

The Cold War

A Review of the key events 1944 - 1991

What was it all about?

- Was the conflict inevitable or was it accidental?
- How far back in history does US – USSR competition go?
- How did wartime allies come to be in conflict with each other?
- Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- Was it really about capitalism vs. communism? Democracy vs. Totalitarianism? Freedom vs. government imposed slavery?
- How did intelligent people repeatedly bring the world to the brink of nuclear annihilation?
- What does the phrase "cold war" even mean?

War Time Allies – Post War Enemies

- At the start of WWII both the US and USSR were on the sidelines – both were brought into the war via attacks from Axis powers
- Both were drawn into European affairs and at the conclusion of WWII were left as the two strongest powers on the globe – both sharing the spoils of victory in both Europe and Asia
- In the power vacuum created by WWII in Europe both nations began to reshape Europe in their image

Ideological Differences

USA & the West

- Multiparty democracy
- Capitalist economy
- Individualism

USSR & the Eastern Bloc

- Single party democracy
- Planned (state controlled) economy
- Collectivism

Yalta Conference

(Feb 1945)

- The War in Europe was quickly coming to an end – it was only a matter of time before Germany was defeated
- The following items were agreed upon:
 - Agreement that Germany should be jointly occupied by the US, UK, France and USSR
 - Only unconditional surrender would be accepted (the US still feared that the USSR would try to cut a separate peace deal with Germany)
 - USSR to declare war on Japan 3 months after V-E day (secret)
 - Settled the post-war Polish border issue (next slide)
 - Areas taken by Germany prior to and during the war were to be restored as independent nations
 - German leadership to be put on trial for "War Crimes"
 - The USSR agreed to join the United Nations

The United Nations (UN)

- Created in 1945 to replace the League Nations
- Run by two main groups:
 - The Security Council (US, UK, USSR, China and France)
 - The General Assembly (all member nations)
- The purpose was to maintain world peace, uphold international law, advance human rights and freedoms, and promote democracy
- Headquartered in New York City



“Spheres of Influence” vs “Self Determination”

A misunderstanding among the Allies?

- Stalin operating under the “spheres of influence” approach — both Russia and the West have control over the region they occupy
- The US and the West operating under the “self-determination” approach — both sides will allow a multiparty democracy to determine the fate of the nations of Europe

Poland

- What should happen to Poland after WWII?
 - Issue discussed and agreed upon at Yalta
 - Polish borders expanded Westward to include former German Territory
 - A section of Eastern Poland was to be given to Russia
 - Free elections were to be held
- Polish borders were changed, but the free elections never happened — the Polish Government was one of the USSR's choosing

Europe in 1945

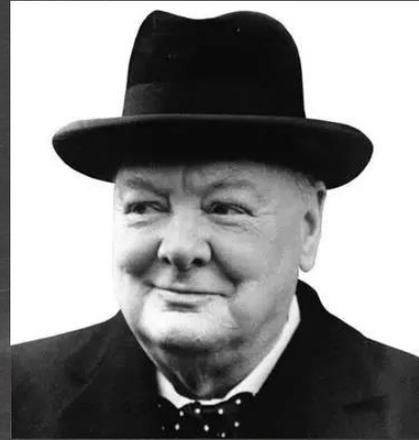


Potsdam Conference (August 1945)

- 2 of the Big 3 Replaced (Churchill → Atlee, FDR → Truman)
- Truman's announcement of the atomic bomb was not news to Stalin since he had been spying on the US throughout the war and already knew about it
- The Potsdam conference didn't do too much, but it did reconfirm the important ideas of Yalta (including Polish Free Elections (which as previously mentioned, never happened))

The "Iron Curtain" Speech

- Winston Churchill famously "fired the first shots" of the Cold War in a speech in Fulton, Missouri now known as the "Iron Curtain" speech
- In this speech he talked about an "iron curtain" descending across Europe with the "free peoples" living west of the curtain and the oppressed people of Europe" living in the East
- Fear of Russia in particular and communism in general grew in the West and in the US reached its height with Joe McCarthy and the so-called "Red Scare" of the 1950's



Kennan and "The Long Telegram" (1946/47)

- Written by George Kennan – an important American diplomat who served in Russia during WWII
- Major ideas in the telegram:
 - Russia views capitalism as only wanting one thing, everything. Because of this capitalism and communism are perpetually at war with each other
 - Russia will never agree to cooperation with capitalist nations
 - The threat communism poses is real and needs to be confronted with via diplomatic firmness and long term pressure (eventually called "**CONTAINMENT**")
 - Given time, and by setting a positive example in the US and the West, Russia will collapse due to internal instability

