



## Cold War Video Notes

- Intro:
  - Two sides never technically fought, capitalism vs communism. Small regional conflicts would turn into proxy wars. Propaganda, espionage,
- Marxism
  - Industrial revolution with steam power, machine tools. Workers faced poverty and terrible working conditions.
  - Karl Marx – wealth inequality could only be changed through a revolution. (Marxism)
- Rise of Communism
  - Russia
  - Bolshevik revolution, Lenin did one party state, used terror and propaganda. 1922 – USSR created from Russian empire.
  - Capitalism was failing, the worst conflict that the world had experienced had been fought between the largest capitalistic power.
  - Great depression, league of nations didn't stop fascists and WWII broke out. The Soviet Union had seemed more successful. (Modern industrial superpower) Created man made famine and slave labor, but many didn't know about that.
- The Second World War
  - Soviet Union was forced to be with the US and GB, USSR fought a mostly defensive war.
  - Soviets lost around 27 million people, while only 400,000 Americans died with the only assault being Pearl Harbor.
  - Americans were no longer isolationist after World War and had to have more of an international presence.
- A New World
  - US and USSR wanted to have more power and security against other countries.
  - US – USSR, IMF, invited USSR but they denied.
  - USSR – Creating pro-soviet governments to the west of them to have a barrier between them and the US.
    - When Roosevelt died, Truman took power, and he was less giving to soviet demands.
    - Puppet States – block western influence from getting Americans into their communist society.
      - Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia
      - If they rebel against Stalin, their leader will be taken down and another pro communist person would come in.
- The Atomic Bomb
  - Stalin had already known about the Atomic Bomb before Truman knew so when Truman told him, it didn't intimidate him.
  - Japan was then had to be on the US side.
- The Truman Doctrine
  - With the war over, Truman had no reason to give into Soviet demands, he sent ships as a warning, Stalin backed down.

- Sending military aid to Greece and Turkey, started idea of containment.
- This is the start of the cold war.
- McCarthyism
  - Communism was starting to rise in Europe and some in America as well. Paranoia began to spread in the US especially when Soviet spies had been found.
  - Joseph McCarthy spread fear saying that there were soviet spies in the US government, people blacklisting suspected communists.
  - Known as the “second red scare.”
  - Fought with social conformity, ends with McCarthy sounding dumb when he came and told people that all these people are communists, Congress asks for the list and he says that 4 people on the committee in Congress were on the list, he was sweating, didn’t look good.
- The CIA
  - Sep 1947, work on the basis of plausible deniability. Allowed the US to carry out actions abroad that would not be accepted at home.
  - Funded the Christian Democrats while making an anti-communist campaign. Continued to influence Italian politics.
  - Banana wars – US went in and put person in power in country that had lots of bananas so they don’t have to pay import taxes. – Backfire – leader that came back after US was dictator and worse than the person in the beginning.
- The Marshall Plan
  - To address the growth of communism in Europe, sent financial aid to Europe so people would be less likely to like communism. (130 billion dollars for economic integration and the free market)
  - Stalin forbid his satellite states from taking part so they wouldn’t dislike communism.
  - US, UK, and France made plans for an independent west German state.
- The Berlin Blockade
  - Communist Information Bureau – Compliance and uniformity in the satellite states.
  - Sponsored communist coup in Czechoslovakia so there would only be communist left.
  - Truman quickly responded by giving airlifts and supplies, forcing Russia to stop the blockade.
  - NATO created to unite US, Canada, and most of Western Europe to go against the USSR.
- The Cold War in Asia
  - New Japanese constitution created parliamentary democracy, education improved, women given equal rights so communism wouldn’t look good.
  - Mao Zedong created People’s republic in China, won.
  - US gave Philippines independence, UK gave India, Sri Lanka
- Korean War
  - Divided on 38<sup>th</sup> parallel after WWII, all cooperation to unify stopped once the Cold War started.
  - North attacked the South and disregarded the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, Soviets were at fault.
  - Domino effect if countries started to take countries.
  - Both sides started to fight on the parallel, came to a stalemate and led to the end of the war. (Communism could be contained)
    - Established that no matter how bad the proxy wars would be, nuclear bombs would never be used.

