

1950s-1980s Overview



Foreign Policy



1. United Nations (1945)

- Made to ensure that countries had a place to discuss international issues and keep the peace
- Formed after WWII in 1945 during a meeting in San Francisco
- 51 Member States were the first nations to become part, including the U.S.



2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948
- Response to the atrocities (horrible things) committed during WWII
- Represented the first global expression of rights to which all humans beings are entitled

Eleanor Roosevelt holds a Spanish copy of the Declaration



3. International Monetary Fund and World Bank

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank were established to oversee the global financial system, aid developing countries, and reduce poverty



4. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) (1947-1994)

- Purpose was to expand international trade by reducing tariffs
- Became the World Trade Organization (WTO)





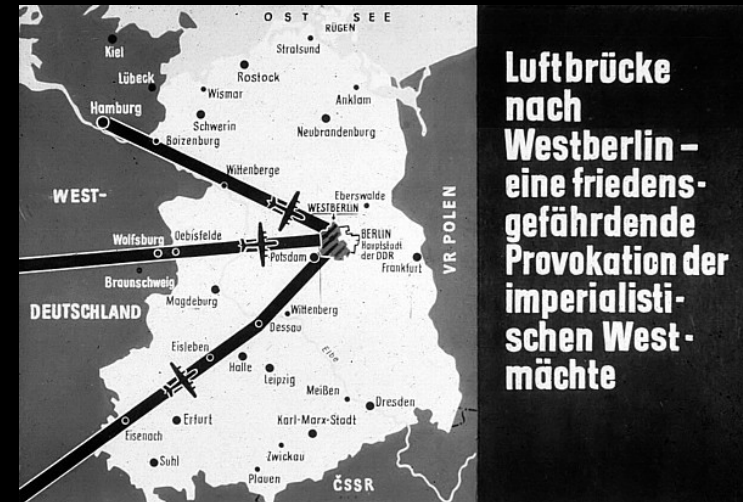
5. Cold War (1947-1991)



- Big ideas:
- US vs. Soviet Union – war of ideology, not direct confrontation
- Capitalism/Democracy vs. Communism
- Led US to practice “Containment” policy – stopping the spread of Communism around the world
- Led to “Red Scare” in the 1950s – “McCarthyism” – fear of Communists among us
- US involvement in wars: Korean War, Vietnam War

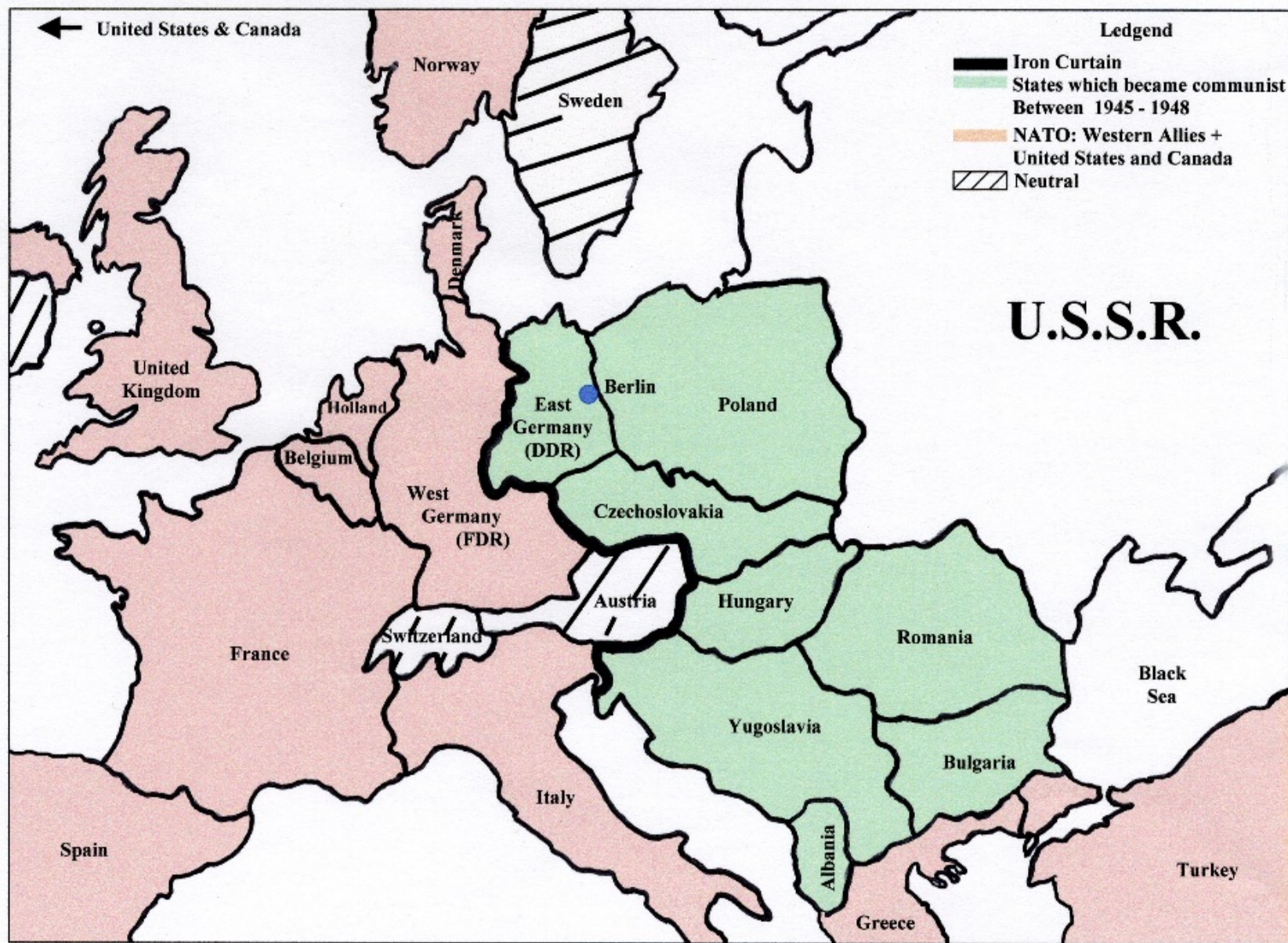
6. The Berlin Blockade and Berlin Airlift (1948-1949)

