

Unit 4

Political Organization of Space



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This PPT has been created using the information from the *AMSCO Human Geography: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination* book.
Palmer, David. *AMSCO Advanced Placement Human Geography*. Perfection Learning, 2019.



UNIT 4 – POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF SPACE

CH 9: THE SHAPE OF THE POLITICAL MAP

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (4.A)

By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **the contemporary political map has been shaped by events of the past.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (4.A.3)

By the end of this section, you will *be able to evaluate the geopolitical forces that influence the contemporary political map.*

- a. Students will know that independence movements and democratization have shaped the political map since the end of World War II.
- b. Students will know that the fall of Communism ended the Cold War, led to the creation of newly independent states, and changed the world balance of power.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

- While the European colonies in Africa and Asia did not last long, their legacy was strong.
- It can be seen in contemporary maps and the links among countries.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

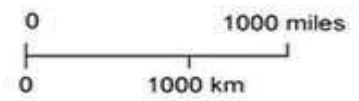
Modern Colonial Independence Movements

- Colonists often resisted the rule of Europeans, sometimes violently, because they wanted economic control over natural resources, free elections, and changes in society (racial equality, religious freedom)
- The United Nations supported these demands for *self-determination* and within 100 years of the Berlin Conference, almost all European colonial territories gained independence.
- This is known as **decolonization**.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

