Origins of the Cold War

Development of the Cold War

- The Cold War (1945-91) was one of perception where neither side fully understood the intentions and ambitions of the other. This led to mistrust and military build-ups.
- United States
  - U.S. thought that Soviet expansion would continue and spread throughout the world.
  - They saw the Soviet Union as a threat to their way of life; especially after the Soviet Union gained control of Eastern Europe.

Development of the Cold War

- Soviet Union
  - They felt that they had won World War II. They had sacrificed the most (25 million vs. 300,000 total dead) and deserved the "spoils of war." They had lost land after WWI because they left the winning side; now they wanted to gain land because they had won.
  - They wanted to economically raid Eastern Europe to recoup their expenses during the war.
  - They saw the U.S. as a threat to their way of life; especially after the U.S. development of atomic weapons.
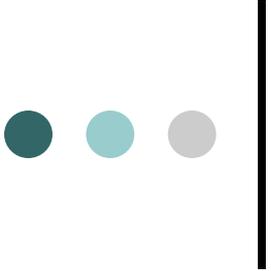
Cold War Mobilization by the U.S.

- Alarmed Americans viewed the Soviet occupation of eastern European countries as part of a communist expansion, which threatened to extend to the rest of the world.
- In 1946, Winston Churchill gave a speech at Fulton College in Missouri in which he proclaimed that an "Iron Curtain" had fallen across Europe.
- In March 1947, U.S. president Harry Truman proclaimed the Truman Doctrine.

The Truman Doctrine (1947)

- Reasoning
  - Threatened by Communist influence in Turkey and Greece
  - "Two hostile camps" speech
- Financial aid "to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation"
- Sent $400 million worth of war supplies to Greece and helped push out Communism
- The Truman Doctrine marked a new level of American commitment to a Cold War.

The Policy of Containment
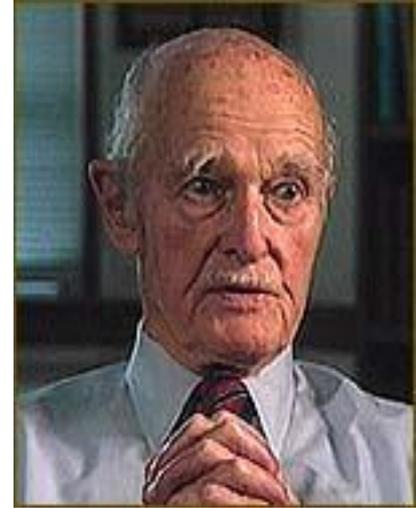
- Definition:
  - By applying firm diplomatic, economic, and military counterpressure, the United States could block Soviet aggression.
- Formulated by George F. Kennan as a way to stop Soviet expansion without having to go to war.
- Ironically, the Soviets were looking for insulation from the Capitalist West.
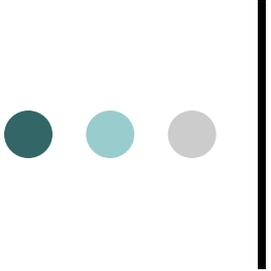
NSC-68

- The Containment Doctrine would later be expanded in 1949 in NSC-68, which called for a dramatic increase in defense spending

- From $13 billion to $50 billion a year, to be paid for with a large tax increase.

- NSC-68 served as the framework for American policy over the next 20 years.

The Marshall Plan (1947-48)

- War damage and dislocation in Europe invited Communist influence
- Economic aid to all European countries offered in the European Recovery Program
- $17 billion to western Europe
- Soviets refused – The blame for dividing Europe fell on the Soviet union, not the United States. And the Marshall Plan proved crucial to Western Europe's economic recovery.

Dividing Germany

- U.S., Britain, and France merged their zones in 1948 to create an independent West German state.

- The Soviets responded by blockading land access to Berlin. The U.S. began a massive airlift of supplies that lasted almost a year. (7,000 tons a day) In May 1949 Stalin lifted the blockade, conceding that he could not prevent the creation of West Germany.