The First Tests of the Cold War – Iran, Turkey and Greece

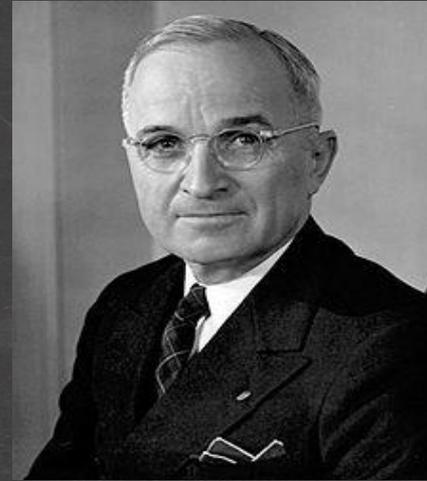
- **Iran** – during the War the USSR and UK divided Iran for war time purposes and were to leave when the war ended
 - The UK honored this agreement and also gained access to Iranian oil
 - The USSR also wanted access to Iranian oil, but when denied they refused to leave Northern Iran
- **Turkey** – the USSR pressured Turkey into giving it sole access to several ports along the Straights to allow it access to the Mediterranean and its long desired "warm water port"
 - Soviet access denied and prevented by the UK, US and UN
- **Greece** – and civil war between communist and non-communist forces; the UK and later the US sent military aid to help the non-communists win the war; Greece was shattered by the conflict

- NATO countries
- Warsaw Pact countries



The Truman Doctrine

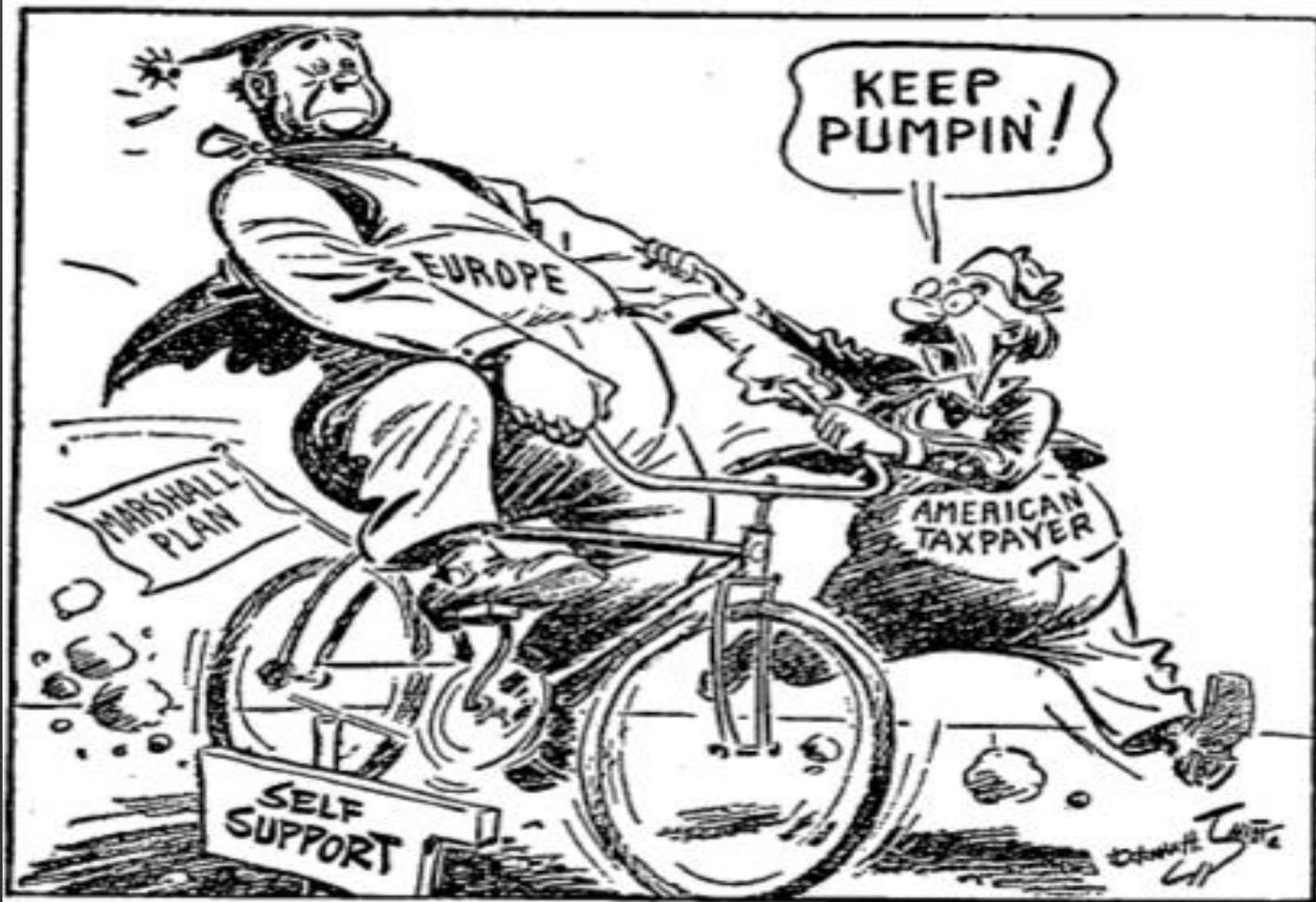
- A shift in policy from isolationism to one of "supporting] free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures"
- Specifically applied to Greece and Turkey following England's declaration that they didn't have the resources to adequately support these nations
- Viewed by many as the start of the Cold War
- Committed the US to massive increases in military and foreign aid spending for decades



