



The  
**Cold War**

**Origins and Consequences**

# Soviets In WWII

- In 1939, the Soviet Union signed an agreement with Germany--“no more fighting”.
- In 1941, 3 million German soldiers attacked the Soviet Union; millions of Soviets died or were captured.
  - Harsh weather was on the Soviet’s side...
- In 1945, Soviet troops captured Berlin, the capital of Germany.

# End of WWII

- After WWII, Soviets did not leave the Eastern European countries that they freed. Instead, they tried to make the countries become communist.
  - Western Europe and America were alarmed by Soviet advances in Eastern Europe.
- Many Europeans and Americans believed that the communists were trying to take over the world!
- In March 1946, Winston Churchill warns of the “**Iron Curtain**” of Soviet totalitarianism.





# Eastern Bloc

- The Soviets managed to set up communist governments throughout Eastern Europe.
- The government outlawed political parties or newspapers that opposed the communists.
- The Soviets jailed or killed some political opponents.
- The Soviets rigged elections to ensure the success of communists.





## THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM, 1945-1949

Communist countries



**GEOGRAPHY**  
**SKILLS**

**INTERPRETING MAPS**

Notice the pattern of Communist nations in Europe.

**Place** Look at the chart at right. Why do you think the Communist takeover of China worried the United States?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20

# Iron Curtain

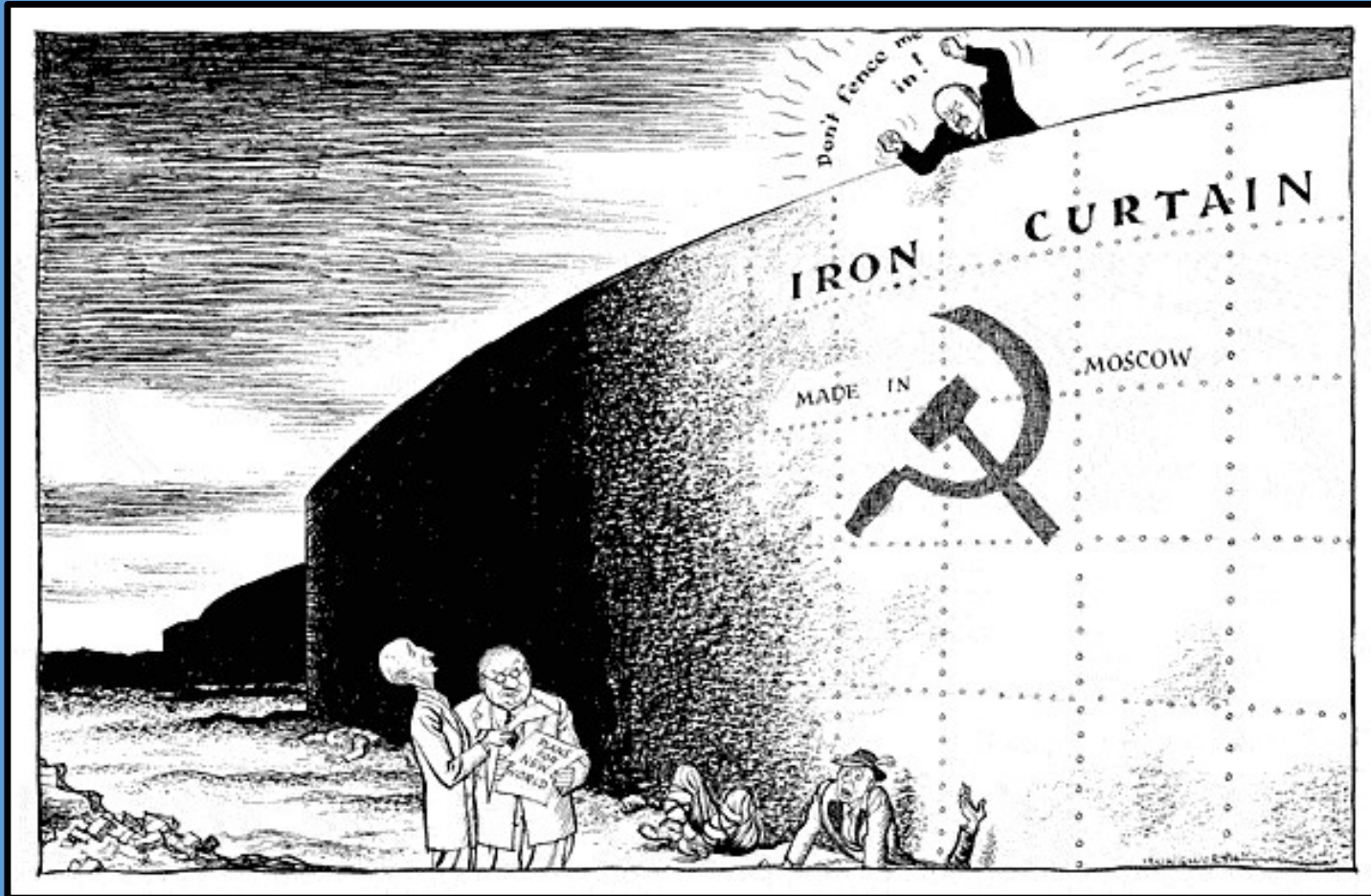
- British Prime Minister Winston Churchill attacked the Soviet Union for creating an “Iron Curtain”.
  - The term reflected Churchill’s belief that communism had created a sharp division in Europe.
- Soviet Dictator Joseph Stalin believed that the Iron Curtain was necessary to protect the Soviet Union from western attacks.
  - He also used this as an excuse to rebuild the military.



