The Origins of the Cold War
With the Second World War coming to an end, so was the wartime alliance.

The Potsdam Conference would be the last time The Eastern and Western Allies would meet.
The Beginnings

- Without a common enemy around which to unite, the old divisions between East & West emerged once more.
The Beginnings

• Soviet and American troops meet at the Elbe River in Germany in April 1945.

• Both were surprised at how “normal” the others were...
The Beginnings

• After the Potsdam conference, and the end of the Second World War, these divisions became even more apparent.

• The war had ended, but two super powers emerged with opposing ideologies.
The Bipolar World

- The 2 ‘superpowers’ would compete to be the dominant force in the world
- Visual representations:
  - Soviets=Bear
  - Americans=Eagle or Uncle Sam
The Bipolar World

- Two key words are **expansion** & **containment**
  - The West was afraid the Soviets would try to **EXPAND** their sphere of influence in Europe
  - The US wanted to **CONTAIN** the Soviets where they were and not let them expand
Impact of Cold War

• As the 2 superpowers after WWII, US & USSR affected every country in the world
• Both thought THEIR way was the best way
• When they got along, everyone exhaled, but when they clashed over an issue, the world held its breath
• Open conflict could mean NUCLEAR WAR!!!
Richtor Scale of the Cold War

BRINKMANSHP & PROXY WAR →→ →→

Cuban Missile Crisis

“Hotline” established

Vietnam War

U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam

USSR invasion of Afghanistan

Star Wars (Reagan/US)

DÉTENTE & PEACEFUL CO-EXISTANCE

German Reunification

Perestroïka & Glasnost

Berlin Wall falls

USSR crumbles

1945    '48                 '49       '50             '55       '61                 '62               '64               '65               '75                                         '79      '83                          '85  '89 '90        1991

Berlin Wall built

Korean War

Warsaw Pact

Khrushchev replaced with Brezhnev (USSR)

“Hotline” established

Vietnam War

U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam

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The Cold War Defined

• Period of **high tension** between the 2 superpowers, US & USSR, from 1945-90

• Often considered a war **between communism** & **capitalism**

• Involved **threat of war** rather than open conflict between U.S. & U.S.S.R.

• Involved threat of WW3 & nuclear war (& destruction of civilization/earth)
From Allies to Enemies

Relations deteriorated very quickly because of 2 key speeches:

– Stalin’s ‘Two Hostile Camps’ speech; Feb ‘46
– Churchill’s ‘Iron Curtain’ speech; Mar ‘46
Opening Shots of Cold War Shots

Churchill’s Iron Curtain Speech (March 1946):

- Churchill took the communist threat very seriously.
- On invitation of President Truman, Churchill went to America & gave a speech on the need for the unification of English-speaking people against Communism which would act outside of the UN.
- This speech was known as the Iron Curtain Speech. Its aim was to convince Americans that Truman’s tough policy against the spread of Soviet Communism was legitimate.
- Stalin was furious & accused Churchill of spreading racist banter, comparing him to Hitler, wanting a world controlled by English-speaking people.
COLD WAR

- EASTERN BLOC
- WESTERN BLOC
- IRON CURTAIN

Map showing the Eastern and Western Blocs during the Cold War, with countries colored accordingly.
Policy Of Containment

• George Keenan, U.S. diplomat & expert on Soviet affairs, warned Washington in 1946 that the traditional & instinctive Russian sense of insecurity combined with communist ideology, secretiveness & conspiracy would eventually mean trouble.

• He believed Stalin’s plan called for revolution in order to overthrow capitalism.

• What made Americans even more paranoid was the fact that the Soviets believed that they did not need to push communism, it would be a natural progression throughout the world.

• Keenan argued that if the U.S. could contain communism, it would crumble.

