# Postwar US

## Ending the Depression

Some say that the New Deal ended the depression, others say that WWII ended the Depression. Steplyk says that WWI is a “break” from the depression.

Folsom gives these reasons for the Depression ending:

* End of wartime rationing, price freezes, and wage freezes
* Revenue Act of 1945: Cuts in income and corporate taxes, release of wartime “excess profits tax”
* Congress turns down Truman’s “Fair Deal”

## The Dark Side of an Alliance with Stalin

Churchill didn’t like Stalin, Roosevelt kind of liked him. By the end of the war, the Soviet union will be the US’s biggest enemy.

* Katyn Forest Massacre - Stalin killed anyone who would stand in the way of communist rule of Poland. Stalin blamed it on the Nazis, but it was the Soviets.
* Diversion of war material to the USSR - US was giving away war material, including giving some to the USSR.
* Changes to Allied strategy - Allies opened a western front, leaving Stalin to take over eastern Europe
* Failure to aid anti-Nazi German resistance - Stalin convinced the Allies that there was not a significant Nazi resistance in Germany, even though there was. He wanted the war to carry on so he could conquer more of Europe. The Allies could have aided the Poles against the Nazis but Stalin stopped them
* Uranium and other atomic material secretly provided to Soviets - some Soviet sympathizers smuggled atomic materials from the Manhattan project to the Soviets
* Tens of thousands of American and British troops possible imprisoned by USSR

# The Cold War

On one side you have the United States and its allies, the West, representing capitalism and the free market. On the other side you have the USSR representing communism. Fought through proxy wars: US in the Vietnam and Korean wars fighting the spread of communism. Both powers become nuclear powers.

## Churchill’s Iron Curtain speech

Churchill loses the election after WWII. Truman invites him to give a speech at a college in Missouri. Called his “Iron Curtain” speech:

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended

upon the continent”

George Kennan wants to contain the Soviet Union through counterforce. Eventually becomes known as the Truman Doctrine: position that the United States would offer aid to any country fighting off Soviet aggression. US helped Greece early on in the fight against communism.

## Berlin Blockade and Airlift

Germany is divided into separate occupation zones. Berlin is contained in the Soviets zone, but Berlin itself is split between the countries. Stalin decides he wants Berlin and puts up a blockade. Blatant violation of the Yalta agreement. Truman decides to airlift supplies into West Berlin. Stalin eventually lifts the blockade.

## Chambers-Hiss Case

Chambers was a writer/publisher. He was also a communist and a Soviet sympathizer. Experienced a Christian conversion and rejects communism. Hiss was allegedly a communist plant in the US government. Chambers publicly accuses Hiss and Hiss sues for slander. Nixon was part of HUAC and headed the investigation, putting Nixon on the map.

## Election of 1948

Truman finished FDR’s term and ran again. Wins against Dewey.

## NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Alliance against communism. The Soviets made the Warsaw Pact as a response. With NATO, if you attack one, you attack all.

## The Soviet Atomic Bomb

1949, the Soviets successfully tested their first atomic bomb. Julius and Ethel Rosenburg smuggled secrets to the Soviets and were convicted with treason.