- USSR was upset with Marshall Plan and unification of West Germany.
- USSR cut off traffic to West Berlin
- For 11 months US planes dropped food to West Berliners
- Soviets ended blockade



THE COLD WAR

Post War Division of Europe 1945



6b. Berlin Crisis of 1961 – Berlin Wall

- People escaped from the Eastern Bloc through Berlin; in 1961 USSR built Berlin Wall to stop it



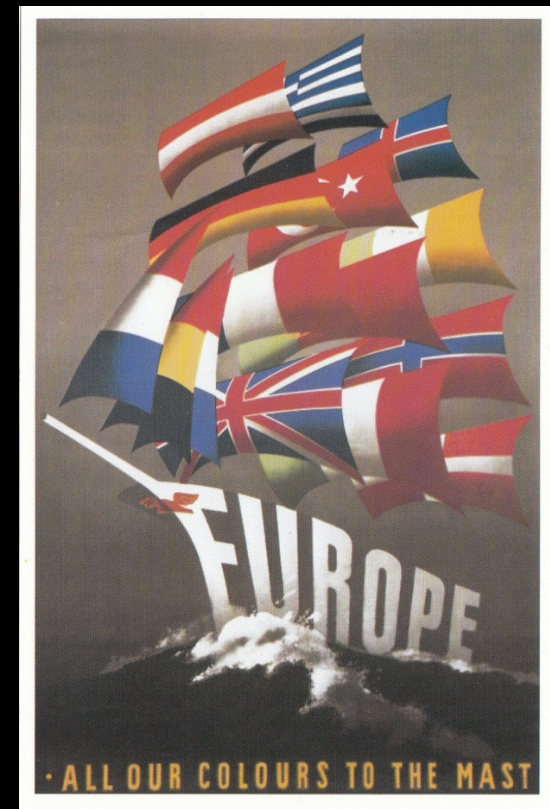
7. Truman Doctrine (1947)

- U.S. aided any country threatened by communism
- Greece and Turkey were given millions to fight against communist guerillas (first test)
- Also known as “Containment” – U.S. tried to stop communism from spreading.