• It was meant to be a defensive strategy.
Containment

• Keenan promoted the idea of spheres of influence (control over parts of the world)
• However, President Truman was not willing to accept a Soviet sphere of influence
• The result, Keenan’s defensive ideology was replaced with Truman’s policy that called for reducing Soviet influence around the world along with containing it
• US policy of containment was reflected in 3 key events:
  – **Truman Doctrine**
  – **Marshall Plan**
  – **Formation of NATO**
*Be able to connect each of these to containment*
1. Trigger was the Greek Civil War (Communist vs. others) where U.K. couldn’t support it anymore

2. Turkey under pressure from the USSR for concessions in the Dardanelles.

3. “Truman Doctrine”: The U.S. should support free peoples throughout the world who were resisting takeovers by armed minorities or outside pressures…We must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way.

4. U.S. gave Greece & Turkey $400 million in aid
The ‘Truman Doctrine’

- Truman was horrified at the pre-war Allied policy of appeasement & was determined to stand up to any Soviet intimidation.
- **Truman Doctrine** (Mar 1947) - USA “would support free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.”
- Financial & military aid to Greece & Turkey, & financial aid to help capitalists stop communists in Italy & France from gaining political power.
- It signalled end of U.S. “isolationist” policies.
- It would see U.S. aid & the sacrifice of countless lives to stop communism around the world for next 43 years. It would have serious consequences for the whole world.
1. Created by U.S. Secretary of State, George Marshall

2. “Marshall Plan:” U.S. should provide aid to all European nations that need it. This move is not against any country or doctrine, but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos.

3. Most of Europe in ruins. $12.5 billion of US aid to Western Europe extended to Eastern Europe & USSR, [but this was rejected].

* U.S. gave over $12 billion in aid to European countries between 1948 & 1952, helping to improve their economies & lessen the chance of communist revolutions.
Marshall Plan Aided Western Europe

- **16 West European** countries received almost $13 Billion in economic aid.
- **Eastern Europe** including the **U.S.S.R.** invited to participate. Only Yugoslavia accepted
- **Funding loaned between 1948 & 1952**

![Marshall Plan Payments Graph](image-url)
The Marshall Plan aided Western Europe

• Marshall Plan was a great success:
  – Within 4 years, countries receiving aid saw a 41% higher industrial production than on the eve of WWII
  – Countries were stabilized and exports were rising rapidly
• U.S. benefited:
  – U.S. govt. bought foods & goods from farms to be sent to Europe
  – U.S. farms & factories raised production to record levels
  – U.S. economy continued its wartime boom without faltering
  – West Europeans became great consumers of American exports
The Marshall Plan, and Review

• http://youtu.be/Xyoviiavusk
The Marshall Plan, and Review

• Was the Marshall plan completely un-biased?
• What effects did it have on the American Economy?
Soviet Reaction

- Stalin wanted to protect Soviet Union from “hostile” forces in the West bent on destroying his country.
- Stalin strengthened his hold on Eastern Europe through:
  - Molotov Plan
  - Berlin Blockade
  - Formation of Warsaw Pact Military Alliance
The Molotov Plan

• Soviet version of Marshall Plan for economic recovery of Eastern Europe under communist control
  • Soviets viewed Marshall Plan as threat as it would allow U.S. to find out weakness of the U.S.S.R.
  • Molotov Plan members: U.S.S.R., Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, East Germany
  • Molotov Plan did not work well as U.S.S.R. couldn’t fund rebuilding of other states as well as the U.S. as the U.S.S.R. had suffered severe damage in WW2
Marshall Plan vs. Molotov
Remember Divided Germany
Focus on Berlin

- After WW2, Germany was divided into 4 zones, occupied by French, British, American & Soviet troops.

