The Cold War Begins
E. America Enters World War II (1945-Present)
g. Analyze the origins of the Cold War, foreign policy developments, and major events of the administrations from Truman to present
The Democracies of the world had originally teamed up the Communist USSR to defeat Nazi Germany.
When World War II was finished, the USA, Britain, and France grew concerned. They wanted the nations of the world to accept Democracy. Yet, it was clear that Stalin wanted Eastern Europe to be dominated by Communism.
After WW II, the USSR controlled Eastern Europe and Western Europe was heavily influenced by the USA and Britain. The Western half of Europe, by in large, practiced Democracy.
Tension Between the Allies

- Instead of being partners, now the USA stood opposed to the Soviet Union. Harry Truman was President of the USA and Joseph Stalin was still the dictator of the USSR.

- The USA, France, and Britain wanted elected officials with competing parties in Europe, especially in Germany.

- The USA tried to keep the Manhattan Project secret from Stalin; this proved the two nations did not really trust each other. There was always tension between the countries.
The United Nations

-During and after WW II, many felt that an organization was needed to help prevent future conflicts. In June of 1945, 50 countries signed the UN Charter to try and prevent another world war.

-Woodrow Wilson’s dream of the League of Nations had proven too weak to create change. Yet, the United Nations exists still today as a venue for nations to use diplomacy to address differences and maintain peace.

-The USA and USSR both tried to utilize the UN to spread their ideas. The USA endorsed Democracy and the USSR Communism.
The United Nations headquarters in New York City
The General Assembly meeting hall of the United Nations building.
The USSR in Eastern Europe

-Truman was concerned about the presence of Communism in Eastern Europe. Yet, the Yalta Conference already stated that the USSR could control Eastern Europe.

-Many in the USA wanted access to the resources of Eastern Europe for the USA economy. They were concerned that opposition to the USSR’s control of Eastern Europe could create tension in the region.

-The USSR felt that they had a rightful claim to control Eastern Europe. Their nation lost 20 Million people fighting the Nazis; therefore, they felt entitled to control Eastern Europe.
The Satellite Nations

-The USSR created Satellite nations out of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Poland.

-While technically “independent” nations, these areas were radically controlled by the USSR. They were forced to follow the political desires of the Communist Soviet Union.

-These nations practiced Communism. While Stalin had promised FDR that these areas would have free elections, this promise was never fulfilled to the USA.
In WW II, Hitler broke his agreement with Stalin and invaded the USSR taking over a city called Stalingrad.
Stalin set up a blockade around Stalingrad, starving the Nazis out and forcing Germany to retreat out of the USSR.
Russians invading East Germany during World War II
The Soviet Union forced the nations of Eastern Europe to be Satellite Nations to the USSR.
The Satellite Nations
The Policy of Containment

-In 1946, George Kennan, an American diplomat, in Moscow, suggested the policy of Containment. Truman wanted to contain Communism and ensure it spread no further.

-Containment would prevent Russia from gaining too much power without taking them on in a direct fight.

-Winston Churchill coined the phrase “iron curtain.” He said an iron curtain now divided Europe. Democracy was in the West and Communism in the East.
Churchill claimed a symbolic “iron curtain” now divided Europe from the Democratic West and the Communist East.
Truman’s goal of “Containment” was simply to keep Communism from spreading any further into the world.
The Truman Doctrine

- Truman asserted the USA would support any nation that needed help defending itself from Communism, except the Satellite Nations. The USSR controlled these areas.

- The Marshall Plan stated aid would be given to the war torn nations of Western Europe too.

- The goal was for these nations to agree that their best interests rested in a Capitalistic / Democratic future.
The Fight Over the City of Berlin

- By 1948, the USA, Britain, France combined their German zones; Russia refused to relinquish control of the East. Even though it was in the eastern half, West Berlin was allowed to be controlled by Democracy.

- During the Berlin Airlift, West Berlin had food dropped over by the USA, since Stalin cut off supplies to their area. The West wanted to control the western portion of the capital to keep influence in Germany.

- These efforts gained the allegiance of the people. Food, medicine, fuel, and even toys for children were dropped off in the area.
The USA and the World

-The Berlin Airlift and money being given to various nations caused America’s reputation to increase around the world.

-The Federal Republic of Germany was born out of the 3 zones that were allowed to unite and they formed a Democracy.

-The Soviet Union called the Eastern half the “German Democratic Republic.” This name was merely propaganda, there was nothing “Democratic” about it.
The western half of Germany united as a Democracy. The eastern half of Germany remained under the control of the USSR, except for the city of West Berlin, which remained a Democracy.
After the fall of Hitler, the nation of Germany was controlled by France, Great Britain, the USA and the USSR. The USSR controlled the entire Eastern half. This is what the capital city of Berlin looked like after WW II.
The Berlin Airlift to the city of West Berlin
A plane drops off supplies during the Berlin Airlift.
Children gather as the Berlin Airlift drops off supplies.
In 1949, the USA and nations in Europe formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. They claimed that, if the USSR attacked any of them, they would defend each other.
In response to the NATO alliance, the USSR made the Warsaw Pact with the Satellite Nations.
NATO vs. the Warsaw Pact

-In 1949, Denmark, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Britain, Iceland, Italy, and the USA joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

-This was a Collective Security. Military support would come to any member country that was attacked.

-In response, the USSR formed the Warsaw Pact as an alliance ready to strike NATO, if it was attacked.
THE
END