- Truman said that they would never use nuclear weapons for the proxy wars.
- The Nuclear Arms Race
  - Truman is still the only person to start a nuclear attack, he proposed that the production of those weapons should be given to the US.
  - 1949 – USSR tested nuclear bomb with research stolen from the West.
  - Thermonuclear/hydrogen bomb said in US was 1000x as powerful as the nuclear bomb, but there was no clear use for it.
  - “Castle bravo” was tested, 3x what was predicted, sent off radiation detectors across the world.
  - Eisenhower was now president, he wanted to use nuclear weapons at the end of the Korean war.
  - He said that they should be used for strictly military purposes to kill only soldiers. – use them just like bullets,
  - JFK now president, seen that the only war plan that Eisenhower had was to use 3,000 weapons to kill all of the communist countries.
- Khrushchev
  - New leader after Stalin, created Warsaw pact – between USSR and other countries. KGB – intelligence agency and espionage.
  - Revealed Stalin’s crimes, reduce the use of terror. Made people believe that their voices would be heard.
  - Hungary wanted to leave, he eventually just sent in tanks and killed people
  - Very unpredictable, turned missiles out like sausages, banged his shoe on the table at a UN conference.
  - Russia – first ICBM, sputnik
  - Nasa started the next year.
  - West had to take military out of Berlin, said that they would not want to face obliteration for the 2 million Germans.
  - USSR let the deadlines pass, leader got an invitation to visit the United States, got a new plane and met Marilyn Monroe, sulk when his trip to Disneyland was cancelled.
  - USSR shot US spy plane, US lied saying that it was a surveillance ship, USSR got the pilot alive and proved that the US was lying.
  - He was bluffing on everything, everyone was calling his bluff and he lost a ton of money.
- The Third World
  - First World – US, Britain, etc.
  - Second World – USSR, other Soviet countries
  - Third World – everybody else – America was friendly with them for resources (oil for military, etc.)
  - CIA played a major role in getting the US and third world countries to cooperate.
- The Suez Crisis
  - Some third world leaders found out how to profit by turning the first and second world against each other. Egypt – buying arms from Czechoslovakia and convince US to fund a dam in Egypt.
  - Egypt was the only one who ended out good, Fr and Britain tried to take it over but US didn’t want them to so Fr and Br had to retreat.

- Berlin Wall
  - 1961 – JFK – Khruschev tried to meet him soon to get Berlin, told him that Kennedy only had 6 months to leave and he said no.
  - JFK sent money for fallout shelters in case they got attacked.
  - Khruschev's motto was to mask his insecurities, many were escaping through Berlin, hence why he wanted to take it over.
  - Aug 12, 1961 – created Berlin wall so that people couldn't get across. Nearly 100 miles long, barbed wire then concrete. Embarrassment for communists.
- Cuban Missile Crisis
  - Cuba got taken over by Fidel Castro, so they weren't reliant on the US in the 50s. Eventually took to USSR for help.
  - US took a trade embargo on Cuba, tried to kill Castro.
  - Bay of pigs – get Castro out of power. CIA surrendered in 3 days. USSR sent nuclear missiles in Cuba to keep America out. Ended up doubling the missiles that could hit the US, he started a committee for security.
  - USSR had lots of military there and a new nuclear war would start if US invaded. US got Soviet ships around Cuba, and USSR ships turned away.
  - First time – DEFCON II – ready for nuclear war. 23 nuclear bombers were ready to go, Kennedy began to gain the upper hand in negotiations.
  - US ships used charges to warn USSR sub, only one of the 3 people on the sub said to not go to nuclear war because they thought they were getting attacked.
  - Mutually Assured Destruction – Sec. of defense. – Both sides ban their self-defenses so they were equally vulnerable.
  - CIA continued to try to kill Castro, with 600 assassination attempts. (Thallium to destroy his beard, exploding cigars, etc.)
- Vietnam War
  - US had been helping South for the last decade. CIA assassinated the dictator, JFK got assassinated 3 weeks later. Johnson rapidly increased US involvement. Domino theory began to be mass hysteria.
  - First television war – said that victory was in sight on TV but they lost trust when it didn't happen.
  - 1968 – protests the war – unjust and unwinnable.
  - Within a week, MLK Jr. was assassinated. Robert Kennedy tried to run for election, but was also assassinated.
  - Nixon is now president, declared war on Cambodia. More riots, Ohio national guard killed a few students for protesting.
  - 58000 Americans died after the war. 1 million N Vietnamese soldiers and 2 million overall Vietnamese civilians died.
  - Cambodian genocides – experimented, executed, etc. By dictator (almost a quarter of the population)
- Mao's China
  - Credited for killing 85,000,000 people by deciding not to feed them and have low crop yields on purpose.

