

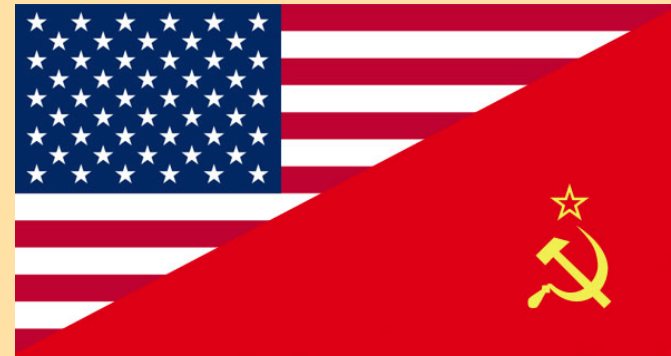
Origins of the Cold War



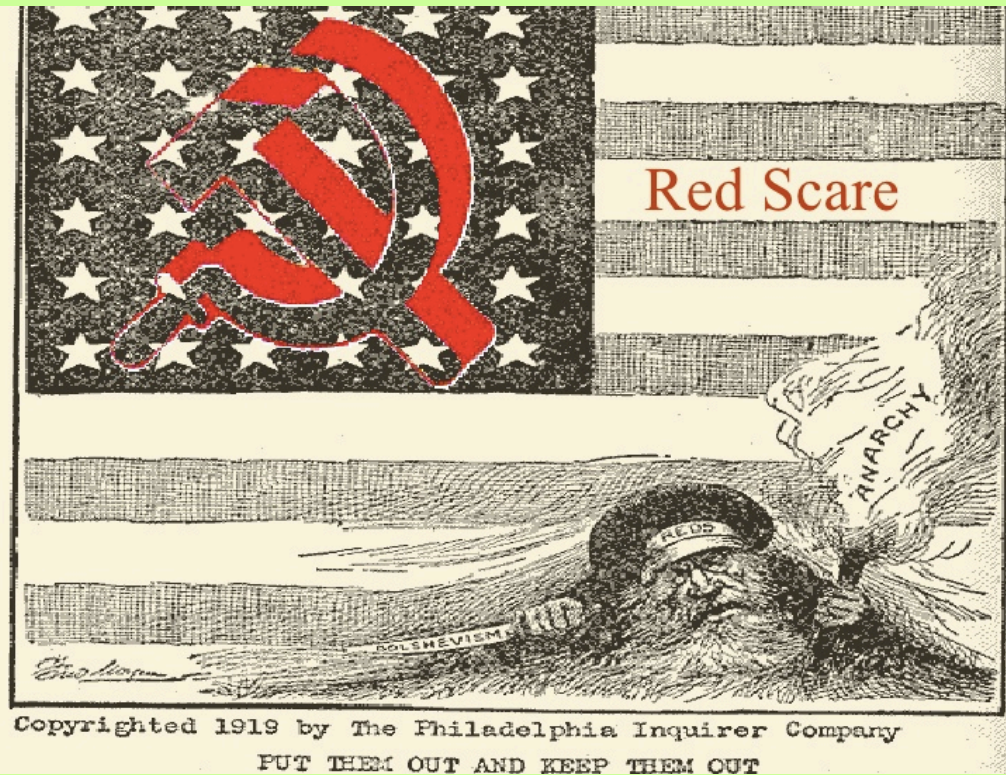
A Chilly Power Point Presentation
Brought to You by Ms. Shen

What was the Cold War?

- The Cold War was a 40+ year long conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union that started after WWII.
- During the Cold War, both nations used propaganda, threats, and military actions designed to undermine the other nation. Both also invested billions in a massive weapons build-up in an effort to have bigger, better weaponry.



Why did the Cold War start?



- The U.S. and the Soviet Union had a fragile relationship from the 1917 **Russian Revolution** (when the Soviets adopted a communist govt.)
 - Remember in the 1920s, the U.S. experienced the first **Red Scare**, a time in which Americans were afraid of communism and persecuted communists and immigrants from communist nations.

What was the root cause of Cold War?
The two sides had very different ideas about how the postwar world should look.

