

# Introduction to the Cold War



# MAIN IDEAS

- **ECONOMICS:** The conflicting economic systems, capitalism and communism, competed for influence and power after WWII. The superpowers in this struggle were the United States and the Soviet Union
- **REVOLUTION:** In Asia, the Americas, and Eastern Europe, people revolted against repressive government or rule by foreign powers. These revolutions often became the areas for conflict between the two superpowers
- **EMPIRE BUILDING:** The United States and the Soviet Union used military, economic and humanitarian aid to extend their control over countries. Each also tried to prevent the other superpower from gaining influence

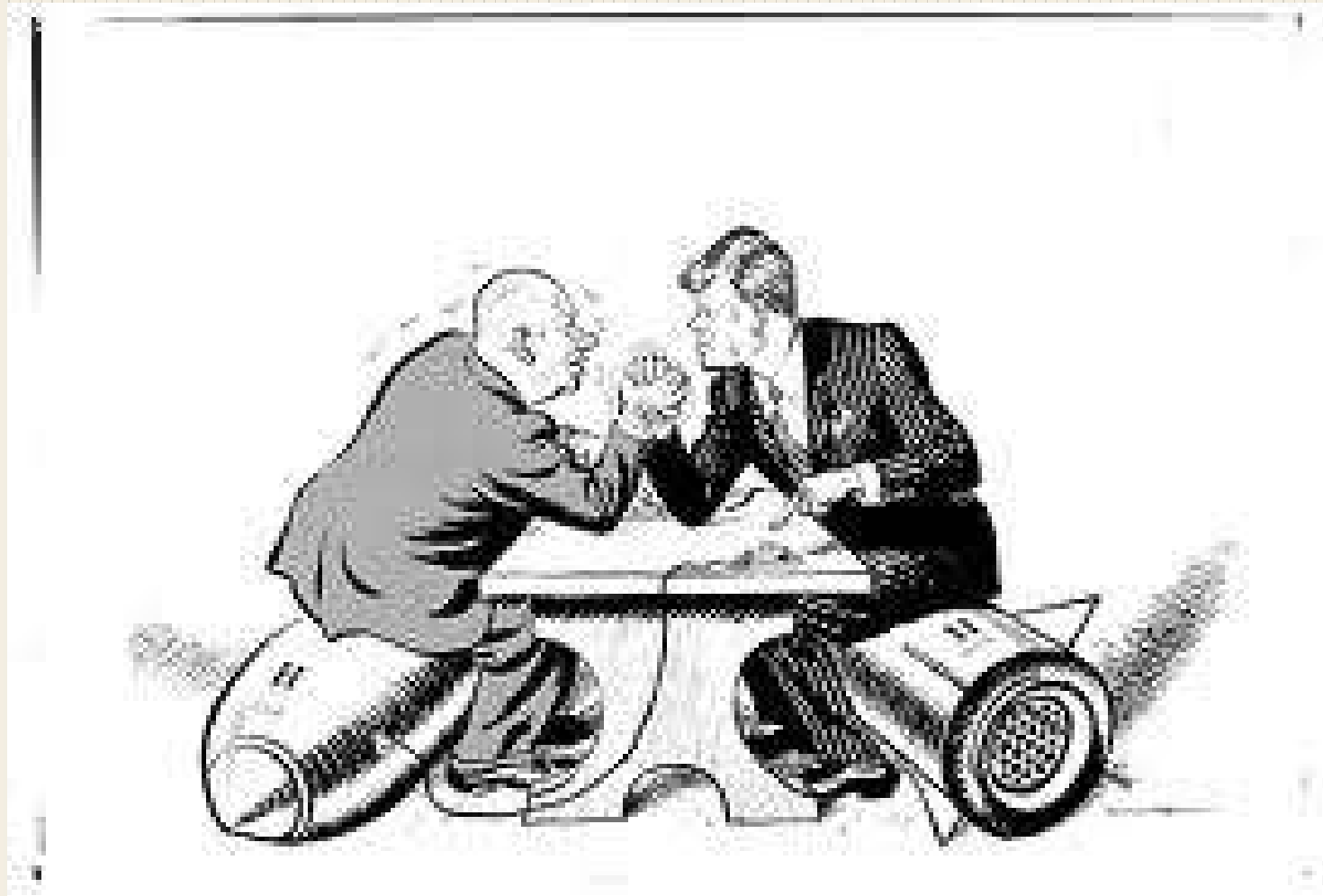
# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **SYNOPSIS:** WWII has just ended and you are the leader of a great superpower – one of two in the world. To keep the balance of power in your nation's favor, you want to gain as many allies as possible. You are particularly interested in gaining the support of nations in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America who do not yet favor either superpower. You call your advisors together to develop policies for making uncommitted nations your allies.
  - What policies would you follow to gain allies?
  - How might the actions taken affect your country? The other superpower?
  - How might being caught in a struggle between superpowers affect a developing nation?