*“From Stettin in the  
Balkans, to Trieste in the  
Adriatic, an **iron curtain** has  
descended across the  
Continent. Behind that line  
lies the ancient capitals of  
Central and Eastern  
Europe.”*

~Sir Winston Churchill,  
1946





# Opposing Views

- 1945 was the beginning of a long period of distrust & misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and its former allies in the West (particularly the US).
- Soviet Union believed that a powerful central government should control the economy as well as the government.
- US believed that businesses should be privately owned.



# Cold War

- There was a lot of tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.
- Many feared the rivalry between Democracy and Communism would lead to a nuclear war.
- They called this tension a “Cold War” because neither side ever fired a shot.
- However, the threat of nuclear war left many feeling nervous.



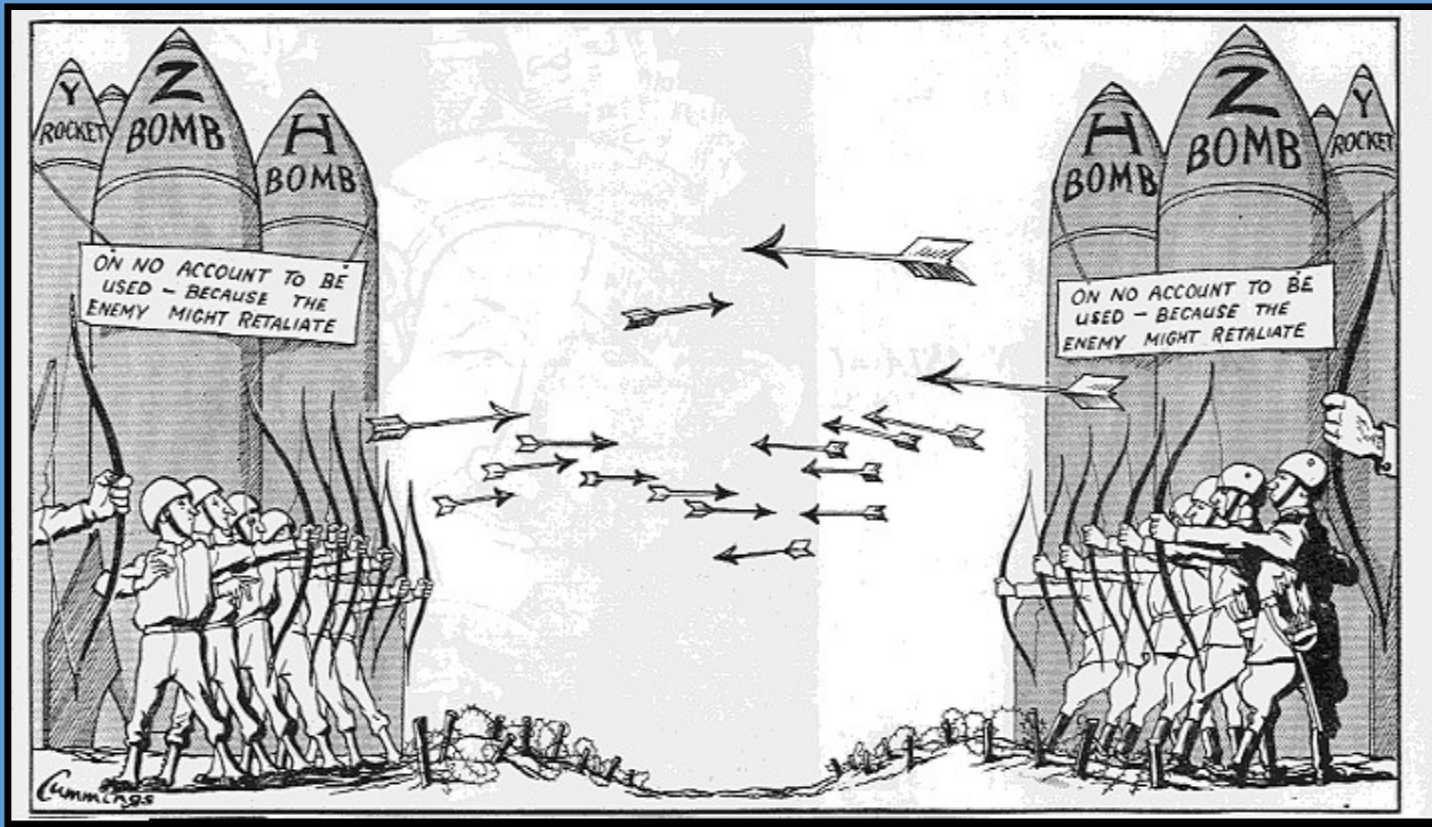
# Distrust

- Each side thought the other was trying to rule the world.
- Neither side would give up, and people lived in fear that another world war would erupt.
- This time it could be a nuclear war, which could destroy the entire planet.



# Alliances

- The US and USSR had the ability to influence world events and project worldwide power.
- As the Cold War continued, more countries allied with each side.
- They formed alliances to protect themselves.





# NATO

- In 1949, Western European countries, Canada, & US formed the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.
- Each nation in NATO believed the Soviet Union would not attack western Europe if the U.S. would launch nuclear war in return.



United States



Norway



Luxembourg



Italy



Belgium



Portugal



Netherlands



Iceland



Canada



France



United Kingdom



Denmark



# Division of Germany

- At the end of WWII, the Allies divided Germany into 4 sections to keep it from regaining power.
- US, Great Britain, France, & Soviet Union each controlled a section.
- In 1948, the Western Allies wanted to reunite Germany, but the Soviets disagreed.
- The Soviet section became “East Germany” and the reunited sections became “West Germany”.





# What About Berlin?

- During the Cold war, there were many “hot spots” (areas of extreme tension).
  - The earliest hot spot was Berlin.
- The Soviets controlled the eastern part of Germany, the western countries controlled the western part of Germany.
- The capital, Berlin, deep within Soviet-controlled territory, was also divided into four occupation zones.



