Restructuring the Postwar World

Ch 33

1945-Present
• US + Soviet Relations During WWII

• Tensions had resulted from 1) Political differences, 2) Stalin’s Non-Aggression Pact w/ Hitler, 3) The Allies delay in opening a western front, + 4) Other disagreements

• At the Yalta Conference (Feb. 1945) Roosevelt, Churchill, + Stalin met + agreed to 1) divide Germany into occupied zones controlled by Allied military forces, 2) Germany would pay USSR compensation for loss of life + property, 3) USSR would join war against Japan, + 4) Stalin promised Eastern Europe would have free elections

• (June 1945) 50 countries – including US + USSR – formed the United Nations or UN (based in NYC). Its goal was to protect members against aggression.
## Different Goals of the US + USSR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US</th>
<th>USSR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encourage democracy in other countries to help prevent the rise of Communist gov.’ts</td>
<td>Encourage communism in other countries as part of a worldwide workers’ revolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain access to raw materials + markets to fuel booming industries</td>
<td>Rebuild its war-ravaged economy using Eastern Europe’s industrial equipment + raw materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebuild European gov.’ts to promote stability + create new markets for US goods</td>
<td>Control Eastern Europe to protect Soviet borders + balance the US influence in Western Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunite Germany to stabilize it + the security of Europe</td>
<td>Keep Germany divided to prevent its waging war again</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Spread of Communism

Perhaps the most important goal of the USSR was to protect itself from future invasions

- Needed to create buffer states
- As Soviet troops marched towards Germany at the end of WWII, some troops remained in Eastern European countries + established or aided Communist gov.'ts in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Yugoslavia, + East Germany
- Violated Stalin’s agreement at Yalta – led to tensions b/w US + USSR
• Eastern Europe was now made up of communist gov’ts.

• Germany was split into 2 countries:
  - US, Britain, + France united their zones - The Federal Republic of Germany or **West Germany**
  - The former Soviet occupied zone - The German Democratic Republic or **East Germany**

• Berlin (which was in East Germany) was also divided into zones.

• Winston Churchill described the divide b/w Communist East + Democratic West Europe as an “iron curtain”
US Tries to Stop the Spread of Communism

US + Soviet relations worsen in 1946-47. President Truman tries to prevent Soviet influence on foreign governments:

1. **Containment** – Foreign policy adopted by the US in the late 1940s aimed at blocking Soviet influence + stopping expansion of communism by forming alliances + helping weak countries resist Soviet advances.

2. **The Truman Doctrine** (1947) – called for giving economic + military aid to countries who rejected communism.
3. The Marshall Plan (1947) – (proposed by US Secretary of State George Marshall) an assistance program designed to give aid to needy European countries in the form of food, machinery, + other materials to help them rebuild

4. Berlin Airlift (1948-49) – France, Britain, + US withdrew troops from Germany + united their zones into West Germany. Berlin had also been divided but was w/in the Soviet zone. Stalin wanted the Allies to surrender West Berlin or give up idea of reunifying Germany + had all highway, water, + rail traffic to West Berlin cut off. The city faced starvation. So for nearly 11 months, American + British flew food + supplies to West Berlin. 1 plane took off every 3 minutes. Stalin finally lifted the blockade.
The Cold War was the state of diplomatic hostility b/w the US + USSR after WWII until 1991. A cold war is a struggle over political differences w/o using military action or war.

Beginning in 1949, the US + USSR used spying, propaganda, diplomacy, + secret operations in dealing w/ each other.
• Influenced world alliances as well
• (1949) 10 Western European countries, Canada, + the US joined to form a defensive military alliance known as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
• The USSR + 7 East European countries formed their own military alliance called the Warsaw Pact
• East Germans built the Berlin Wall to separate East + West Berlin + stop East Berliners from fleeing to West Berlin
• Countries such as India + even communist China didn’t align w/ either side
• Threat of Nuclear War

• In 1949, the USSR exploded its own atomic bomb
• Truman wanted a bigger + better weapon + in 1952, the US tested the hydrogen or H-bomb
  • The USSR tested their H-bomb in 1953
• The arms race (or creating + stockpiling of weapons) would last for 4 decades
• The Cold War Takes to the Skies

• (1957) The Soviets developed rockets that could travel great distances + used them to push Sputnik (the 1st unmanned satellite) into space
  • Americans felt they’d fallen behind in science + technology, so the gov.’t poured $ into science education

• (1960) The US flew secret spy planes called U-2s over the USSR
  • One was shot down + the pilot was captured
China

