

XIII. Cold War

A. Beginnings & Definitions

1. End of WWII = only two major powers hadn't been utterly destroyed
 - a. US & USSR
2. Two powers had very different philosophies
 - a. US: capitalism, freedom, "We the People"
 - b. USSR: communism, fairness/equality (socio-economic), oligarchy
 - c. Each felt they had to save the world from the other
 - US felt they had to save world from Communism & oligarchy
 - i. [Truman Doctrine/Containment](#)
 - USSR felt they had to save world from US imperialism, esp. economic & political
3. Definition of "cold" war

B. USSR seizes control of Eastern European countries

1. USSR wanted a military buffer – also takes over other Eastern European countries
 - a. these were already behind – will be further behind after communist control
2. US & allies decided to rebuild the West – the Marshall Plan
3. Churchill says an "[iron curtain](#)" has descended on Eastern Europe

C. Arms Race begins

1. USSR has atom bomb by late 1940s
2. US hopes to counter with hydrogen bomb, but USSR acquires it a year later
3. Basic concept: mutually assured destruction operates as a deterrent

D. First struggle – division of Germany

1. East v. West
 - a. West Germany – occupied by Britain, France, U.S. (combined into one group)
 - economic rebuilding & restructuring
 - political freedoms
 - b. East Germany – occupied by USSR
 - lack of political/economic freedom
2. Berlin also divided, but located in communist East
 - a. USSR blockades Berlin
 - b. US can't declare war
 - [Berlin Airlift](#)
3. Formation of NATO

E. Nikita Khrushchev takes over

1. seems so much nicer than Stalin
 - a. isn't
2. [Berlin Wall](#) erected – purpose – keep people *in*
 - a. [escapes, etc.](#)
3. [Cuban Missile Crisis](#)

- a. Shows the center of crisis is moving towards Latin America
 - series of dictators, many Communists, many Fascists (old friends of Mussolini)
- F. In France – [Charles de Gaulle](#)
 1. Leader of resistance in WWII, now president of France's 5th Republic
 2. insists on absolute power (even wrote France's constitution)
 - a. uses it to set up socialist country (welfare state)
 3. Algeria
 - a. French protectorate
 - b. wants independence, massacred, then votes to leave
 - c. 6,000 non-Algerians displaced
 4. 1968 revolts – poor working conditions
 - a. de Gaulle resigned – dead within a year