# Blockaded Berlin

- In June 1948, the Soviets blockaded all land and water traffic into western Berlin hoping to make Britain, France, and America leave the city.
  - (Remember Berlin was in East Germany which the USSR occupied.)
- In response, the United States and Great Britain began an airlift...





# Berlin Airlift

- What's an airlift?
  - A system of carrying supplies into East Berlin by plane day and night. British and American pilots flew in tons of food, fuel, and raw materials.
- How long did it last?
  - 11 months









# Now What?

- The airlift is over—now what?
- Germany officially becomes two countries with two governments.
- Bonn becomes the capital of West Germany.
- East Berlin becomes the capital of East Germany.
- West Berlin remains a democratic stronghold, surrounded by communism.

# Post-WWII Korea

- After World War II, Japanese-occupied Korea was temporarily divided into northern and southern parts.
- The Soviet Union controlled Korea north of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and established a communist government.
- The United States would be in charge of Korea south of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and promoted a democratic system.

# Korean War Begins

- In 1950, Kim Il Sung, the leader of North Korea, sent his powerful army into South Korea.
- South Korea was where the United States had to take a stand against Communist aggression.
- US President Harry Truman ordered American naval and air forces to support Korean ground troops, and asked the United Nations to approve the use of force to stop the North Korean invasion.



# Korean War

- The United Nations responded quickly, imposing military sanctions. The U.S. and 19 other nations committed troops to the area.
- Despite initial heavy losses, the combined UN forces finally began to win.
- The situation changed when US General Douglas MacArthur disobeyed orders to stay in South Korea.



Kim Il-Sung



Syngman Rhee

# Korean War

- Going beyond the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel into North Korea brought communist China's well-trained and well-equipped army into the war.
- When the fighting finally ended in 1953, no one was truly victorious.
- The 38th parallel dividing line remained intact.







# Who Won?

- South Korea remained “free”, so containment had worked.
- Korea was badly damaged, and many lives were lost.
- They are still two separate countries today.
- Reunification talks have begun, but progress is very, very slow.

# Joseph McCarthy

- Many Americans worried that communism would take over the United States and dominate the world.
- Senator Joseph McCarthy spearheaded a communist hunt fueled by these fears throughout the U.S.
- His television appearances infected the nation with an anticommunist hysteria that ruined numerous lives from politicians to actors and writers.

# Nikita Khrushchev

- Nikita Khrushchev was born in 1894 to a miner in Ukraine.
- He served as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1953-1964.
- Khrushchev initiated the space program that launched Sputnik I.
- He had the idea of placing nuclear missiles in Cuba to restore the balance of power during the Cold War (which led to the Cuban Missile Crisis).