8. Marshall Plan (1948-1952)

- After WWII, the US gave massive aid to Western Europe under the Marshall Plan to rebuild, help the U.S. economy, and fend off the Soviet Union



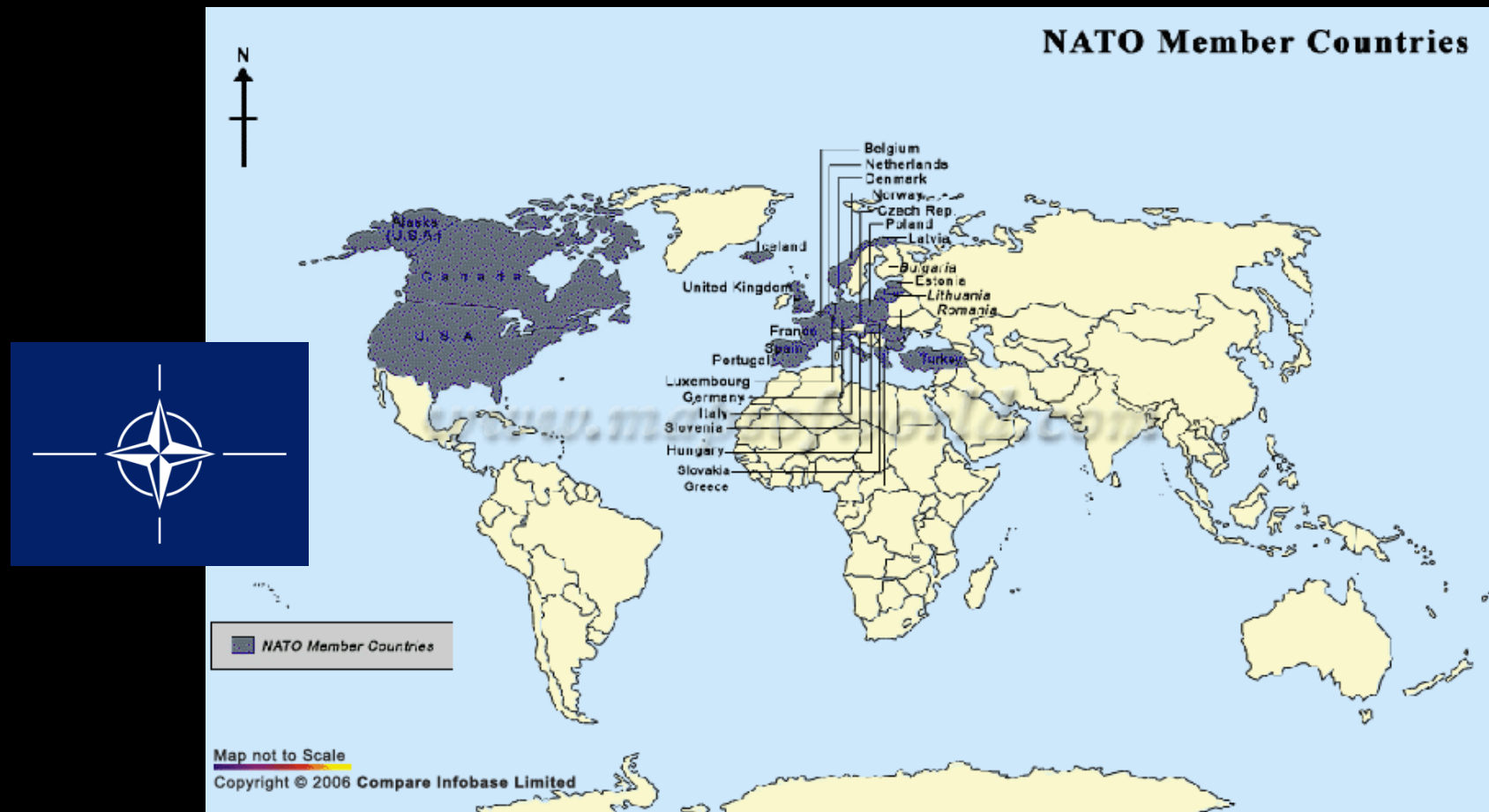
9. Domino Theory (1954)

- Eisenhower's theory that if one nation fell to Communism it could lead to others falling
- It reflected the policy of containment and justified its continuation



