

Cold War

Lecture Notes

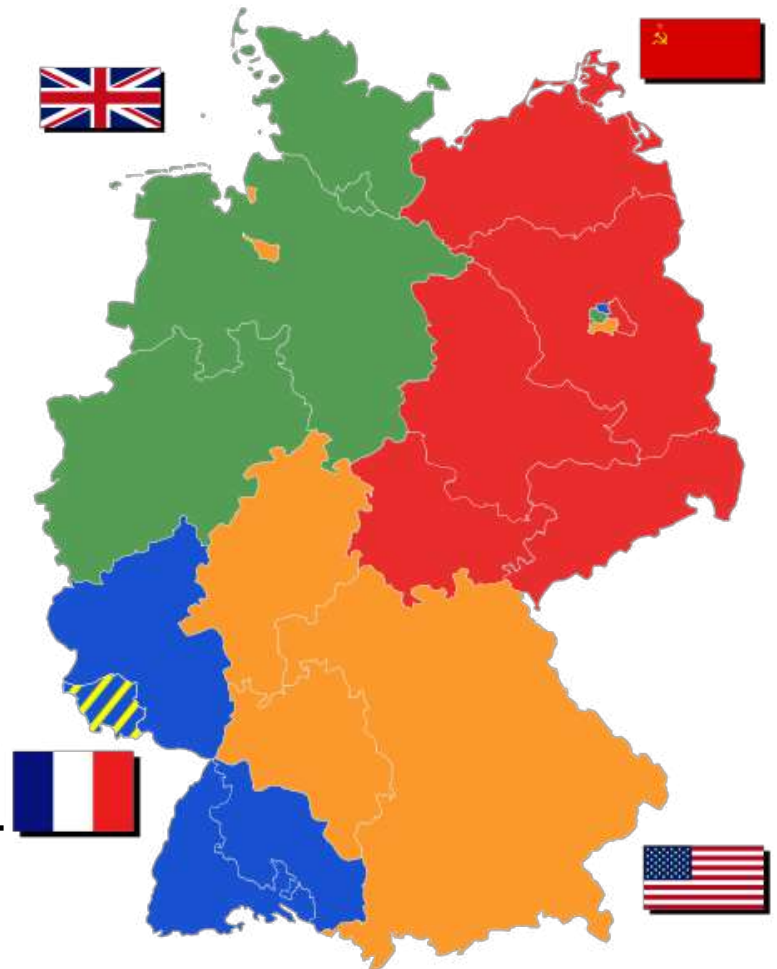
Rocky Relationship

- The U.S. and Soviet Union had an uneasy relationship as allies during WWII
 - Soviet Union was a communist nation, the U.S. strongly **opposed communism**
 - Both nations were developing nuclear weapons programs



Germany

- Divided into four occupation zones following WWII at the Yalta Conference
 - American, British, French, Soviet
- Berlin (within East Germany) divided as well



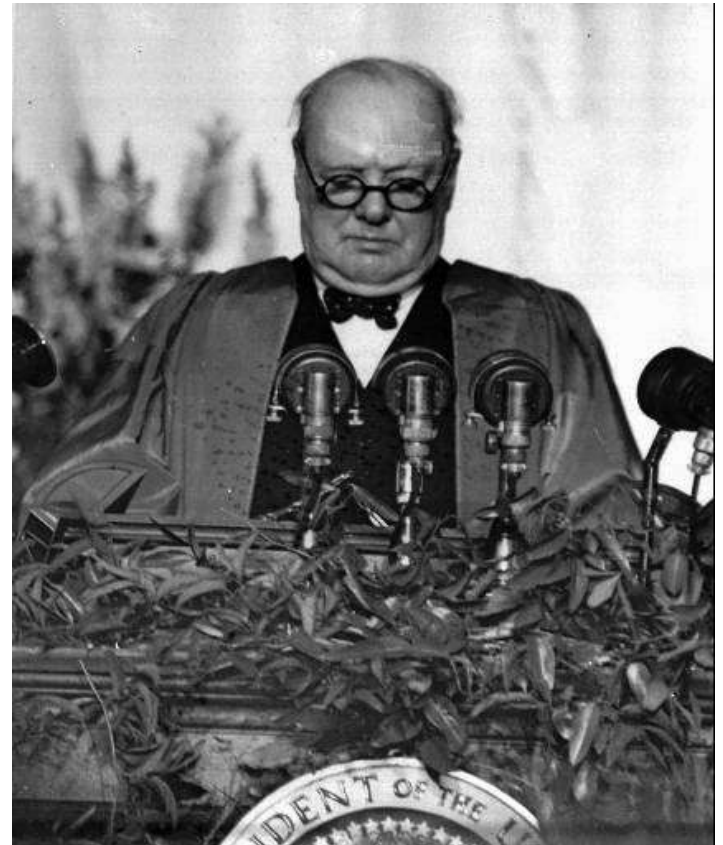
Poland

- Soviet (“Red”) Army occupied Poland and supported Communist government
- U.S. wanted to let Poles chose their own type of government
- Soviets would prevent elections in Poland