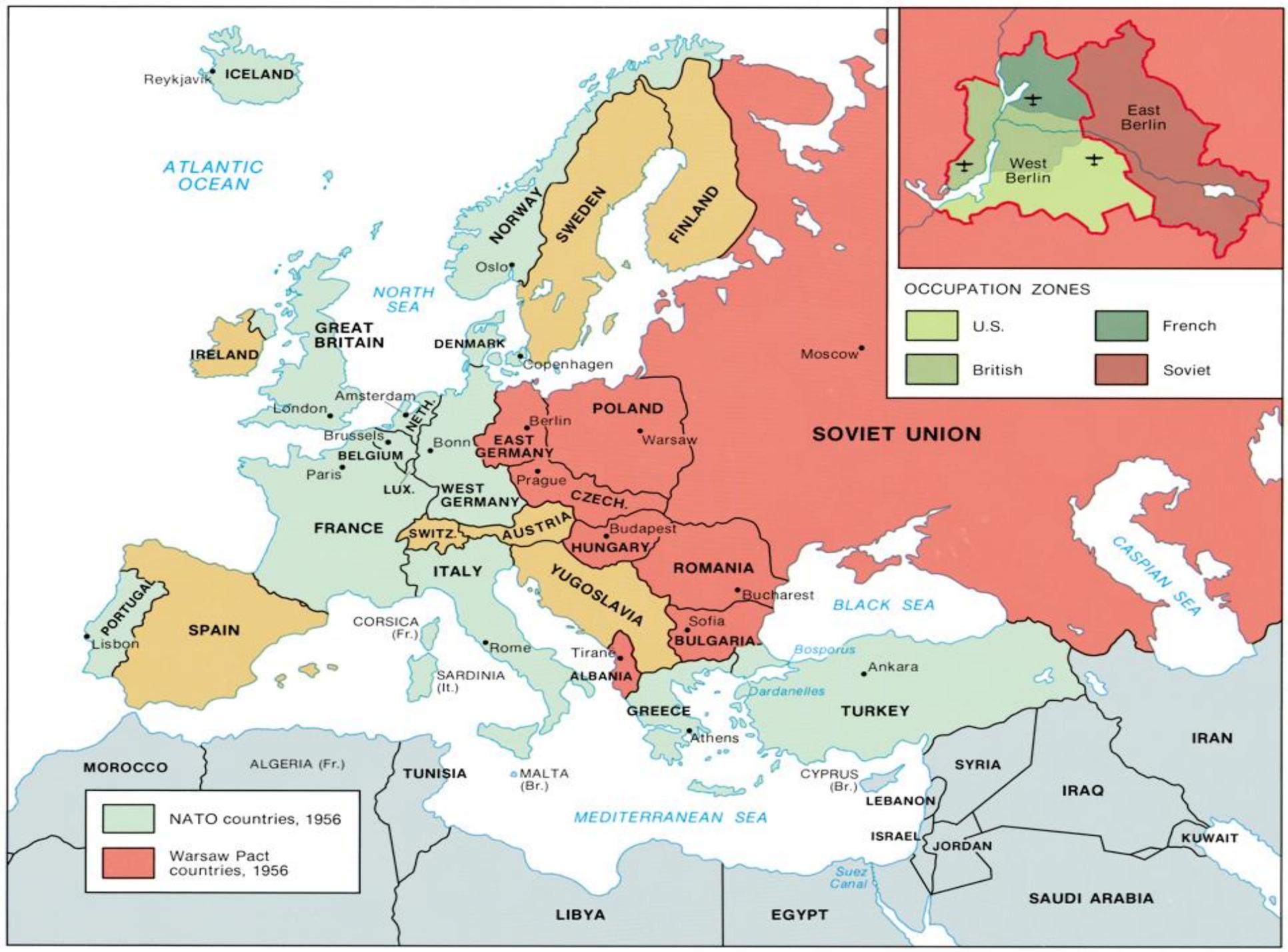- Thus, the creation of East and West Germany
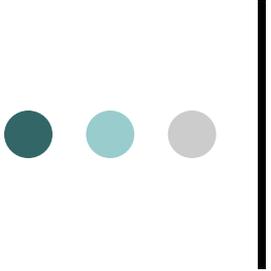
OCCUPATION OF GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