• After the Fall of the Emperor

• The Kuomintang (Nationalist Party of China) come into power + establish a republic
  • Supported modernization + nationalism
  • The president isn’t strong enough to secure national unity + turns the gov.’t over to a general – chaos ensues
    • He dies + civil war breaks out
  • China supports Allies in WWI, but is angry when Treaty of Versailles gave lands it wanted to Japan
    • Start to turn away from democracy in favor of communism
• The Chinese Communist Party was organized in 1921, one of the founding members was Mao Zedong
  • He wanted a communist revolution to begin in the country w/ the peasants as the revolutionaries
• A new leader in the Kuomintang, Chiang Kai-Shek (or Jiang Jieshi) promised democracy, but his gov.’t became increasingly corrupt + most peasants turn towards Mao’s communists
• (1928) Chiang became president of China
• By 1930, civil war had broken out
  • Mao + the Communists base themselves in the countryside + recruit peasants
    • Frequently attacked by Chiang’s Nationalists, but never defeated
• While the Communists + Nationalists are fighting, the Japanese invade Manchuria (NE China) in 1931 – this is the beginning of WWII in Asia
  • This would lead to a temporary truce b/w the Communists + the Nationalists as they united to fight the Japanese

These notes can be found in Ch 30 Section 3
China During WWII

Mao Zedong’s communists controlled much of northwestern China and during WWII they mobilized the peasants against Japanese invaders, as well as promoting literacy and improving food production.

- Won peasants’ loyalty
- Chiang Kai-Shek’s nationalists received over $1.5 bil from the US to fight the Japanese – most of that went to corrupt army officers. They fought little against the Japanese, instead saved their strength for the future battle with Mao’s communists.

After WWII, the Communists + Nationalists resume fighting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese Political Opponents- 1945</th>
<th>Nationalists</th>
<th>Communists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Chiang Kai-Shek</td>
<td>Mao Zedong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Ruled</td>
<td>Southern China</td>
<td>Northern China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Support</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>USSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Support</td>
<td>Weak due to inflation + failing economy</td>
<td>Strong due to promised land reform for peasants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Organization</td>
<td>Ineffective, corrupt leadership, + poor morale</td>
<td>Experienced, motivated guerilla army</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The 2 Chinas
  • Renewed civil war lasted from 1946-49
  • Finally, Chiang + the Nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan. Mao + the Communists now controlled China
  • The US helped Chiang set up a gov.’t on Taiwan + considered it to be the rightful gov.’t of China (known as The Republic of China)
  • The USSR gave aid to mainland China controlled by the Communists (known as The People’s Republic of China)
  • Chiang’s gov.’t would be recognized by the UN as the legitimate gov.’t until 1971
Mao’s Communist China

- 80% of China’s population lived in rural areas but most didn’t own any land.
- The Agrarian Reform Law of 1950, redistributed the land among the peasants
  - The land was later forcibly joined into collectivized farms
- Private companies were nationalized (brought under gov.’t control)
- Created 5 yr plans for China’s economic development
The Great Leap Forward

- Started in May 1958
- In an attempt to catch up with more developed nations, Mao proclaimed that China should make a “Great leap forward” into modernization.
- A 5 year plan to modernize in which fertile rice fields were ploughed over + factories built. Farms were collectivized into communes (large collective farms).
- Former farmers didn’t know how to run factories + crop land went to waste. This led to famine in 1960-61. An estimated 20 million people starved to death.
The Cultural Revolution

A 10 yr political campaign w/ the goal of purifying the Chinese communist party + strengthening Mao’s position.

The Red Guard (urban youths) were incited by Mao to attack the so-called “intellectuals”. Millions were forced into manual labor + tens of thousands were executed.

Led to massive civil unrest + so the army had to be sent in to stop the Red Guard.

In 1977 the gov.’t declared it to be over.
• China Takes Tibet

Under Mao’s leadership, China conquered Tibet (1950-51). Although originally Tibetans had been promised autonomy, the Chinese later tightened control:

• Forced modernization
• Required Tibetans to speak Chinese
• Forced the Tibetan political/spiritual leader the Dalai Lama into exile
• Tibetans still forced to serve in the Chinese military
• Many want indep.
The Korean War - what was it?

