

# Chapter Twenty Eight The Cold War

Please study your Powerpoint slides!

## **THE COLD WAR** – *the US squares off Against the Soviet Union*

- Following World War II the United Nations was formed to help solve world conflicts peacefully
- The **Cold War** was both a military and political struggle between communism (USSR) and capitalism (USA) which occurred after World War II when the Soviet Union occupied the countries of Eastern Europe.
- British Prime Minister Winston Churchill coined the term the “**Iron Curtain**”, which was the invisible political barrier that divided communist Eastern and democratic Western Europe
- The Soviet Union dominated and controlled the Eastern European nations, which were referred to as satellite nations
- The **Marshall Plan** was the American idea to help European nations rebuild their economies after WWII to make democracy look more attractive than communism
- The **Truman Doctrine** was the Presidential plan to give American aid to countries threatened by Communism
- **Containment** was the policy of trying to prevent the spread of Soviet or communist influence beyond where it already existed (This led to U.S. involvement in both the Korean and Vietnam wars)
- The **Berlin Blockade** was a Soviet effort to gain control of West Berlin by starving the population.
- The U.S. responded to the Berlin Blockade by launching the **Berlin Airlift** to provide food, medicine, and fuel to democratic West Berlin
- Senator **Joseph McCarthy** spread panic that the US was going to be taken over by Communists, and as a result the constitutional rights of many Americans were violated
- Americans who spoke out against McCarthy were often accused of being communists themselves or placed on blacklists (which prevented their employment)
- The **Korean War** was the first test of the United Nations, and pitted the Communist nations of North Korea and China, versus the forces of the United Nations, comprised mainly of US servicemen
- The United Nations forces were able to stop a communist takeover of South Korea, but only after a three-year stalemate.
- The Cold War in Europe was waged between the U.S.S.R. with its East European communist allies (**Warsaw Pact** satellite nations) against capitalist West Europe (**NATO**) and its ally the United States
- **Sputnik** was a Soviet satellite launched into space in 1957, which led to the founding of NASA and expansion of the US space effort
- The only visible symbol of the “Iron Curtain” was the **Berlin Wall** which was built in 1961 and was **constructed to keep communist East Germans from escaping to the Democratic West Berlin**

- **The Bay of Pigs** was the site of a failed armed invasion of Fidel Castro's Cuba by anticommunist forces, who were supported by the United States. The goal of the invasion was to remove Castro from power, which did not work
- The **Cuban Missile Crisis** occurred when the Soviet Union was found by the United States to be placing nuclear missiles in Cuba, which put the nations on the brink of war. (The USSR withdrew its missiles)
- The Cuban Missile Crisis ended when the Soviet Union agreed to remove its missiles from Cuba (The U.S. agreed to remove their missiles from their Asian ally, Turkey)
- The **Domino Theory** was a belief that if South Vietnam became communist, other countries in Southeast Asia would become communist too
- The United States sent troops to South Vietnam to attempt to prevent a communist takeover
- North Vietnamese communists and Vietcong forces used guerilla tactics to combat massive American firepower
- As a result of the **Tet Offensive**, many Americans now believed that they could not win the war in Vietnam
- The Vietnam War ended when North Vietnamese troops defeated those from the South.
- President Richard Nixon's policy of **Détente** was the term coined for the easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union (USSR). This idea was illustrated with Nixon visiting communist China and improving relations with the Soviet Union.
- The policies of **Mikhail Gorbachev** (Glasnost & Perestroika) led to better relations between the United States and Soviet Union
- The Cold War ended in when communism collapsed in the Soviet Union, and when Europe when the Warsaw Pact disbanded in 1991.
- The policies enacted by Mikhail Gorbachev in the USSR in the late 1980s helped to end the Cold War by providing greater openness & relations with the US & Western Europe