

APUSH

1945-1952

POST WW2, TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION

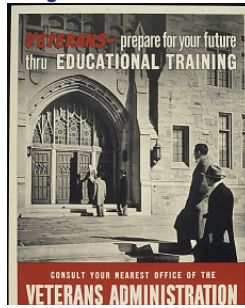
THE COLD WAR BEGINS

REVIEWED!

American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 36
 American History (Brinkley) Chapter 27
 America's History (Henretta) Chapter 25-26

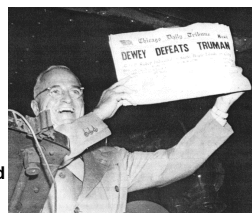
Postwar Economy

- Fear that the economy would collapse after World War II
 - Would the GI's returning home find jobs available?
 - Could the Great Depression return?
- **GI Bill of Rights (1944):** helped veterans by providing tuition assistance for school & low interest govt. loans
- Tremendous **economic boom** occurs roughly from 1950 onward
 - After WW2 the U.S. is by far the richest nation in the world
 - **Middle class** grows to over 50%
- **Defense spending** is a big reason for the economic prosperity
- Much of this growth will take place in the **Sunbelt**
- Move to suburbs, Levittown, and baby boom (next video!)



Truman Administration

- Truman had a tough time politically
- Truman was 1st President in the 20th century to use powers of the Presidency to **challenge racial discrimination**
 - Committee on Civil Rights (1946)
 - **Desegregated** the armed forces
- Republican controlled Congress passes the **Taft-Hartley Act** over Truman's veto
 - Made "**closed shops**" illegal
 - Republicans wanted to reduce growing power of unions
- Going into the **Election of 1948** the Democrats were divided
 - Liberal Democrats supported Henry Wallace
 - Southern Democrats support Strom Thurmond (**Dixiecrats**)
 - Most analysts pick Truman to lose
 - Truman wins the election of 1948



Truman's Fair Deal

- Truman's domestic reform program was known as the **"Fair Deal"**
 - Called on extending programs and progress of the New Deal
 - extend Social Security benefits
 - increase minimum wage
 - national health insurance
 - Etc.
- Conservatives in Congress blocked most of his Fair Deal proposals
 - Exception was increase in **minimum wage** (40 cents to 75 cents an hour)



America in the Postwar World

- Unlike in the Post World War I period, the United States will **play a key role** in post World War II affairs
 - Following WW2 the U.S. is **NO longer isolationist**
- The U.S. joins the **United Nations** (U.N.) in 1945
 - Member of the permanent U.N. Security Council
- **International finance agreements** established at the **Bretton Woods Conference** in 1944 sought to establish a stable global economy
 - **IMF & World Bank** was intended to help rebuild war-torn world and help promote international trade
 - Soviets viewed it as a tool to promote capitalism and rejected membership

COLD WAR BEGINS

- The Cold War will be an ideological, political, and military struggle between the U.S. and the Soviet Union (1945-1991)



THE COLD WAR BEGINS



- Even prior to 1945 tensions existed between the two sides
 - Ideological conflict between capitalism and communism
 - Wilson supported the “White Army” which sought to stop the Bolshevik Revolution (U.S. doesn’t recognize Soviet Union until 1933)
 - Stalin was a brutal dictator and signed a nonaggression pact with Hitler in 1939

Tensions during WW2

- Stalin angry over the delays opening the 2nd front (not until 1944)
- Soviets were not included in the development of the atomic bomb
- The U.S. and the Soviets had very different visions for Eastern Europe

Yalta Conference & Post War Europe

- The Big Three met in **Yalta** in early 1945
- 1. Discuss the post war plan
 - FDR and Churchill think Stalin agrees to allow **representative government**
- 2. FDR wanted to get Stalin to agree to help out in the war against Japan
 - Fear that the allies would have to invade Japan to defeat them (no atomic bomb yet)
- Stalin wants a **buffer zone** in Eastern Europe
 - Soviets suffered nearly half of deaths in World War II
- Stalin refused to remove the “red army” from **Eastern Europe** and rigged elections brought pro-Soviet govts into power
- **Pro-Soviet puppet governments** in the name of preserving Soviet security



THE FATE OF EUROPE: CONTAINMENT

- March 1946 former PM Winston Churchill gives the “**Iron Curtain**” speech in Fulton, Missouri
 - Wanted western democratic nations to stop Soviet expansion together
- **George Kennan** develops the containment policy in “**Long Telegram**” Feb. 1946
 - The U.S. should work to **stop Soviet expansion**
 - Containment would guide U.S. policy throughout the Cold War