• In South Korea, the war is often called 6·25 or 6·25 War, from the date of the start of the conflict or, more formally, Hanguk Jeonjaeng (literally “Korean War”). In North Korea, while commonly known as the Korean War, it is formally called the Fatherland Liberation War. In the United States, the conflict was officially termed a police action — the Korean Conflict — rather than a war, largely in order to avoid the necessity of a declaration of war by the U.S. Congress. In China, the conflict was known as the War to Resist America and Aid Korea, but is today commonly called the “Korean War”
• A Divided Korea

• Korea had been a unified country since the 7th century.

• The Japanese annexed Korea in August 1910.

• After WWII, Korea was divided at the 38th parallel (line of latitude).

• The Japanese invaders in North Korea surrendered to Soviet troops + North Korea became a communist country.

• The Japanese invaders in South Korea surrendered to American troops + South Korea became a democracy.

• By 1949, most American + Soviet troops had left Korea.
The North Invades the South

- Both North + South Korea wished to unite, but the South Korean President + North Korean General Secretary each wanted to reunite the peninsula under his own gov.’t
- Supplied with Soviet military equipment, North Korea invaded the South on 6/25/1950 claiming that the South had attacked 1st (untrue)
- The North makes significant advances
South Korea Gets International Support

- Pres. Truman’s containment policy was being put to the test
- Instead of pressing for a Congressional declaration of war, which he thought was too time-consuming, Truman went to the UN for approval (though he ordered U.S. military forces to Korea before any resolution had been adopted).
  - In the US, the Korean War was officially called a “police action”
- The UN passed a resolution to aid South Korea b/c of a temporary absence of the Soviet Union in the Security Council
- 15 countries sent troops to aid South Korea.
  - They would be led by US General Douglas MacArthur

(Pres. Truman’s image)

(The photo of General Douglas MacArthur)

(Pres. Truman’s image)
• China Joins North Korea

• South Korea quickly pushes back the North Koreans + began to advance into North Korea

• China becomes alarmed by the advancing UN military force + send 300,000 troops to aid North Korea in Oct. 1950.
  • They greatly outnumbered UN forces + advance into South Korea, capturing the capital city, Seoul

• Gen. MacArthur calls for a nuclear attack against China. Truman refused + MacArthur tried to go over him + take the issue to congressional leaders + newspapers
  • Truman removed MacArthur from command
- Stalemate

- UN forces recover + push them back.

- Truce talks began on 7/10/1951. By that time, the war had become static - with neither side making any real advances.

- Disagreement over several issues, including the exchange of prisoners, delayed the signing of an armistice for another 2 yrs.

- The armistice was signed in 1953.

- Both sides agreed to withdraw 2 km along the final battleground + establish a demilitarized zone along the armistice line - a zone that still exists today.
• After the War

North Korea’s communist gov.’t established collective farms + developed heavy industry + the military. W/in the last 15 yrs, it has also been developing nuclear capabilities

• Today it is one of the world’s poorest countries

• South Korea’s gov.’t received massive aid from foreign countries + has prospered. Although ruled by a series of dictators for decades, in 1987, it adopted a democratic constitution

• Many still hope to see the two countries unite again.
The French had controlled Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, +Cambodia) since the 1600s

- By the early 1900s, nationalist groups had developed. One such group was communist + it was led by Ho Chi Minh
  - Born in Vietnam, spoke out against French rule
  - Traveled abroad to USA + England
    - Introduced to ideas of Karl Marx
  - Founded the Viet Minh (communist-dominated indep. movement)
    - Later called the Viet Cong (Cong=communist)
  - Japanese conquer Vietnam in WWII
Vietnam After WWII

- Viet Minh seized power in North Vietnam
- Ho Chi Minh declared president
- French fight to gain back control of Vietnam
- 1946-1954 1st Indochina War

- Vietnamese struggle for indep. from France
- The French suffered a major defeat at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu + surrendered

- Vietnam was divided into communist North Vietnam + non-communist South Vietnam at the 17th parallel which became a demilitarized zone
What Could Have Happened

- France petitioned for help to draw up a withdrawal plan from US, Great Britain, USSR, China (among others) after 1st Indochina War.
- Plan: Temporary partition of Vietnam, elections monitored by neutral electors on both sides, Vietnamese people vote which gov.’t they prefer + country is united under that gov.’t.
- US didn’t want to allow even the possibility of a communist win (even though Truman had been told Ho Chi Minh was no Soviet puppet + a potential USA ally).
  - Encouraged S. Vietnam’s gov.’t to refuse to sign agreement.
  - S. Vietnam’s gov.’t declared its indep.
  - Vietnamese angry at US (S.V. gov.’t wasn’t popular).
Leading up to the Vietnam War