- Mao – Stalin-inspired. Tried to rush industrialization but didn't work. Announced four pests campaign – kill sparrows and wild birds. Led to rapid growth of fermin which ate crops.
- Backyard fire – population burning their own things to produce steel, put strain on fields because no one was working them.
- Greatest famine in history – 1958-1962 – over 50 million people died.
- Famine hidden from outside world, only recognized in China in 1980.
- Two communist superpowers may go against each other, Nixon goes to China to cooperate. USSR now deeply unsettled.
- Détente
  - Era of stagnation – economy suffering because of no innovation.
  - Living standards deteriorating, house arrests, reform shut down by military. People start to question communism.
  - Brezhnev doctrine – take over any country that may be threatened by overtaking by capitalism.
  - Europe – lots of peace and prosperity – Marshall plans made Germany good.
  - Alliance before EU, started to be obvious between the east and the west, people asking whether communism was a threat anymore. 1969 – Talked with USSR about "SALT" easing of cold war tensions could help him work on the eastern bloc.
  - Both said they would stop nuclear war.
  - Détente – easing of tensions.
- Space Race
  - October 4, 1957 – USSR launched sputnik. Only 23 inches in diameter, but the technology behind it could be used for nuclear war.
  - One month later, Sputnik II was sent with a dog in it.
  - America sent Explorer I, NASA created. Wanted to catch up with USSR.
  - USSR – first person into space
  - 1 month later – US into space and 9 months later – orbit
  - 1963 – USSR – First woman in space.
  - Soon later – first space walk.
  - Apollo 8 – US orbit
  - 1969 – US landed on the moon.
  - Soon later – USSR wanted to make a space station but they decided to do it together.
  - Astronauts shook hands on the space station, ending the space race.
- Nixon
  - Authorized bombing of Cambodia when it was neutral – fabricated air force records to hide from the public.
  - Nixon staged a failed coup and destabilized Chile and eventually killed the leader with a military coup. Hid what he was doing with the CIA.
  - Pentagon papers leaked to NY Times – Plumbers which was to prevent further release of classified info – illegal burglaries, plumbers arrested and then Nixon lost credibility. He decided to resign, the only president to do so.
  - Congress – War powers act – 60-day limit of military employment
  - Ford suffered when he couldn't help in Vietnam.
  - CIA secrets exposed, trying to take out Chile's leader.

- Lots of repercussions in Angola – 3 way power struggle. (US, USSR, China)
- End of Détente
  - US supported Israel, USSR – Arab State.
  - Helsinki Accords – Have to agree to respect human rights if Europe would recognize his boundaries.
  - Ford criticized by signing because he ignored what was happening in USSR.
  - Carter tried to revive détente, suggested that further limits on nuclear weapons. Soviet military gained power, leader dying.
  - SALT II signed, many said it didn't do anything.
  - Feb 1979 – Militants stormed US embassy in Tehran. Hostages, destroyed Carter's reelection hopes.
  - 1980 – Withdraw SALT II
  - Boycott Moscow Olympics, carter doctrine – Persian gulf.
- Reagan
  - Opponent of détente, sought to reassert American strategic dominance by saying that the USSR couldn't fight.
  - He wanted to see a world where there were no nuclear weapons. Only way was to force the arms race that they couldn't win
  - Peace through strength
  - Pentagon's budget doubled, new aircraft carriers, intercontinental missiles.
  - Saudi Arabia tripled oil exports, lowering prices so USSR would lose money on their exports.
  - Bluffed USSR with new tech, they took it.
  - USSR killed civilian Korean plane and US stopped negotiations.
  - US had a training mission, USSR thought they were starting nuclear war so they got ready. Retreated, but like Cuban missile crisis.
  - Large peace movements – nuclear freeze movements.
  - 1984 – year of opportunities for peace.
- Gorbachev
  - Embraced reform and wanted to negotiate with the west. Reagan liked him, lots of charisma.
  - Mao died in 1976, started to turn capitalist.
  - Good for their economy, GDP 4x. Put more pressure on the failing Soviet economy.
  - First McDonalds in USSR - 1990.
  - Met with Reagan 5 times, more trust and respect.
  - Intermediate Nuclear forces treaty. Banned short and int. missiles. Destroyed 2500 nuclear weapons with US and USSR could check that each other's missiles were destroyed.
- Failed Reforms
  - Chernobyl – 1986 – Soviets tried to cover up the incident, tried to stop people from evacuating.
- Fall of the USSR
  - Gorbachev made their army smaller, reformers emerged because they couldn't be taken over by the military. Romania's leader told the military to kill people, being killed on Christmas.

