

Notes: Confrontation of the Superpowers

Spielvogel Chapter 28

- I. Development of the Cold War
 - A. Confrontation of the Superpowers
 1. Europe basically destroyed itself – only the U.S. and the USSR remain powerful – centuries of western European domination over
 2. Beliefs of the Two Powers
 - a. U.S. believes only it can stop Soviet influences in void left by Nazi power – keep desperate people from embracing communism
 - b. Soviets believe they must save world from U.S. Imperialism & Capitalism (unfair world)
 - B. U.S. European Policy
 1. Truman Doctrine – 1947 -- Containment
 2. The Marshall Plan – 1947
 - a. Sec. of State George Marshall declares \$5.3B aid package to help rebuild Europe (eventually totaled \$17B) – rebuild European prosperity and stability
 - b. Implication was – to get aid, don't elect communists
 3. Partition of Germany
 - a. East to Russia
 - b. West split between Britain, France, & U.S.
 - i. Immediately united for economic rebuilding
 - c. 1948 – Berlin Airlift (response to blockade)
 - d. Soviets stop because world opinion against them & formation of NATO
 - i. Military alliance of Western European countries against Soviet Union (12-Belgium, Lux, Neth, Italy, Port, Den, Iceland Nor, Canada, Fr. G.B., U.S.)
 - ii. An attack against one is attack against all
 - iii. Meant to contain Soviet military aggression
 - C. Tensions
 1. USSR responds to Truman Doctrine by intensifying control over eastern Europe
 - a. Announces that they will focus on military rather than consumer goods
 2. German economy grows – Soviets demand reparations to be paid from current German production – U.S. ends reparations entirely – Soviets respond
 - a. May 1949 – Federal Republic of Germany (independent country) (West Germany) created
 - b. Soviets created German Democratic Republic (East Germany) Oct. 1949
 3. China becomes communist – 1949 – Cold War goes global
 4. Soviets have A-bomb by 1949 – H-bomb by 1952 (within a year of U.S.)
 - a. Arms race begins

5. 1950-53 – Korean War
6. 1955 – the Warsaw Pact established to counter NATO – military alliance of USSR and satellite countries
7. 1957 – Soviets launch Sputnik – first space satellite
 - a. Space race begins
8. 1961 – Soviets build Berlin Wall to stop flood of refugees out of East Berlin
 - a. The wall becomes a symbol of the ideological division of Europe – built to keep people in rather than out
9. 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis
10. Vietnam War – 1963
 - a. U.S. had pledged to fight communism (Truman Doctrine)
 - b. Stepped in when France quit in 1954
11. Increased tensions lead to a period of détente (relaxation)
 - a. Peaceful coexistence (late 1960s – late 1970s)

II. Decolonization

A. Africa

1. Europe no longer had strength or desire to rule colonies
2. Lack of knowledge & infrastructure -- intentional by the Europeans
 - a. Some countries governed by western educated black Africans
 - b. Many governments overthrown by terrorism and guerilla wars of independence – late 1950s – early 1970s – warlord control
 - c. Most changed their names
3. Most African governments today are dictatorships – many brutal

B. The Middle East

1. Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq gain independence between the wars as a result of the collapse of the Ottoman and Persian empires
2. Syria, Lebanon, Jordan independent after WWII
 - a. Given up by France and Britain
3. Biggest issue – the creation of the state of Israel in 1948
 - a. Carved out of Palestine – supported by the U.S. and Britain (Balfour Declaration – 1917)
 - b. Immediate and continued resistance by Arab Muslims continue to this day
 - i. Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) – terrorist group dedicated to eliminate Israel

III. Recovery and Renewal in Europe

A. The Soviet Union

1. Stalin
 - a. Stalin fears attack from western powers
 - b. Postwar 5-year plan emphasized heavy industry and military – achieves nuclear power in 1949
 - i. 1950 – USSR second only to U.S. in industrial production – done without Marshall Plan money – refused
 - c. USSR grew economically by forced trade with satellite nations
 - i. Satellite nations suffer while USSR improves
 - d. After announcing another planned purge, Stalin dies in 1953
2. Nikita Khrushchev

- a. Power struggle ensues – Nikita Khrushchev gains power 1954
 - i. He had been Stalin’s henchman; now denounced Stalin as cruel
- b. Relaxes some economic control to try to enhance productivity
- c. Attempted to give more freedom to satellite countries – must stay within communist guidelines
- d. Works in Poland – rebellion in Budapest in 1956 is harshly put down – many killed and jailed
 - i. West looks on – does nothing – can’t (Warsaw vs. Nato)
- e. Khrushchev gone by 1964 – Failure of the Cuban Missile Crisis main catalyst – replaced by Leonid Brezhnev

B. Eastern Europe

- 1. Soviet sphere of influence – satellite countries
 - a. Countries behind the iron curtain
 - i. East Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia
- 2. Non-Soviet Communism
 - a. Balkan peninsula
 - i. Albania
 - ii. Yugoslavia – Marshal Tito (Joseph Broz) able to withstand Soviet pressure by pushing Slavic nationalism
- 3. Political unrest
 - a. Hungary (1956)
 - i. Nationalist search for it’s own brand of economic policy – didn’t want Soviet communism
 - i. Declared itself an independent state
 - ii. Soviet Red Army invades Budapest – rebellion brutally put down
 - i. A lesson for other satellite countries
 - b. Czechoslovakia (1968)
 - i. Alexander Dubcek – head of govt. – communist but wants more liberal policies – pulls out of Warsaw Pact (“communism with a human face”)
 - ii. Called the “Prague Spring” – liberalizing movement grows – Brezhnev hesitates
 - iii. Finally troops (200,000) sent in – movement crushed – fear Czech would leave Soviet Union
 - c. Soviets finding it more and more difficult to isolate themselves from a more prosperous western world