The Marshall Plan (1947 – 1952)

- Following WWII it was clear that Europe was verge of a full scale economic melt-down
- The fear was that communism could engulf all of Europe given the desperate circumstances
- In particular, France and Italy had large and popular communist parties
- The goal of the plan was to provide massive financial aid to rebuild Europe and create industrially strong allies to stand up to Russia
- There was significant political wrangling to both offer aid to Russia and ensure they would turn it down





Dorman Smith in The Phoenix Gazette, NEA
"He's finally getting the hang of it."

"It's The Same Thing Without Mechanical Problems"



COMECON (1949)

- Stood for the “Council for Mutual Economic Assistance”
- This was the belated Soviet response to the Marshall Plan to give economic aid to Eastern bloc nations
- Member states traded resources, intellectual property, and generally coordinated their economies to support each other

The Berlin Blockade and Airlift (1948-49)

- The first true standoff between the USSR and the US
- The USSR blocks off access to Western Berlin following a decision by the England, France and the US to replace Western Germany's currency with a new one
- For over a year the US flew in everything the western half of the city needed — up to 5000 tons of supplies a day
- The USSR eventually agrees to lifting the blockade in May of 1949 after it was obvious that the US could go on supplying West Berlin indefinitely
- The cost of the airlift was over \$2 billion dollars

East and West Germany -- the New Status Quo

- Despite earlier agreements to reunite Germany, the efforts stalled
- The Berlin Blockade escalated the division of Germany into East and West

West Germany

- The Western section had its capital in Bonn, was democratic and friendly with the West
- Eventually joined with NATO (May 1955)

East Germany

- Single party state led by the Communist party with a centrally planned economy
- The Soviet Union kept a large military force in East Germany which helped repress dissent

Russia Joins the Nuclear Club

- August 1949 Russia explodes a nuclear bomb
- A number of nuclear secrets were obtained from the US and UK by espionage
- Created concern in the West since they believed they'd have a monopoly on nuclear power for another 6 – 8 years
- By the early 1960's nuclear weapons exceeded 50 megatons of explosive power (10X the explosive power of all the conventional bombs used in all of WWII combined)
- Early nukes were bombs that had to be flown and dropped, later rocketry technology enabled them to be

NATO and the Warsaw Pact

- After the Berlin blockade the United States led the way towards its first peacetime military alliance in its history – NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
- Two other alliances CENTO and SEATO (in the Middle East and Asia respectively) soon followed to help with the idea of “CONTAINMENT” of Russia.
- In 1955 NATO decided to rearm and admit West Germany as a new member state – The USSR responded by forming its own military alliance known as the WARSAW PACT

