Notes: USA and USSR

**Background Of The Cold War**

The roots of the Cold War can be found in the events of WWII. The common enemy the Grand Alliance found in Hitler created an environment where the US, Great Britain and the Soviet Union were forced to become uneasy and unlikely allies. Disagreements over strategy existed from the inception of this alliance and only became deeper and more divisive as the hostilities of WWII drew to a close. Stalin was suspicious of both Great Britain and the US and this was exasperated when with the liberation of Italy in 1944 the Soviet Union was excluded from the Allied Control Council. Stalin accepted this exclusion because he saw it as a precedent. Stalin felt that this implied that the military force responsible for liberation from the Axis powers would determine the government of that liberated country in the post war world. Stalin therefore expected to be left in charge of Central Europe which had been liberated by and continued to be occupied by the “Red Army”. This understanding was agreed upon by Churchill in October in a meeting in Moscow, where Stalin and Churchill agreed on the spheres of influence in Central Europe and the USSR gained a position of dominance in that region

Questions/Main ideas:

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam**

At Teheran in 1943 followed by the conferences at Yalta and Potsdam in 1945 the major allied powers worked out an outline for an agreement of territorial distribution after the defeat of Germany.

They were unable to reach an agreement on three separate issues

The boundaries of Poland

The types of governments in Eastern Europe

The Future of Germany

During the period between the Yalta conference and the conference of Potsdam tensions between the Allies increased

Both sides (Communists and Capitalists) became fearful about the post war distribution of power in Europe.

Each of the major powers prevented the resolution of these issues at Potsdam

The primary difficulty recording negotiations was the fundamental differences in goals between the American capitalists and the Soviet communists

Neither side trusted the other

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Effects On Postwar Europe**

The Soviets feared “Western Encirclement” and were determined to develop a buffer zone of protection against the western influenced capitalists

The US had atomic weapons (the Soviets did not yet possess nuclear capabilities) and their post war economy was strong (due to the scorched earth policy and the horrific losses of the eastern front the economy of the USSR was devastated by WWII) The Soviets were justifiably nervous regarding the influence of a post WWII capitalist USA dominating European economies and influencing governments.

The Americans feared the spread of Communism and an obligation to defend the autonomy of the European states.

The argument about the borders of Poland remained heated throughout 1945 and caused tension between the USA and USSR.

Both sides largely agreed that eastern Europe fell within the Soviet sphere of influence

However the USA wanted guarantees that they would be permitted free elections to determine the path of their political futures

Although Stalin agreed to this at the conferences, however free elections never manifested inside the nations occupied by the Red Army after the war

Perhaps the most contentious issue was that of the fate of Germany

In Germany the USA and the USSR would be left facing each other down from their occupation zones inside the boarders of Germany. Creating a standoff that would last until the late 1980’s

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Berlin**

An Allied Control Council was established to manage post-war Germany. The purpose of the Control Council was reunification, however this was crippled by the rule of unanimity

No common goal for Germany existed, problems surfaced immediately in the operation of the council.

The British and Americans wanted a politically unified and industrially self sufficient country; The Soviets and the French wanted a politically weak Germany.

In 1946, the West stopped collecting reparations in their zones with the intent to foster German economic recovery.

The Soviet Union renewed their demands for $10 billion in reparations payments and continued to strip its zone of resources and industrial goods to help reconstruct the USSR.

The Western occupation zone in Berlin gave the West a firm presence inside the general Soviet sphere of influence

The foundation of a bi-polar power structure had been laid.

For the next 20 years, international power would be wielded through competing blocs dominated by the USA and USSR.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Polish Question**

The issue causing most dissension initially was the Polish question.

Who would govern Poland, and where would its borders lie?

At the beginning of the war, a group of government officials, mainly Polish army officers, land owners, and church officials, escaped to Britain and declared themselves the Polish government in exile.

The Soviets, however, had created a puppet Polish government in Lublin that was officially recognized by Stalin in 1945.

At Yalta, Roosevelt and Churchill insisted that Stalin allow free elections and encourage a government with members of both the London and Lublin government.

Stalin then increased support for the Lublin government and suppressed freedom of speech, the press, and religion.

Stalin ignored opposition to his policy of repression

He insisted on moving the western border of Poland to the Oder-Neisse line (this would force the relocation of up to 9 million Germans) to compensate Poland for the loss of territory taken by the Soviet Union in its expansion in the west.