- Berlin wall comes down, Gorbachev seen as a hero – not good reputation in USSR. Also ended communist power.
- Countries were nationalistic and wanted to get away from the USSR.
- Gorbachev resigned and the USSR was dissolved, soon later, the flag was lowered and the USSR was separated into 15 different independent states.

## Eisenhower: (1952-1960)

- Roll-back → not only stop communism, last roll back.
- Blow up anyone fighting for communism doesn't work → Hungarian revolution.
- Sputnik Launch: space race.
- Suez crisis (egypt) → link med. sea to red sea.
  - ↳ Nationalized canal, now owned by them.
  - ↳ Eisenhower can't blow Egypt up cuz he'll blow up the canal
- Eisenhower doctrine: help anyone fighting against communists.
  - ↳ Started israel, (i-palestine conflict)

## Truman: containment

Marshall plan, Truman doctrine.

Hugh act, McCarthyism, worried when China goes Red + USSR drops bomb.

JFK: Flexible response → don't tell policy upfront, make policy per country.

↳ green berets → Military branch → go into vietnam + paratrooper stuff

↳ peace corps → give humanitarian aid,

CUBA → throw out pro us dictator, now fidel Castro

US wants to kill him → bay of pigs under eisenhower, JFK executes it to try to get Cuba against  
Mao's, Cuban army captures the operatives.

Castro now is close with kr. in russia, starts Cuban Missile Crisis

now nukes from USSR in russia, no launchpads.  
↳ now BEST friends.

US sees the building of launchpads, we already

had missiles in turkey that could reach moscow.

JFK says that Russia can't supply Cuba w/anything else, DEFCON 1.

Khr. ends up turning ships around to stop war.

He wants all western powers out of Berlin, tries to scare Eis. + JFK + they don't leave so he makes the Berlin wall.

Detente: lowering of tensions.

LBJ: 1963-1968:

Whole cold war fighting strategy: domino theory.

↳ If Vietnam falls, all surrounding islands will fall. Does everything he can to stop, we ended up losing Vietnam anyways.

Mao Zedong → Worst dictator → 80 million deaths.

LBJ's legacy - Vietnam - disaster

doesn't run for reelection → Nixon.

Nixon: 1969-1974

Vietnamization: no more America troops, left the Vietnamese fight.

Detente:

I. SALT treaty,

II. Try to open door w/ China, invites to int. ping pong championship. CIA joined & went negotiating.

↳ ping pong diplomacy.

• opens up trade relations w/ China.

• Nixon doctrine → We won't put any more troops on the ground, but will support financially.

Ford: (1974-76)

No reelection bc Nixon in Watergate, VP resigns bc of tax fraud.

15 mins after inauguration, he picks Nixon.

Helsinki Accords: 1975. → USSR + Am → Human rights violations.

Jimmy Carter (1977-1980)

SALT II → INF → final treaty, → detente.

Reagan (1981-1989)

· Ends detente

· Tries to end the cold war by spending money. (on vietnam war)

↳ Starts the arms race again, put lasers in space + shoot nukes out of the air.

1991 → USSR falls, now Russia, Berlin Wall falls, one major reason was Chernobyl, shows everything worse w/ communism.  
krushchev, gorbachev.