# Cold War: Superpowers Face Off



# Kennedy VS Khrushchev



# Main Idea

- The opposing economic and political philosophies of the United States and the Soviet Union led to global competition

# Why It Matters Now

- The conflicts between the United States and Soviet Union played a major role in reshaping the modern world



- **SETTING THE STAGE:** During WWII, the United States and the Soviet Union had joined forces to fight against the Germans. The Soviet army marched west; the Americans marched east. When the Allied soldiers met at the Elbe River in Germany in 1945, they embraced each other warmly because they had defeated the Nazis. Their leaders, however, regarded each other much more coolly. This animosity caused by competing political philosophies would lead to a nearly half-century conflict called the Cold War.

# Allies Become Enemies

- Even before the end of WWII, the relationship between the US and Soviet Union was beginning to unravel
- The US was mad because the Soviets signed a non-aggression pact with Germany; the Soviets were mad because the US didn't invade Europe sooner

# Yalta Conference

- Plans for end of war and future of Europe
- Agreed that Stalin would support free elections in Eastern European countries
- Agreed to divide up Germany

# Differing US and Soviet Goals

- After the war, the two countries were sharply divided
- The war affected the countries very differently
  - US lost 400,000; cities and factories still in tact
  - Soviet Union lost at least 20,000,000; one in four Soviets wounded or killed; Soviet cities were completely destroyed
- Look at chart on page 966

# Eastern Europe's Iron Curtain

- Soviets goal was to shield itself from another invasion from the west, Eastern European countries were going to act as a buffer zone between the Soviet Union and the rest of Europe
- Soviets had a long history of western invasions (Germany invading in both world wars, Napoleon's invasion, Swedes and the Poles invaded as well)