Western powers objected but were not willing to confront Stalin so soon after the war.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Confrontation: Iran**

The first serious confrontation between the Soviets and the Americans occurred in Iran. Fall of the Shah

Strategically located in the Middle East and containing immense reserves of oil, it had been occupied by Soviet and British troops during WWII to ensure that Allied supply lines were kept open.

The agreement between the Soviet, British, and Iranian governments called for a withdrawal of troops 6 months after the war ended. The Soviet troops did not withdraw instead they supported a Communist revolt in the northern province of Azerbaijan. Continued occupation and the formation of a Soviet-Iranian stock company to develop oil resources led to British and American fears that the Soviets would soon control the entire country. After intense diplomatic pressure from the British and the Americans, the Soviets were forced to withdrawal. And by mid ‘46 Iran was persuaded to buy US military equipment, laying the foundation for the Washington-Teheran link, an arrangement that would last until the Iranian revolution and the deposition of the Shah in 1979.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Turkey**

Turkey was also a problem between 1945 and ‘46.

Turkey had remained neutral during the war.

Because of its strategic location in regard to shipping routes between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, the Soviet Union made a proposal to the Turkish government (at Ankara) to secure access to the straits and thus control the waterways linking it to the mineral resources of North Africa and the Middle East. When the proposal was rejected, Stalin responded by sending Soviet troops to the Turkish border. The Americans (under Truman) saw this as a direct attempt to interfere in the Mediterranean which was regarded as part of the Western sphere of influence.An American naval task force was sent to the area, and with this show of power (and the American reminder that they were the sole global nuclear power) the Soviets backed down. Western dominance of the Mediterranean prevailed.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Greece**

When German troops were evacuated from Greece in November 1944, Communists hoped to take over.

Greece, however, had been considered part of the Western sphere of influence and the British were expected to fulfill the role of protector. They also needed a strong presence in the Eastern Med. In order to control their shipping routes (like the Suez Canal). The British had confirmed this arrangement in 1944, when Stalin wanted a free hand in Romania.

The British backed the Greek Royalist government, which was threatened by Communist insurgents in the North of Greece. By 1946-1947, the British economy was no longer able to support a presence in Greece. The Greek government was threatened by the possibility of a communist takeover and appealed to the USA for help. USA continued their policy of international isolationism and the UN could not intervene because of the USSR’s veto on the security council. In 1947, Churchill informed Truman the Britain would be forced to terminate all financial assistance with Greece and withdraw 40,000 troops by March of 1947.

**The Truman Doctrine**

Truman feared that the Soviet Union would step in if the US failed to act. Following WWII the US was determined to retreat into isolation and focus on domestic issues. On March 5th, 1946, (in Fulton, Missouri) Churchill warned the West of encroaching Communism and the loss of freedoms that would result in the famous Iron Curtain Speech. “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic, an Iron Curtain has descended across the continent,” Churchill warned the US. Throughout the cold war the division between East and West Europe would be known as the Iron Curtain. There was a Stalinist Soviet party on the other side of the curtain. On March 12th, 1947, Truman declared both economic and military support in Greece and Turkey.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Truman Doctrine – Continued**

This historic declaration (which became known as the Truman Doctrine) stated that the United States must adopt a policy “to support free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures”. From this time on, American foreign policy would be a policy of intervention and containment, shaped by a desire to contain Communism within Soviet borders. This policy was backed up in a document written by a Department of State official George Kennan (who had spent time in the USSR) Kennan stated in an 8000 word document (anonymously submitted to the journal Foreign Affairs) that the USSR would attempt to dominate weak areas on its borders and that the US could best stop the expansion of the Soviets by supporting those areas governments politically, economically and socially. This would help contribute to the US containment policy

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Marshall Plan**

Soviet expansion in Western Europe was even more alarming to Americans than their attempts to expand into Greece and Turkey.

The US recognized that the economically devastated Western Europe was ill-equipped to resist Soviet forces.

On June 5th, 1947, US Secretary of State George Marshall, suggested that the impoverishment of Western European nations invited action by Communist-controlled labor organizations, and eventual political domination by the Soviet Union.

Marshall said the best defense against Soviet expansion into Western Europe was to strengthen the economies of Western European nations, including Germany.

The European Recovery Program (The Marshall Plan) provided funds for reconstruction in 16 European nations .

The US initially offered aid to the USSR and those states inside the Soviet sphere of influence, however they were denied .

Despite their refusal of aid, post WWII the Soviet Union saw 25 million Soviets homeless and people living off of cabbage and potatoes.

The economy of the USSR would not reach the levels of 1940 until 1952. While the USSRs economy suffered, the USA was experiencing one of the greatest booms in history.