Cold War Europe



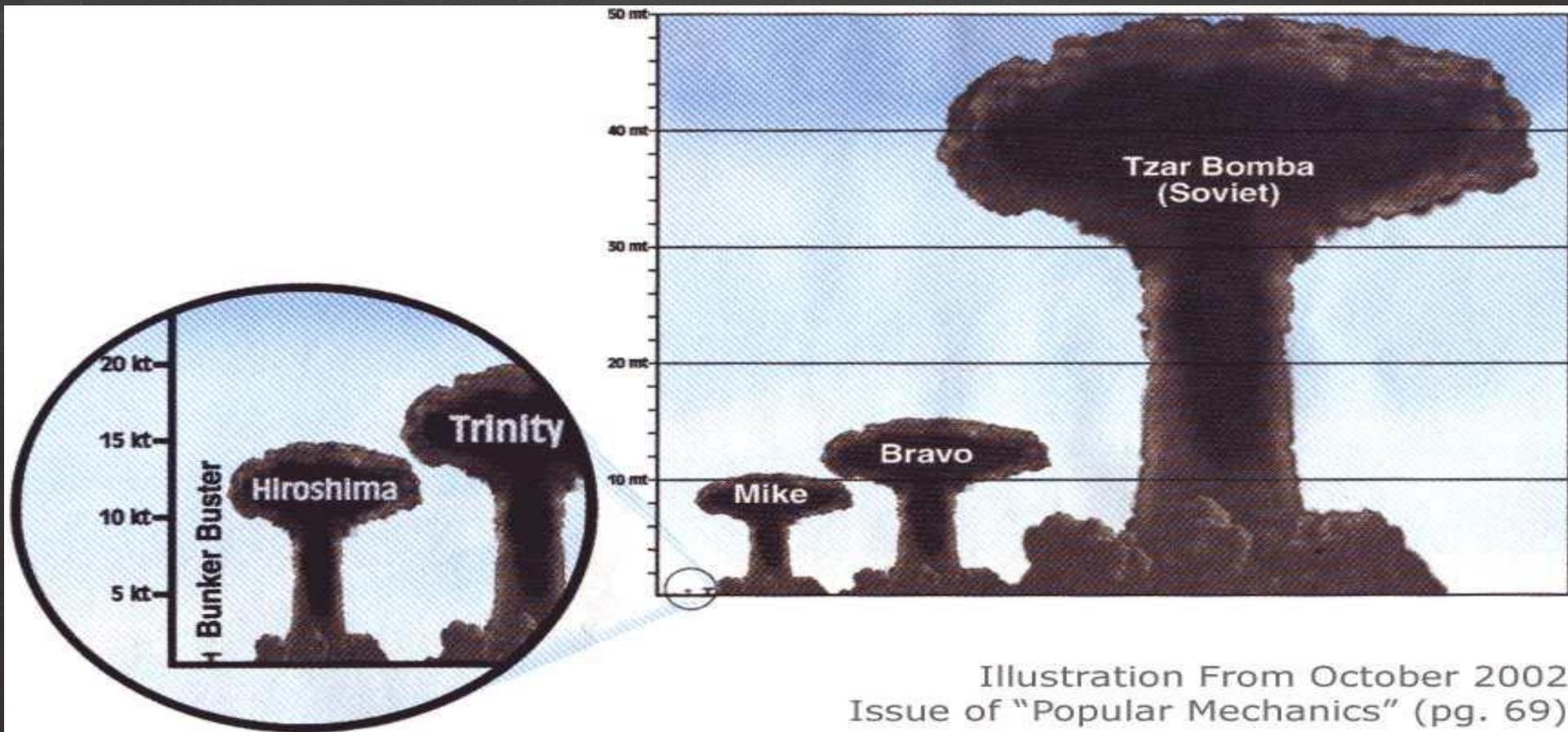
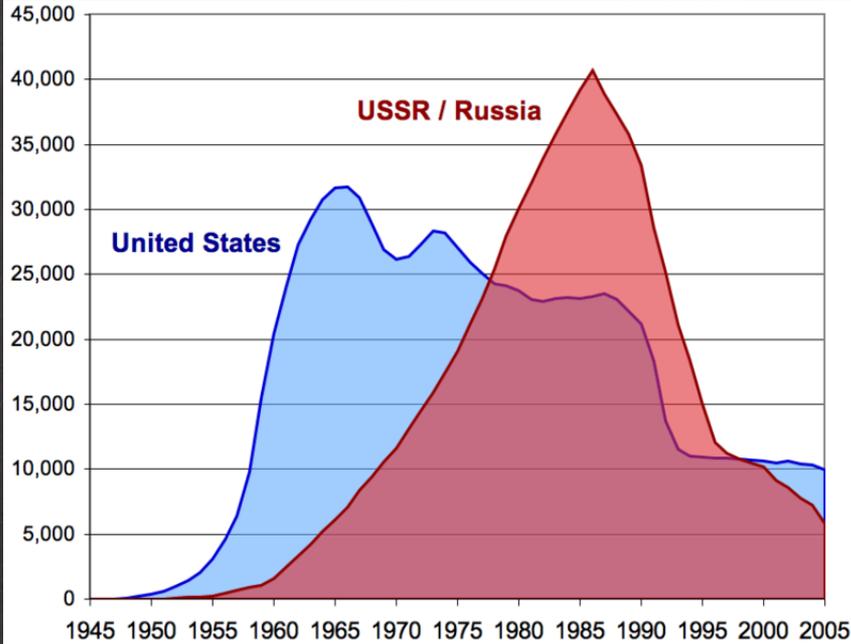


Illustration From October 2002 Issue of "Popular Mechanics" (pg. 69)