C. Western Europe

- 1. France
 - a. Third Republic gone with German occupation of 1940
 - i. Provisional government – 1945-46
 - b. Fourth Republic established 1946
 - i. Had faults of third Republic – weak executive – too many political parties for a majority in national assembly
 - ii. Continuation of empire (imperialism) brings it down – Algerian war for independence 1958

- c. Fifth Republic (1958-present)
 - i. 1958 – De Gaulle takes over – establishes 5th Republic
 - ii. Centralized and authoritarian grants – Algerian independence
 - iii. Increase in welfare (modern socialism/welfare state)
 - iv. Pro-French; Anti-U.S. culture
 - v. Rejects Nuclear arms pact of 1963 – wanted France to be a nuclear power
 - vi. 1966 – pulled France out of NATO – headquarters moved from Paris to Brussels, Belgium
 - vii. Revolution of 1968
 - i. University students protest poor conditions outside Paris
 - ii. Protest picked up by working class – 10M on strike – clash with police
 - iii. Students see start of new French Rev. – ideological rhetoric not accepted – workers wanted better conditions only
 - iv. De Gaulle’s popularity drops – resigns 1969 – dead within a year
2. West Germany
- a. Unable to arm – German resources used for industry
 - b. Christian Democratic Party had ruled since the war – Konrad Adenauer
 - c. 1958 – West Germany leading industrial country in Europe – had not nationalized industry like England and France
 - i. Germany and Japan emerge with most modern industries and factories in the world due to U.S. assistance
 - d. 1960s – charted their own course – was encouraged – few controls
 - e. 1966 – became member of NATO
 - f. 1969 – Social Democrats win with Willy Brandt
 - i. Had fought the Nazis with the Norwegian Resistance
 - ii. Helped calm fears of USSR about German resurgence
 - iii. Worked treaties on borders – accepted East and West Germany – travel restrictions eased
3. Great Britain
- a. Churchill conservative govt. turned out after the war in favor of the Labour Party
 - b. Nationalized major industries (mines, steels, transportation, banks)
 - c. Welfare state (modern socialism)
 - i. Nationalized medicine – compulsory education – becomes welfare state – greater taxes to benefit the poor
 - d. Britain had outgrown itself – needed imports to feed and clothe itself – colonies were gone
 - i. Could not generate enough exports (outmoded industrial structure) to offset imports

- ii. By the late 1950s, Britain was no longer a first-rate world economic power – Replaced by Germany, Japan, U.S., USSR
 - e. Suez Crisis – 1956 shows England no longer a world military power
 - i. Gamal Nasser of Egypt nationalizes the canal
 - ii. England threatens war – national interests threatened
 - iii. U.S. forces her to back down
- 4. The move toward unity
 - a. Decade of the 1950s brought the beginnings of economic union among some western European nations
 - b. European nations begin to realize the wealth of the U.S. comes from great domestic markets without tariffs – try it themselves
 - i. 1948 – **Benelux** – the first – agree to reduce tariffs among themselves 1951 – European Coal and Steel
 - c. Community (ECSC) – Fr, W. Ger, Italy, Benelux – coal and steel industries administered as a unit
 - d. 1958 – European Economic Community (Common Market) – hope to eliminate international tariffs – same countries – free trade (like Zollverein) Britain refused to join – other countries are in & out – national preservation still high priority
 - i. 1960s – EEC becomes an important trading block – can compete on a world level
 - ii. Biggest obstacles – nationalism and Charles de Gaulle

IV. Europe's New Society

- A. The Welfare State (towards Socialism [evolutionary])
 - 1. Increase in power of the state over the lives of its people
 - 2. Benefits
 - a. Better working conditions (vacations, workday, etc.)
 - b. Eliminate poverty, homelessness
 - c. Everyone gets medical service (universal health care), education, social security, unemployment compensation
 - d. Stability
 - 3. Costs
 - a. Extremely high taxes
 - b. Wealthier end up paying for poor
 - c. Lack of boom periods, innovation
- B. Women in Postwar Europe
 - 1. Far more women in the workforce following WWII
 - a. Common to see married women working for first time since Middle Ages
 - b. Women still earning far less than men (50-60%)
 - c. By 1970s – girls thought in terms of jobs and careers – not just marriage and homemaking
 - i. Many had the responsibility for both
 - 2. European birthrates decline rapidly after 1960
 - a. Birth control & abortion more common/accepted
 - b. Need for employment

3. The Feminist Movement – Women’s Liberation
 - a. Want absolute equality with men; *social &* political
 - b. Most women not exercising their right to vote in order to accomplish change
 - c. Simone de Beauvoir a leader for active feminism
 - i. Writes *The Second Sex*
 - ii. Upper middle class – well educated
 - iii. Helped women begin to liberate themselves from a male controlled society