The Marshall Plan led to a stimulation of the American economy. The redevelopment of European economies allowed for increasing trade with the US

This period also marks a rise in American influence in the countries the Marshall Plan sponsored, as the Americans insisted on monitoring the funds that they forwarded in the Plan

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Czechoslovakian Party**

The division of Europe was furthered in 1948 by the events in Czechoslovakia. The Czech Communists won 38% of the vote in the election of May, 1946. Prime Minister Gottwals was associated with the USSR. However neither President Eduard Benes or Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk were communists

Czechoslovakia desired the assistance offered by the Marshall Plan, however Stalin ordered them to pull out of discussions. Then on Feb. 25, 1948 the communists seized control of Benes’ government

Masaryk died mysteriously two weeks later (the Soviets said it was suicide and published pictures, this was less than reassuring to the West )

The Communist coup left the west in little doubt that the USSR was taking control of the satellite states inside its sphere of influence (the coup in Czechoslovakia is credited with encouraging the American Senate to adopt the Marshall Plan)

**Berlin Blockade**

On of the most serious crisis in the early Cold War was in Berlin in 1948. The 4 power agreement regarding Berlin guaranteed the security of three air corridors into West Berlin (inside Soviet controlled Germany) and West Germany, but not access by land or rail. By spring of 1948 Stalin had grown unhappy with the continued Western occupation of Berlin. Stalin had expected the Western forces to withdraw shortly after the conclusion of WWII (which they had suggested they might do) Stalin also believed that the West would not be eager to come to the aid of the Germans because of lingering ill will left over from the war years. Investment from the Marshall Plan had helped the economy of West Germany while the East German economy had been deliberately pillaged by the Soviets. When the West extended (badly needed) currency reform into West Berlin the Soviets imposed a blockade on road and rail traffic into Berlin. The 4 power agreement was coming apart.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Berlin Blockade – Continued**

When the blockade began on June 24, 1948 there was some question (both on the part of Berliners and some western politicians) of whether or not the US would get involved.

The view of the US was voiced by General Clay (in command of West Berlin) If the west allowed Berlin to fall the Soviets would continue into West Germany.

The Americans and the British remained in occupation and began to supply West Berlin by airlift.

This was an enormous task as the city required 12000 tonnes of goods a day normally and 5500 tonnes would be needed to keep enough food, light, and warmth to keep the Berliners alive through the winter.

Planes landed continuously (sometimes every 3 minutes) the Americans announced that they had B-29 bombers in Britain and mentioned again that they had a monopoly on nuclear weapons. Berlin Airlift. Stalin's decision to end the blockade was based on it ineffectiveness, not American posturing. The USSR had failed to gain control over West Berlin and the blockade was expensive. Stalin lifted the blockade on May 12, 1949.

The British, French and Americans they joined their occupation zones into one unit creating the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) in October of 1949.

This formally divided Germany, now separated by landmines and barbed wire. Berlin remained a city divided into Eastern and Western zones.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**New Alliances: Nato**

The Berlin Blockade and the Czechoslovakian coup encouraged the formation of a military alliance of the capitalist nations of the west supported by the US. On March 17, 1948 Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Brussels, (this called for pooling military resources to face Soviet aggression)

On June 11, 1948 the US Senate resolved to support a European security system. The Vandenberg Resolution (Senator Arthur Vandenberg instigated it) called for the US to join with other regional alliances to promote national and regional security.

This meant that the US could join countries already linked by the Brussels pact and form a military union between Western Europe and the United States

On April 4, 1949 the Brussels pact signatories plus Italy, Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Portugal and Canada joined the USA and signed the North Atlantic Treaty. This was a mutual defence pact. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was designed to warn the Soviets that the West was united in the face of Soviet expansion. It also strengthened the position of the USA in Europe.

**Soviet Countermeasures**

The division of Europe into two spheres of influence had been encouraged by the US first diplomatically with the Truman Doctrine, economically by the Marshall Plan and militarily by NATO. The Soviet Union responded with the formation of the Communist Information Bureau (Cominform). The establishment of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) And the organization of the Warsaw Pact (the Soviet’s answer to NATO). The Cominform replaced the Comintern, instead of encouraging the international development of Communism its goal was to consolidate Communism in Eastern Europe under the Soviet Union. By consolidating Eastern Europe, Stalin hoped to revitalize a global Communist revolution

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Soviet Countermeasures – Continued**

Andrei Zhdanov spoke at the founding of the Cominform in 1947, he stated that the US was an expansionist power that was attempting to exert military economic, and ideological control over Europe.

