



# Challenge to Communism

# Background

- KISS: Explosive mix of historic imperialism, Soviet ideology, and fierce HUN nationalism
- Every E. Bloc nation suffered economically compared to pre-WWII as **Soviet satellites** (551)
  - Khrushchev's dilemma: relax tensions in E.EUR to better relations w/ West while not letting Bloc collapse (552)
  - Jun. 1953 – USSR tanks put down DDR uprising anyway
- **Dulles's “Liberation Theory”** – use peaceful means to help Bloc get rid of communism
  - Ike's containment doesn't support this (553)



# Uprising in Poland

- June 1956 – Riots ignite in POL; dozens killed
  - POL gov't. calls for nationalism, socialism
  - Tanks on their way, but NK blinks first & withdraws
  - **Gomulka**, purged in '51, installed as POL leader w/ promise of maintaining socialism & staying in W. Pact
    - KISS: 30M Poles w/ courage & willingness to resist foreigners would be too expensive (555)



...Except this guy.

# Roots of Hungarian Revolt

- 1940s – **Matyas Rakosi** – Staunch Stalinist
- 1953 – **Imre Nagy** – Reformer replaces Rakosi → removed from Party & Rakosi back
- 1956 – Nationalist **Erno Gero** replaces Rakosi
  - Students demand basic freedoms, trial of Rakosi, departure of USSR troops, Nagy's return
  - Nagy leads revolution & is martyred when he refuses to denounce it afterward (556)



I love Stalin!



Can't we  
all just get  
along?



I don't  
want to  
be here

# October 1956

- Soviet tanks move in & revolt ensues →
  - USSR settles for a Titoist HUN. Tanks retreat, but revolution doesn't end; want democracy
- USA: did little to aid revolt beyond words
  - KISS: Proves they can't do two things @ once & assumptions about USSR stopped them, like Korea (557)
  - Dulles encouraged revolt by offering aid
  - KISS: Ike didn't rebuke USSR over HUN when he was castigating UK/FRA for same thing in Suez
    - Couldn't use force b/c it's "not what's best for E.EUR or UN"
    - Meanwhile, HUN freedom fighters & **Radio Free Europe** calling for US help



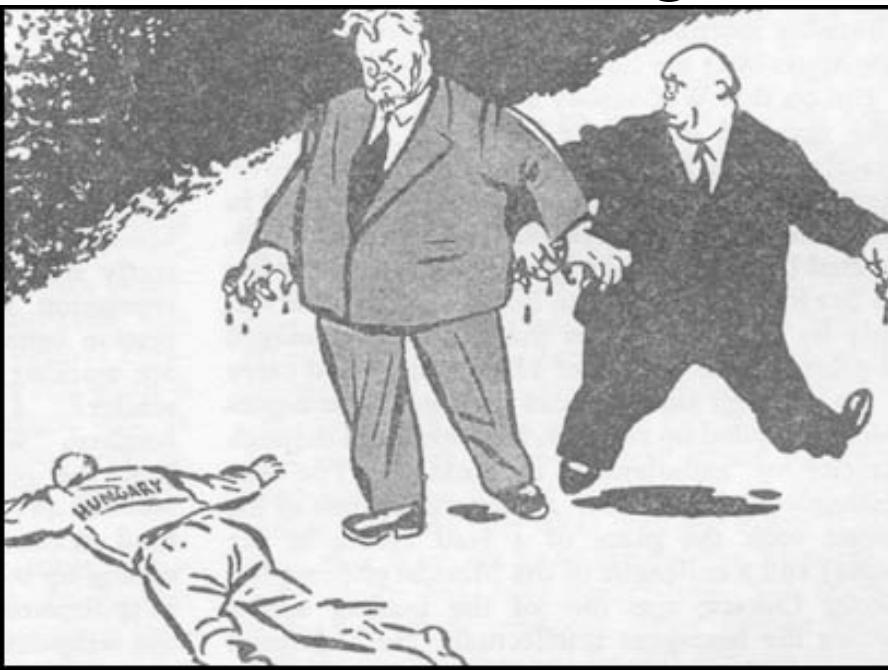
# Daylight for Democracy?

- 10/30 – PM Nagy sets up multi-party state
- 10/31 – USSR statement: Soviet troops are in W. Pact countries are there because they're wanted
  - KISS: Ike sees this optimistically → naive (560)
- 11/1 – Nagy declares independence & leaves Pact



# Nope.

- 11/4 – **Janos Kadar** (Nagy's General Secretary) comes back & ruthlessly subjugates revolution
  - Arrests **Pal Maleter** (head of Army) & Nagy; later executed
- UN passes resolution demanding withdrawal, but conflicted w/ Suez, so ignored (562)



# Short Run Results

- KISS: US fell far short of its rhetoric. Kremlin had no consequences, and they should've at least been warned. Too soft on USSR aggression (563)
- Nonaligned more fearful of USSR than US, so typically sided with them (564)
- Dulles still trying to apologize for how he came off as aggressive to USSR six weeks later (565)
  - No legal reason to aid HUN



I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry  
I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry



# Long-Run Results

- USSR can avoid Containment & threaten US openly, knowing they won't respond (566)
- USSR suffers in Bloc b/c it's too costly to support communism in countries that never really buy into it
- Kadar does gradually move toward liberalization → USSR treated HUN more liberally than POL or CZE later on
- 7000 Russians & 30,000 Hungarians died in revolt