- US gov.’t believed in the domino theory (belief that if one nation fell to communism, all of the surrounding countries would too)
  - Justified US intervention
- Ho Chi Minh led N. Vietnam + a dictator ruled S. Vietnam. Many S. Vietnamese either actively supported the communists or just opposed the South’s gov.’t
  - They became members of the Viet Cong + used guerrilla warfare against the gov.’t
- A military coup leaves their president dead + weakened the gov.’t further
- US had stationed advisors in S. Vietnam, but now # of troops
- Pres. Johnson launched covert attacks on N. Vietnam
• N. Vietnamese fired on USS Maddox (It was in N. Vietnamese waters)
• The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution - Gave Pres. Johnson war-making powers
• US covert attacks significantly reduce, but N. Vietnamese attack a US helicopter base
• Coincided w/ high ranking visitors from US + USSR
• Soviets promise to support the N. Vietnamese
• US drastically ↑ its presence
N. Vietnam quickly defeated S. Vietnam’s army, USA took over

- US has 2 major weaknesses in the war:
  1. Fighting a guerrilla war in unfamiliar jungle terrain
  2. S. Vietnam’s gov.’t was very unpopular

1968: Tet Offensive (Tet is Vietnamese lunar new year)

- N. Vietnamese launch attack on most major S. Vietnamese cities
- S. Vietnamese were murdered by N. Vietnamese as collaborators
- Americans destroy village of My Lai killing 500 unarmed civilians, mostly women and children (covered up for over a year)

Americans want a closure to the war
• 1969 - Nixon becomes president.
  • Begins “Vietnamization” Under this policy, US troops withdraw + S. Vietnamese army takes over the fighting.
  • ↓ # of American troops, but ↑ bombing outside Vietnam’s borders
  • Seriously screws up the stability of neighboring countries + leads to the formation of communist gov.’ts
    • Secretly bombed Cambodia for 4 years and caused great destruction and upheaval in a land of farmers that had not known war in centuries. The bombing was more intense than that carried out over Vietnam. An estimated 100,000 peasants died in the bombing + 2 mil people were left homeless.
    • Gov.’t blamed for allowing it. Lost power, + the Communist Khmer Rouge gov.’t comes into power
    • Bombed Laos as well from 1964-1969. By 1970 at least ¼ of the entire population of Laos were refugees, + about 400,000 Lao had been killed.
    • US backed gov.’t loses support + a communist gov.’t comes into power

- All U.S. forces from S. Vietnam would be withdrawn
- A cease-fire b/w N. + S. Vietnam
- The formation of a National Council of Reconciliation to help S. Vietnam form a new gov.’t
- The weakening of S. Vietnam made N. Vietnam believe it could win control over the south through a massive invasion
- 1975 N. Vietnam launched a final offensive. They expected it to take at least 2 yrs, but it only took 3 ½ months for S. Vietnam to surrender. Vietnam was finally unified.
Aftermath in Vietnam:

- About 10% of all bombs and shells went unexploded and continued to kill and maim throughout the region long after the war, as did buried land mines. Vietnam developed high rates of birth defects, probably due to the use of Agent Orange and other chemical defoliants. The defoliants used during the war also destroyed about 15% of S. Vietnam’s valuable timber resources and contributed to a serious decline in rice and fish production, the major sources of food for Vietnam.

- There were 800,000 orphans created in S. Vietnam alone. At least 10 million people became homeless refugees in the south. Vietnam’s government punished those Vietnamese who had been allied with the US by sending thousands to “reeducation camps” and depriving their families of employment. These measures, combined with economic hardships throughout Vietnam, led to the exodus of about 1.3 million people, most as refugees, to the US. Children of US soldiers and Vietnamese women, often called “Amerasians,” were looked down upon by the Vietnamese and many of them immigrated to the US.
Khmer Rouge

- Communist movement that ruled Cambodia from 1975-79.
- Led by Pol Pot
- The Khmer Rouge tortured, murdered, worked to death, or killed by starvation close to 1.7 mil Cambodians, or more than 1/5 of the country’s population.
- Those killed included minority + religious groups, people suspected of disagreeing w/ the party, intellectuals, merchants, + bureaucrats.
- To restore the “purity” of the Khmer race (the ethnic majority in Cambodia), Pol Pot eliminated foreign-educated people + non-Khmers living in Cambodia.
- Despite food shortages, rice was exported to China in exchange for weapons.
- The Vietnamese army overthrew the Khmer Rouge in 1979 for their attacks on Vietnam.