French zone
British zone
U.S. zone
Soviet zone
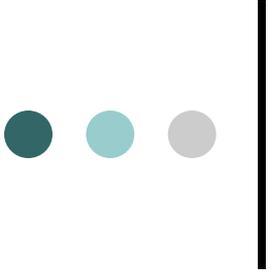
North Atlantic Treaty Organization & the Warsaw Pact

- Stalin's aggressive actions accelerated the American effort to use military means to contain Soviet ambitions.
- The U.S. joined with Canada, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg to establish NATO, a mutual defense pact in 1949.
- Pledged signers to treat an attack against one as an attack against all.
- When West Germany joined NATO in 1955, the Soviet Union countered by creating its own alliance system in eastern Europe– the Warsaw Pact (1955)

Map of Cold War Europe

Labels on map:

ICELAND
Reykjavik

ATLANTIC OCEAN

NORTH SEA

NORWAY
Oslo

SWEDEN

FINLAND

GREAT BRITAIN
London

IRELAND

DENMARK
Copenhagen

NETH.
Amsterdam

BELGIUM
Brussels

Bonn

EAST GERMANY
Berlin

POLAND
Warsaw

SOVIET UNION

Moscow

LUX.
Paris

WEST GERMANY

CZECH.
Prague

FRANCE

SWITZ.

AUSTRIA

HUNGARY
Budapest

ROMANIA
Bucharest

PORTUGAL
Lisbon

SPAIN

CORSICA (Fr.)

ITALY
Rome

YUGOSLAVIA

BULGARIA
Sofia

BLACK SEA

CASPIAN SEA

SARDINIA (It.)

ALBANIA
Tirane

GREECE
Athens

Bosporus

Dardanelles

TURKEY
Ankara

IRAN

MOROCCO

ALGERIA (Fr.)

TUNISIA

MALTA (Br.)

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

CYPRUS (Br.)

SYRIA

IRAQ

LEBANON

ISRAEL

JORDAN

KUWAIT

Suez Canal

LIBYA

EGYPT

SAUDI ARABIA

Inset (top right):

East Berlin

West Berlin

OCCUPATION ZONES
- U.S.
- British
- French
- Soviet

Legend (bottom left):
- NATO countries, 1956
- Warsaw Pact countries, 1956

The Cold War Heats Up: Problems of the Atomic Age

- The most frightening aspect of the Cold War was the constant threat of nuclear war.
  - Russia detonated its first atom bomb in 1949.
  - Truman ordered construction of the hydrogen bomb.
- Call for buildup of conventional forces to provide alternative to nuclear war.
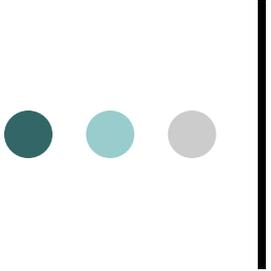
Global Nuclear Confrontation

- The Soviet army had at its command over 260 divisions.
- The United States, in contrast, had reduced its forces by 1947 to little more than a single division.
  - American military planners were forced to adopt a nuclear strategy in face of the overwhelmingly superiority of Soviet forces.
  - They would deter any Soviet attack by setting in place a devastating atomic counterattack.
- For the next quarter century, the U.S. and the USSR would engage in a nuclear arms race that constantly increased the destructive capability of both sides.

"Losing China"

- Truman was preoccupied with Europe.
- Events in Asia would soon bring charges from Republicans that the Democrats were letting the Communists win.
- After "losing" China, the United States sought to shore up friendly Asian regimes.
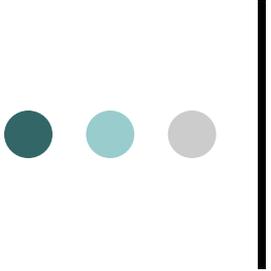
The Korean War (1950-53)

THE KOREAN WAR, 1950

- Since World War II the country had been divided along the 38th parallel
  - The North was controlled by the Communist government of Kim Il Sung
  - The South by the dictatorship of Syngman Rhee.