The Iron Curtain

- Winston Churchill warned the U.S. that the West must respond to the Soviet threat
- Communism was gaining hold in Eastern Europe
 - Satellite nations:
country under the control of a foreign power



The Iron Curtain

- “The Iron Curtain”
 - The ideological dividing point between Capitalist and Communist countries in Europe.
 - Winston Churchill



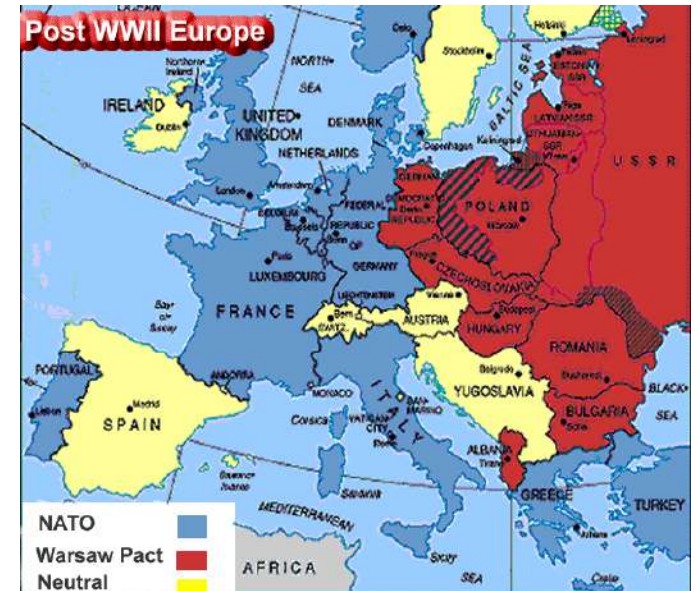
The “Truman Doctrine”

- Stated that the U.S. would support nations that were threatened by communism
 - first act was to offer aid of \$400 million to Greece and Turkey to protect from Soviets
 - America assumed a leadership role in the world



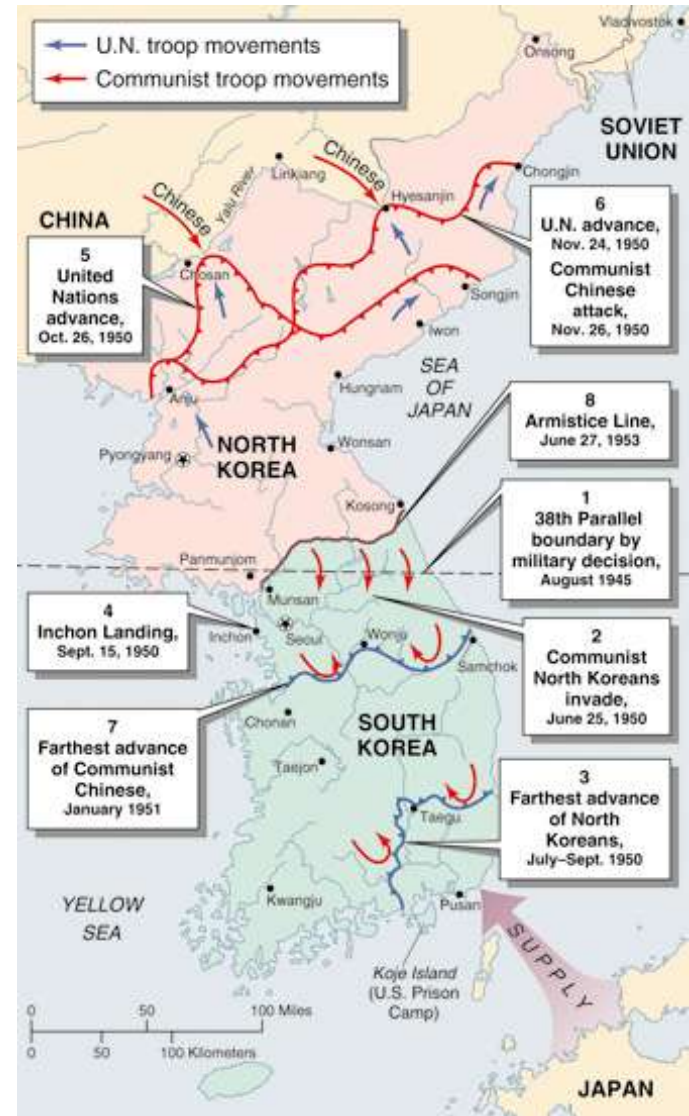
Military Action

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed in 1949
 - 12 nations joined an alliance
 - An attack on one nation was considered an attack on all (provided military security)
- Soviets responded in 1955 with the Warsaw Pact
 - Satellite nation members



The Politics of War: Korea

- Both sides gained, then lost, ground in the conflict
- UN forces were under the control of **Gen. Douglas MacArthur**
 - fired after publicly criticizing Truman for limiting the war
- Armistice ended the war in 1953, resulting in roughly the same boundary as before the war.