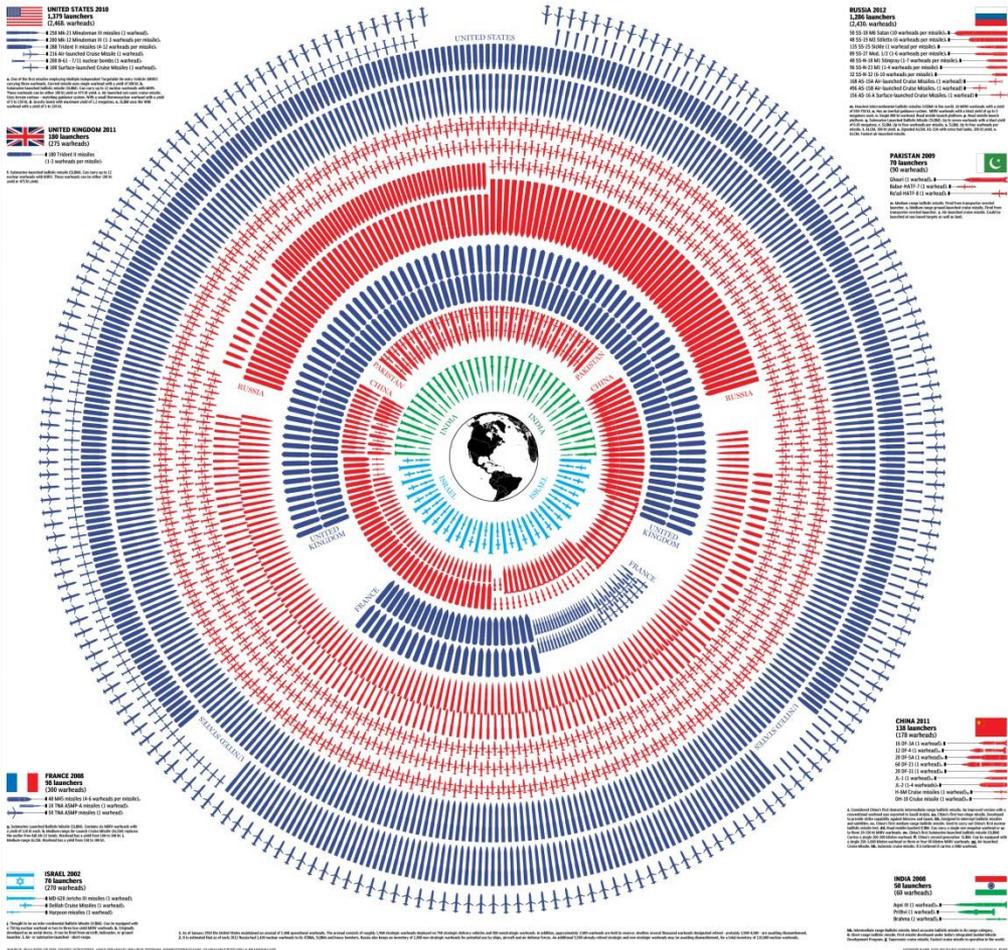
Warheads Per Nation by Year



As of 2012 →

NUKES READY TO FLY

In three weeks, NATO allies meet in Chicago with one topic on the agenda being nuclear weapons and their reduction. However, as the Federation of American Scientists pointed out this week, "After Russia, the United States and NATO think their non-strategic nuclear forces in a veil of candor and anonymity, none has initiatives or needed to increase transparency of such forces. So trying to catalogue the nuclear warheads in the world is an almost impossible challenge. Surely, each country has different ways of tallying their armaments, in weapons may be based on declassification and not tallied, but could be made public again.) This graphic attempts to look at the number of immediately available nuclear weapons in the world, weapons that could be on a very short notice - because that is the point - be used in a war. Unlike the latest data available from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists we have concentrated a graph of instantly available nuclear devices - missiles with nuclear warheads installed and ready to fly or drop. They could be intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarines, air- or land-based cruise missiles, single-stage rockets or just plain bombs. The graph below does not take into account that in many cases the missiles themselves may contain up to 25 warheads, so does it take into account the size or fall damage of the weapons themselves.



China Goes Communist

- A civil war between the Communists (led by Mao) and nationalists (led by Chiang Kai-shek) began in 1927 and ended in 1949 with a communist victory
- The communists were victorious despite a lack of support from Russia
- The nationalists were a WWII Ally and were an important trade partner of the United States
- The communist victory expanded the Cold War to Asia and shocked the West



The Korean Conflict

- Japan had controlled the Korean peninsula until the end of WWII
- In 1945 the USSR and US divided the peninsula at the 38th Parallel (a line of latitude) without any consultation of the Koreans
- The plan (as discussed at Potsdam and again at the Moscow Conference) was to restore a united Korea 5 years from the end of WWII
- The Northern half had a Communist installed government; the South was governed by a US sponsored military dictator (Rhee)
- In May of 1948 the US and UN sponsored elections in the South – their intention was to have them held nationwide, but the Soviet backed leader in the North (Kim Il-sun) refused to allow the North to participate
- Both governments (North and South) wanted to reunite all of Korea under their own rule

ASIA IN THE 1950's



The Korean War Begins

- The North claims the South crossed the 38th parallel first the South says it was the other way around
- Either way, on June 25th, 1950 there was war in Korea
- The US had previously not included South Korea in strategic plans in East Asia, but once war came it was clear that a South Korea that was friendly to the US and Japan was vital to US interests and security in the region
- In the UN a resolution was passed condemning North Korean aggression (the USSR didn't veto because they were boycotting the meetings since Communist China was not included on the Security Council)
- The US was able to rapidly move troops to South Korea, under the UN banner, since there was still a large force in Japan (under the command of General Douglas MacArthur)