The Korean War (1950-53)

THE KOREAN WAR, 1950

- Soviet-backed troops from North Korea invaded U.S.-backed South Korea in June 1950.
- The confrontation between capitalist and Communist blocs turned into open military struggle.
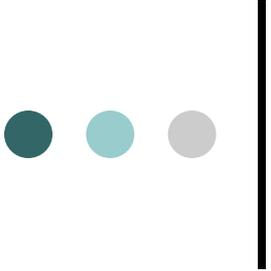
The Korean War (1950-53)

- Stalin had agreed to the North Korean attack, but promised only supplies.
  - He would eventually send pilots dressed in Chinese uniforms and using Chinese phrases over the radio
- Having already "lost" China, it was decided that the United States would fight the North Koreans.
  - It would use enough force to deter aggression, but without provoking a larger war with the Soviet Union or China.
  - The U.S. would not declare war. The United Nations sanctioned aid to South Korea as a "police action."

The Korean War (1950-53)

- The U.N. Security Council declared North Korea the aggressor and sent troops from 15 nations to restore peace.
  - Under the command of General Douglas MacArthur
  - U.S. 350,000; South Korean 400,000; other UN members 50,000
  - The move succeeded only because the Soviet delegate, who had veto power, was absent because he was protesting the UN's refusal to recognize the Communist government in China.
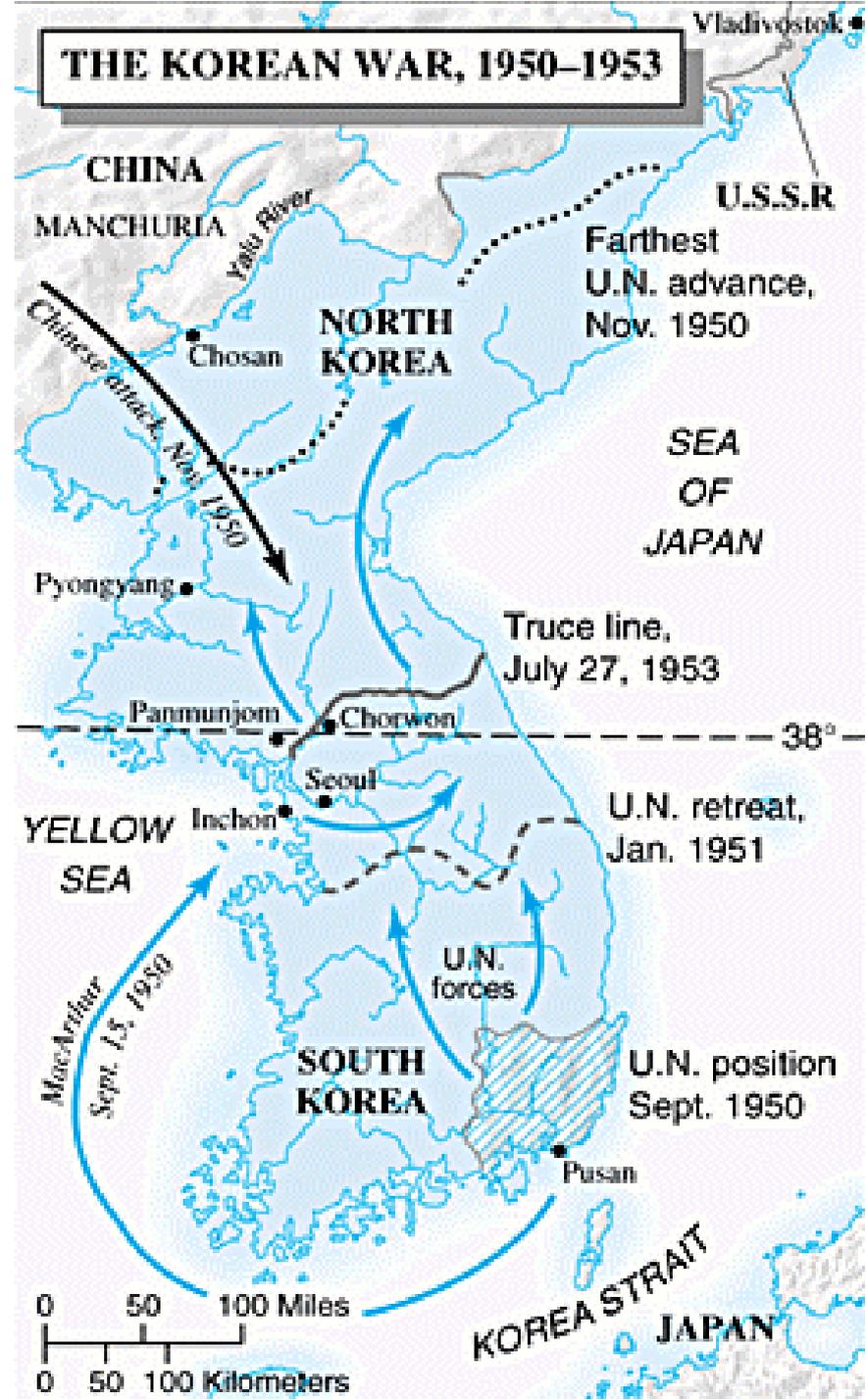
Side effects of the Korean War