Soviets

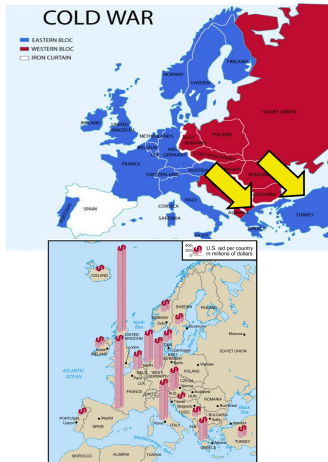


“... to Trieste in the Adriatic, an **iron curtain** has descended across the Continent” - Churchill, 1946



CONTAINMENT IN ACTION

- Both **Greece** and **Turkey** were under communist pressure
- Truman Doctrine** (March 1947): U.S. would provide military and economic aid to help prevent Greece and Turkey from falling to the communist
 - Truman does NOT send troops
- As a result of the **economic hardships** facing Europe in 1946-47, fear that communist may be **voted into power** in western Europe (France & Italy)
- "European Recovery Program"** by Sec. of State George Marshall (**Marshall Plan**) would provide billions of dollars of aid to Europe
 - Stop communism from spreading by providing economic aid
 - Western Europe rapidly rebuilds and communism does not spread
 - Soviets reject aid



CRISIS IN GERMANY

- Following World War II **Germany** was **divided** & controlled by U.S., England, France, & the S.U.
- Stalin wanted a weakened Germany & want them to pay reparations- Starts to form **German Democratic state**
- In June 1948 Stalin decides to **blockade Berlin**
- Truman does not want to back down and look weak (Remember the failures of appeasement)
- Berlin Airlift** provides the city of Berlin with supplies for nearly a year (Ends May 1949)
- Germany divided:** 1) Federal Republic of Germany (west) 2) German Democratic Republic (east)



Military Buildup




- U.S. joins 1st peaceful defensive military alliance in 1949: **N.A.T.O. (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)**
- National Security Act (1947)** established 1) Dept. of Defense 2) National Security Council (NSC) 3) Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
 - Arms race** between the U.S. and Soviet Union occurs
 - 1949 Soviets test their 1st atomic bomb
 - 1950 **NSC-68** called for a massive military buildup
 - Implemented with Korean War
 - 1952 U.S. test 1st **hydrogen bomb**

Cold War in Asia: China

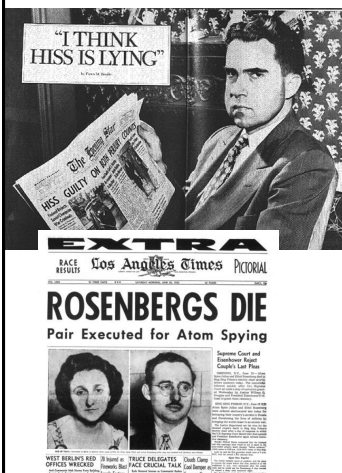


- Chinese **Civil War** between **Nationalist** under **Chiang Kai-shek** vs. **Chinese Communists** led by **Mao Zedong**
- The U.S. provided lots of aid to nationalist forces
- **Two Chinas:**
 - 1949 Mao declares China to be a communist country (**People's Republic of China**)
 - Nationalist flee to **Taiwan (Formosa)**
- Republicans blame Truman for the "**loss of China**" to communism
- Contributes to growing domestic fear
 - 1949 Soviets also got the bomb

The 2nd Red Scare

- Widespread fear of communist influence and infiltration in American life
- 
- **Smith Act** (1940) made it illegal to belong to an organization that advocated the overthrow of the govt. by force
 - **Federal Employee Loyalty Program** (1947) investigated background of federal employees
 - **House of Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)** restarted after WW2 to search for communist influence in American life

Spies Among Us



- **Alger Hiss** case: State Department member accused of being a communist by Whittaker Chambers in 1948
- During the HUAC investigation Congressman **Richard Nixon** makes a name for himself
- Hiss convicted of **perjury** and sent to jail
- Are there other Communists within the government?
- **Julius & Ethel Rosenberg** convicted of espionage in 1951 and executed in 1953
- **Joseph McCarthy**

KOREAN WAR

- Following WW2 Korea was **divided at the 38th parallel**
 - North of 38th: Soviets occupied
 - South of 38th: U.S. occupied
- By 1949 both countries withdrew their troops
- June 1950 **North Korea invades South Korea**
- In order to **contain** the spread of communism the U.S. (under the **U.N.**) comes to the defense of South Korea
- The war goes back and forth
- MacArthur called for expanding the war and criticized the **"limited war"** strategy
 - Truman fires the popular general
- Armistice eventually reached in 1953: Korea remained **divided at 38th parallel**
- Outcome: Containment worked!
 - Critics charged **"soft on communism"**
 - U.S. increases defense spending



Mr. Jocz rocking a super cool Soviet hat in Berlin. And yes, that is an ad for a German "Dirty Dancing" musical. *Das original!*