126°E

130°E

The Korean War

June-November 1950

November 1950 - July 1953



- North Korean attack forces and
- Line of farthest advance, Sept. 1950
- U.N. offensive and
- Line of farthest advance, Nov. 1950

- Chinese and North Korean offensive and
- Line of advance as of Jan. 1951
- Final U.S. offensive
- Armistice line



Consequences of Korea

- Korea is an example of what might be termed a "limited war" from the US perspective since the objective was somewhat limited and all potential weapons were not used
- Korea was divided along the 38th parallel and talks between North Korea, South Korea, the US and China were encouraged to continue
- The war "ended" without any formal peace treaty (only an armistice) and since then there have been several acts of aggression carried out by the North against South Korea
- The demilitarized zone (DMZ) continues to separate the two nations and tensions between the two nations continue to this day

- In What ways was the Korean war a more limited war than World War II?
- "There is no such thing as a limited war". To what extent do you agree with this statement.

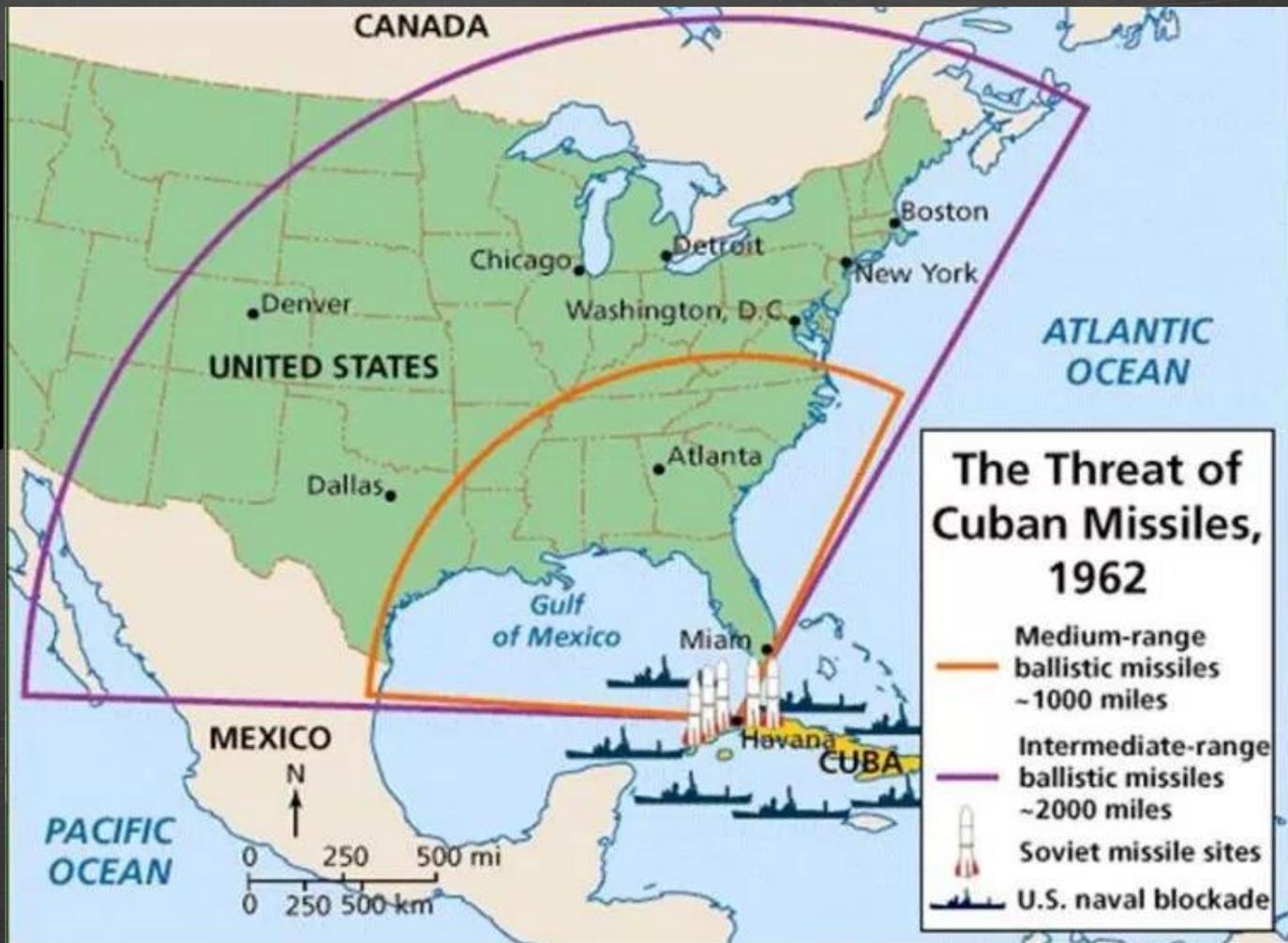
Cold War – Post Korea and into 1960's

- Stalin died in 1953 – replaced by Nikita Khrushchev who embarked on a “destalinization effort” to improve the vibe inside Russia/The East
- In 1957 the USSR launched SPUTNIK the first satellite – the arms race accelerated into the 1960's culminating with the US moon landing in 1969
- CUBA – in 1959 Fidel Castro overthrows the Cuban dictator Batista...Cuba turns communist
- By the early 1960's Communism appeared to be on the rise – in Cuba the US would launch a failed invasion, and the US also launched a war effort in Vietnam that culminated in US defeat in 1973

Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis

- Following the Communist takeover of Cuba the US backed an attempt to overthrow Castro – this invasion was known as the “Bay of Pigs”
 - The attempted invasion was a complete disaster
- Castro turns to the USSR to guarantee Cuban security – Russia reluctantly agrees to secretly install nukes in Cuba
- The US discovers the nukes – the Cuban Missile Crisis ensues; in retrospect it was the closest the US and USSR would come to global thermonuclear war

The Cuban Missile Crisis



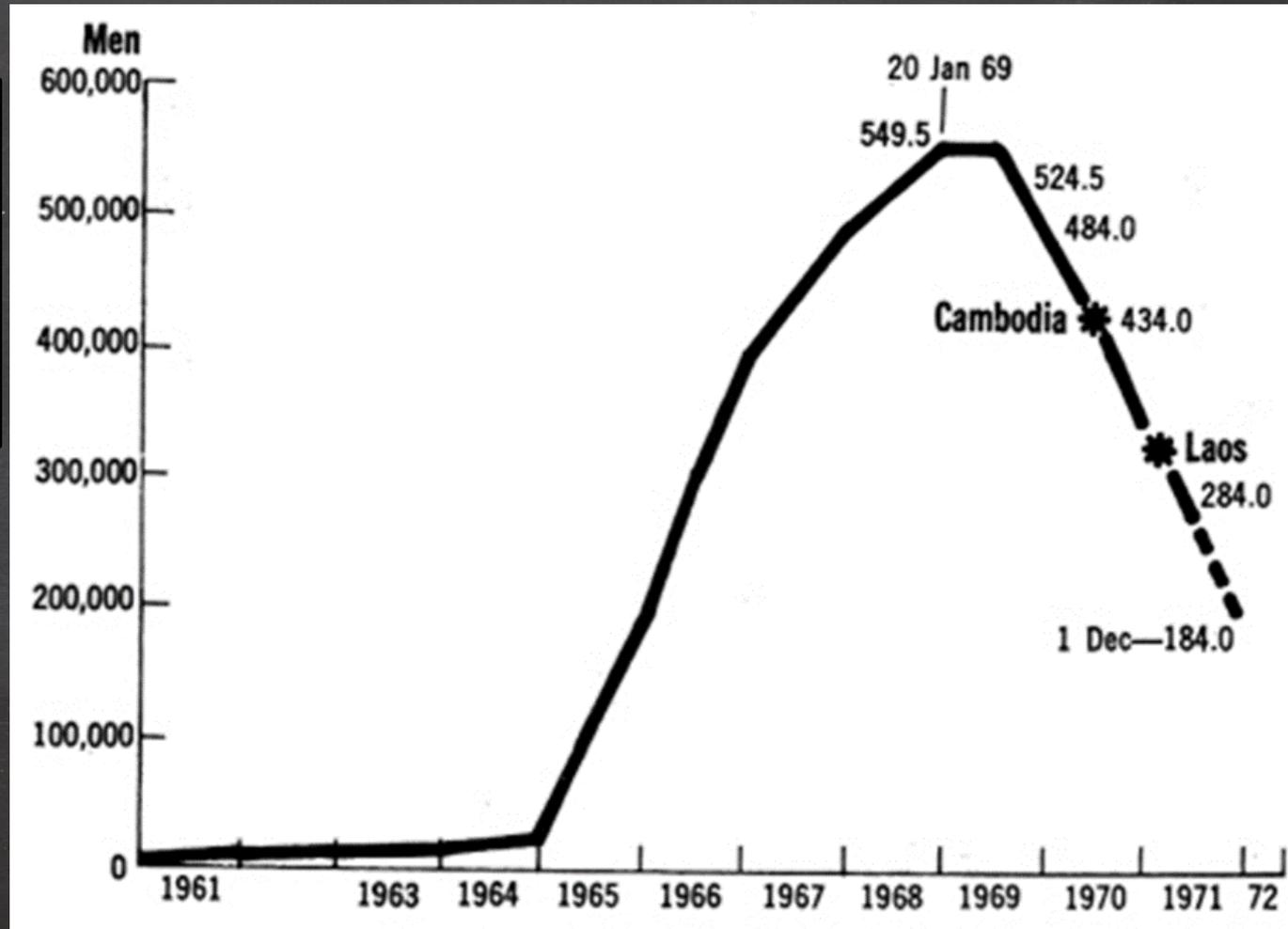
The United States and the Vietnam War

- French kicked out of Vietnam in 1954 – Communists under Ho Chi Minh take over in the North; in the South various dictators took over with control of US/West
- Early 1960's – Vietnamese communists expand control in the South; the US escalates its support to an increasingly unpopular southern government
- 1964 – The Gulf of Tonkin "Incident" takes place – the US begins escalating the conflict in Vietnam
- By 1968 the US has massive numbers of troops in South Vietnam, and is bombing the North, but the effort to prop up the Southern government is going badly
- By 1973 the US withdraws by "Vietnamizing" the war – turning it over to the Southern government.
- 1975 – The North completes their conquest of the South – all Vietnam united under Communist rule

TABLE 14 -COMPARATIVE MILITARY CASUALTY FIGURES

| Year | Killed in Action | | Wounded in Action | |
|-------------|------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | U.S. | RVNAF | U.S. | RVNAF |
| 1960 | | 2,223 | | 2,788 |
| 1961 | 11 | 4,004 | 2 | 5,449 |
| 1962 | 31 | 4,457 | 41 | 7,195 |
| 1963 | 78 | 5,665 | 218 | 11,488 |
| 1964 | 147 | 7,457 | 522 | 17,017 |
| 1965 | 1,369 | 11,242 | 3,308 | 23,118 |
| 1966 | 5,008 | 11,953 | 16,526 | 20,975 |
| 1967 | 9,377 | 12,716 | 32,370 | 29,448 |
| 1968 | 14,589 | 27,915 | 46,797 | 70,696 |
| 1969 | 9,414 | 21,833 | 32,940 | 65,276 |
| 1970 | 4,221 | 23,346 | 15,211 | 71,582 |
| 1971 | 1,381 | 22,738 | 4,767 | 60,939 |
| 1972 | 300 | 39,587 | 587 | 109,960 |
