

# AP US History

## Chapter 27 - The Cold War

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### Key Concepts

What are this chapter's key concepts?

- **8.1.I.A** - Postwar tensions → collapse of Allied alliance betw. U.S. democracies/USSR → U.S. foreign policy aimed to promote non-Communist nations
- **8.1.I.B** - U.S. feared Communist expansion → sought to contain Communism, particularly w/ wars in Korea/Vietnam
- **8.1.II.A** - U.S. debated policies over how to expose communists w/in U.S. despite both parties supporting containment of communism
- **8.1.II.C** - U.S. debated benefits of nuclear arsenal, large military, strength of exec. branch

### Origins of the Cold War

What factors stimulated the beginning of the Cold War?

**The Cold War began with differing post-war visions: the U.S. sought a world ruled by self-determination and no military alliances, while the USSR sought to preserve their colonial holdings. The late 1943 Tehran conference saw some successes, with the US and the USSR both agreeing to further support each other in the war. The Yalta conference, designed to find peace in post-war Europe, saw the successful creation of the United Nations but vague agreements over the future of Poland and Germany.**

What were the primary sources of tensions between the U.S. and the USSR?

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- U.S., w/ Atlantic Charter, believed in world w/o military alliances or spheres of influence; all ruled through democracy and self-determination (like Wilson's post-WWI ideals)
- USSR (and somewhat GB) sought to preserve empires w/ spheres of influence in foreign territories
  - Greatly resembled pre-war makeup of Europe

One of the greatest sources of tension was the fundamental disparity between the post-war vision of the U.S. and the USSR. The U.S., aligning with Wilson's idealistic beliefs, sought a world without military alliance or spheres of influence, with all ruling through self-determination. The USSR (and Britain, to an extent) sought to preserve their overseas empire.

- Jan. 1943: Roosevelt/Churchill met in Casablanca w/ Stalin having denied invitation
  - Would not accept Stalin's demand to immediately open second front in Europe
  - Promised to continue fighting until unconditional surrender, guaranteeing that the Soviets would not be left fighting alone
- Nov. 1943: Big Three met together for the first time in Tehran
  - Roosevelt had lost ability to bargain: USSR now on offensive, not needing help of US
  - Conference largely successful w/ personal relationship betw. Stalin/Roosevelt, agreement that USSR would enter war after tensions subsided in Europe, Anglo-American second front in Europe w/in 6 months
  - Unable to agree on Poland: Roosevelt/Churchill willing to allow some annexation of Polish territory but did not want installment of communist government

The January 1943 Casablanca conference furthered tensions in that Roosevelt and Churchill rejected Stalin's demand that they immediately open a second front in Europe. The November 1943 Tehran Conference was relatively successful, with the USSR agreeing to soon enter the war in the Pacific and Roosevelt and Churchill agreeing to open a second front soon. The question of the new Polish government, revealed the beginning of significant tensions over communist ideologies.

What were the primary foreign policy tensions during the war?

What was the result of the peace conference at Yalta?

- Feb. 1945: Big Three met at Yalta on Black Sea; Roosevelt promised USSR territory in Japan in exchange for entering Pacific war
- Finalized plan for new world organization: **United Nations** w/ **General Assembly** representing all members and **Security Council** representing major powers (US/Britain/France/USSR/China)
  - April 25, 1945: UN charter created in conference of 50 nations; US Senate easily ratified in July
- Disagreement remained over Poland: USSR had already installed pro-communist "Lublin" poles; Roosevelt/Churchill demanded place for pro-Western Poles in London
  - Roosevelt sought democratic govt. (which would clearly favor the pro-Western Poles); Stalin agreed to find place in govt., eventually hold elections (not for 50 yrs.)
- Future of Germany unclear: Roosevelt wanted re-united Germany while Stalin wanted major reparations → very unstable agreement
  - France, USSR, US, Britain would control **zone of occupation** based around troop position at the end of the war
  - Berlin, despite being w/in Soviet territory, would be divided into four due to importance
  - Reunion agreed upon w/o any date set; governmental structure unclear
- Yalta accords were very loose and unclear, w/ each power interpreting them to their own liking → Roosevelt shocked that Stalin failed to follow the principles as he had interpreted them
- Roosevelt died hopeful for change; stroke in April 12, 1945; succeeded by **Harry S. Truman**

The Yalta accords were successful in their creation of the United Nations; however, disagreement remained over the governmental structure in Poland (democratic vs. communist) and the future of Germany, which was not reunited but instead divided into four parts. In all, they were relatively unclear and offered room for great personal interpretation.

## The Collapse of the Peace

How did post-war peace ultimately collapse?

How did Truman's early attempts to chastise the Soviet Union fail?