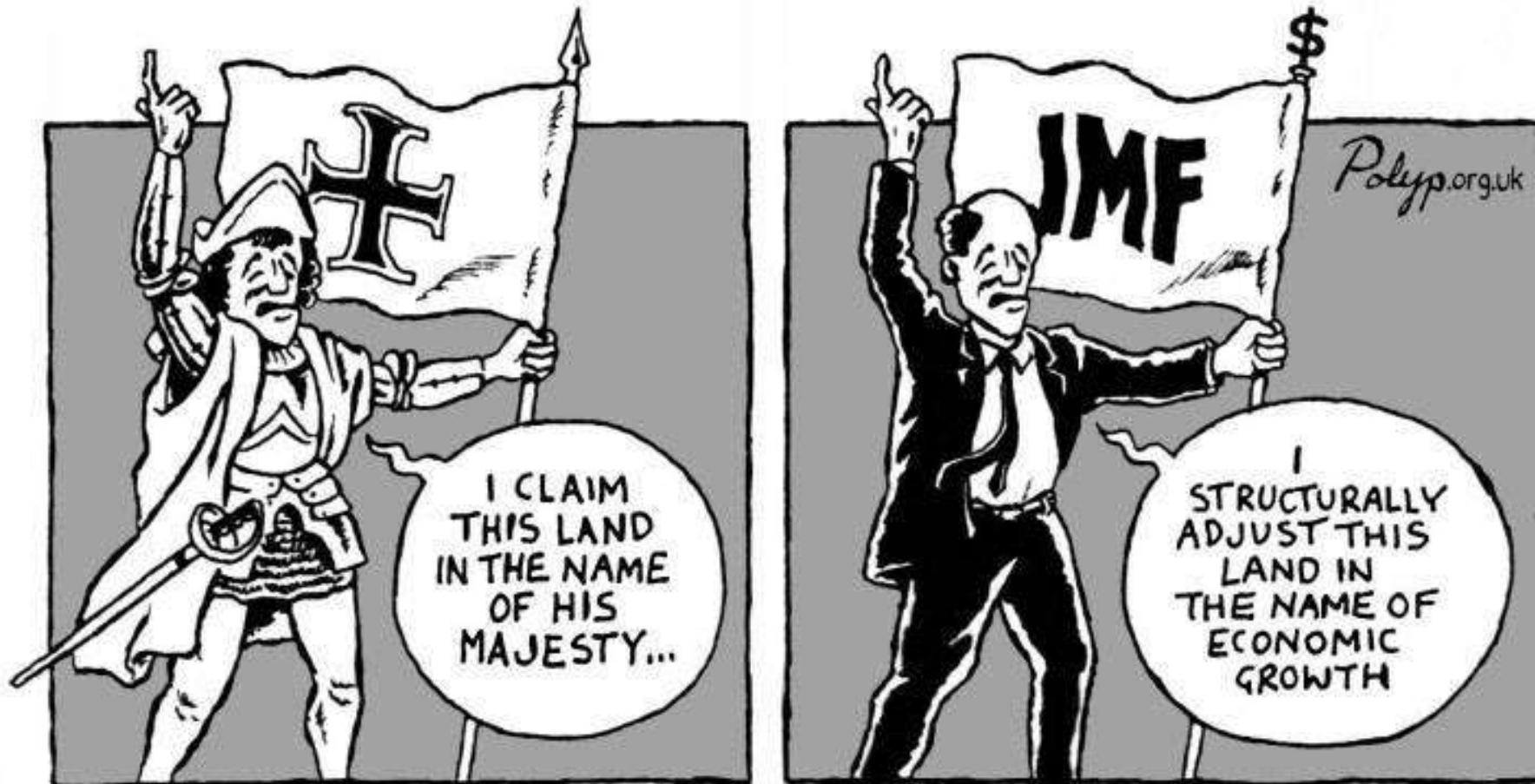
Modern Colonial Independence Movements

- However, many gained political independence, but not economic independence
- Transnational corporations continued to extract natural resources
 - Mining
 - Coffee, cacao, bananas, etc.
- **Neocolonization**, remember *neo* means new, is when control over developing countries is indirect and can be economic, political, or even cultural.



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GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP



'PROGRESS'

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP



DECOLONIZATION



GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

Civil Wars in the Developing World

- From 1960-1970, 32 colonies, not cultural groups, gained independence and many imposed boundaries remained.
- Cultural and political boundaries did not match leading to civil war
- Rwanda, 1994
 - Hutu and Tutsi
 - **Genocide**
- Pattern: Independence → civil war and regional conflict

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GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

- War against the spread of communism
- Diplomatic, political, and military rivalry between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR/Soviet Union)
- Started after World War I (1945)
- Continued through the collapse of the Berlin Wall (1989)
- Ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union (1991)

COLLAPSE OF THE BERLIN WALL



The Breakup of the Soviet Union, 1991



GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

- The United States and Soviet Union did not fight directly – they fought proxy wars (proxy: representative)
 - Korea
 - Vietnam
 - Afghanistan
- Goal was to extend their sphere of influence

**SOVIET
COMMUNISM**

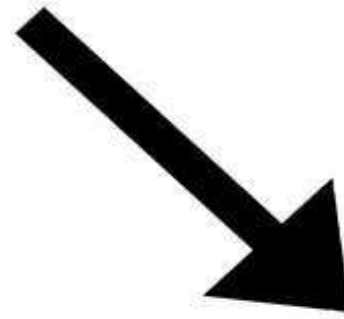
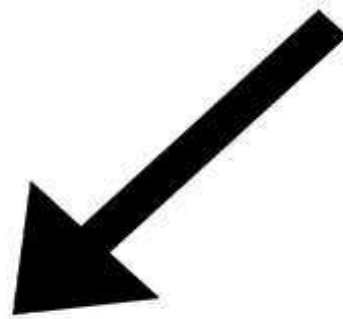
**AMERICA
DEMOCRACY**



COLD WAR



(1947-1991)



