**Historical Overview of US FP: The Cold War**

George Kennan and Containment (1946) – goal was to explain soviet behavior/threat, we cannot beat the soviets throw war, wear them down through containment

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Early Cold War crisis

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The German problem and the Cold War in Europe

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What was the German problem? How did it contribute to the Cold War? How was it resolved?

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The Cold War in the Third World: Why was it harder to contain Soviet influence?

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Reagan, Gorbachev, and the end of the Cold War

**Kennan & the Sources of Soviet Conduct: Why did the Soviet Union behave the way it did?**

**I** Kennan's View of Soviet Union

A. Patience and Marxist Ideology, did not want war, like water -> flows wherever

B. Dictatorship and the need for an external enemy

C. Containment as a contest between rival political systems, soviets demonized US and were patient on capitalisms failures

**Causes and Implications of the Truman Doctrine (sprouted from Greece, domino theory)**

I. Diminished Power of Great Britain causes power vacuum -> we are the new leader

II. Established Anti-Communism as Basis of AFP, fear of economic failed Europe going communist

III. Establishing American Global Leadership

IV. Set Precedent of US Intervention

V. Introduced Seeds of Domino Theory Harry S. Truman (1947)

:

“I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way.”

**Marshall Plan (build Europe’s economy on American ideals) and Containment (helped split Europe )**

I Economic Dislocation and Extremism

II. Curbing Domestic Attraction to Communism, failed economies

III. Building on U.S. Economic Power

IV. Aftermath of Marshall Plan

A. Series of crises favoring USSR

George Marshall (1947):

“Our policy is not directed against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.”

**What is the German problem?**

Unified Germany in Europe both threatening and threatened, Germany is the most powerful nation

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Concentration of economic, military, and political power in central Europe after consolidation of German empire under Bismarck in 1871

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Solved before by German fragmentation/weakness

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German security problem: challenges associated with fighting a two-front war i.e. being surrounded

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Creates incentives for territorial expansion for buffer zones

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Franco-Polish-Czech-Russo security problem: German economic and military strength significant threat

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They want territorial buffers

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At heart of World War I, World War II, and the Cold War: How to reach stable territorial and political equilibrium in Europe?

**How did the German problem shape (cause) the Cold War in Europe?**

Cold War in Europe driven by fundamentally different strategies to solve the German Problem

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American solution: partition, occupy, democratize West Germany and integrate it economically and militarily in Western alliance

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Soviet solution: partition, occupy, communize (Moser: ϑ) East Germany and integrate it economically and militarily in Soviet-led bloc

**How did the German problem shape (cause) the Cold War in Europe? (ctd)**

American concerns: Would Soviets retake West Berlin? Invade Western Europe?

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Berlin as important signal of American commitment to defend Western Europe, even considered gave them nukes

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Soviet concerns: Integrated in the West, would West Germany reconstitute economic and military power and attack Soviet Union?

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Aggravated by Eisenhower willingness to rearm Germany, maybe even with nukes!!!

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Integrated W. Germany make American sphere stronger

**Manifestations of the German problem in the Cold War**

Berlin Crisis (1948)

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Berlin Crises (1958-1962): Berlin wall, American spy plane shot down in soviet union

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Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

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Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1963): Counterproliferation in West Germany and China

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Marc Trachtenberg, A Constructed Peace - struggle of Berlin and West Germany

**RECAP: How did the German problem shape the Cold War?**

Germany and the connections among Wars of German Unification, World War I, World War II, and Cold War

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Germany at the center of struggle for influence in Europe between US and USSR

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German problem and Cold War in Europe settled (1964) via partition, occupation, and nuclear compromise

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Cold War competition then moves out of Europe...

**Third World Interventions:**

Types of Third World Cold War Conflicts

I. Proxy Wars

A. U.S. – Korea, Vietnam

B. Soviet Union – Afghanistan

II. Covert Actions

A. Staging and/or Aiding Rebellions, Iran

III. Supporting Friendly Regimes

A. Foreign and Military Aid

B. U.S. Support for Anti-Communist Dictatorships

**Why was containment easier in Europe than in the TW?:**

Advantages of Containment in Europe

I. Acceptance of US Involvement, WW1 and WW2

II. Immediacy of External Soviet Threat: Poland, Hungary, Prague spring (Czech)

III. Political, Cultural, and Historical Ties

**Why was containment easier in Europe than in the TW?: Problems for Containment in the Third World**

I. Rejection of American intervention

A. The West as an Imperial Power, guilty by association for America

B. Communism as liberation ideology

1. Lenin’s Theory of Imperialism: Damn capitalists pacified own people with higher wages

II. Domestic threat of communist insurgency

A. Lack of modernization and democratization, building institutions from scratch because economic aid does not work

B. Problems with military intervention

1. Issue of political will, fighting at home

2. Unconventional Warfare, guerrilla attacks and urban warfare

**Who ended the Cold War?: Competing Explanations**

I. The Remarkable and Unexpected End of the Cold War

II. U.S.-centric explanation for the end of the Cold War

A. Reagan’s Foreign Policy – Did Reagan push the Soviets to reform?

III. Soviet-centric explanation for the end of the Cold War

A. Gorbachev’s Foreign Policy – Was Gorbachev the primary mover?

**Reagan Foreign Policy**

I. Reagan Foreign Policy I – Confrontation

1. Rhetoric -- Renewed Confrontation, evil empire

2. Arms Buildup

3. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), star wars

4. The Reagan Doctrine, undermined soviet-backed regimes

II. Reagan Foreign Policy II – Negotiation

1. Cooling the Rhetoric, Embracing Soviet Reform

2. Arms Control

**Gorbachev, New Thinking, and the end of hegemony in Eastern Europe**

I. Gorbachev as crucial “first mover” in end of the CW

II. Gorbachev’s “New Thinking” – New ideas about security, SOI - ending Brezhnev Doctrine, use of military force in E Europe

III. Ending Hegemony in Eastern Europe

1. Sinatra Doctrine: independent systems were allowed, removal of military threats

IV. Consequences of the Sinatra Doctrine

1. Enabling and accelerating the collapse of communism

2. Contributing to the collapse of the Soviet Union

a. Loss of empire and prestige

b. Providing a model for ending communism in the USSR