■ Soviet satellite state

USSR

EAST  
GERMANY

POLAND

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

HUNGARY

ROMANIA

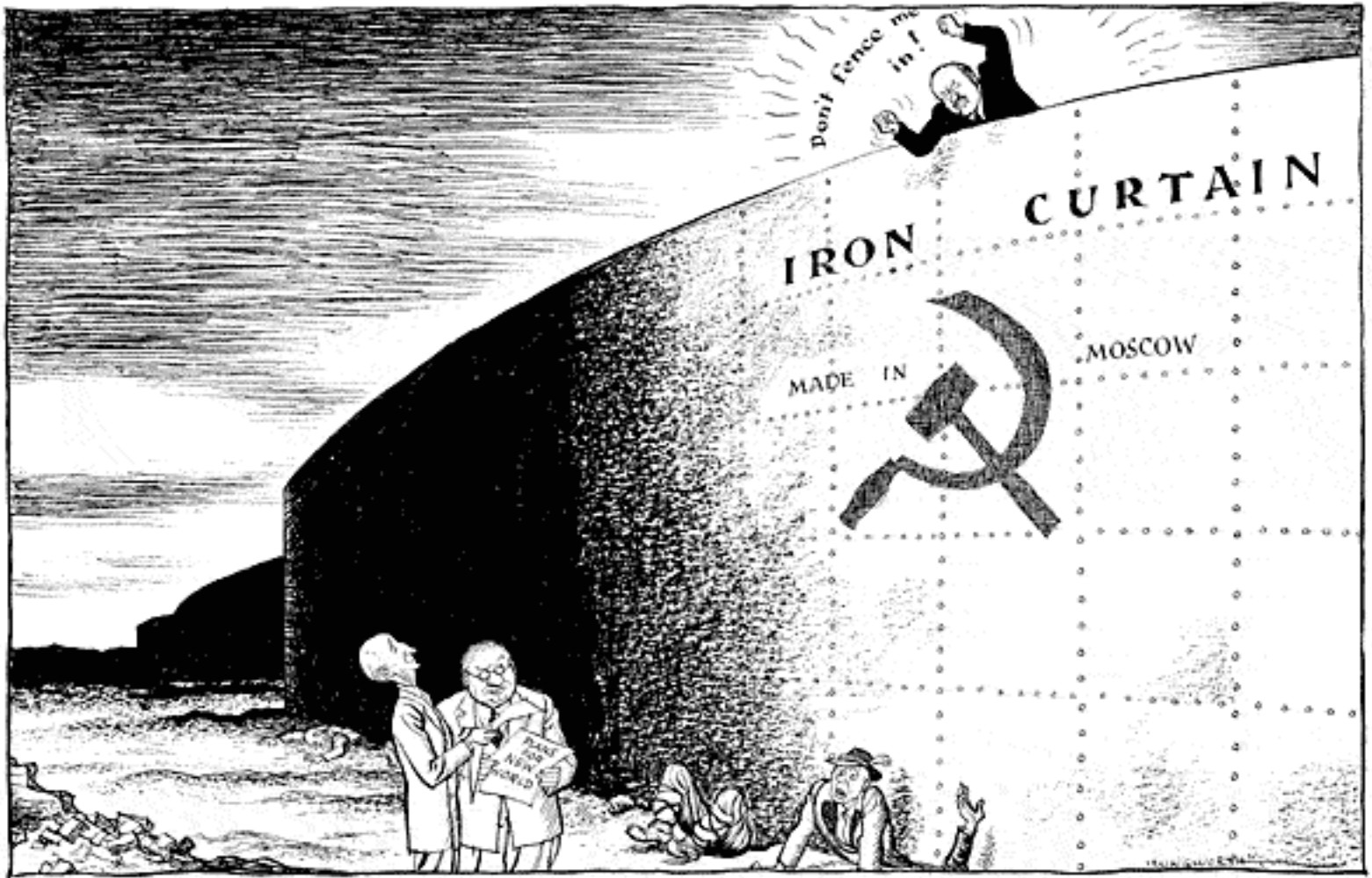
BULGARIA

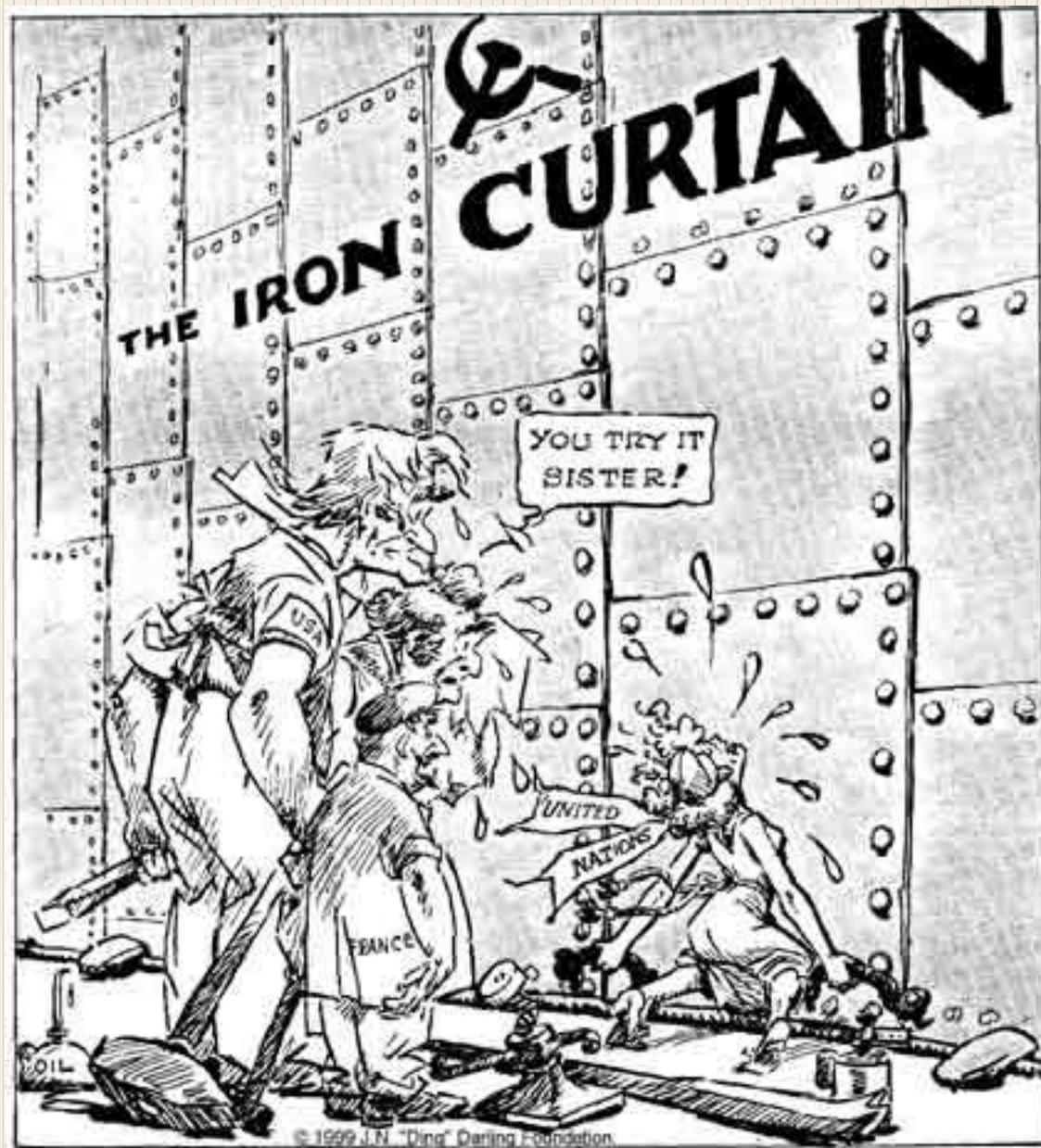
- Stalin established communist governments in several Eastern European countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland and Yugoslavia) – this was Stalin ignoring the Yalta Conference agreement
- President Truman, Stalin and Churchill met at the Potsdam Conference to try to address this and Stalin refused saying that capitalism and communism could not exist in the same world

# Iron Curtain Divides East and West

- Democratic in the West, Communist in the East – started with Germany and extended to other countries
- “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe...All these famous cities and the populations around them lie in the Soviet sphere and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and increasing measure of control from Moscow.” – Winston Churchill “Iron Curtain” March 5, 1946









# United States Tries to Contain Soviets

- President Truman adopted the policy of containment
- Look at quote on page 968
- Truman Doctrine

- Marshall Plan – US tried to gain influence over countries threatened by communism

# The Cold War Divides the World

- The two superpowers used propaganda, spying, diplomacy and secret operations in dealing with each other
- Much of the world sided with one side or the other

