

Making of the Modern World 15

Lecture #10 – The Cold War and the
American Century

Uncle Joe



Guess where.



Origins of the Cold War

- US, USSR, Great Britain unnatural allies during World War II
 - Tensions submerged until close of war
- Yalta and Potsdam Conferences (1945)
 - Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt
 - Decided on USSR declaration of war vs. Japan, setting up of International Military Tribunal
 - Free elections for Eastern Europe
- Stalin arranges pro-communist governments in Eastern European countries
- 1946: “Iron Curtain” descends

The Truman Doctrine (1947)

- World divided into free and enslaved states
- US to support all movements for democracy
- “containment” of Communism
- NATO and the Warsaw Pact established
 - Militarization of Cold War
- The twentieth century would be the “American Century”

Competition between Rivals

- Cold war was a competition between competing states but also competing ideologies.
 - Consumer rivalry
 - Technological rivalry
 - Support of allies and their allegiance
 - Proxy wars
 - Korea
 - Vietnam
 - Afghanistan

The Marshall Plan

- Named for George C. Marshall (1880–1989), US Secretary of State
- Proposed in 1947, \$13 billion to reconstruct western Europe
- USSR establishes Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON), 1949
- The United Nations formed (1945) to resolve international disputes

The Marshall Plan



Consumerism

- Western success with household technologies
- US Marshall plan for rebuilding Europe: 13 billion, 1948-1952
- Europeans owning cars:
 - 1955: 5 million
 - 1963: 44 million

The Space Race

- Nonviolent aspect of cold war rivalry
- Initial Soviet successes:
 - 1957: Sputnik, first satellite
 - 1961: Yuri Gagarin orbits space'
- US sets up NASA, lands Apollo XI on the moon, July 1969

The “Kitchen Debate”

- American National Exhibition, 1959
- Prelude: debate over horse manure vs. pig manure
- Public discord over Communism vs. Capitalism

Video of the “Kitchen Debate”

- <https://youtu.be/-CvQOuNecy4>

Development of the Blocs

- Winston Churchill: the “iron curtain”
- Division of post-war Germany, especially Berlin
 - Western powers merge occupation zones
 - Introduce German Mark
 - Soviet Blockade of Berlin

Occupied Germany, 1945-1949



Berlin Airlift

- 11 months of air shipments to Berlin, beginning June 1948
- Cold war did not go “hot”
- Retribution: British/U.S. embargo on Soviet imports
- Soviets lift blockade in summer 1949
- East Berlin capital of “German Democratic Republic”
- Bonn capital of “Federal Republic of Germany”

Construction of the Berlin Wall

- 1949-1961: 3.5 million East Germans flee to west
 - Especially younger, highly skilled workers
- August 1961 construction of wall separating East and West
- Symbol of the Cold War

The Arms Race

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 1949
- Warsaw Treaty Organization (Warsaw Pact), 1955
- Nuclear proliferation
- End of 60s: Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)
 - “Dr. Strangelove”

Division of Korea

- Characteristic of Cold War: localized conflicts, “proxy wars”
- Korea divided along 38th parallel after WW II
- 1948 two Koreas
 - Republic of Korea (South, capital Seoul)
 - People’s Democratic Republic of Korea (North, capital Pyongyang)

Korean War

- North Korea invades in 1950, captures Seoul
- US lands, drives North Koreans back to 38th parallel, then goes on to capture Pyongyang
- Chinese invade, push USA back to 38th
- 3 million killed by ceasefire in summer 1953
- No peace treaty signed, continued tensions

Containment

- Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), Asian version of NATO
- “Domino Theory” moves Eisenhower to consider nuclear weapon use in Korea

