Cold War
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Teaching American History
World War II

- End of the war, Soviets in Germany from the East, US in from West.
  - Soviets lost 30 million during war
  - Angry US didn’t enter European theater sooner
- Divided Germany and Berlin in half, each under Soviet or US influence
  - Soviets want barrier against future invasion
  - French want protection barrier also
Divided Germany and Berlin

- Notice the location of Berlin
Mushroom Cloud

- US exploded 2 atomic bombs
  - 2 Japanese cities
    Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Soviets exploded one test bomb in 1949
- Relations between Soviet and US turn cold
- Paranoid about each other
Destruction with an Atomic Bomb
Iron curtain

- Communist regimes start in several eastern European countries
- Added to the buffer zone against Germany
  - “Misunderstanding” of Soviet intentions
- Winston Churchill gives a speech calling the countries under Soviet control under a “Iron Curtain”
Berlin Airlift

- Soviet block off road into Berlin
- US influenced area of Berlin couldn’t get supplies
- US starts airlifting (dropping from planes) supplies to people of West Berlin
- Soviets frustrated by airlift and lift blockade
Containment & Dominoes

- President Truman gives speech
- Uses Kennan’s concept of Containment
- Idea is to contain Communism to where it exists but not to try and “roll it back”
- Starts with Turkey and Greece
  - Known as Truman Doctrine
- Eisenhower gives a speech on Domino Theory.
  - If one country falls to communism, other countries will fall
Q. Robert Richards, Copley Press: Mr. President, would you mind commenting on the strategic importance of Indochina to the free world? I think there has been, across the country, some lack of understanding on just what it means to us.

2 -THE PRESIDENT. You have, of course, both the specific and the general when you talk about such things.

3 -First of all, you have the specific value of a locality in its production of materials that the world needs. Then you have the possibility that many human beings pass under a dictatorship that is inimical to the free world.

4 -Finally, you have broader considerations that might follow what you would call the "falling domino" principle. You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you could have a beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences.

5 -Now, with respect to the first one, two of the items from this particular area that the world uses are tin and tungsten. They are very important. There are others, of course, the rubber plantations and so on.

6 -Then with respect to more people passing under this domination, Asia, after all, has already lost some 450 million of its peoples to the Communist dictatorship, and we simply can't afford greater losses.

7 -But when we come to the possible sequence of events, the loss of Indochina, of Burma, of Thailand, of the Peninsula, and Indonesia following, now you begin to talk about areas that not only multiply the disadvantages that you would suffer through loss of materials, sources of materials, but now you are talking really about millions and millions and millions of people.

8 -Finally, the geographical position achieved thereby does many things. It turns the so-called island defensive chain of Japan, Formosa, of the Philippines and to the southward; it moves in to threaten Australia and New Zealand.

9 -It takes away, in its economic aspects, that region that Japan must have as a trading area or Japan, in turn, will have only one place in the world to go--that is, toward the Communist areas in order to live.

10 -So, the possible consequences of the loss are just incalculable to the free world.
Cold at Home

- Red Scare
  - Paranoia starts within the US
  - People trying to find Communists within the US
  - Labor groups especially suspect
- HUAC (House UnAmerican Activities Committee)
  - House of Representatives hearing on questioning people about Communist ties
- Hollywood 10
  - 10 individuals in Hollywood were suspected of Communist ties
  - Put on a blacklist (couldn’t get a job)
Cold at Home part 2

- Eugene McCarthy, Senator from Wisconsin, trying to expose communists in govt. and other places
- Edward R. Murrow, a news reporter, challenges McCarthy and his list of communists
- Murrow eventually exposes McCarthy for a fraud
- McCarthy is eventually seen as a disgrace.
Enemy among us

- Ethel and Julius Rosenberg caught in spying ring
- Executed for Treason
  - Had 2 little children
- Some dispute whether guilty
- Since proven definitely guilty
- Helped fuel the paranoia of McCarthyism era
NATO & Warsaw Pact

- Countries in Western Europe join in a pact with US
- Agree to protect and defend each other
  - Mostly used to stop the spread of communism
- Called North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- USSR and Eastern Europe do the same
- Known as the Warsaw Pact
- Increased the threat of mutual assured destruction
Space Race

- Sputnik - Soviet are able to put first object into space (1957)
- US nervous about Soviets getting the edge
- Later Soviets put a dog and monkey into space as experiment
- But US able to land man on Moon
  - Seen as a winner of space race
Sky Pilot

- U2 planes built by US to spy on Soviets from high altitude
- Francis Gary Powers is shot down in U2 plane over Soviet Union in May 1960
- Ruins Eisenhower’s dream of Cold War thaw at the Paris Summit
Havana Daydreamin’

- JFK inherits a plan for a CIA invasion of Cuba
  - Castro and communist regime took over in 1959
  - Invasion plan involves ex-Cubans exiles
- JFK decides not to do it at the last minute
- Exiles go ahead with plan with no US support
- Exiles defeated easily
Cuban Missile Crisis

- US places missiles in Turkey facing USSR
- US spy plane spots missile silos in Cuba
- Soviet deny until shown photos at UN
- US sends ships to block delivery of missiles from USSR
- Tense 13 days until USSR ships turn around
- Very close to war between US and USSR
Communism in Asia

- Vietnam and Korea divided into North and South, communist north and US supported South (not necessary democratic)
- US commits troops to keep communism out of South of both country
- In Korea, US and UN force able to stop take over
- In Vietnam US (had no UN support) had to finally pull out and lost whole county to communism
Nixon orders some Chinese

- In order to escape Watergate, Nixon decides to visit China.
- China became communist in 1949.
  - Cold relations between USSR and China.
- Opens relations with China after 23 years and furthers softening stance with communist countries.
1980

- Through 70’s US takes detente policy towards USSR
  - Easing relations between the two countries
- US beats USSR in semi-final of hockey during ’80 Olympics
  - Underdogs
  - Matter of pride
  - See movie “Miracle”
- USSR gets involved in Afghanistan
  - Locals trying to push out Soviet supported regime
  - Became the USSR’s Vietnam, no way to beat locals
Evil Empire

- Ronald Reagan becomes president in 1981
- Renews “fight” against USSR and communism
- Deemed the USSR a “Evil Empire”
- Nuclear holocaust worries begin again
- Supports insurgent groups fighting communist regimes all over the world
  - Especially in Latin America
  - Defies Congress- becomes scandal, Iran Contra Scandal- sell weapons to Iran and give proceeds to anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua
Tear Down This Wall

- End of 80’s, Reagan gives speech
- Talks about unification of Germany
- Challenges Gorbachev (new Soviet premier) to “tear down this wall”
  - Referring to Berlin Wall.
Fall of the Iron Curtain

- Berlin Wall torn down by people of Berlin
  - Tired of the separation
  - Economic recession
  - Leads to a unification of Germany
- Most communist regimes in Eastern Europe fall
- USSR eventually gives up on communism
- This marks the end of communism and the Cold War