He called on Communists within Western Europe to oppose the Marshall Plan, and instigated strikes in France and Italy.

In 1949 the Comecon was developed to counteract the Marshall Plan, it was designed to coordinate the social and economic development of the states within the Soviet sphere of influence.

This organization established trading patterns and industrial plans, it encouraged economic integration with the creation of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation (IBEC) and an international Investment Bank

On May 14, 1955, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, East Germany (the German Democratic Republic), Hungary, Romania, Poland and the USSR signed the Warsaw Pact.

This was the Eastern Blocs answer to NATO and acted as the Communist nations mutual defence pact.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Tito In Yugoslavia**

The Soviets were less successful gaining a decisive foothold in the newly communist Yugoslavia than they were in other parts of Eastern Europe.

Josip Broz (generally known as Tito) was the leader of Yugoslavia during WWII. Tito had led a group of communist that with British support managed to liberate Yugoslavia from the Nazis. Though the Red Army was sent in to assist in 1944 they really only managed to alienate the civilian population of Yugoslavia because of the way they treated the people. Instead of assisting in a victory against the Nazis the most significant aspect of the Red Armies involvement in Yugoslavia was the tensions it helped to develop between the Soviets and the Yugoslavians. Stalin's refusal to accept Tito as an equal and his attempt to politically and economically dominate Yugoslavia caused further divisions between the two countries. Stalin expected the same control in Yugoslavia that he had established in Poland , Czechoslovakia and East Germany. Yugoslavia became the only Eastern European country to achieve victory in WWII with minimal help from the Allies and the only Eastern European country to establish a Communist dictatorship without the help of the USSR. Tito ruled autonomously of Stalin which caused the soviet leader a great deal of agitation. Tito acted independently of the USSR in his attempt to control Trieste and the surrounding region. Tito approached Bulgaria about the possible creation of a Balkan federation including all Eastern European countries in a customs union (the federation did not include the USSR) .This made Stalin furious, he summoned the leaders of both counties to Moscow. Tito however, refused to go, instead he sent a delegation of minor officials in his place. The Bulgarian leader (Georgi Dimitrov) however, met with Stalin, where the leader of the USSR proposed a union of Bulgaria, Albania and Yugoslavia as an alternative to Tito’s Balkan federation.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Tito In Yugoslavia – Even More Tito**

Tito saw this as an excuse to move the Red Army into Bulgaria and threaten the sovereignty of Yugoslavia, and refused to consider the proposal.

Tito controlled both domestic affairs and foreign policy for the state. Stalin disapproved of Tito in general and found his foreign policy particularly troublesome.

Finally on June 28th 1948, Yugoslavia was expelled from the Cominform, and economic sanctions followed.

This might have devastated Yugoslavia's already shaky economy if they were dependant on the good will of the USSR, however Tito had never closed the door on the West and the US was willing to extend him aid with no strings attached.

Stalin was not happy between 1947 and 48 he began to criticise Tito’s aid to the communists in Greece (to no avail, Tito just ignored him)

Stalin launched a economic, diplomatic, political and military campaign to bring Tito around. It failed. Tito’s combination of Communism and nationalism was a challenge to the Soviet model of Communism, and a thorn in the side of Stalin

**Titoooooo**

Stalin tried many times to assassinate Tito. In correspondence between the two, Tito openly wrote:

“Stop sending people to kill me. We've already captured five of them, one of them with a bomb and another with a rifle (...) If you don't stop sending killers, I'll send one to Moscow, and I won't have to send a second.“

Tito’s Speech on the Cold War

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Questions/Main ideas:

**China**

Stalin was able to deal more effectively with Mao Zedong in China. Soviet control over the Chinese Communist Party had been limited since 1927. Stalin was not convinced that Mao was really a Communist and he was worried about his ability to maintain concessions in Manchuria after Mao had consolidated power. The necessity of a Sino-Soviet agreement was however, seen by both sides. Such an agreement would allow the maintenance of the trade concessions in Manchuria and the presentation of a united Communist front to the rest of the world.

**Containment**

This was a time of developing tensions between East and West . NATO was symbolic of Western unity, however in the absence of a rearmed Germany or large numbers of American troops in Europe its real effectiveness was questionable. The Americans were unwilling to commit large numbers of forces to strengthen NATO in Europe. Then on the 22nd of September 1949 Truman announced that the Soviets had exploded an atomic bomb (test). This meant that the USA no longer had a monopoly on nuclear weapons.