- Energized America's anti-Communist commitments
  - No longer did elected officials hesitate about the need to contain Soviet communism at any cost.
- NATO forces were rapidly expanding.
  - By 1952, there were 261,000 American troops stationed in Europe, three times the number in 1950.
  - By 1953, NATO forces had reached 7 million.
- Truman also increased assistance to the French in Indochina, creating the Military Assistance Advisory Group for Indochina.
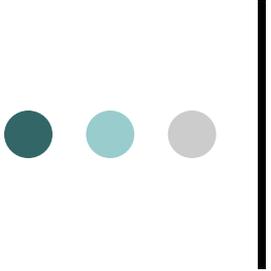 - This was the start of America's deepening involvement in Vietnam.

Military Developments

- MacArthur pushed the North Koreans back to the 38th Parallel.
  - He then decided to invade the North in an effort to unify Korea
  - Chinese Communist "volunteers" entered the war and pushed U.S. back.

THE KOREAN WAR, 1950–1953

Vladivostok

CHINA

MANCHURIA

U.S.S.R

Yalu River

Chinese attack, Nov. 1950

Farthest U.N. advance, Nov. 1950

NORTH KOREA

Chosan

SEA OF JAPAN

Pyongyang

Truce line, July 27, 1953

Panmunjom   Chorwon   38°

Seoul

U.N. retreat, Jan. 1951

YELLOW SEA   Inchon

MacArthur Sept. 15, 1950

U.N. forces

SOUTH KOREA

U.N. position Sept. 1950

Pusan

0   50   100 Miles

KOREA STRAIT   JAPAN

0   50   100 Kilometers

Map of the Korean War

Dismissal of MacArthur

- MacArthur wanted to blockade China and use Taiwanese Nationalists to invade mainland China.
  - He ordered China to make peace or be attacked.
- Truman removed MacArthur from all his commands and replaced him with General Matthew Ridgway who gradually pushed back almost to original line.

End of war

- Snags in negotiations.
- Truce talks lasted for two years.
- Truce signed on July 27, 1953
- Cost of the war
  - U.S. – 33,000 deaths and 103,000 wounded and missing.
  - S. Korean – 1 million
 - N. Korean and Chinese – about 1.5 million
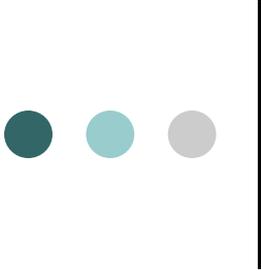
The Cold War in the 1950s: USSR

○ Nikita Khrushchev takes over after Stalin's death in 1953.

- He repudiates Stalin's use of the vast Gulag (or labor camp complex) and attempts to separate Stalin's "crimes" from true communism.

○ Repression and Dissent

- Polish and Hungarian intellectuals and students held demonstrations calling for free elections, withdrawal of Soviet troops, etc.

- 1956 – Soviet Crackdown in Hungary

  - Soviet tanks were sent in to crush dissent.

- Eastern Europe remained under Soviet control.