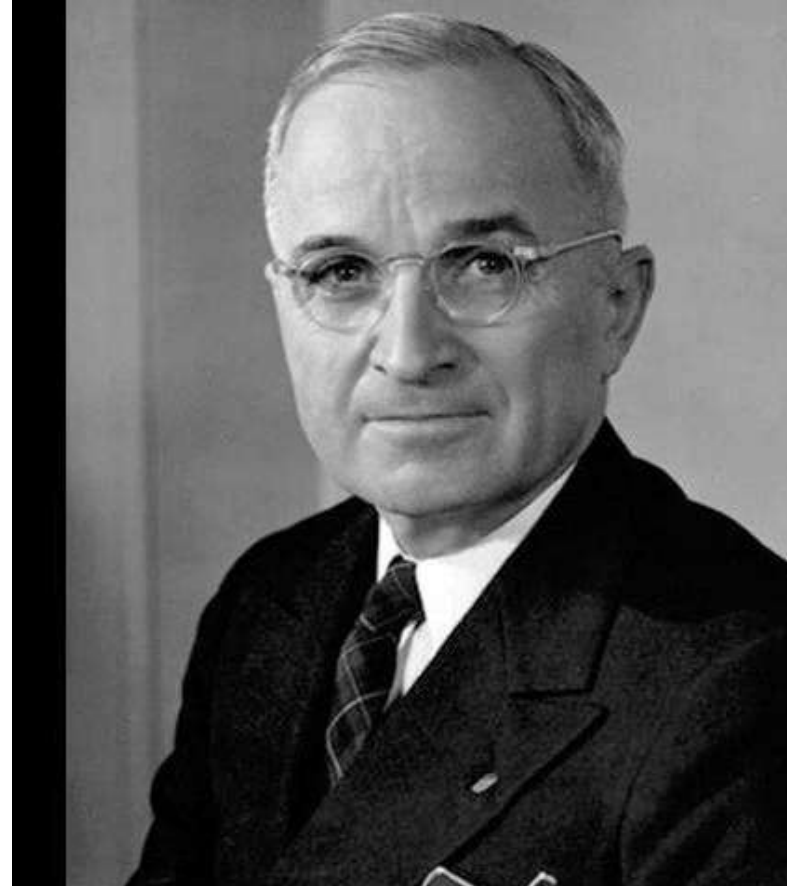
**Soviet War
in Afghanistan**
(1979-1989)



**Vietnam
War**
(1955-1975)



Korean War
(1950-1953)



KOREAN WAR





VIETNAM WAR

A map of Vietnam and its surrounding region, including Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and parts of China. The map shows major cities, rivers, and geographical features like the Gulf of Tonkin and the Gulf of Thailand.



AFGHANISTAN WAR

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

- Frontline for the Cold War was in Europe
- After defeating the Nazis, Europe was divided between East and West
- East became Soviet **satellite states** (dominated politically and economically by another state)
- Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968) tried to break away from Soviet domination but were unsuccessful