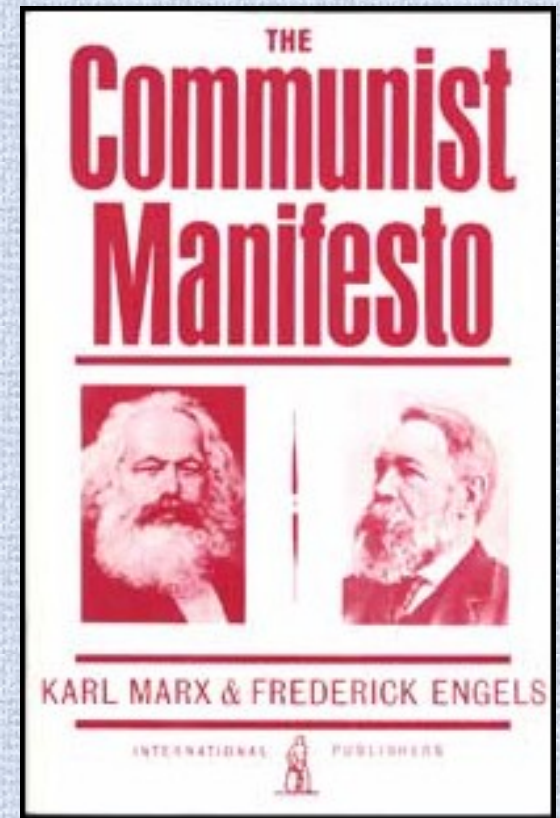


The American Vision:

- The U.S. fought in WWII to protect the American Dream.
- The U.S. wanted to share with the world our democratic values: liberty, equality, and representative government.
- The U.S. wanted to protect its capitalist economic interests by making sure that it had allies & trading partners around the world.

The Soviet Vision:

- After WWII, the Soviets were determined to rebuild Europe with communist-friendly governments.
- Communists believed that capitalism as a system would inevitably fail.
 - Capitalism naturally leads to struggle between the classes.
 - They therefore predicted that this class struggle would lead the workers of the world to overthrow the owning class and that the workers would eventually win this fight.
 - When this happened, everyone would join hands and sing, and then share the resources equally among all people.



On a side note...

- ... this never really happened in Russia. Joseph Stalin created a totalitarian state in which he terrorized his people and held total control over them for years.