| 1973 | 237 | 27,901 | 24 | 131,936 |
| 1974 | 207 | 31,219 | | 155,735 |
| Total | 46,370 | 254,256 | 153,313 | 783,602 |

US Troop Levels in Vietnam



The CW and the 1970's -- Detente

- With the war in Vietnam winding down and the fears of the Cuban Missile Crisis looming, the US and USSR moved towards "Détente" – a live and let live relaxation of tensions
- This lasted until 1979 when the USSR invaded Afghanistan, renewing tensions
- During the 1970's both sides worked towards reducing weapons, especially nuclear weapons
- The SALT I and SALT II treaties resulted, but SALT II never went into effect due to a Republican Senate's refusal to ratify the treaty negotiated by Democratic President Jimmy Carter



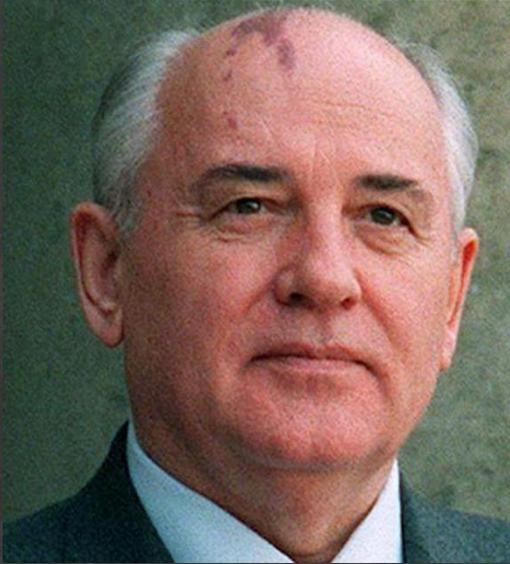
N Balance of Power Crises, 1945-1980

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|-------|
|  | United States and its allies |  | Soviet Union and its allies |  | China |
|  | Areas of predominant U.S. influence |  | Areas of predominant Soviet influence | | |

The 1980's, Gorbachev – Glasnost and Perestroika

- A new leader in the USSR took over – he was a new generation from previous ones and was more willing to moderate the USSR's approach.
- Internally he launched two ideas (Glasnost or "openness" and Perestroika or "restructuring") to bring much needed reform to the Soviet Union.
- Two new treaties with the US help to reduce nuclear arms (START Treaty and INF Treaty)
- USSR withdraws from Afghanistan in 1988
- In 1989 uprisings throughout Eastern Europe are allowed to continue leading to the downfall of communism in the East in most states
- By 1991, following a failed coup attempt in Moscow, the various member states of the Soviet Union become independent – The Cold War is deemed over

Three important leaders of the late Cold War Period:



Mikhail Gorbachev



Ronald Reagan



Margaret Thatcher

The Breakup of the Soviet Union, 1991



DECOLONIZATION POST WORLD WAR II

Decolonization Post WWII

Decolonization- India and Asia

Decolonization- The Middle East

Decolonization - Africa