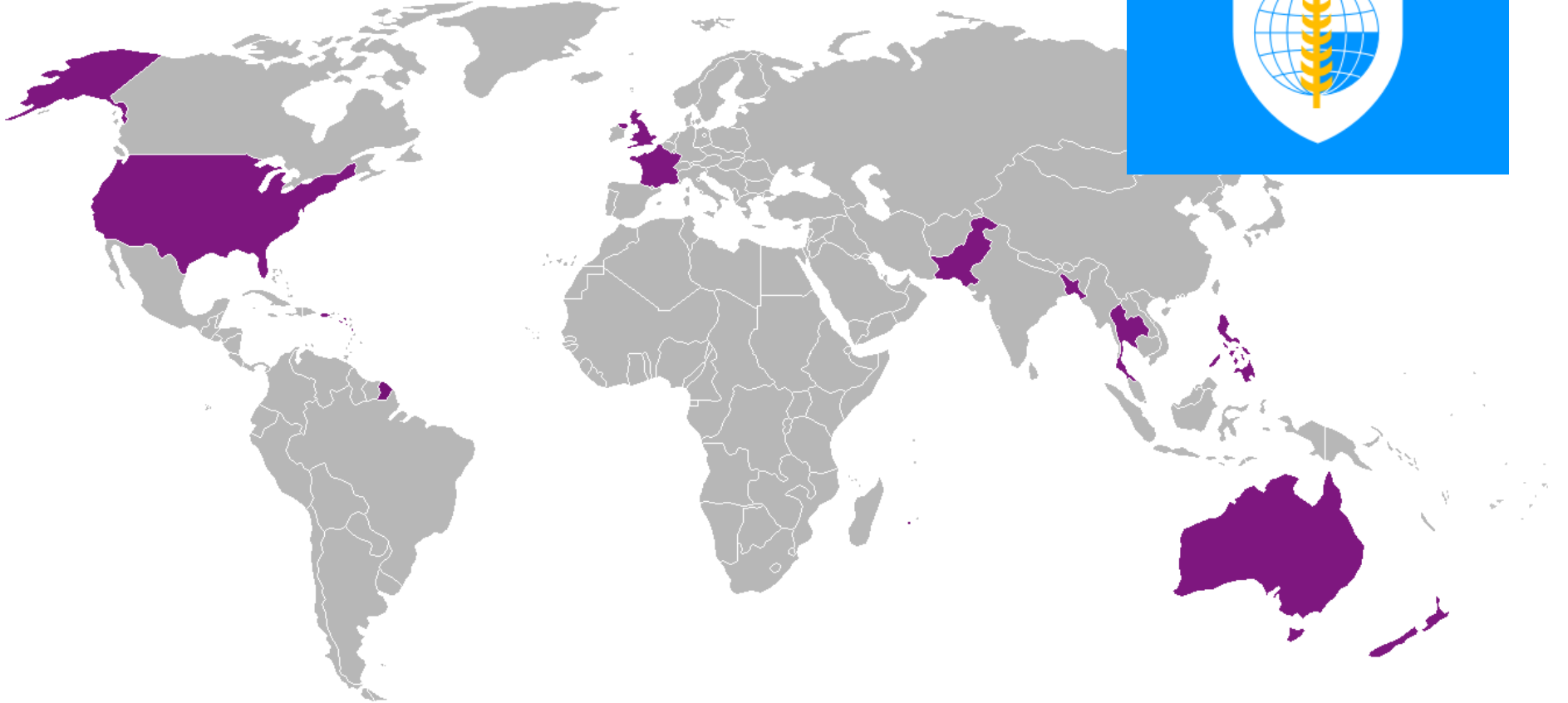
10. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)(1949)

Alliance to deter communism in Europe; involved US, Canada, and Western European countries



11. SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organization) (1954)

Alliance to stop further communist advances in
South East Asia



12. McCarthyism or “the McCarthy Era”

- McCarthyism or the McCarthy Era, was a period of extreme anti-communism led by Sen. Joseph McCarthy from 1950 to 1956
- HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee) was created to investigate suspected communists

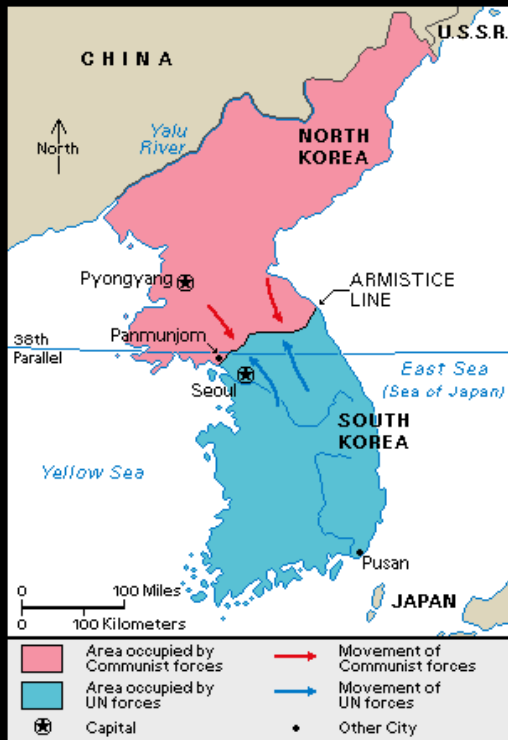


12. McCarthyism or “the McCarthy Era”

- HUAC held public hearings to expose communists and anybody who sympathized with them; resulted in the “blacklist” (list of suspected people)
- McCarthyism = the practice of making accusations of disloyalty, subversion or treason without regards to evidence (also known as “communist witch hunt”)



