

American History: Chapter 27

The Cold War

Origins Of The Cold War

- Reasons for US-Soviet Tensions
 - The Soviet Union wanted a “buffer zone” after WWII
 - Invaded twice previously
 - US and Britain delay in opening a second front
- Yalta Conference:
 - Last meeting of the “Big Three”
 - Stalin agreed to free elections in Eastern Europe
 - Promised elections in Poland – never came true
 - USSR would join the UN
 - Germany would be divided into different zones

The Collapse of the Peace

- **Potsdam Conference (July, 1945):**
 - Japan given an ultimatum to surrender
 - Truman hinted to Stalin about a new weapon
 - Truman wanted to hold Stalin to agreements at Yalta (pact)
- **Chinese Civil War:**
 - Nationalists (Chiang Kai-shek) v. Communists (Mao Zedong)
 - US supported the Nationalists
- **Containment**
 - George Kennan, believed the Soviet threat of expansion should be “contained”
- **Two forms of Containment:**
 - *Truman Doctrine:*
 - \$400 million in aid to Turkey and Greece
 - *Marshall Plan:*
 - \$12 billion in economic aid to Europe
- **National Security Act:**
 - Created the Department of Defense, CIA, and increased powers of the president

The Collapse of the Peace

- **Berlin Blockade (1948):**
 - Stalin cut off all roads/trains to Berlin (located in East Germany)
 - US provided food, goods, etc. to citizens of Berlin
 - Helps lead to the formation of.....
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):**
 - First peace-time alliance in US History
 - “An attack on one is an attack on all”
 - The Soviet Union later responded with the Warsaw Pact
- **1949: A bad year for the US’ foreign policy**
 - “Fall” of China
 - Soviet Union detonates its own nuclear weapon
- **NSC-68**
 - More aggressive foreign policy and increase in defense spending

American Society And Politics After the War

- **Strong Economy post-WWII**

- Consumer demand was high – little spending during the war
- Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (G.I. Bill)
 - Education and economic aid to veterans returning from war

- Women, blacks, and Hispanics were pushed out of jobs for returning white soldiers

- **Truman’s “Fair Deal”:**

- Proposed more Social Security, increased minimum wage, national insurance, etc.
- Biggest success came in minimum wage and housing

- **Taft-Hartley Act:**

- Passed over Truman’s veto
- Outlawed the “closed-shop”

American Society And Politics After the War

- **Election of 1948:**
 - Dewey does NOT defeat Truman
 - Truman campaigned via RR
- **Truman did not achieve many gains in Civil Rights**
 - Southern Congressmen did not support his plans, which included:
 - Federal protection of black rights
 - Abolishing poll taxes
- **Executive Order 9981 (1948):**
 - Desegregated the US military

The Korean War

- In June, 1950, N. Korea invaded S. Korea
 - Took over almost all of S. Korean
 - Truman saw the invasion as an act by the Soviet Union
- US drastically increased its military size and spending
 - NSC-68
- Eventually N. Korea is pushed back beyond the 38th
- China intervened on November 25, on behalf of North Korea
 - General MacArthur wanted to fight a large-scale war, attack the Chinese
- MacArthur criticized Truman's plans
 - Truman fired MacArthur
- July, 1953: Ike agreed to a division of North Korea at the 38th parallel; demilitarized zone
 - 36, 940 Americans were killed, 103,284 were wounded

The Crusade Against Subversion

- **HUAC (created in 1945)**
 - House Committee on Un-American Activities
 - Prominent member was Richard Nixon – NOT JOSEPH McCarthy!
 - Alger Hiss:
 - One-time aide to FDR
 - Accused of sharing 65 classified documents
 - Indicted and sentenced to 5 years in jail for perjury
 - “Hollywood Ten”
 - 10 screenwriters that refused to testify before HUAC; sentenced to jail
- Many activities became associated with Communism: declining religious sentiment, increased sexual freedom, agitation for civil rights
- **Truman’s Loyalty Program:**
 - Truman issued an executive order (9835) for federal employees to take a loyalty oath
- **McCarran Internal Security Act:**
 - Required Communist organizations to register with the government

The Crusade Against Subversion

• Rosenbergs

- Husband and wife convicted of giving a-bomb secrets to the Soviets
- 2008 – Revealed that the prosecution knew Ethel was innocent

• McCarthyism

- Seen as a demagogue
 - Leader that capitalizes on prejudices and false claims to gain power
- Joseph McCarthy (R – Wisconsin)
- Accused state department officials of being communists
- Downfall happened when he attacked the army
 - Seen by many as a bully on tv
- Arthur Miller's The Crucible was an allegory to McCarthyism