The Cold War (1945-1991)
What is it

- US vs. USSR
- state of tension
- nuclear arms race
- Space Race
- propaganda war
- fighting through client states
USSR / Soviet Union (1922-1991)
ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR
Causes

- clash of ideologies: capitalism/democracy vs. communism
- power rivalry
Above: “Capitalists of the world, unite!”
No single start date … 3 wartime conferences b/t GB, USSR, US

- **Nov. 1943: Tehran Conference**
  - plan how to beat Germany

- **Feb. 1945: Yalta Conference**
  - plan for postwar Germany
  - USSR joins war vs. Japan
  - E. Europe – free elections, pro-Russian

- **July 1945: Potsdam Conference**
  - US demands free elections & USSR refuses
The **Big Three**: Churchill, FDR, Stalin (Yalta)
No single start date ...

- March 1946: Churchill’s “iron curtain” speech
- March 1947: Truman Doctrine (containment)
- June 1947: Marshall Plan
- 1948: Berlin blockade/airlift
2 alliances: **NATO** vs. **Warsaw Pact**
The “iron curtain”
Marshall Plan
Postwar division of Germany
USSR
Major Soviet Leaders

- Lenin (1917-1924)
- Stalin (1924-1953)
- Khrushchev (1955-1964)
- Brezhnev (1964-1982)
- Gorbachev (1985-1991)
Stalin (1924–1953)

- totalitarian
- central planning:
  - 5 Year Plans
  - collectivization
- 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
Cult of the Leader: Lenin’s Tomb
Lenin
Red Square
Military display in Red Square
May 9, 2008 – Tanks roll into Red Square again ... V-E Day Celebration
Socialist Realism

Boris Eremeevich Vladimirskii, *Roses for Stalin* (1949)
Propaganda Poster

“Help build the gigantic factories”
Advertises state loan to finance 1st Five Year Plan
Anti-Religion: Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan
Hammer & Sickle
Hammer & Sickle (Moscow Metro)
SHIFTS IN WESTERN EUROPE
1. **Decolonization** (& neocolonialism)
2. Politics

- postwar – new leaders:
  - Christian Democrats
  - soc/com … “welfare state”
  - US

- 1950s-early 80s: welfare state = heavy gov’t spending

- 1980s – conservatism:
  - Reagan (US)
  - Thatcher (GB)
  - Kohl (W. Germany)

Margaret Thatcher, British PM 1979-1990
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.)
Key Struggles of the Cold War
The Arms Race
Worldwide nuclear testing, 1945 - 2013
The Korean War
Since liberated from the Japanese (1945), Korea split into north (supported by Soviets) and South (supported by US) of 38th parallel

With Stalin’s approval, North invades South

US intervened, sending American troops to aid south; Mao Zedong (leader of Communist China) sent own Chinese men to force troops back to south line

In the end, 38th parallel remained as boundary line between North and South
The Space Race!
US VS. USSR
- 1957 - Soviets launch *Sputnik I*, the first satellite (significance: US becomes fearful that communist reaching space first causes ideas that communism is good)

- 1959 - Yuri Gagarin became first man in space

- 1961 - JFK launches the race to the moon

- 1969 - Apollo 11 reaches the moon first
Vietnam War (height, 1968-1973)

*Life* magazine Vol. 64, No. 10 in the 8 March 1968 issue.
A photo from the Tet Offensive.
Détente (1970s)

- relaxation of cold war tensions
- Willy Brandt’s *Ostpolitik* (W. German reconciliation w/ E. Europe)
- 1975 Final Act of the Helsinki Conference
  - reaffirm Euro. borders
  - human rights
Détente ends (late ’70s-mid 80s)

- Brezhnev ignored Helsinki human rights
- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979)
- Reagan calls USSR the “evil empire”
- Reagan ↑ defense spending
  - SDI = “Star Wars Program”
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 - Pope JPII
- Hungary
- E. Germany
  - Berlin Wall falls
- Czechoslovakia
  - **Velvet Revolution**
- Romania
  - only violent rev.
German Reunification (1990)

- E. Germans wanted better life
- Gorby agreed – Germany pledged peaceful intent + loans to USSR
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)

- Gorby wanted to reform communism & keep the USSR, which pleased no one:
  - hardline communists
  - democrats (led by Yeltsin)

- Who won?

Boris Yeltsin, Russian pres. 1991-1999
Collapse of the USSR (1991)