13. Korean War (1950-1953)

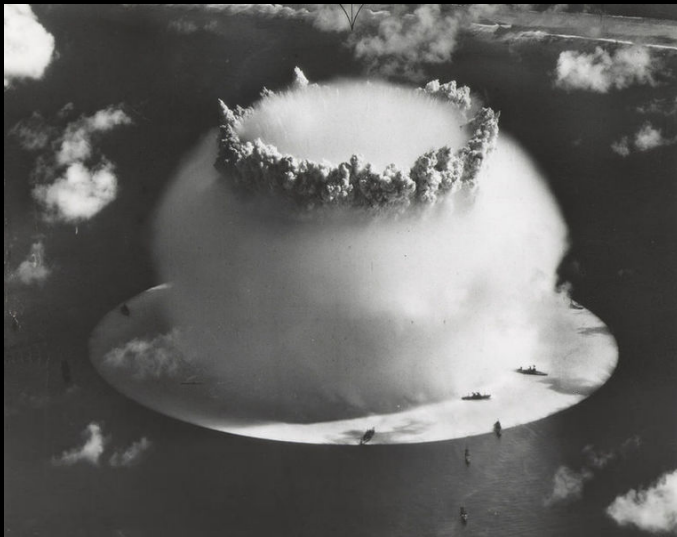


- After WWII, Korea was divided; North became communist under the USSR; South became capitalist under the US
- North attacked South to reunite the country
- U.S. and UN struck back
- China helped North
- Stalemate reached at 38th parallel



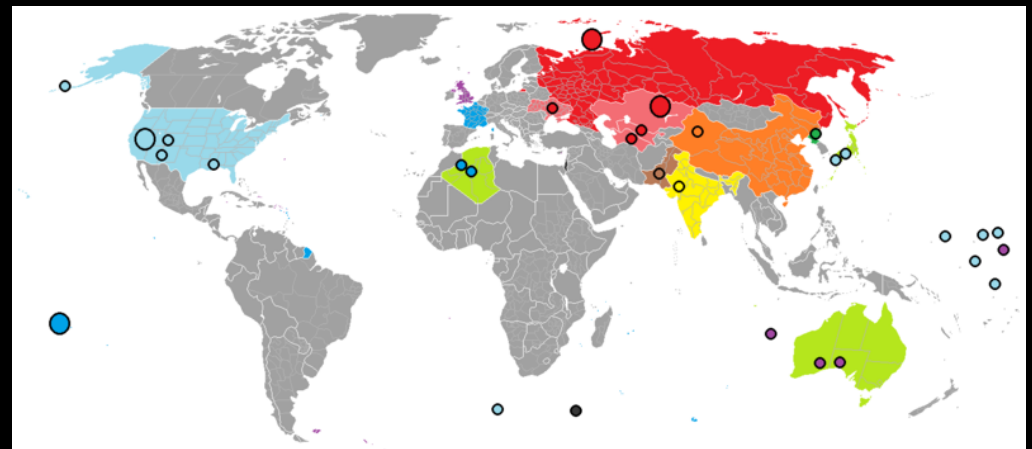
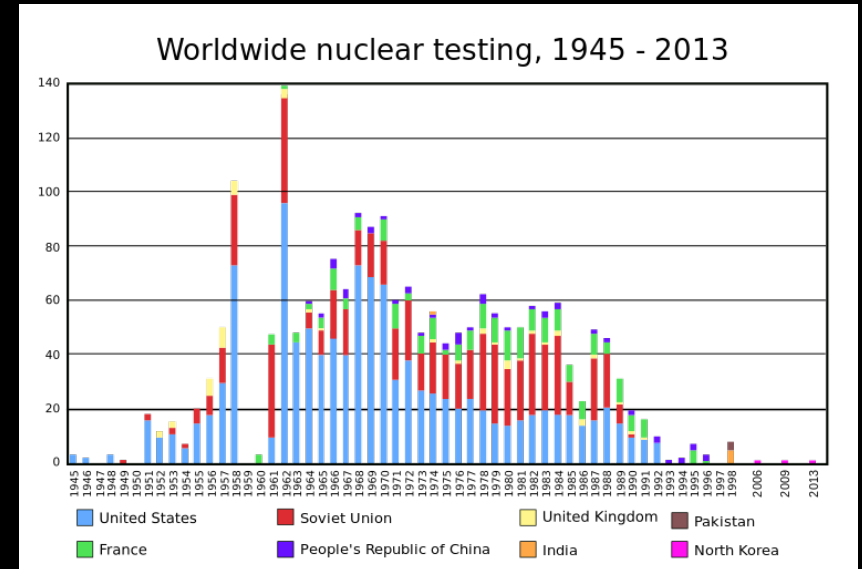
14. Atomic Testing (1945-1992)

