

The Cold War Lecture Outline

I. What was the Cold War? Definition and Timeline:

II. Origins of the Cold War

✓ Causes:

- different political and economic **ideologies**:
 - USA – democracy, capitalism
 - USSR – dictatorship, communism
- **power rivalry** – USA and USSR emerged from WWII as world's **superpowers**

✓ The Cold War does not have a definitive starting date. How, then, did it develop?

Nov. 1943	<u>Teheran Conference</u> (Churchill, Stalin, FDR) – plan how to beat Germany: US-British armies to liberate W. Europe and Soviets to liberate E. Europe
Feb. 1945	<u>Yalta Conference</u> (Churchill, Stalin, FDR) – compromise decision: postwar Germany to pay reparations to USSR and be divided into occupation zones; USSR to declare war on Japan; eastern Europe to be pro-Russian but freely elected (free elections promise quickly broken)
<i>[May 8, 1945]</i>	<i>V-E Day</i>
July 1945	<u>Potsdam Conference</u> (Churchill, Stalin, Truman) – US demands free elections and USSR refuses
<i>[Aug. 1945]</i>	<i>US drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki</i>
<i>[Sept. 2, 1945]</i>	<i>V-J Day</i>
March 1946	Churchill's “ <u>iron curtain</u> ” speech – Europe divided!
March 1947	<u>Truman Doctrine</u> – contain communism to areas already under Soviet occupation (policy of <u>containment</u>)
June 1947	<u>Marshall Plan</u> – US aid to Europe for rebuilding (Stalin refuses \$ for E. Europe)
1948	<u>Berlin blockade and Berlin airlift</u> – Stalin blocks western access to Berlin but west provides supplies via air for 324 days until Stalin backs down
1949	<u>NATO</u> formed
1955	<u>Warsaw Pact</u> formed

III. USSR – Soviet leaders:

- ✓ **Lenin (1917-1924)** ☹
 - totalitarian
 - central planning:
 - **5 Year Plans**
 - **collectivization** / **de-kulakization**
 - propaganda
 - censorship
 - KGB
 - gulag
- ✓ **Khrushchev (1955-1964)** ☺
 - **de-Stalinization**
 - 1956 Hungarian rev.
 - Cold War:
 - 1961 Bay of Pigs
 - 1961 Berlin Wall
 - 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
- ✓ **Brezhnev (1964-1982)** ☹
 - **re-Stalinization**
 - **Prague Spring** (1968) / Dubček
 - **Brezhnev Doctrine**
- ✓ **Gorbachev (1985-1991)** ☺
 - end Cold War

IV. Western Europe – Politics & Economics:

1. **decolonization** & **neocolonialism**

2. Politics

- postwar – new leaders:
 - Christian Democrats
 - socialists/communists ... “welfare state”
 - US
- 1950s-early 80s: **welfare state** = heavy gov’t. spending
- 1980s – conservatism:
 - Reagan (US)
 - Thatcher (GB)
 - Kohl (W. Germany)

3. Economics

- postwar – rapid growth
 - Why: Marshall Plan, gov’t. stimulus, ppl. ready to work, consumer demand, Common Market
- 1970s-80s – series of econ. crises
 - early 70s: US\$ plummeted in value → global inflation
 - oil shocks in 1973 (OPEC) & 1979 (Iranian Rev.)

V. Late Cold War, 1968-1985

- ✓ Vietnam War (height 1968-1973)
- ✓ **détente** (1970s)
 - relaxation of cold war tensions
 - **Willy Brandt's** (W. Germany) reconciliation w/ eastern Europe
 - 1975 Final Act of the **Helsinki Conference**: reaffirm Euro. borders; human rights
- ✓ détente ends (late '70s to mid-'80s)
 - Brezhnev ignored Helsinki human rights
 - Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979)
 - Reagan calls USSR the "evil empire"
 - Reagan ↑ defense spending

VI. Cold War Ends (1985-1991)

- ✓ Gorbachev's reforms
 1. **perestroika** (econ. "restructuring")
 2. **glasnost** ("openness")
 3. democratization
 4. new foreign policy: relax E-W tensions
- ✓ **Revolutions of 1989**
 - Poland 1st
 - 1978: **Pope John Paul II**
 - 1980: **Gdansk shipyard strike** → **Solidarity** forms under **Lech Wałęsa**
 - 1981: Jaruzelski declares martial law
 - 1989: Solidarity legalized + free elections → Solidarity wins & begins reforms
 - Hungary
 - E. Germany
 - Berlin Wall falls
 - Czechoslovakia
 - **Velvet Revolution**
 - **Vaclav Havel**
 - Romania (only violent revolution)
 - Ceaușescu
- ✓ German Reunification (1990)
 - E. Germans wanted better life
 - led by W. German Chancellor Kohl ... and Gorbachev said ok
- ✓ Further cooling of E-W tensions
 - **Paris Accord** (1990): Europe, US, USSR ... military reduction, affirmation of existing Euro. borders
 - additional US-USSR agreements to reduce nuclear arms
- ✓ Collapse of the USSR (1991)
 - Gorbachev wanted to reform communism & keep the USSR, which pleased no one:
 - hardline communists
 - democrats (led by Yeltsin)
 - Who won?