- Truman believed USSR inflexible → immediately criticized violation of Yalta; very little leverage but still sought rigid following of accords
- Stalin made some concessions to pro-Westerners in Poland → U.S. recognized Warsaw govt., hoping noncommunists would replace (did not happen until 1980s)
- Germany question remained → Truman met in Potsdam, Germany w/ Churchill (soon replaced by Attlee) and Stalin
  - Truman accepted new Polish-German border
  - Refused any German reparations from U.S./British/French zones of Germany → Germany remained divided

**Truman did not share Roosevelt's view about the flexibility of the Soviet Union; he thus immediately chastised Stalin for breaking the Yalta accord. Truman reluctantly recognized the new Polish government and accepted the border; however, Potsdam guaranteed that Germany remained divided as Truman refused to allow any German reparations from non-Soviet-held territories.**

How did China fit into the post-WWII world?

- America believed in independent post-war China; communist struggle w/in China posed great threat
  - **Chiang Kai-shek**, favoring U.S., weak and disliked → communist armies of **Mao Zedong** gained significant support
- Many Americans wanted third option to take over China; others sought agreement w/ Mao; many, including Truman, continued to support Chiang
  - Civil war betw. Mao/Chiang saw U.S. mainly support Chiang's forces
  - Truman eventually sent **George Marshall** to study China, determine best U.S. policy; many Americans sought increased mil. presence
  - Marshall believed all-out war was only way to stop communist expansion; both Marshall and Truman refused war → many Americans greatly angered
- Recognizing that China had been effectively taken by communist powers, U.S. turned to reviving Japan as industrial ally
  - Lifted any restrictions on development, encouraged econ. growth; unrestricted world replaced by one w/ pro-American sphere of influence

**The U.S. believed strongly in an independent China; however, the slow communist takeover of Chiang's feeble government which George Marshall determined could be mended only by all-out war meant that the U.S. turned to the growing Japan.**

How did Truman begin a doctrine of containment?

- By end of 1945, Atlantic Charter essentially impossible → Truman created policy of **containment** to limit Soviet expansion
  - Responded to events in 1946: Stalin attempted to win control over Medit. sea lanes, communist govt. threatened western govt. in Greece
  - British announced unable to provide any further assistance
- Truman created firm policy drawing from American diplomat **George F. Kennan**, consistently advocating for containment of communist govts.
- **Truman Doctrine** pushed for U.S. to help all free peoples not desiring communist govt. → helped Turkey, Greek govt. while creating formal foreign policy

**Realizing that the goals of the Atlantic Charter to live in complete harmony, Truman advocated a policy of containment aiming to limit the amount of influence Stalin's communist government could have.**

What was the Marshall Plan?

- Containment policy hoped to reconstruct Western Europe for humanitarian sake, prevention of Europe becoming drain on U.S., desire for Euro. market; believed critical to strengthen pro-western govts. of Western Europe
- June 1947: **George C. Marshall** (sec. of state) planned to economically assist all European nations (including USSR)
  - USSR/Eastern allies immediately rejected; 16 other European nations partook
  - Some domestic opposition but vanished after Czechoslovakia experienced coup leading to communist govt.
  - Congress created **Economic Cooperation Administration** to administer Marshall Plan; sent \$12b in aid to Europe, creating revival of industrial production and limiting communist control

**The Marshall Plan sought to provide economic assistance to European nations, pouring 12 billion dollars into improving the governments of Western European nations at the expense of communist ideals.**

How did the U.S. mobilize for war on the home front?

- Clear commitment to containment in 1947/1948 w/ Truman strengthening mil. power to near-wartime levels; new draft created based around **Selective Service System**
- US continued atomic research, emphasizing nuclear weapons; **Atomic Energy Commission** created in 1946 to supervise mil. research
  - Truman approved **hydrogen bomb** in 1950
- **National Security Act of 1947** created several organizations
  - **Department of Defense** combined War and Navy Departments
  - **National Security Council** (NSC) out of White House to oversee foreign/mil. policy
  - **Central Intelligence Agency** (CIA) to replace Office of Strategic Services, gathering info. through open/covert methods
  - Ultimately expanded executive powers

**To prepare for war, Truman strengthened military power with a peacetime draft, continued atomic research with a hydrogen bomb, and passed the National Security Act of 1947 to promote knowledge-gathering organizations and wartime organizations.**

How did several Western European nations unite behind NATO?

- U.S. pushing to strengthen Western European capabilities
- Truman agreed w/ England/France to merge zones of Germany into West German republic in 1948 (including their portions of Berlin)
  - Stalin blockaded western parts of Berlin in retaliation; Truman would not back down
  - Western portions of Berlin supplied with food/fuel for over 10 months, sustaining pop. of 2m; represented commitment to resist communism
  - Stalin lifted blockade in 1949 → Germany officially divided into two nations
- Western European nations united behind **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** w/ military agreement to retaliate against other members