# Rival Alliances

- NATO
- Warsaw Pact

# Threat of Nuclear War

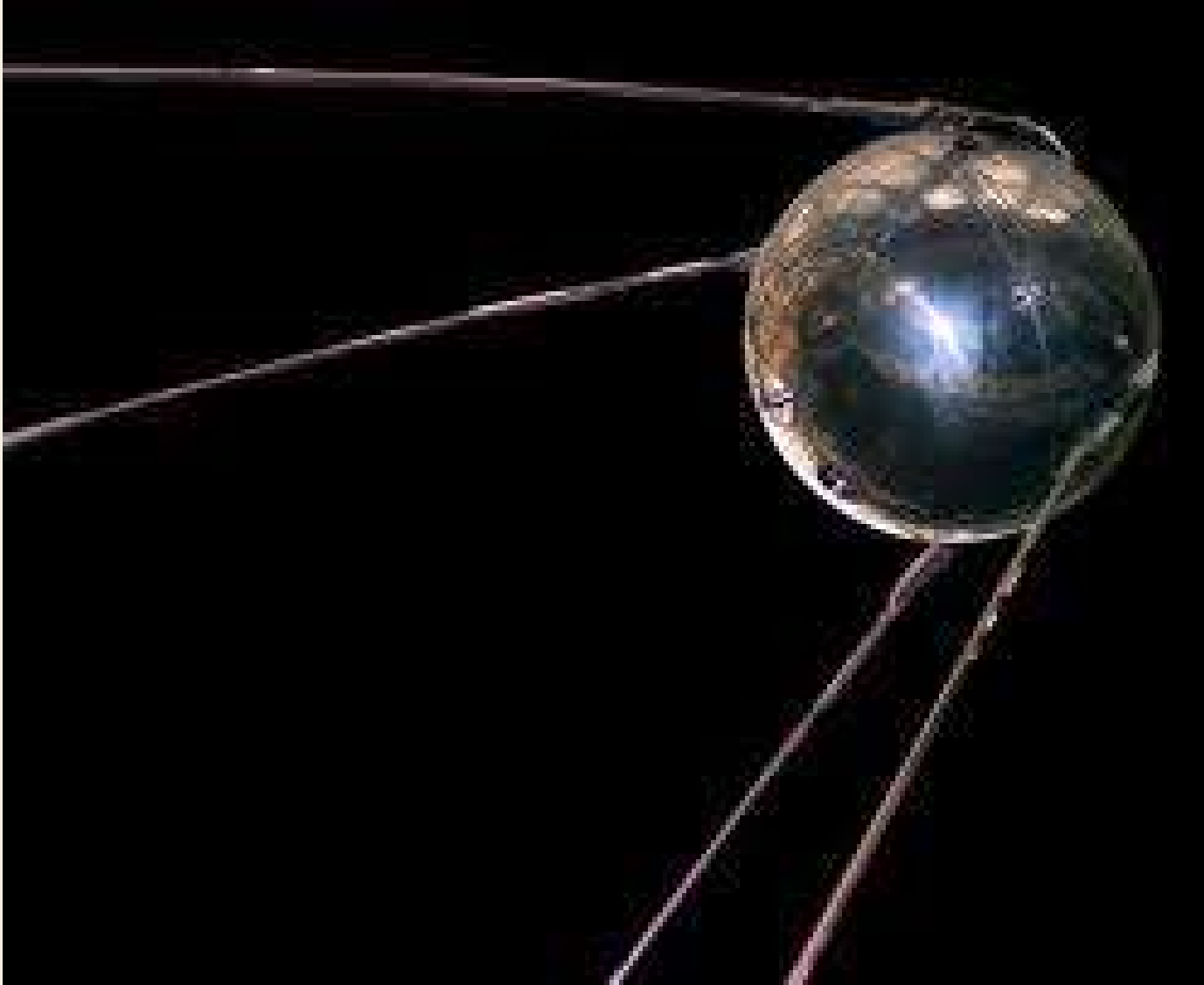
- US already had nuclear weapons and in 1949, the Soviets successfully exploded their own
- President Truman wanted to one up the Soviets, and in 1950, approved the plan to work on thermonuclear weapons
  - Hydrogen Bomb thousands of times more powerful than an A-Bomb – its power comes from fusion (the joining together of atoms instead of the splitting of atoms)
  - US successfully tested in 1952, Soviets in 1953
- Eisenhower becomes president of the US and adopts a new, more aggressive anti-communism policy, brinksmanship





# Cold War in the Skies

- 1957, Soviets perfected the ICBM, propelled Sputnik into space
- The US felt defeated, but by 1958, the US had done the same
- Eisenhower had proposed that the two countries should be able to fly over each other's airspace (to protect against surprise attack) the Soviets said no
- CIA began to use high altitude U-2 planes to spy, in 1960, the Soviets shot one down and the pilot was held captive



# SOVIET DOWNS AMERICAN PLANE; U.S. SAYS IT WAS WEATHER CRAFT; KHRUSHCHEV SEES SUMMIT BLOW

## CAPITAL EXPLAINS

Report Warned U.S. Yanked at Border After Difficulty

## PREMIER IS BITTER

Keen 'Provision' Aimed at Blocking May 16 Treaty