**McCarthyism And The Red Scare**

The worst of the resulting hysteria lasted for the next three years. On 12th of April, 1950 the National Security Council issued a policy paper (NSC 68) that allocated funds to support a military build-up to counter Communist expansion internationally. It designated the US as the global police force for the maintenance and preservation of capitalism and democracy against the forces of communism. This program was estimated to cost 13% of the GNP of the USA (35 billion) Taxes would be increased and economic controls imposed. The incidents in Greece in 1947 and Czechoslovakia in ‘48 helped the American public to swallow these pills.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Korean War**

On June 25th 1950, North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel (established as the boarder between East and West after WWII) and invaded South Korea.

Korea (located on a peninsula jutting out from mainland China next to Japan) is very strategically located. In fact the Soviet Union had occupied the country in an attack on Japan that the Americans insisted was unnecessary, near the end of WWII.

On the 15th of August ‘45 the US proposed the joint occupation of Korea (Stalin agreed, hoping to also establish a similar Soviet occupation zone in Japan)

Stalin thought that when occupation troops withdrew from Korea, Soviet trained Communist forces would gain control. It soon became clear that both North and South Korea wanted to control the entire peninsula. The US under Truman supported S. Korea and counter revolutionary forces in the Philippines, Indo-China and sent a fleet to Formosa (Taiwan) to stop the communists from seizing the Nationalist-held island. This was outside of the traditionally accepted US sphere which ran from the Philippines through the Ryukyu Archipelago, bending back to Japan, along the Aleutian Islands to Alaska. Documents suggest that the Soviets believed that once North Korea entered the south they would be able to end the civil war quickly by winning over the S. Koreans. The Soviets also thought that the US would not support S. Korea because it was outside the official American defence perimeter. This proved to be untrue and the US pushed a resolution for intervention through the security council of the UN. The Soviets had walked out of the Security Council over the UN’s recognition of the Nationalists in Formosa as the rightful government of China (instead of the Communist government actually running China) were therefore unable to exercise their veto on the Security council that would have prevented UN involvement

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Changing Strategies – The USSR**

The Korean War marked a shift in the foreign policies of both the US and the USSR

Between 1945 and 1950 the USSR worked to control Eastern Europe and discouraged the development of other Communist regimes.

Stalin was determined not to fail in China like he had in Yugoslavia.

So he controlled China with economic and military means.

Mao traveled to Moscow in 1950 and Stalin agree to give China $300 million in long term aid in exchange for Soviet bases in Lushun, Dalian and Joint stock companies to exploit the mineral resources in Manchuria and Xinjiang as well as control over Mongolia.

Soviet support for the Korean invasion provided an opportunity to block US Chinese relations and firm up Communism in Asia.

This led to increased military aid to China.

The Soviet foreign policy was turning outward

It also provided a base for Khrushchev’s later thrust towards the developing world

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Changing Strategies – The USA**

Although the main focus of the US was still Europe, Korea was the beginning of a much stronger American presence in Asia.

On August 30th 1951 an American military agreement with the Philippines reaffirmed US rights to naval and air basis. Sept. 1rst 1951 the ANZUS pact with Australia and New Zealand established the US instead of Britain as their protector.

1954 the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) brought together Asian, North American and European nations the US, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines and Thailand joined a mutual defence pact.

The relationship between the US and Japan was altered far more profoundly. The US began a campaign of capital investment in and technology transfer to, Japan.

Japan was encouraged to rearm.

This was seen as necessary to limit Soviet expansion.

The Korean War also led the US to expand its military presence in Europe and begin the rearmament of W. Germany (much to the distress of France)

By 1955 the US had consolidated a much more powerful base in both Western Europe and Asia.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Khrushchev Era**

Stalin died on the 6th of March 1953.

This cause some internal turmoil as he had not left a clearly identified successor.

Georgi Malenkov became the Soviet Prime Minister and Nikita Khrushchev the head of the Communist party. There were some power struggles, however, by 1956 Khrushchev appeared to have enough support to take over the government. Khrushchev was instrumental in the Austrian State Treaty (15th May 1955) providing for the withdrawal of Allied occupation forces (including Soviets) from. Austria (Austria agreed in return to remain neutral and isolated from any political or economic associations with other Western European states) the Soviet Union for the first time was withdrawing forces from an area in Europe

The Soviets would begin to focus on Eastern Europe and domestic matters. The de-Stalinization of the Soviet Union had begun.

Stalinism had been a major issue in the leadership struggle

Most of the candidates had been involved in the terror of the Stalin years as were the Politburo members.