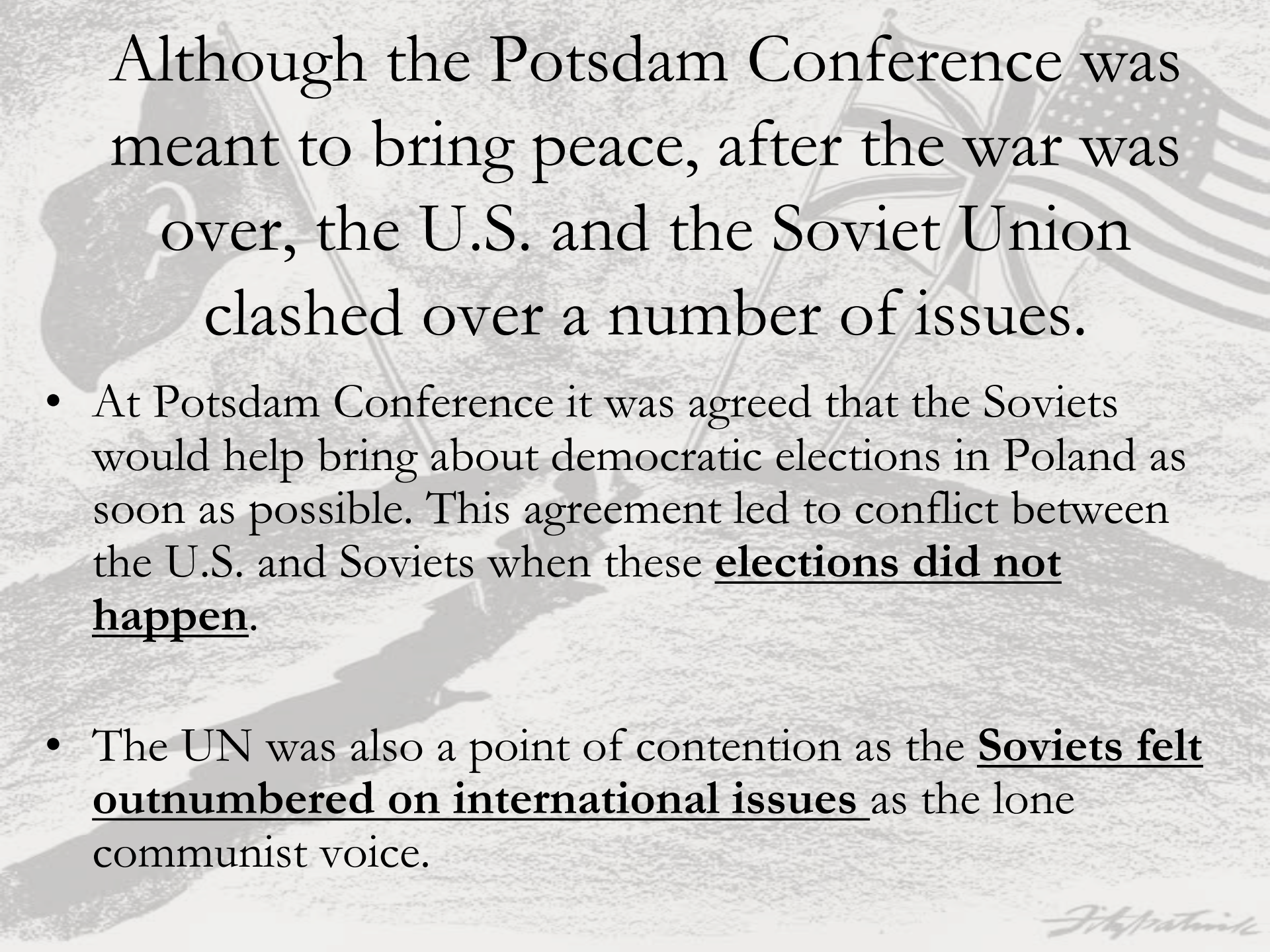


Tensions cont. during WWII

- During WWII the U.S. and Soviets fought on the same side in an effort to defeat the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan.) This was an alliance of convenience – both countries wanted to bring an end to Hitler's rule.
 - Despite fighting on the same side, the U.S. and Russians were not really friends. They both spied on each other during the war.
 - The U.S. developed the atomic bomb with the hopes that it would make the U.S. stronger in the post-war years. Some believe part of the reason the U.S. ultimately used the atomic bomb against Japan was to scare the Soviets and ensure that they did not gain territory in Asia.

Potsdam Conference – May 1945

- At Potsdam (Germany), the Allies agreed on conditions to end the European conflict.
- Terms included:
 - **Division of Germany**: split in 4 zones controlled by one of the 4 Allies (England, France, U.S., Soviets.) Berlin was also divided in 4.
 - **Soviets pledged to run free elections** immediately in the Eastern European nations they had liberated from the Germans.
 - **Creation of the United Nations** to peaceably negotiated conflicts.

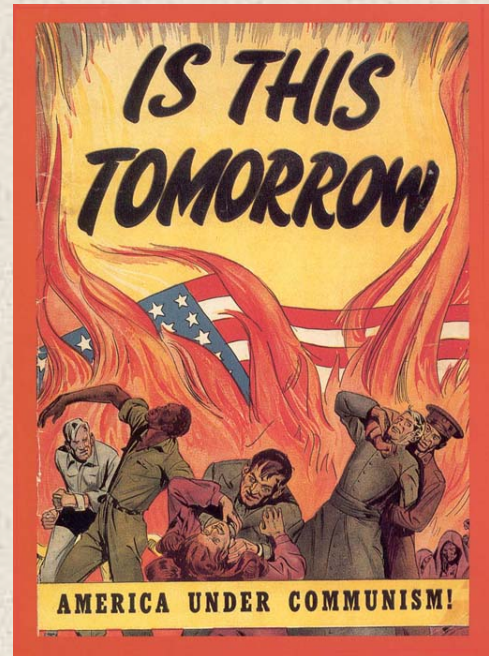


Although the Potsdam Conference was meant to bring peace, after the war was over, the U.S. and the Soviet Union clashed over a number of issues.