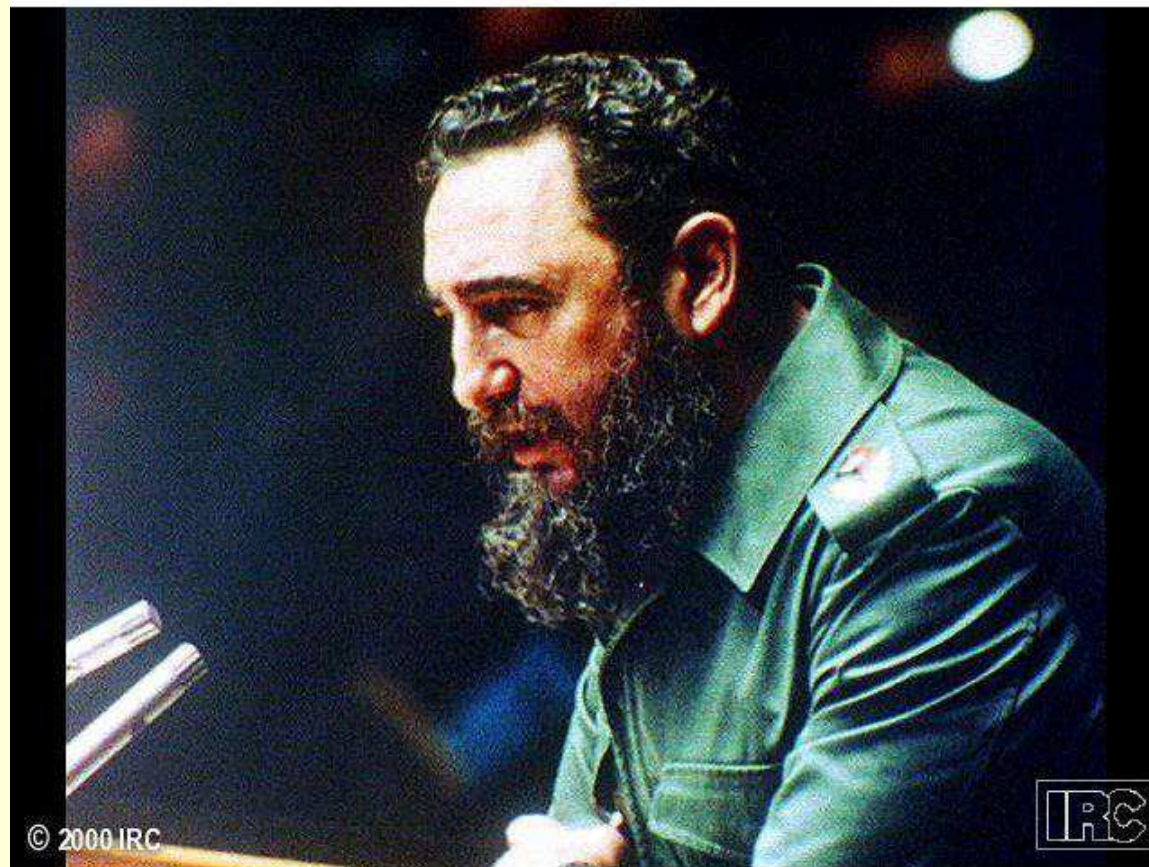
Cuba

- Fidel Castro Ruz (1926-), 1959 revolution
- Cancels promised elections, expropriates foreign properties, kills or exiles political enemies
- US imposes trade embargo
- Soviets step in with massive aid, gain foothold off US shores

The Bay of Pigs

- Castro declares undying allegiance to Soviet foreign policy, 1960
- Kennedy and CIA send 1,500 Cubans into Bay of Pigs to spur revolution
- American Air support does not appear, force destroyed in 3 days
- US embarrassment

Fidel Castro at the Bay of Pigs



Fidel Castro at the Bay of Pigs

Cuban Missile Crisis

- October 1962 Soviets begin assembling missiles in Cuba
- Kennedy publicly challenges USSR
- Quarantines CUBA
- Soviets concede, but US guarantees non-interference with Castro regime
- US Secretary of State Dean Rusk: “Eyeball to eyeball, they blinked first”

The Cold War, 1949-1962



Challenges to Soviet Hegemony

- Rebellions quashed:
 - Yugoslavia expelled from Soviet bloc, 1948
 - Hungary, 1956
 - Prague Spring, 1968
- Brezhnev Doctrine: right to invade any socialist country threatened by elements “hostile to socialism”

The People's Republic of China

- Civil war between Communists and Nationalists erupts after defeat of Japan
- Jiang Jieshi (Chang Kai-shek) forced to retreat to island of Taiwan with Nationalist forces
 - Takes most of China's gold reserves
- Mao Zedong proclaims People's Republic of China, 1949
 - Begins dramatic transformation of Chinese society into Communist mold

Social and Economic Transformations

- Power concentrated in Communist Party
- Ex-nationalists executed or sent to reform camps
- Rapid industrialization under Soviet-style Five-Year Plan, 1955
 - Massive land redistribution
 - Collective farms replace private farming
- Universal health care, education
- Dramatic challenges to gender discrimination

Beijing-Moscow Relations

- Mutual concern over US rehabilitation of Japan
- Beijing recognizes primacy of USSR as Communist leader
 - Receives military aid in return
 - Soviet Union principal trading partner
- Friction over Moscow's neutrality in conflict with India over Tibet, claimed by China in 1950
- Rift sharpened in 1964 as Khrushchev moves toward peace with US

Détente

- Reduction in hostility between nuclear superpowers
- Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (1972, 1979)
- Friction in early 1980s over improvement in relations between US and China
 - Also, USSR intervention in Afghanistan
 - Earlier US intervention in Vietnam

The US Defeat in Vietnam

- US aids noncommunist Vietnam in south after French departure from territory
- US aid increases, reaches 500,000 troops in 1968
- Conflict with northern communists ends in stalemate
- President Richard Nixon attempts to end war by escalating bombings, extending into Cambodia
- US eventually leaves in 1973, war continues until south is defeated in 1975

Cold War Countercultural Protests

- *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*
 - Critique of nuclear power policies
- Massive anti-Vietnam protests
- Rock and Roll as counterculture
- Watergate Scandal (1972-1974)
 - President Nixon orders illegal wiretaps, discovered and forced to resign 1974

Two Brief Clips

- Morley Safer report on Cam Ne
 - <https://youtu.be/hNYZZi25Ttg>
- Student Protests at UCSD
 - <https://youtu.be/gbzhmMDFcFQ>
 - [20:01-26:56]

Soviet setbacks in Afghanistan

- Afghanistan a Islamic nation, nonaligned until 1978, becomes pro-Soviet through a coup
- Radical non-Islamic reforms provoke backlash
- Soviet Union intervenes, fights nine-year battle against Afghan *mujahideen* (Islamic warriors)
 - CIA supplies them with ground-to-air Stinger missiles
- 1986 USSR forced to pull out
- 1994 Taliban takes over after civil war

End of the Cold War

- President Ronald Reagan (in office 1981-1989) deeply opposes USSR
 - The “evil empire”
- Promotes massive military spending, beyond Soviet economy to keep up
 - Strategic Defense Initiative (“star wars”)
- Forces Soviet Mikhail S. Gorbachev (1931-) to implement reforms, ultimately brings down the USSR