End Section 3
• **A Divided World**

• **1\textsuperscript{st} World Countries** – industrialized capitalist nations led by the US
  
  • Today these are called developed countries

• **2\textsuperscript{nd} World Countries** – communist countries led by the USSR

• **3\textsuperscript{rd} World Countries** – countries that were mostly newly independent but not aligned w/ either the US or USSR
  
  • Today these are called developing countries

• 3\textsuperscript{rd} world countries were located in Asia, Latin America, + Africa. They were economically + politically unstable, had a lack of technology + education, + many also suffered from ethnic conflicts

• US + USSR wanted to gain influence + win allies in 3\textsuperscript{rd} world countries
  
  • Did this by providing aid, backing wars, assassinations, etc…

• Nonaligned countries managed to stay neutral
How the Cold War Was Fought

1. Foreign Aid – used to win allies
2. Propaganda – used to gain support + to turn people against the opposition
3. Espionage – spied on opposition to keep up w/ them
4. Brinkmanship – going to the brink of war to make the other side back down
5. Alliances – formalized support w/ other nations
6. Surrogate Wars – (substitute) US + USSR didn’t fight each other directly, instead fought indirectly by backing opposing sides in various conflicts.
• Cuba’s Communist Revolution

• 1950s - Ruled by a dictator (had US support)
  • Resentment led to a revolution led by Fidel Castro
    • Made social reforms, but a harsh dictator
    • Nationalized economy, including US owned businesses

• 1961 – Anti-Castro Cuban exiles trained by the CIA invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. US did not provide air support + they were defeated by Castro’s forces
  • Humiliating defeat for the US
• Cuban Missile Crisis

• Oct. 1962, US spy plane photographed missile bases being built in Cuba w/in range of some US cities. Those missiles were being provided by the Soviets

• The US already had missiles in Turkey w/in range of Soviet cities

• Pres. Kennedy ordered a quarantine (limited blockade) of Cuban waters to prevent offensive weapons from being brought into Cuba

• The world stood on the brink of a nuclear war for 2 weeks

• Finally, Soviets agree to remove weapons, US promised not to invade Cuba again, + secretly, the US agreed to remove missiles from Turkey.

• Kennedy comes out the winner + Soviet premier appeared to have lost

• Cuba wasn’t consulted about the outcome
MISSILE CRISIS 1962

16 November, Onslow Bay NC. Largest exercise since WWII, US rehearses for Cuban invasion.

24 October, 16 ships return, 2 alter course, 'Bucharest' makes it safely to Havana.

9 November, all Missiles leave Cuba.


US Navy/Air Bases
1 Guantanamo Bay
2 Key West
3 Homestead

Soviet Missile Bases
1 San Cristobal
2 Guanajay
3 Saqua la Grande
4 Remedios
5 Santa Clara
• Iran

• The Middle East attracted attention from the US + USSR b/c of large oil reserves
• Oil industry wealth fueled a growing clash b/w traditional Islamic values + modern Western materialism
• In Iran, the US supported the Shah (leader) who supported westernization
  • Resented by Iranians – many living in poverty
  • Opposed by the ayatollahs (Iranian Muslim leaders) led by Ayatollah Khomeini who had been exiled
  • Ayatollah Khomeini encouraged riots which led to the Shah fleeing Iran (1979)
  • Khomeini takes power + establishes a militant Islamic state
• Encouraged revolutionaries to seize the US embassy in Iran + take over 60 hostages
  • They weren’t released until Jan. 1981
- Soviet Relations W/ Satellite Countries
- After Stalin died, more moderate leaders came into power in the USSR
- Eastern European countries were allowed more indep. as long as they remained allied w/ the USSR
- During the 1950s, some Soviet satellites began pushing for reforms + even rebelling. The USSR used military force to put them down + became much more repressive towards its satellites
- The Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev claimed that the USSR had a right to prevent its satellites from rejecting communism – this became known as the Brezhnev Doctrine
• Détente
• A policy of lessening Cold War tensions
• Began under President Nixon
  • This was due to a belief that the US needed to take a more realistic approach towards communism + communist countries
  • He was the 1st president to visit China + he later visited the USSR as well
  • Signed the SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation) agreement w/ the USSR in which each agreed to limit the number of certain types of weapons each nation could have
    • (A SALT II agreement would be signed by Pres. Carter)
The Collapse of Détente

The period of détente declined when Pres. Carter took office due to his concern over Soviet human rights violations.

Ronald Reagan became president in 1981

He was fiercely anti-communist

As president he:

- Greatly increased defense spending
- Put economic + military pressure on the Soviets