Most party members however, wanted to move forward and away from Stalinism

Khrushchev announced his plan for a new direction for the Soviet Union in a secret speech to the Twentieth Party Congress, this established a new direction in international affairs and inadvertently encouraged challenges to Soviet control in Eastern Europe.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Secret Speech To The Twentieth Party Congress**

Khrushchev combined praise for Stalin’s industrial and collectivist policies from ‘29-’33 with scorn for the policies of autocratic rule and terrorism that had led to the abuse of the people and horrible losses experienced in WWII.

Khrushchev tried to appease those members of the Politburo who wanted a new path for the Soviet Union while at the same time maintaining good relations with the Stalinists who were afraid of retribution for the atrocities of the Stalin era and were very conservative in their commitment to any change.

Khrushchev promised safety to the Stalinists remaining in positions of power by referring only a number of Stalin’s accomplices, who had already been identified as criminally liable for the horrors of the Stalin years and punished.

The second key note of Khrushchev's speech to the Twentieth Party Congress was the idea expressed by Lenin that “there are many roads to socialism.”

Khrushchev had hopes of drawing Tito back into the Soviet sphere by approving a level of diversity within the Soviet Bloc. He also had hopes of furthering ties with the socialists in Western Europe.

The third theme of the speech was the importance of recognising the developing world.

The decolonization begun after WWII was creating a series of new nation states that had the potential of altering the international balance of power.

The US began to move into Asia as a result of the Korean War.

Khrushchev suggested that the developing world could escape falling into Capitalism if the Soviet Union supported industrialization programs.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Changes In Soviet Politics**

The Soviet Union had already begun to show its commitment to the developing would by financing a steel mill in India.

India’s refusal to participate in SEATO suggested to the USSR that India could play a strategic role in the ongoing struggle between the USSR and the US.

Underlying this policy shift was the concept of peaceful coexistence.

Khrushchev believed that world wide socialism could be achieved through non-violent means, rather that violent revolution or war.

**Continued Changes In The Soviet Agricultural System**

The Soviet agricultural system had been unable to produce enough food to feed the population since the collectivization process that took place during the first of the Five Year Plans (1928-1932)

Khrushchev made agricultural reform one of his top priorities.

Maize would be the primary crop

Khrushchev set production goals for the production of meat, milk and butter to meet US output by 1962.

This was unrealistic at best and it did not work.

Soviet agriculture took a major hit

In 1958 there were 22 million privately owned cows

In 1962 there were only 10 million left

No grain reserves were gathered and the harvest failure of 1963 saw bread shortages spread across the country.

At least Khrushchev did not solve the food shortage by allowing mass deaths from starvation (Stalin’s solution to this problem) Khrushchev bought grain abroad. Khrushchev also launched a chemicalization program which also failed.

The failures to fix the Soviet agricultural system ultimately contributed to Khrushchev’s political fall from power in 1964.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Changes In The Soviet Relationship With China And Eastern Europe**

Khrushchev’s policies altered the USSR’s relationship with China

The Chinese viewed the Soviet move into the developing world as a move away from the Sino-Soviet alliance

They felt it made Soviet support for the Chinese Communists struggle for international recognition or support against the Nationalists of Taiwan was much less likely.

The biggest impact of Khrushchev’s policies was on the Soviet relationship with Eastern Europe

**Polish Unrest**

In June of 1956 labour unrest in Poznan grew into riots against Soviet political and economic control,

Moscow responded by allowing Poland more control of its internal affairs and let the Polish communist Party throw out pro Moscow Communists from the Central Committee of the Polish United Worker’s Party.

In October the Soviets agree to give Wladyslaw Gomulka the post of party secretary

Gomulka announced a national Communism in Poland and refused to accept Soviet domination .

Khrushchev came close to invading, however decided to curtail Soviet military control and remove some of the restrictions of civil liberties the Soviet regime had imposed on Poland.

An alliance of sorts was formed between the Polish state and the Catholic Church.

Poland had managed to achieve a measure of autonomy from the USSR without being invaded.