- At Potsdam Conference it was agreed that the Soviets would help bring about democratic elections in Poland as soon as possible. This agreement led to conflict between the U.S. and Soviets when these **elections did not happen.**
- The UN was also a point of contention as the **Soviets felt outnumbered on international issues** as the lone communist voice.

After the war, the American people transferred their hatred of Germany and Japan into hatred of communists.

Paramount News
Presents



Even Hollywood got on board and help fuel
Americans' fears of communism!



Supposed similarities between Nazi Germany & Stalinist Russia

- Total control over communications
- Use of terror to silence and eliminate political opposition
- Stalin's labor camps in Siberia were compared to Hitler's concentration camps
- "Big Brother" is watching = a mating of Stalin and Hitler



The Cold War was never actually “officially” declared.

- However, two speeches mark the unofficial start of the Cold War:
 - In 1946, Stalin made a speech in which he predicted that the Soviet system of communism would triumph over the American system of capitalism.
 - The same year, Winston Churchill, made his famous “iron curtain” speech.



...an *iron curtain* has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals ... of Central and Eastern Europe...all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject, ... not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow.

In a great number of countries, .. the Communist parties ... constitute a growing challenge and peril to Christian civilization.

Last time I saw it all coming and I cried aloud to my own fellow countrymen and to the world, but no one paid any attention. Up till the year 1933 or even 1935, Germany might have been saved from the awful fate which has overtaken her and we might all have been spared the miseries Hitler let loose upon mankind. There never was a war in history easier to prevent by timely action than the one which has just desolated such great areas of the globe. It could have been prevented, in my belief, without the firing of a single shot, and Germany might be powerful, prosperous and honored today; but no one would listen and one by one we were all sucked into the awful whirlpool.

We must not let it happen again.

1. What is the “iron curtain?”

1. What threat do the Soviets pose?

1. What was this speech so significant?





SOVIET INFLUENCE IN EUROPE, POST-WWII

Containment

- To address the concerns that the Americans had about the Soviets, they adopted a policy called “containment.”
- Americans believed that:
 - The communist Soviet Union was a “persistent toy automobile wound up and headed in a given direction, stopping only when it meets with some unanswerable force.” MEANING WHAT?
 - Based on this belief, the U.S. felt was necessary to contain the Soviet threat against any part of the world.



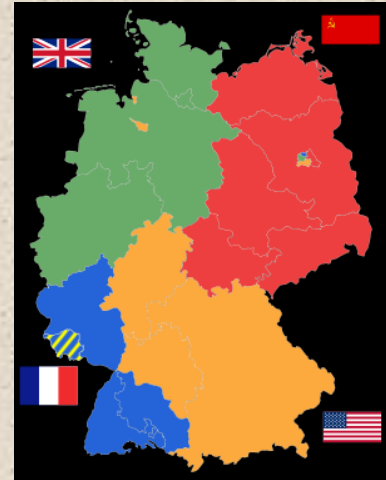


- Containment is defined as removing any opportunity for the Soviet Union to establish communist governments in other countries. This was accomplished through both persuasion and force.



Division of Germany

- Problems arose almost immediately after the Potsdam Conference. Truman refused to allow the Soviets to use Germany's industrial plants in Western Germany (most of the nation's industry was located in the west, the non-Soviet sector.)
- Concerned with the deteriorating economic situation in the western zones, the U.S. pumped \$ through the Marshall Plan in to Western Germany which got economic recovery underway.
 - The Russians were ticked off by this whole Marshall Plan situation, because they felt it was just a way for the U.S. to buy friends in Western Europe.



The Berlin Airlift



- Tension then rose when in June 1948, in an attempt to rebuild Germany's economy and stop rampant inflation, the 3 western sectors of Germany changed their currency to the Deutsch Mark. The Soviets had not agreed to the currency reform and in response, they blockaded all ground and water routes to West Berlin in June of 1948.