- Atomic testing began in 1945 with the Trinity test; led to use of atomic bomb on Japan to end WWII
- Testing continued after the war in the Southwest and in the Pacific



14. Atomic Testing (1945-1992)

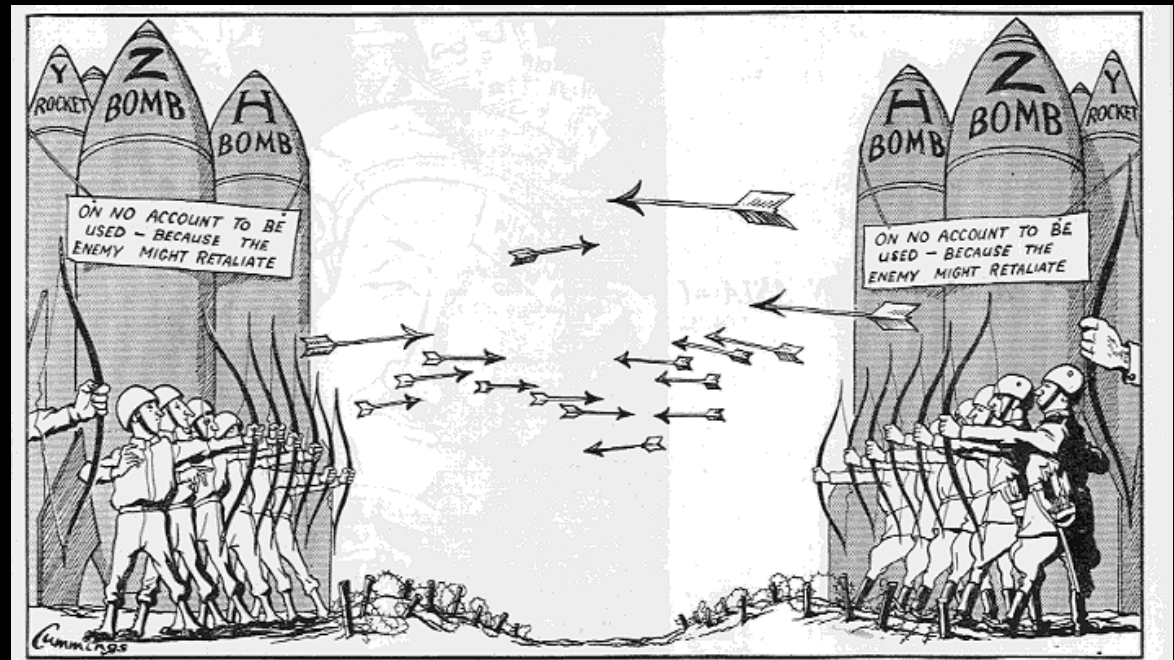
- Numerous tests by US involved US troops
- Involved many hazards to the environment and to the people exposed wherever the tests were conducted
- Tests became international





15. “Mutually Assured Destruction”

- Both the US and USSR had enough nuclear weapons to destroy each other
- This knowledge and understanding kept both countries from launching a full-fledged war
- Led to fear on both sides; Americans built bomb shelters