The Polish government acknowledged Poland's strategic significance and agreed to a pro-soviet foreign policy and in return Khrushchev kept Soviet tanks out of Poland

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Hungarian Revolution**

Poland’s success raised the hopes of the Hungarians

They demanded independence, improvements in the standard of living and economic decentralization (many Hungarians were both anti-Soviet and anti-Communist). After Bela Kun’s 1919 Communist government Hungry was dominated by the right wing and was firmly on the side of the Nazi’s in WWII. After the liberation of Hungary in 1945 by the Red Army Matyas Rakosi became the first Communist party’s general secretary in Hungry. Rakosi was a hard line Stalinist and his regime was one of terror and persecution. On October 6, 1956 about 200 000 Hungarian residents of Budapest demonstrated against Rakosi’s regime. Factory workers and young people were joined by intellectuals. The Soviets reacted almost at once they pulled Rakosi from power and put in Imre Nagy as Prime Minister on the 23rd of October Hungarian Revolution.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Hungarian Revolution continued**

Budapest was by this time filled with workers’ councils and thousands of people demanding social and political reform. Soviet troops attempted to maintain order Hungarians were demanding withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact a declaration of Hungarian neutrality and recognition as a sovereign nation Imre Nagy proclaimed that free elections would be held in Hungary Moscow negotiated with the Hungarian national government and on Oct. 30th Moscow even agreed to the eventual withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary.

Things were looking good, until Nagy declared that Hungry was withdrawing from the Warsaw Pact.

On November 4th 1956, 5000 tanks and 250 000 Soviet soldiers entered Budapest. After a brutal three day battle the Soviets took the city, resistance in the countryside lasted until the 14th of November, however it was also doomed to fail.

Up to 20 000 people were killed and 20 000 more imprisoned. About 200 000 Hungarians fled (many to Canada and the USA) Janos Kadar was installed as the new prime minister and Imre Nagy was taken to Romania, tried and executed in 1958, (Posthumously exonerated)

Despite Hungary’s pleas for help the US refused to become involved in the Hungarian issue.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Tension In Berlin**

In November of 1958 Tensions were rising in Berlin

West Germany was now governed by Konrad Adenauer who was openly anti-Communist.

West Germany was economically strong and had a very high standard of living.

East Germany was economically depressed and repressed politically, and had a very low standard of living

by 1958 2 million East Germans had fled west, many were skilled workers or professionals and their loss hurt East Germany. Khrushchev demanded the western powers occupying Berlin withdraw within 6 months.

If the demand was not met Khrushchev threatened to turn over East Germany to the Pankow regime.

The West refused to leave. Khrushchev proposed a summit meeting and met with President Dwight Eisenhower (USA) at Camp David in Sept. of 1959. The meeting seemed to be leading toward a détente and a moratorium was declared on the Berlin issue. A further summit conference was planned for May in Paris. People began to hope for an end to the Cold War through the summit process

**Hopes For Peace Dissolve**

The Paris summit (scheduled for May 16th 1960) never happened.

On the 5th of May the Soviets announced that they had caught and shot down an American reconnaissance plane (a U-2 piloted by Gary Powers)

This was obviously a spy plane and Khrushchev demanded that Eisenhower apologize for violation Soviet air space, promise to discontinue the flights and punish the responsible parties.

Eisenhower refused all of Khrushchev’s demands

Khrushchev refused to meet in Paris and declared that he would not negotiate with the Americans as long as Eisenhower was in office

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Kennedy Is Elected**

The election of JFK in the US in 1960 was initially viewed as a possibility for reconciliatory action on the part of the Soviets. In the summit meeting in Vienna in 1961 Khrushchev presented Kennedy with an ultimatum for an evacuation of western occupation troops from Berlin, a peace treaty with Germany and the creation of a free city in Berlin. Khrushchev followed this up by announcing that he was increasing the USSR’s military budget by 33%, in order to establish a position of strength in Berlin. In response Kennedy announced a $3 billion increase in the US defence budget and a doubling of draft calls. Meanwhile East Germans continued to flee into the West using Berlin as a jumping off point (It was the only area where there was reasonably safe access, remember the barbed wire and land mines, from slide 15?)

**The Creation Of The Berlin Wall**

Approximately 103 000 East Germans fled into the West, through Berlin in the first half of 1961.

On Aug. 13th 1961 Khrushchev closed the border between East and West Berlin. Positions were created with heavily guarded checkpoints. When the blockade was first established the “wall” was made of barbed wire, however it evolved into huge concrete slabs with entrenched turrets filled with heavily armed soldiers. All of the buildings around the wall both on the East and the West sides were removed and a mined zone was developed as a buffer area. The Wall helped to stabilize the immediate situation in Berlin, however it did not create a resolution. Khrushchev faced criticism from hard-liners among the Politburo during the twenty-second Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in October for not forcing the West out of Berlin. A confrontation between Soviet and American tanks at Checkpoint Charlie between the 25th and 27th of October made it clear that the problem of Berlin was far from resolved

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Cuban Missile Crisis**

The Cuban missile Crisis was the result of Khrushchev attempting to gain power in the East-West struggle over spheres of influence.