- Truman did not want to risk starting a war with the Soviet Union by forcing open the trade routes, nor did he want to give up West Berlin to the Soviets.
 - So the U.S. began what was known as the **Berlin Airlift**, in which they moved supplies into West Berlin by plane. This went on for over a year.
 - The airlift was a success for the U.S. in that it publicly humiliated the Soviets and served to win the hearts of the residents of W. Berlin.
- By the time the Soviet blockade was ended in May 1949, the Marshall Plan had succeeded in strengthening capitalist nations in Western Europe.





- The Soviets resisted the reunification efforts of the West out of a fear of a reunited Germany which could potentially invade the Soviet Union again.
- In Oct. 1949, the Soviets formed a separate government in East Germany called the German Democratic Republic, while the West was united as the Federal Republic of Germany in May 1949.



- Constant stream of E. Germans fleeing to W. Germany strained E-W relations in the 1950s.
- The Soviets sealed the borders between E. & W. Germany in 1952 but people cont. to flee from E. to W. Berlin.
- August 1961 the construction of the **Berlin Wall** began. The wall ultimately surrounded all of W. Berlin cutting it off from the rest of E. Germany. The wall remained in tact until Nov. 9, 1989.



Formation of NATO

- The tension that resulted from the Berlin airlift convinced Western powers that they needed to form a peacetime alliance against the Soviet threat.
- Thus, NATO (**North Atlantic Treaty Organization**) was established. Participating nations pledged that an attack on one was an attack on all.

– Participating nations:

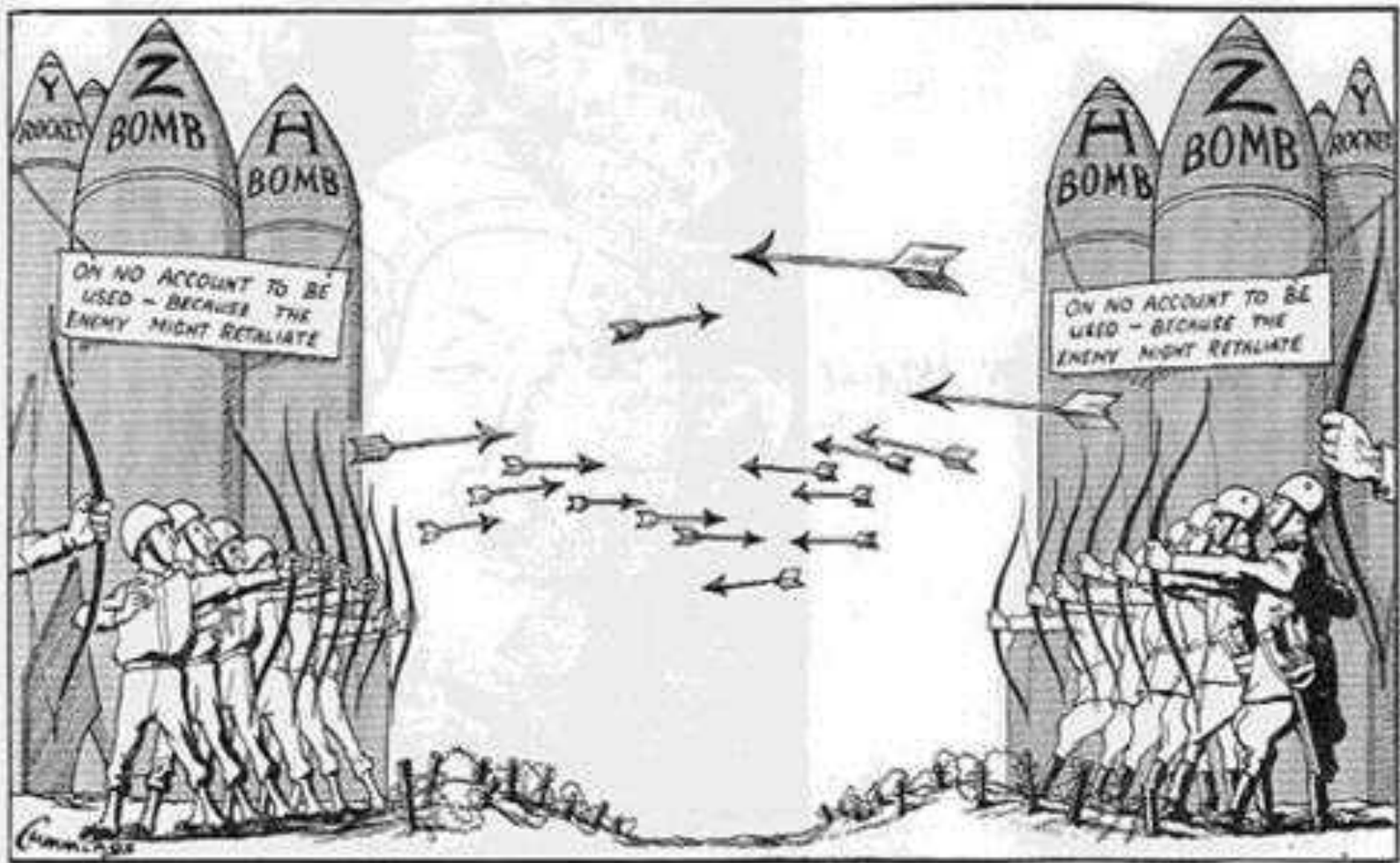
- Belgium
- Britain
- Canada
- Denmark
- France
- Iceland



- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- United States

Arms Race

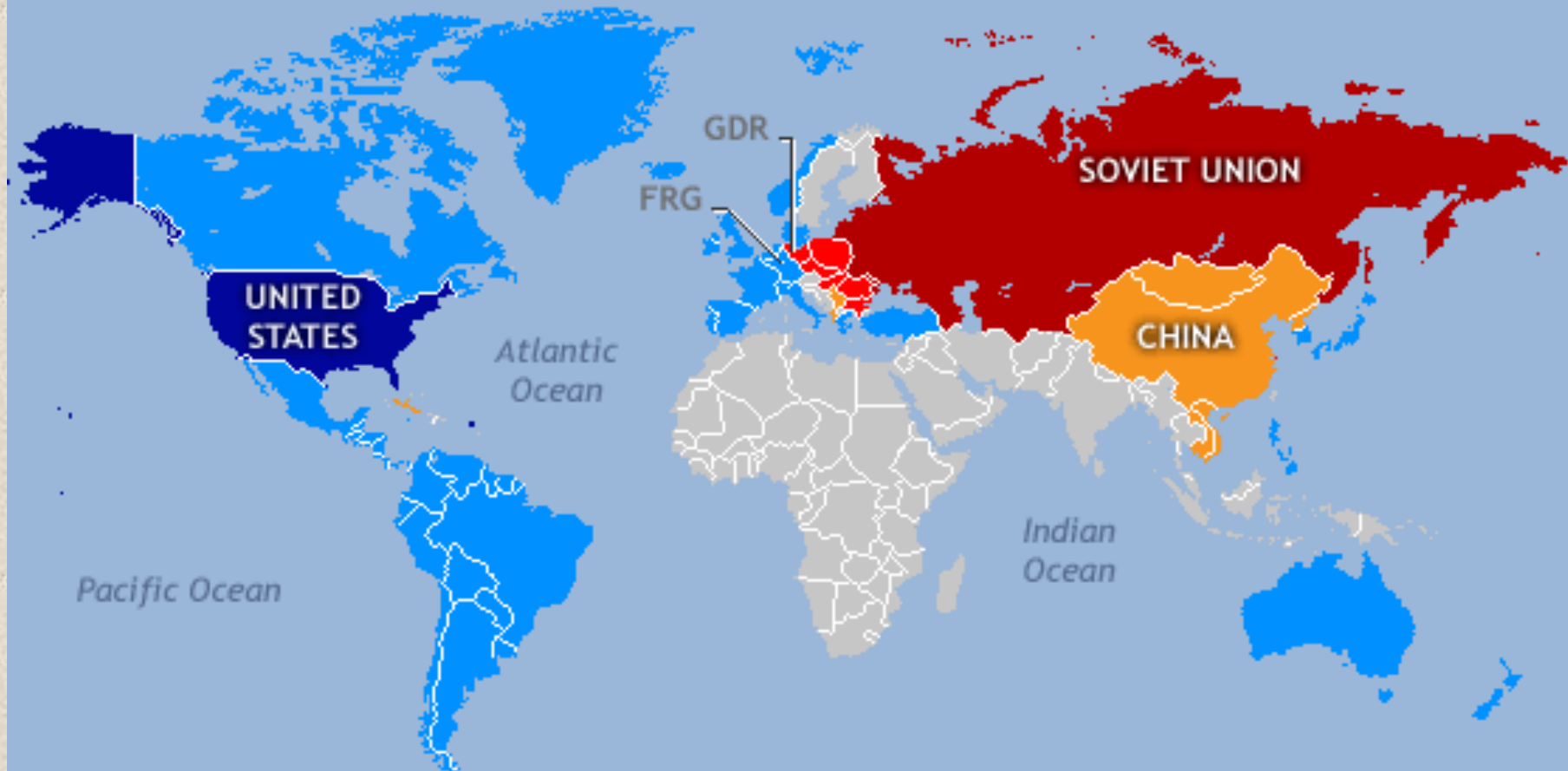
The US spent billions of dollars on nuclear development and traditional weaponry to ensure that should war break out between the 2 nations, the US would come out on top.