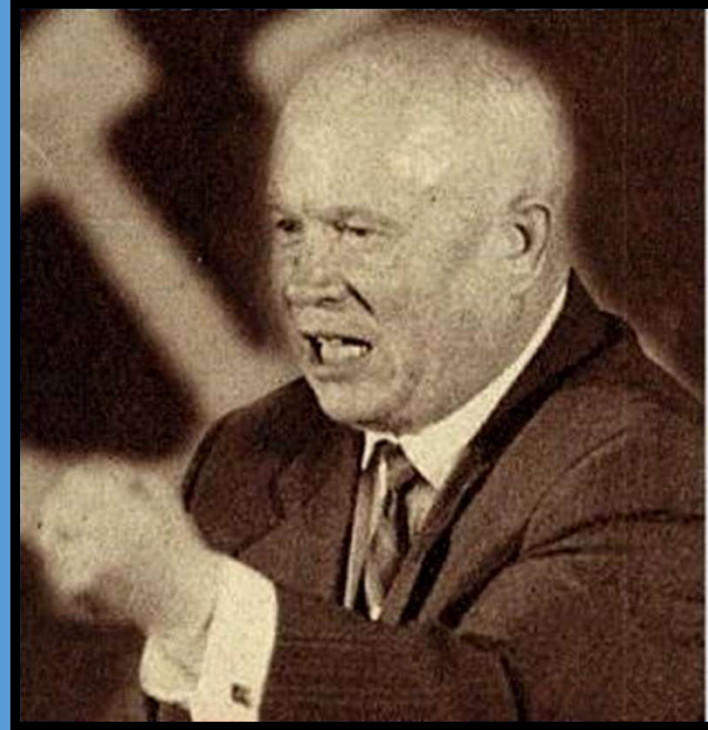


# Nikita Khrushchev

- Khrushchev's goals were to overtake the United States in productivity and to help spread Communism throughout the world.
- Khrushchev was overthrown in 1964.
- After seven years of house arrest, he died in Moscow in 1971.

# Premier Nikita Khrushchev

About the capitalist states, it doesn't depend on you whether we (Soviet Union) exist. If you don't like us, don't accept our invitations, and don't invite us to come to see you. Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. **We will bury you.** -- 1956



# Escaping East Berlin

- Berliners hated living under communism.
- Luckily, West Berlin and freedom were just across the street.
- About 3 million people fled to West Berlin looking for political freedom and better lives.
- The East German government wanted it to stop.

# Berlin Wall

- In August 1961, East Germany built a 103 mile wall between East and West Berlin.
- Guarded by Soviet troops, it became a symbol of the split between western and eastern Europe.











YOU ARE ENTERING THE AMERICAN SECTOR  
CARRYING WEAPONS OFF DUTY FORBIDDEN  
OBEY TRAFFIC RULES

ВЫ ВЕЗЖАЕТЕ В АМЕРИКАНСКИЙ СЕКТОР  
НОСИТЬ ОРУЖИЕ ЗАПРЕШЕНО В НЕСЛУЖЕБНОЕ ВРЕМЯ  
ПОВИНУЙТЕСЬ ДОРОЖНЫМ ПРАВИЛАМ

VOUS ENTREZ DANS LE SECTEUR AMÉRICAIN  
DEFENSE DE PORTER DES ARMES EN DEHORS DU SERVICE  
OBÉISSEZ AUX REGLES DE CIRCULATION

SIE BETRETEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEKTOR



**Paris, 1961**



**Khrushchev & JFK meet to discuss Berlin and nuclear weapons. Khrushchev thinks that JFK is young, inexperienced, and can be pushed over.**

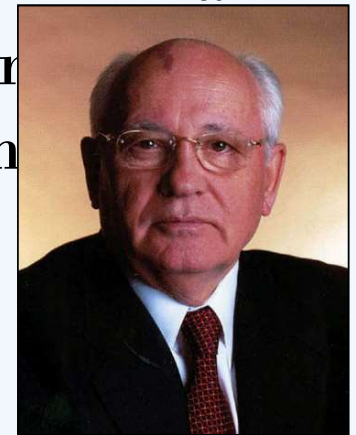


# Losing Control

- Unfortunately for the Soviet regime, the economy did not grow.
- The government spent too much money on heavy industry, which often caused food shortages.
- By the 1980s, most Soviet people had lost faith in the communist system.
- They had no personal freedoms.

