

Lecture 2.13: Early Cold War

Causes of Cold War, 1945-90:

- Destruction of Europe and Japan
- Major powers now: USSR and US in conflict in what's known as the Cold War
 - Diplomatic hostility and threats as opposed to actual war
 - Technically never physical confrontation
- Causes are based in experiences, priorities
- For the US
 - No attacks on US soil except Pearl Harbor
 - War has given them economic and military boost
 - Gaining money, military strength
 - Especially bc of atomic weapons
- USSR
 - Directly invaded by Nazi Germany
 - This led to massive amounts of destruction in soviet union
 - 20 mil people lost
 - Not coming from a powerful economic/military sense
- Coming out of the war, they have separate desires
 - US → want free market Europe/Asia so they can sell all their goods
 - Free market: not regulated by gov
 - Wants other countries to not be communist so US can sell goods
 - Soviet Union → afraid of invasion again
 - Really want buffer zone of countries if someone wants to invade again
- Ideological reality → USSR interpretation of communism is not ideal communism
 - Merging of spheres under communist gov compared to US focused on capitalism in economic standpoint and democracy in political standpoint

Containment:

- Truman has strong stance against USSR → stalin has bad track record, goes he's a psychopath, don't want to let him run wild
- T's and others' fear of stalin's communism that T's administration devises policy → containment
 - Probably can't make Russia the SU, but try and keep it in its little box there and keep communism from spreading any further
- Within that: Truman Doctrine
 - US is going to protect any democratic country from communism by whatever means necessary
 - Where this applies immediately after WWII: Turkey and Greece
 - US funnels 400 mil dollars into helping them not become communist
- Also era where Congress passes national security act (1947)
 - Establishes Dept. of Defense
 - Sets up national security council
 - Who's job is to advise pres on foreign policy
 - CIA gets established as part of executive branch to prevent/manage Soviet espionage

- All things that still exist today → all bc of fears of Communism
 - How much control this is giving the executive branch!
- What this does: allows pres to conduct foreign affairs with little Congressional oversight
 - Congress doesn't even get to know what CIA does
 - Less of a check on pres's decision making power
- Era that represents another era of increase of presidential power
 - Pres operating with much less congressional oversight
 - Some historians call it "Imperial Presidency"
- Want to make sure no other states fall to communism → want to make sure other European countries' economies are recovering
 - Marshall Plan → US funnels huge amount money to European countries to help their economies recover so that they don't turn to communism
- This pisses off the Soviet Union
 - Decides to block Berlin (who is in the middle of soviet chunk of Germany)
 - Won't let anybody in or out
 - Berlin is technically controlled by France, US, Britain, etc but it's a tiny chunk in the middle of soviet controlled area
 - US says ok you want to block us off, we'll airlift supplies to make sure that they survive and don't turn communist
 - Spend 11 months dropping secret goods in Berlin so that they don't turn to communism → actually works, USSR gives up after 11 months
 - This is all billions of dollars and hella expensive, containment is serious – they are not playing around
 - France and UK suffered more (a lot) under the war, so their sections merged with the US

NATO vs. Warsaw Pact:

- Creating new military alliances
- US and its allies create the North Atlantic Treaty Org
- While soviet union creates the Warsaw Pact
- NATO is a collective security pact
 - If you are a member of NATO, then an attack on any member of NATO is an attack on you
- Part of cold war battle: influence on the rest of the world
 - These are mainly northern hemisphere conversation, but there are other countries too
 - Other countries called "third world" countries
 - US and USSR battling over control over third world and non-aligned countries
 - Not actual battles, but the more people on "our side," the more we are changing the world system
- There are multiple violent conflicts → proxy wars
 - Get somebody else to fight for me
 - Using a middle man
 - At least 14 different proxy wars fought through third parties
 - Most famous proxy wars: Korean War (1950-53) and Vietnam War (1961-75)

- Complicated by communist party takeover of China

Communist China:

- Communist party → Mao Zedong vs Nationalist Party fighting since 1937
- Japan invades china in the thirties → two sides press pause
- Japanese threat is a bit bigger, so they press truce, we'll fight over china again later
- Civil War 1927-37
- Pause for WWII: 1937-45
- Second Japan is overthrown, we are back in civil war mode 1945-49
- Truman tries to broker peace treaty, don't want communist china, neither party is willing to compromise
 - Especially since ccp gaining ground
- Finally in 1949 CCP gains control of most of mainland china
- US sees this as stalin trying to spread his influence, china doesn't really care about him
- This forces Nationalist people to flee to island of Formosa (Taiwan) and maintain themselves as Republic of China up until today
- On mainland: Mao establishes People's Republic of China
- The next year: Mao makes alliance with USSR
- This reinforces all of US's fears about communism spreading
- Mao is never really stalin's puppet in the way that other European countries were

Freaks us out → in the same year, USSR tests their first atomic bomb

Arms Race/Space Race:

- China falls into communism, USSR tests bomb, scared
- Leads to very expensive nuclear arms race
- 1952 → general Eisenhower republican wins presidential election
 - Wants to cut defense spending → maybe if I have less soldiers
 - His idea: if I make more nuclear weapons, I have less need for military
 - Develops larger nuclear arsenal
 - Does this through Brinkmanship → I dare you to do smth about it (while waving threat of nuclear weapon)
 - Threat of nuclear weapon will be enough that you stop → but what if its not?
- USSR responds by doing the same thing → builds up their nuclear arsenal
 - Mutually assured destruction → you blow us up, we blow you up, we all die
 - World destruction/peace is dependent on two people threatening to blow each other up and hoping they don't
- Expands into the Space Race → nuclear weapons and control of space will give us better access to nuclear destruction
 - First working on getting satellites into space (USSR first)
 - Once kennedy comes to power → gives lots of funding to NASA, pushes into lunar landing race

- US does it in 1968
- All of this costs money → nuclear weapons, space technology, hoping Europe recover → who's not getting money? People!

Mutual Fear:

- Fear about each other is just as intense
- Both fostering prejudice, distrust, and hatred for each other
- Children being taught this too → taught to do drills in schools

The (2nd) Red Scare:

- People are afraid of communist sympathizers → period of paranoia and restrictions of civil liberties
- In 1947 → Truman passes Executive order 9835 → “Loyalty Order”
 - Which allows gov to investigate any person hired by the gov if they are sus
 - Used to investigate people marching for racial equality, public housing, etc
 - Concern primarily is are you selling secrets to the USSR, but used to accuse people fighting for civil liberties too
- House Un-American Activities Committee
 - Job is to investigate disloyalty to the US
 - Add to red scare by holding really publicized hearings of people in Hollywood
 - If soviets get into movies and radios, they could brainwash?
 - Sent 10 Hollywood stars “the Hollywood 10” to jail that refused to testify for their previous associations when asked
 - Hundreds were blacklisted → now nobody in Hollywood is going to hire you
- Gets exacerbated by

McCarthyism, 1950-1954

- Fused by sen. Joseph McCarthy (R WI)
- Exacerbated fear by painting D as soft on communism to get R back in power
- Also claims that communists had infiltrated US gov and 250 people working in state department working for communist party
- Only way this stops is bc he takes it too far
- In 1954 → accuses army of being infiltrated by communists → people just can't believe this bc they were fighting for the US
 - People are like you are insane, can't threaten army like that
 - That's his downfall
 - Loss of credibility

Rosenberg Trial 1951:

- Adding to hysteria
- Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed after this very public trial for “passing atomic secrets” to USSR
- Freaks people out → they were working for gov, they were normal family

Lavender Scare:

- Heightened fear and discrimination against LGBTQ community in this moment
- McCarthy associates communism with homosexuality
- Other people were worried that most LGBTQ are closeted at the moment, so if you are hiding your gender/sexuality, what else are you hiding?
- That executive order also gets applied to homosexual people
- People also felt that if you were closeted, you were more susceptible to soviet blackmail
- Used this to investigate private lives of federal employees and anybody who was homosexual
- Lots of private orgs copy this → churches, local govs, NAACP, investigating people and their sexuality and using it to fire and blacklist them for jobs