Despite the United States' efforts at containing communism, a series of unfortunate events made 1949 a disturbing year for the U.S..

1. In 1949, a Chinese Civil War resulted in a victory for the Communists led by Mao Zedong. Americans felt that China becoming communist was very disappointing and a sign that the communists were strong and the ideas contagious.
2. On September 23rd, 1949, the U.S. learned that the U.S.S.R. had successfully developed and tested a nuclear bomb. From then on, “fear of the bomb” would rule life in America as well as diplomatic relations.



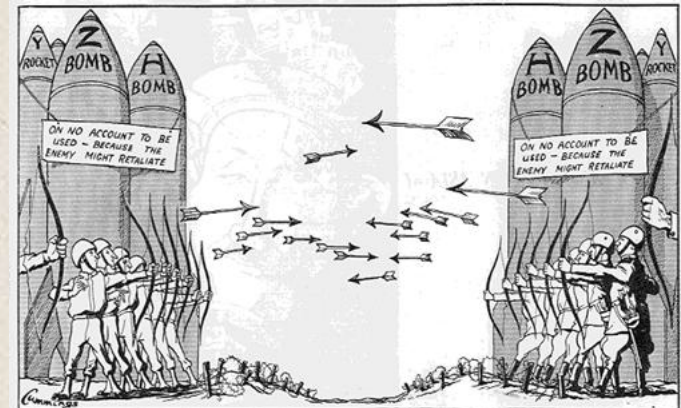
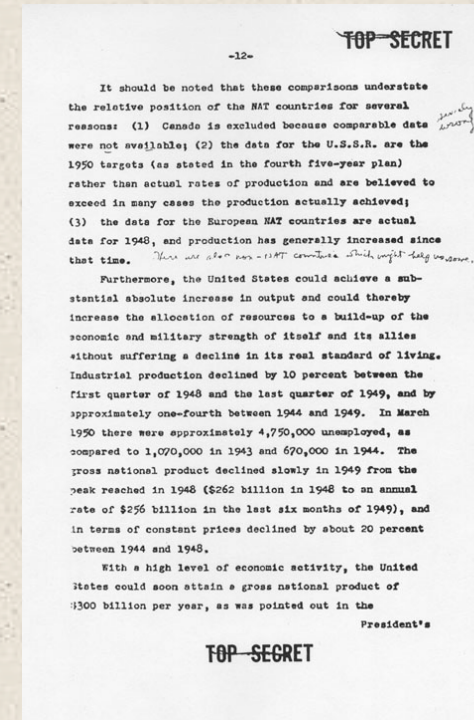


-  United States and Allies
-  Soviet Union and Allies
-  Other Communist Countries

FRG - Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)
GDR - German Democratic Republic (East Germany)

How did the U.S. cope with the events of 1949?

- In response to these events, the National Security Council (an advisory committee responsible for advising the president on matters of national security) made the following recommendations (referred to as **NSC-68**):
 - The U.S. should triple its defense budget (from \$13 billion to \$50 billion annually) in order to meet the security needs of the time. This increase in spending should be paid for by higher taxes on Americans.
 - Scientists should begin developing more advanced nuclear technology (the hydrogen bomb.)





THE END

(of the Power Point, not the Cold War!)