# Losing Control

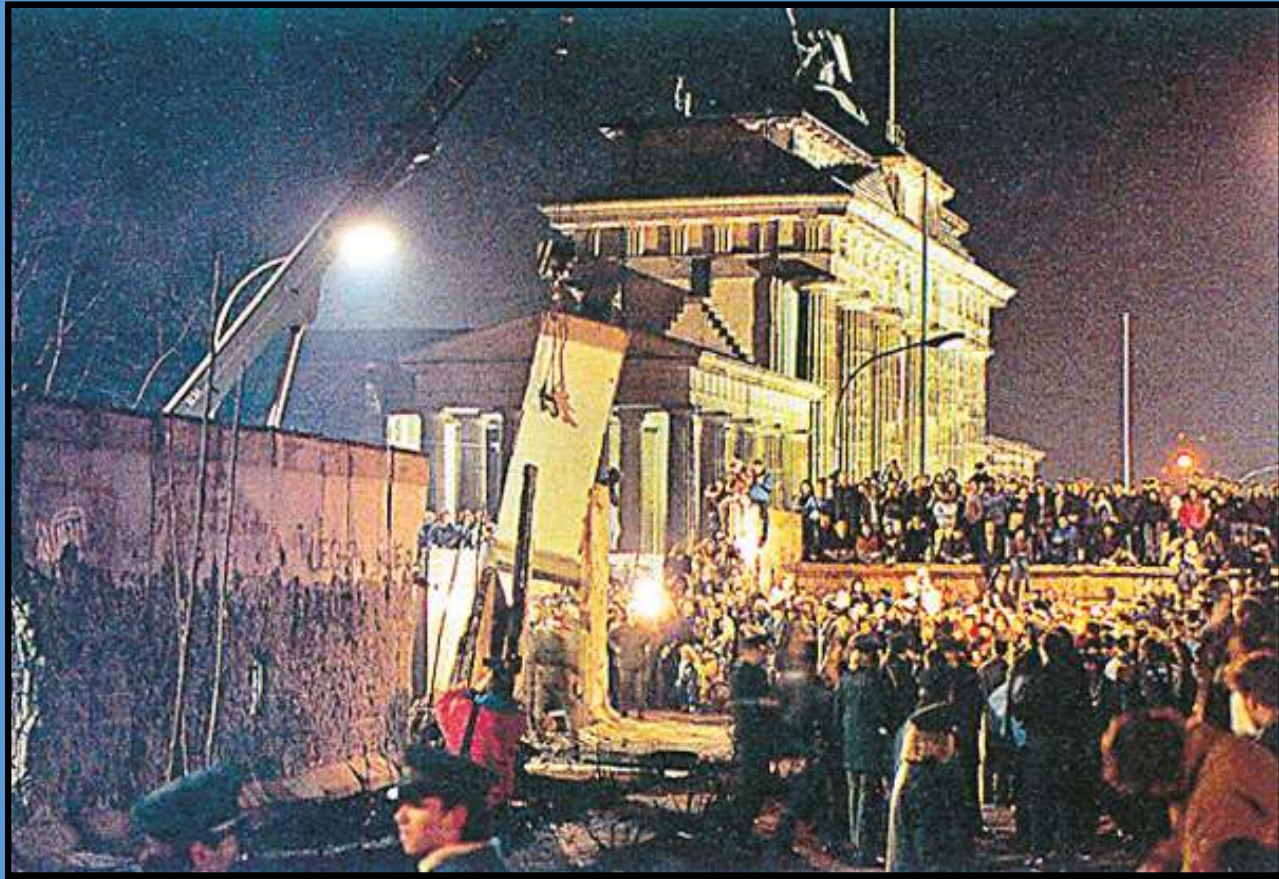
- Soviet Union was spending tons of money putting down revolts, protecting its borders, and keeping up with the US in the arms race.
- In 1985, the economy was so unstable that Mikhail Gorbachev, head of USSR, reduced government control over business and increased the freedoms of citizens.





# Berlin Wall Falls

- Demonstrations by people prompted the government to remove border-crossing restrictions.
- When the announcement was made, East and West Berliners climbed the wall and celebrated.
- Citizens immediately began tearing down the wall.
- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1989: the Berlin Wall, a symbol of communism, was destroyed.





# Reunification

- Shortly after the Berlin Wall fell, Germans voted to make the countries of East Germany and West Germany reunited as one country (October 3, 1990).
- Today, Germany is a free democracy with a great economy.



# Cold War Ends

- After Germany was reunified, the Soviet republics that had once been separate countries began seeking their independence also.
- In 1991, Soviet Union was no more and the Cold War finally ends.
- Many countries were created; Russia was the largest.