property in that country.

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Soviets felt these actions were escalating the Cold War.

Arms Race

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August 1953 - Soviets test Hydrogen Bomb

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Deterrence - policy of making American and allied military power so strong that no one dare attack.

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Brinksmanship - policy of getting as close to war as possible without entering war, and enticing your opponent to back down.

Rockets

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Soviets began developing rockets to carry nuclear weapons.

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ICBM: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

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Soviet rocket technology exceeded that of the U.S.

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Sputnik: First man made object to orbit the earth.

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Soviets used a missile to shoot down a U-2 spy plane flying high over the Soviet Union

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US felt the need to catch up to the Soviets.