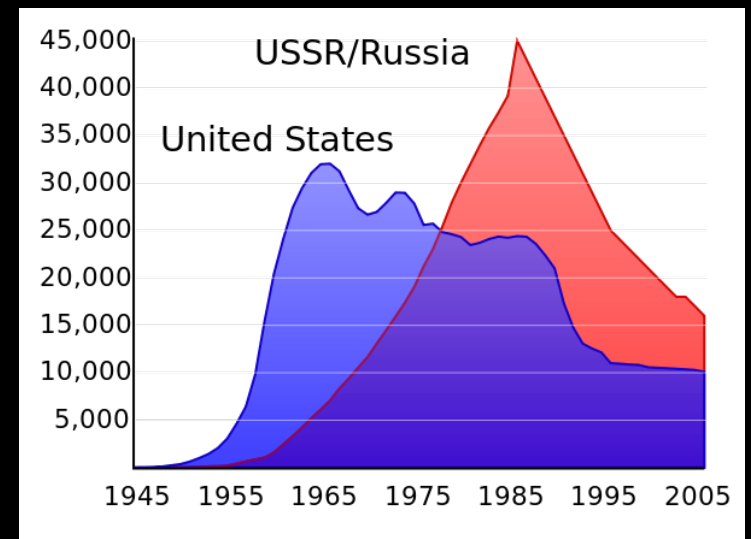
ATOMIC BOMBING

HOW TO
PROTECT
YOURSELF



16. Nuclear Disarmament Movement (1954-present)

- Many movements took place around the world to ban nuclear weapons
- In America, Women Strike for Peace marched on 60 cities across the nation in 1961
- Various arms limitations talks were held from 1963 – 2011, including the SALT talks (1970s) and Reagan's START or Strategic Arms Reduction Talks with the Soviet Union



17. The Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961)

- Cuba, led by Fidel Castro, had become communist in 1959; the U.S. opposed this
- JFK (1961) sent in Cuban exiles with special forces to get rid of Castro in Cuba.
- The communists were ready and captured the invasion force
- JFK and US looked bad



18. Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)



- USSR planned to put missiles in Cuba as a defense; U.S. blockaded Soviet ships
- JFK negotiated with Soviet leader Khrushchev
- USSR backed down on plan to place missiles; U.S. agreed never to invade Cuba and to remove missiles from Turkey)
- Closest we ever came to nuclear war with the USSR

19. Vietnam War (1955-1975)

- U.S. went in to prevent the spread of communism from North Vietnam to South Vietnam
- Eisenhower, JFK sent advisors and support
- LBJ escalated the war in 1964; became long, bloody, costly war



20. 1964 Joint Resolution of Congress



- “Gulf of Tonkin Resolution”
- Authorized President (LBJ) to send troops to battle in Vietnam even though no formal war declaration
- Example of presidential power increase during crisis
- Later curbed by War Powers Act (1973); meant to limit the president’s power

21. Anti-war protest and the Vietnam War

- Students and others protested; 1968 Tet Offensive increased anti-war sentiment
- Nixon promised to end war, but secretly expanded it; news of this led to more protest – Kent State protest led to deaths of four students by Ohio National Guard



22. Vietnamization

- Nixon's plan to turn the war over to the control of the South Vietnamese
- Wanted “peace with honor”
- Nixon pulled out troops in 1973; South Vietnam fell to Communism in 1975



23. End of Cold War



- Cost of maintaining defenses weakened Communist countries
- Reagan and Gorbachev talked
- Desire for freedoms inspired citizens of these countries
- Berlin Wall was torn down in 1989
- USSR collapsed in 1991