# The Cold War in the 1950s: USSR

- October 4, 1957 – USSR launched the first satellite, Sputnik, into orbit.
  - The Sputnik launch confirmed the Soviet Union's superpower status.
- Two months earlier they had tested an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- Khrushchev – "We will bury you"
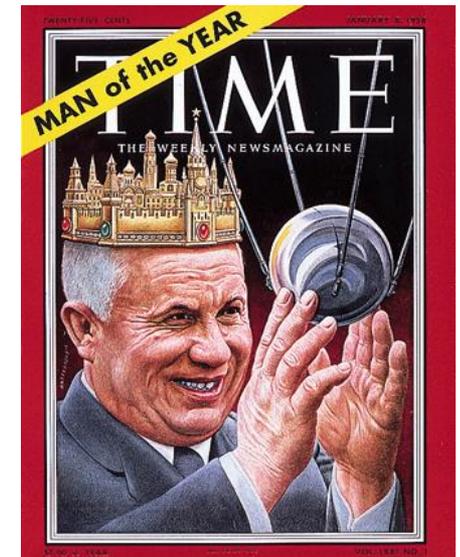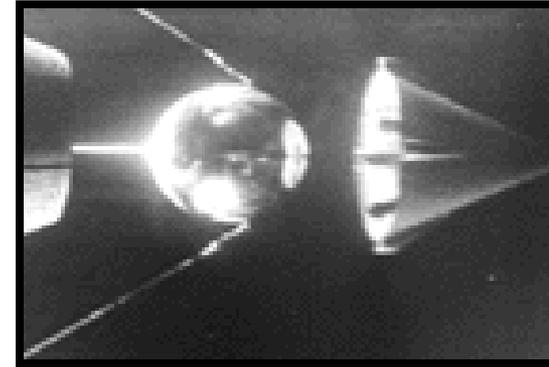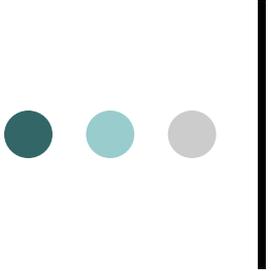
The Cold War in the 1950s: U.S.
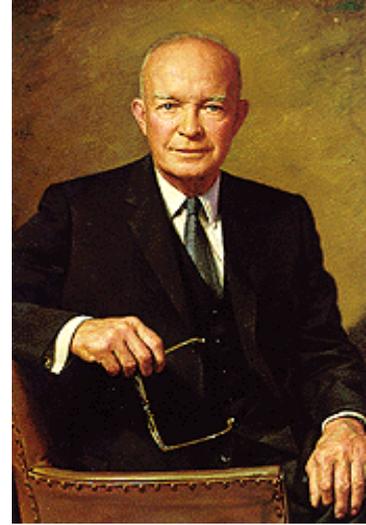
- Dwight Eisenhower takes over from Truman in 1953.
  - Democrats charged Republicans for "missile gap"
  - Eisenhower responded.
- Enlarged defense spending; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- By 1962-63, the U.S. had 450 missiles and 2,000 bombers capable at striking the Soviet Union, compared to 50-100 ICBMS and 200 bombers that could reach the U.S.
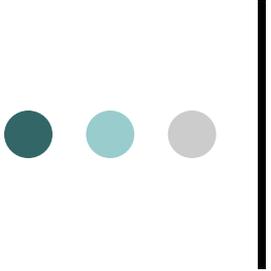
The Third World

- In the 1950s, French intellectuals coined the term "Third World" to describe the efforts of countries seeking a "third way" between Western capitalism and Soviet communism.
  - By the early 1960s, the term had come to identify a large bloc of countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
  - Charting a "third way" proved difficult, both economically and politically. Both the Soviets and the Americans saw the Third World as "underdeveloped."

The Third World

○ By the middle of the 1960s, as the euphoria of decolonization evaporated and new states found themselves mired in debt and dependency, many Third World nations fell into dictatorship and authoritarian rule.

The Cold War in the 1960s

- Khrushchev: "peaceful coexistence"
- American U-2 spy plane shot down by Soviets in 1960.
- In 1961, the Soviet begun construction of the Berlin Wall, which cut off movement between East and West Berlin and became a symbol of the eroding relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.
- Cuban Missile Crisis (October of 1962)