Occupation Zones after 1945. Berlin is the multi-national area within the Soviet zone.
Berlin: Flashpoint of Cold War

- West Berlin was an outpost of Western democracy & economic success deep within the communist zone – like a capitalist island within communist East Germany

- **Berlin Blockade**: attempt to starve West Berlin into submitting [giving up] to the communists

- Allied [Western Powers] airlift signalled its determination to use all resources to defend Berlin

- Both sides believed Berlin could act as the trigger for general war between capitalist & communist countries
In June of 1948, the French, British and American zones were joined into the nation of West Germany after the Soviets refused to end their occupation of Germany.
In response, the Soviets cut off West Berlin from the rest of the world with a **Blockade of land routes to West Berlin**.
The Berlin Blockade and Airlift
Berlin 1949
A Huge Airlift by Allied Airforces:

- President Truman decided to avoid the blockade by flying in food and other supplies to the needy people of West Berlin.

- At times, over 5,000 tons of supplies arrived daily
Post-War Germany
Germany Remains Divided

• In May of 1949, Stalin ended the blockade
• The Soviet zone of occupied Germany including East Berlin was given independence as East Germany (1949)
• In the West, The Federated Republic of Germany was created.

October, 1949
The Federated Republic of Germany (West Germany)

1. Created in 1949 with the capital at Bonn
2. Its army limited to 12 divisions [275,000]
3. Konrad Adenauer, a Christian Democrat, was its 1st President
   - Coalition of moderates and conservatives.
   - Pro-Western foreign policy (in NATO)
   - German “economic miracle”
4. “Father of Modern Germany”
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (April, 1949)

- United States
- Belgium
- Britain
- Canada
- Denmark
- France
- Iceland
- Italy

- Luxemburg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- 1952: Greece & Turkey
- 1955: West Germany
- 1983: Spain
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (April, 1949)

- **Military alliance** created in 1949 by democratic countries to defend western Europe against invasion by the Soviet Red Army based in East Germany.

- **Red Army** outnumbered western armies & was viewed as overpowering.

- Principle of **collective security** (all defend in order to match power of Red Army) with democratic decision making even though U.S. is the strongest military power.

- **West Germany** joins in 1955 & provides 2nd largest military force.

- **NATO exists today** with more members & is fighting in Afghanistan & Libya.
The Arms Race: A “Missile Gap?”

The Soviet Union exploded its first A-bomb in 1949.

Now there were two nuclear superpowers!
Warsaw Pact (1955)

- U. S. S. R.
- Albania
- Bulgaria
- Czechoslovakia
- East Germany
- Hungary
- Poland
- Rumania
Warsaw Pact (1955)

- **Military alliance** created in 1955 by communist countries to defend Eastern Europe against invasion by NATO

- In reality, it was an **offensive alliance** as it war plans were all plans for **invasion of western Europe**

- **Soviet Red Army** was the most important & largest military member & made all key decisions

- Warsaw Pact forces **invaded Hungary** (1956) & **Czechoslovakia** (1968) in order to keep these countries from breaking free of Soviet control & becoming more democratic

- Warsaw Pact was dissolved in 1991 with the collapse/fall of the U.S.S.R.

- Some **former members** of the Warsaw Pact have now joined NATO (e.g. Poland, Hungary, etc.)
## NATO VS. Warsaw pact

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alliance</th>
<th>Origins</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) NATO</td>
<td>A defensive military alliance of Western nations, led by the US. Formed in 1949 against</td>
<td>Twelve original members—United States, Canada, Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands,</td>
<td>To provide mutual defence—where an attack on one was an attack on all. This meant the commitment of the US to the defence of the Western</td>
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<td>the background of the Cold War.</td>
<td>Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, and Luxembourg.</td>
<td>world and the rearming of Europe to counter the Soviet threat and prevent the expansion of communism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Warsaw Pact</td>
<td>A Soviet alliance to counter NATO. Formed in 1955 immediately after West Germany was</td>
<td>Eight members: Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland,</td>
<td>To serve as a defensive military alliance against the West—NATO in particular.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>allowed to join NATO (and therefore would be rearmed).</td>
<td>and Romania.</td>
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Mao’s Revolution: 1949

- Chinese Communists under Mao win the Civil War
- Who lost China? – A 2nd Communist World Power!