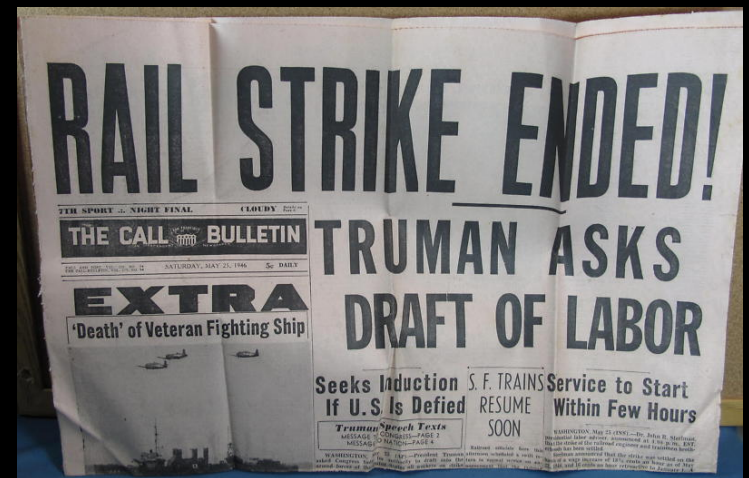


Domestic Issues

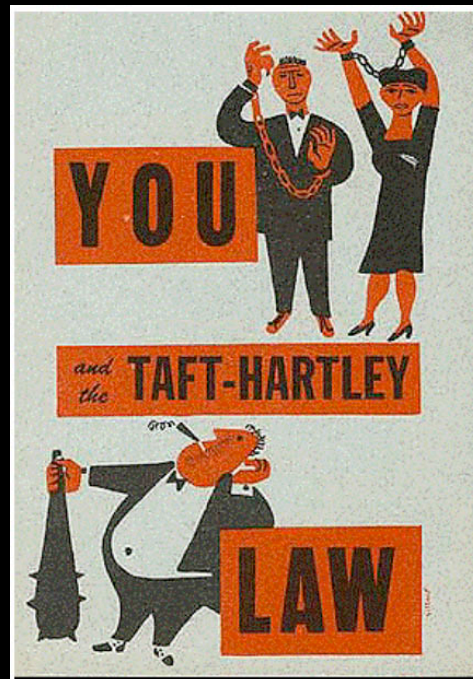
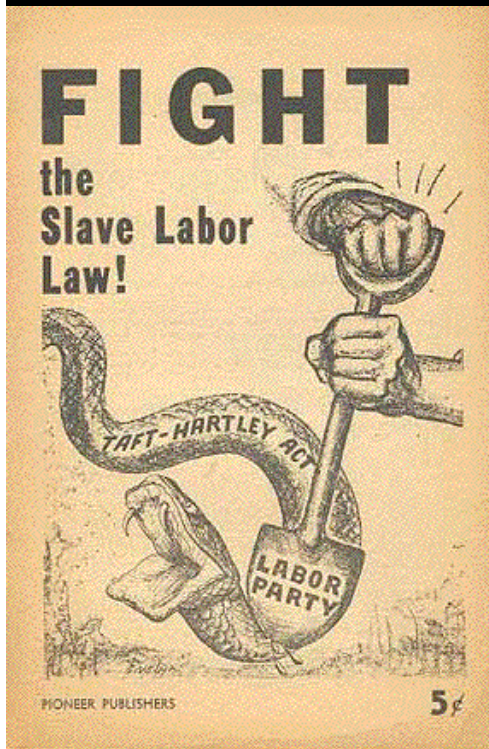


24. Truman's Labor Policies (1946-1953)

- After WWII government controls ended; prices rose and wages dropped; workers struck
- Truman (a Democrat) generally supported labor, but he used threats of federal action to end strikes during Korean War
- Workers would have been drafted as soldiers then ordered to stay on the job
- Government would take control of the mines and railroads
- Unions gave in to the pressure



25. The Taft-Hartley Act (1947) (Labor Management Relations Act)



- Republican Congress opposed labor strength
- The Act limited union activities and strength
- Amended National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act)
- Emphasized employees' right to not join a union
- Congress passed Act over Truman's veto

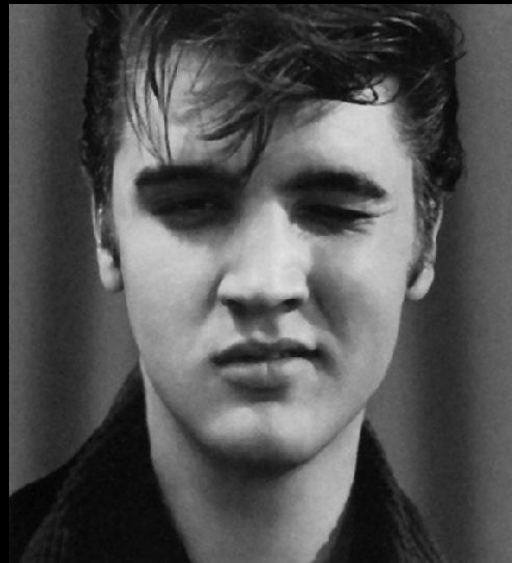
26. Federal Highway Act (1956)

- Supported and signed into law by Eisenhower
- Dual importance for civilian and military transportation
- Allowed for rapid deployment of missiles in time of conflict
- Helped to create a car culture where people could travel around the country



27. Rock Music (1950s on)

- Artists like Elvis Presley were new and their style influenced teenagers to change their culture
- A “generation gap” was created with the older generation not following this new culture



28. Television and Politics (1950s on)

- Eisenhower used televised campaign ads
- Televised debate helped Kennedy in 1960 election
- TV allowed candidates to address public
- TV had big impact



Civil Rights



29. Big Idea: Civil Rights

- Major changes after WWII
- Government role: Supreme Court rulings; Civil Rights Act; Voting Rights Act
- Churches played major role in organization
- Desegregation; voting rights; job equality
- Methods: civil disobedience; non-violent protest

30. *Brown v. Board of Education*

- 1954 Supreme Court Decision
- Reversed *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) “*Separate but equal*”
- Required desegregation (integration) of the schools “with all deliberate speed”
- Thurgood Marshall NAACP lawyer who won case and later became a Supreme Court Justice

