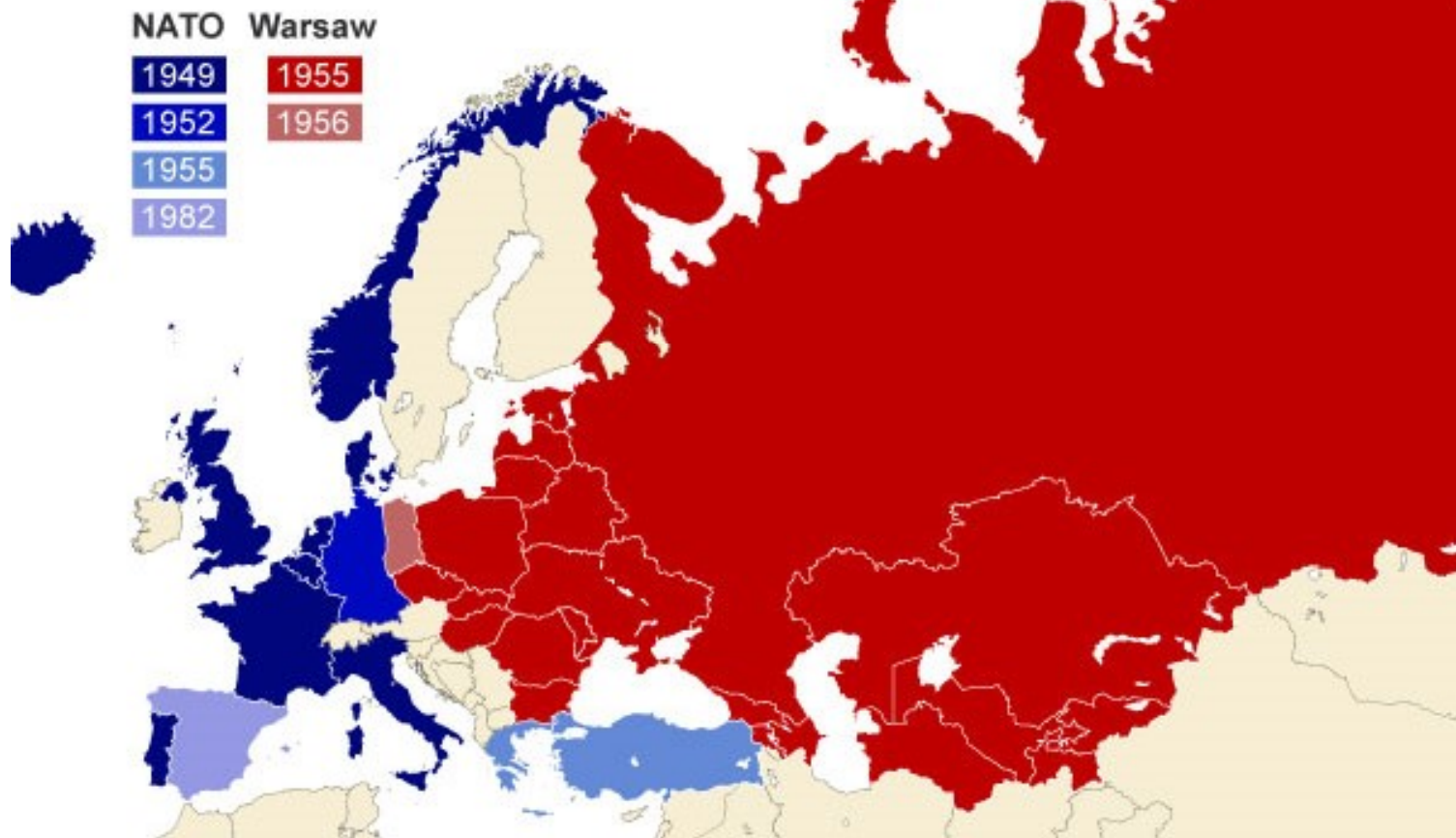


Theme 4: India & The Cold War



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Warsaw Pact



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- What is Non-alignment **really** about?

India's Priorities in the 1950s

- Economic Security
- Border Security
- Political Integration
- Deepening of Democracy
- Industrial self-sufficiency
- Social Cohesion
- Cultural Solidarity

NAM

- **Founding Members:**

- India
- Ghana
- Yugoslavia
- Indonesia
- Egypt

- **Founded: 1956**



- **Preceded by 2 Important Conferences:**

- **Asian Leaders' Conference: 1954, Colombo**
- **Afro-Asian Conference, Bandung, Indonesia 1955**

Cold War: India's Role in Korea (1950s)



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Korean War: 1950

- **1945:** WW 2 ends, Japan exits Korea
- **US & USSR:** Occupy South & North Korea respectively ; demarcate a border – 38th Parallel
- **September 1947:** US & USSR agree to withdraw troops and conduct elections
- **November 1947:** UN urges foreign troops to withdraw ; call for free elections.
- **May 1948:** Elections in South only ; south Korea recognised diplomatically.



Korean War: 1950

- **June 25th 1950:** North Korea invades the South
- **UN intervenes:** US-led forces come to the aid of South Korea
- **October 1950:** US forces cross 38th Parallel ; China repulses attack.
- **1953:** Armistice signed ; DMZ in existence.



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How did India get involved in Korea?

- **NNRC: Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission** set up by the UN in 1953
- India given the chairpersonship over the Commission aided by Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Poland.
- **Aim:** To arbitrate over 20,000 refugees & POW (Prisoners of War) and help them repatriate to either North or South Korea **peacefully and without bias.**



The Indian Team in Korea

- **Lt Gen Thimayya:** Chairman, NNRC
- **Maj Gen SSP Thorat:** Commander, “Custodian Force India”
- Had to conduct extensive negotiations, interviews with PoWs, refugees to ascertain their choices.
- Also had to maintain a **neutral stance** with respect to Chinese, Korean & American interference.
- Cold War diplomacy: **Non-Alignment**

Significance of India's role in Korea

- Established itself as a key player in Cold War politics.
- Responsible mediator in UN negotiations (read the article by **Robert Barnes** on Moodle)
- Ability to restrain the US, China and the USSR to engage in conflict.
- “Soft power”
- International profile for Indian military forces.
- International acceptability of Indian neutrality ; popularity for non-alignment