Khrushchev wanted to achieve this by establishing missile bases in Cuba (located just off the coast of Florida)

If he could successfully install missiles in Cuba before being detected by the US it would give him a powerful foothold well within the American sphere of influence. It would also serve to strengthen his negotiating position in Berlin. Cuba had experienced a Communist revolution under Fidel Castro in 1959.

Castro had defeated the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista (who’s government had been supported by American interests). Cuba and the Soviet Union signed a $100 million trade agreement in 1960 which marked the beginning of significant Soviet involvement in the economy of Cuba.

The Soviets also sent arms to the Cubans to support Castro’s regime

**The Bay Of Pigs**

Most of the surviving Cubans who had been loyal to the Batista regime had fled to the US after Castro took the Island

These émigrés (heavily supported by the American Central Intelligence Agency) conducted a series of isolated raids on the Island in an attempt to destabilise Castro’s government.

This culminated with the Bay of Pigs incident.

On April 17th 1961 Batista loyalists supported by the CIA invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs and attempted to retake the Island.

The attempt was a total failure.

Kennedy refused to give air support to the endeavour and Castro’s forces defeated the attempted overthrow thoroughly. The Bay of Pigs was a massive embarrassment to the US.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Cuban Missile Crisis**

Throughout 1962 the USSR supplied arms to Cuba while maintaining that they meant no threat to the US.

On the 14th of October ‘62 a U-2 flying over Cuba identified an area around San Cristobal that showed signs of medium-range ballistic missile sites

Over the next 13 days the Soviet Union and the US came very close to the brink of a nuclear war.

Once the sites were discovered the US had to figure out the appropriate response.

There were three major schools of thought regarding what the US response should be. These terms are used when referring to other military decisions made by the US so it is important to be able to reference them.

The Hawks desired direct action either in the form of an outright invasion or by air-strikes

The Doves wanted a diplomatic solution, possibly forcing compliance by removing US Jupiter missiles in Turkey in return for the Soviets pulling the missile bases from Cuba. Finally the Owls wanted to follow middle road. Ultimately the middle of the road position was followed mainly because the Executive Committee (ExComm) was afraid of the situation becoming nuclear. On Oct. 22nd 1962 Kennedy announced to the public that they had found Soviet missile sites on Cuba and that he was imposing a navel and air quarantine (the use is a deliberate avoidance of the term ”blockade” which is used in times of war). Cuba asked for a UN Security Council meeting, however the crisis was solved through direct negotiations between the US and Soviet governments. US attorney general Robert Kennedy and The Soviet ambassador to the US, Anatoly Dobrynin came to a secret agreement for removing US Jupiter missiles in Turkey in return for the Soviets pulling the missile bases from Cuba

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Even More Cuban Missile Crisis**

On the 27th of Oct. ‘62 Khrushchev made the proposal public

The crisis might have ended there unfortunately that same day the pilot who had originally found the missile sites in Cuba (Major Rudolf Anderson was shot down and killed flying over Cuba.

The Americans responded by demanding the Soviets dismantle the missiles and refused any trade of American missiles in return. They did however agree to end the “quarantine” of Cuba

**The End Of The Cuban Missile Crisis**

Because both the US and the USSR held seats on the Security council the UN was basically powerless to resolve the issue. The US and the Soviets had to solve it themselves through negotiation.

The UN did supervise the removal of the missile basis in the months following the crisis.

The next year the US dismantled the Jupiter missiles in Turkey. The Cuban Missile Crisis pointed out the danger of a nuclear confrontation between the super-powers.

On the 20th of June 1963 it contributed to the development of a hot line between Moscow and Washington, as well as talks about nuclear proliferation and testing

**The End Of The End Of The Cuban Missile Crisis**

The Partial Test Ban Treaty was signed as a result of these talks on the 5th of Aug. 1963 by Great Britain, the US and the Soviet Union agreeing to ban nuclear tests in the water, in space or in the atmosphere, it would ultimately be signed by over 100 nations,

China refused to sign the treaty condemning it as a bargain between imperialists indicating a Sino-Soviet split, however this agreement marked a reduction of tension between the two Cold War Super Powers (USA/USSR)

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Questions/Main ideas:

The origin of the peace symbol comes from the Campaign for Nuclear for Disarmament. The protesters were very effective in voicing their cause, and influenced governments such as the Soviet Union and the US to create the Partial Test Ban Treaty.

The peace sign is the combined semaphore signs for the letters N and D.





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