The Nuclear Shadow

- Soviet Union tested its first [atomic bomb](#) in 1949.
 - U.S. government had difficulty controlling panic and hysteria
- U.S. tested the [hydrogen bomb](#) in 1952.
 - Soviets followed 9 months later



A Balance of Terror

- Eisenhower, focused on the doctrine of massive retaliation, concentrated spending on atomic weapons
 - “Brinksmanship”
- Soviets kept pace, but developed superior rockets
 - Sputnik launched in 1957, built ICBMs
 - Development of NASA program in 1958.



Can America Keep Up?

- National Defense Act (1958)
 - Improve science and mathematics instruction in the schools so that the United States could meet the scientific and technical challenge from the Soviet Union.
 - College funding for students who wanted to become teachers
 - Funding to build science and foreign language facilities

The Loyalty Program

- **1947:** New employees hired by the federal government were to be investigated.
 - FBI checking files for “suspicious activity”
 - Loyalty Review Board
 - Innocent until proven guilty?
 - Heighted paranoia and suspicion

Social Hysteria Formula

Fear

(often irrational &/or ignorant)



Hatred

(prejudice, paranoia)

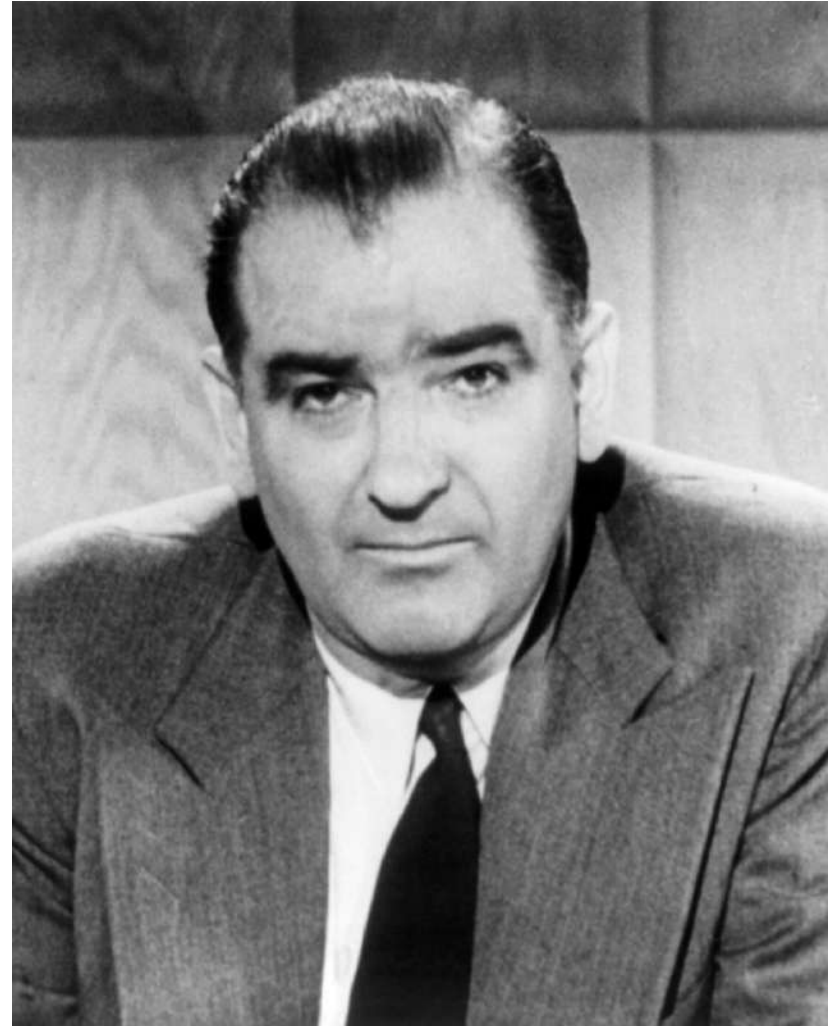


Action

(violent, legal, political)

Are you on the blacklist?

- Joseph McCarthy
 - Senator from Wisconsin
 - List of 205 people known to be “Communist” by the secretary of state, but are still working at the State Department.
 - Sense of fear so heightened that very few were courageous enough to stand against him.



Subversion Trials

- **Alger Hiss Case**
 - Hiss (State Department) was accused of being a Communist by Whittaker Chambers
 - “pumpkin papers” led to conviction in 1950
- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg
 - New York couple sent to the electric chair in 1953 for conspiring to commit espionage
 - Refused to name other spies



Understanding McCarthyism

- Though McCarthy was discredited quickly, fear of Communist subversion remained well into the 1960s.
 - led to conformity and conservative mood of the 1950s.