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

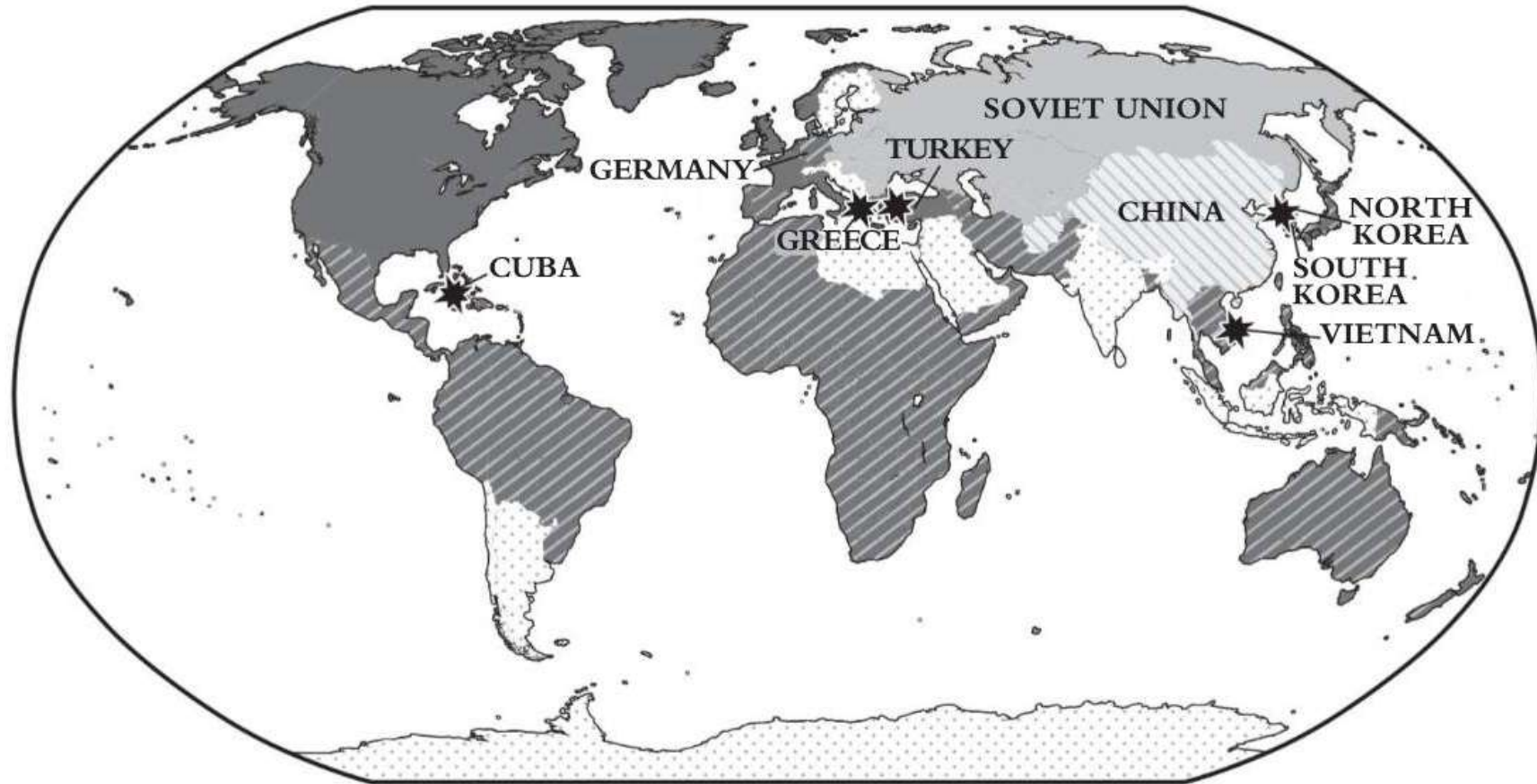
- Germany was more complicated and was divided in 4 zones
 - United States
 - United Kingdom
 - France
 - Soviet Union
- First 3 formed the Federal Republic of Germany (West)
- Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic

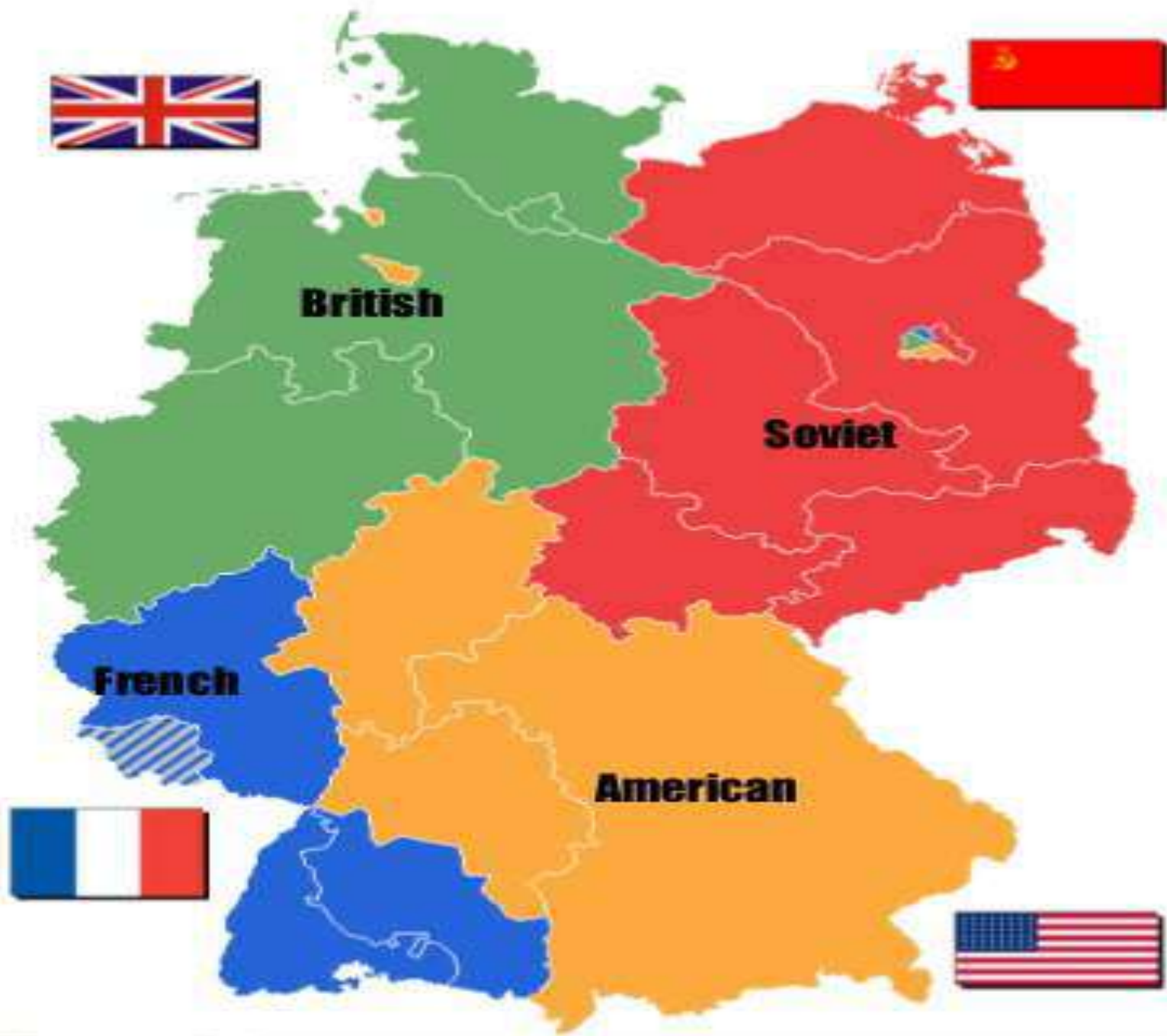
GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Cold War

- The split carried into the smaller city of Berlin, located *inside* the Soviet zone.
- Divided into four parts
 - Soviet – East Berlin
 - Other three – West Berlin (located in East Germany – which is Soviet)

COLD WAR BLOCS, C. 1960





Germany Divided

- *After World War II, Germany was divided into four zones, occupied by French, British, American, and Soviet troops*
- *Berlin, the capital city, was divided*

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

The Collapse of Communism

- Late 1980s – new leadership relaxes the grip on satellite states
- November 1989, Germans on both sides bring down the Berlin Wall
- Germany reunites and former satellite states hold free elections
- Soviet Union began to collapse and, eventually, all 15 republics became independent states.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

Newly Independent States

- After 1990, political borders changed again
- Most of Europe made a smooth transition out of communism
 - Example: 1993, Czechoslovakia transitioned into the Czech Republic and Republic of Slovakia – called the **Velvet Divorce**
- Some were more violent
 - Example: 1991, Yugoslavia – ethnic tension erupted and hundreds of thousands died in clashes between the Bosnians, Serbs, and others
 - **Ethnic cleansing** – the forced removal of a minority ethnic group from a territory.

GEOPOLITICAL FORCES INFLUENCING TODAY'S MAP

Changes in the Balance of Power

- The collapse of communism and the Soviet Union drastically changed the balance of power in Europe and the world
- Some countries joined the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Trade Organization (NATO), the western military alliance formed in 1949 to oppose Soviet military power in Europe
- The balance of economic, political, and military power tilted toward Western Europe and the United States

THE GROWTH OF NATO, 1945 TO 2015

