

# **The Aftermath of World War II**

1945-1949

# Events of the Period

- 1945: A-bomb
- 1945: United Nations
- 1946: USSR & Iran
- 1946-1949: China
- 1946-1948: Eastern Europe
- 1946-1949: Greece & Turkey
- 1947: OAS
- 1948: Marshal Plan
- 1948: Berlin Crisis (I)
- 1949: Communist China
- 1949: NATO
- 1949: Soviet A-Bomb
- 1949: "Super" Decision

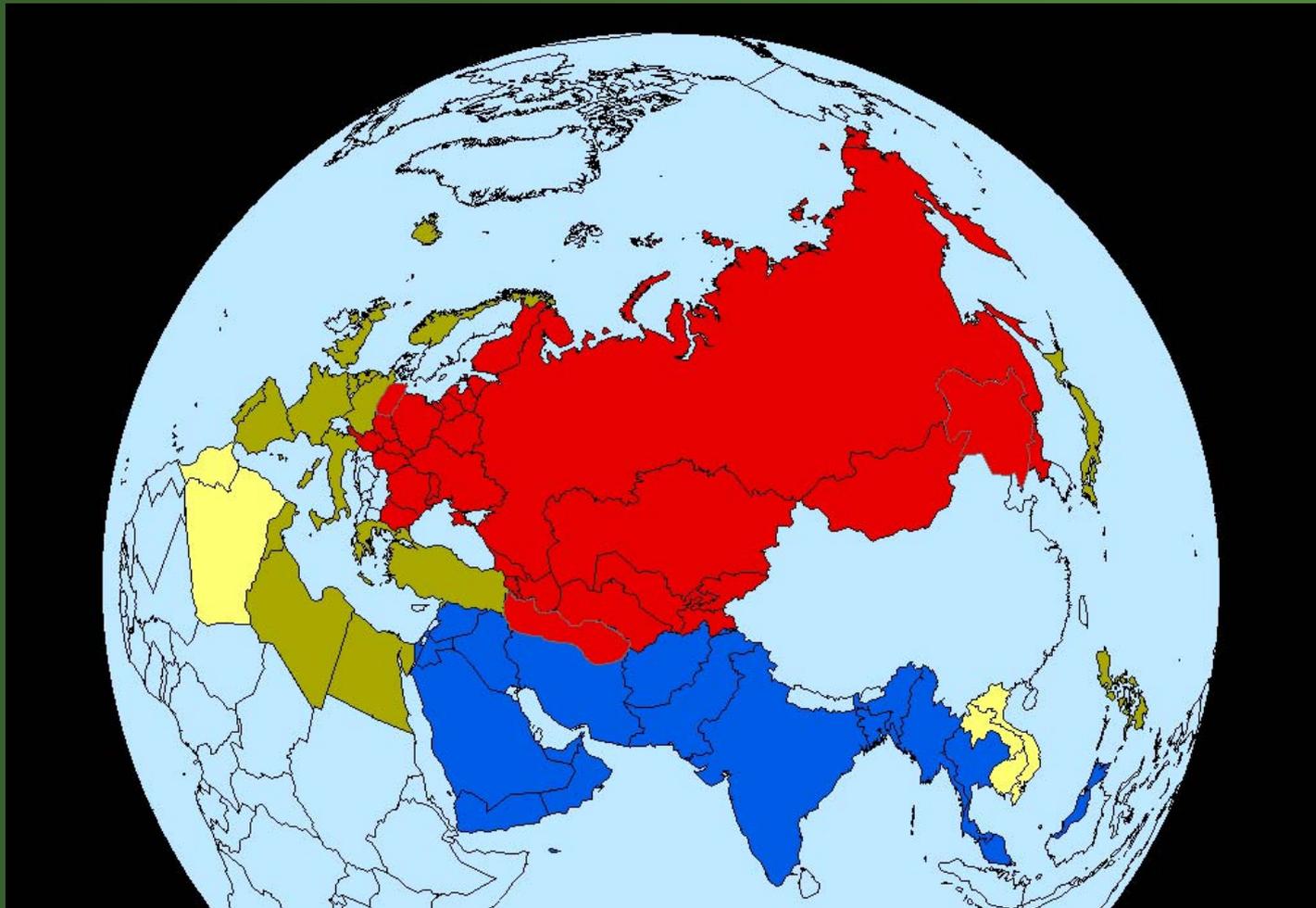
# 1945-1947

## Hopeful Disengagement & Policy Innovation

# The World as Seen from the US in 1945

- Harry Truman U.S. President
- Among the Industrial Powers only the US economy intact
  - Europe & Asia in ruins
- World trade decimated
- Colonial empires shaky (UK, FR, Dutch)
- US has 12 million troops overseas

# The World -- 1945



# What Were U.S. Vital Interests?

- The Domestic Economy
  - U.S. Domestic Economic Strength
- International Economy & trade
  - Access to foreign markets
    - natural resources
    - industrial markets
- Democratic free-markets among Industrial Powers

# US Military Priorities

(JCS 769/1 4/1947)

1. UK
2. France
3. Germany
4. Italy
5. Greece
6. Turkey
7. Austria
8. Japan
9. Belgium
10. Netherlands
11. Latin America
12. Spain
13. Korea
14. China
15. The Philippines
16. Canada

# Threats to U.S. National Security

- Over-Militarized U.S. Economy
  - ~40% GNP devoted to war effort (\$ 82 billion)
  - labor strikes, inflation, meat shortages in 1946
  - Republicans called for tax cuts (20%) & defense cuts
- US military posture
  - ~12 million troops over seas -- straddling Western & Central Europe, Asia, and North Africa
  - 1000 B-29s, no A-bombs

# Threats

- Future of Germany & Japan
- Political & Economic Weakness of our Western Allies
- Soviet expansion: Intentions & Capabilities?
  - mission to spread communism
  - Soviet forces ~12 million troops
    - Central/Eastern Europe
    - China, Korea
    - Iran
    - Demobilization largely unrecognized (~2 million by 1947)
  - using economic & social turmoil to create opportunities for communist entry

# Threats

- Physical & psychic exhaustion of people of Europe/Asia opens door for communism
  - feelings of disillusionment, insecurity, apathy
  - destruction & depreciation of physical plant and equipment
  - depletion of financial reserves, foreign exchange
  - social & economic dislocation
  - delay in converting German economy to peace time production
- Soviet assistance to indigenous communist cells

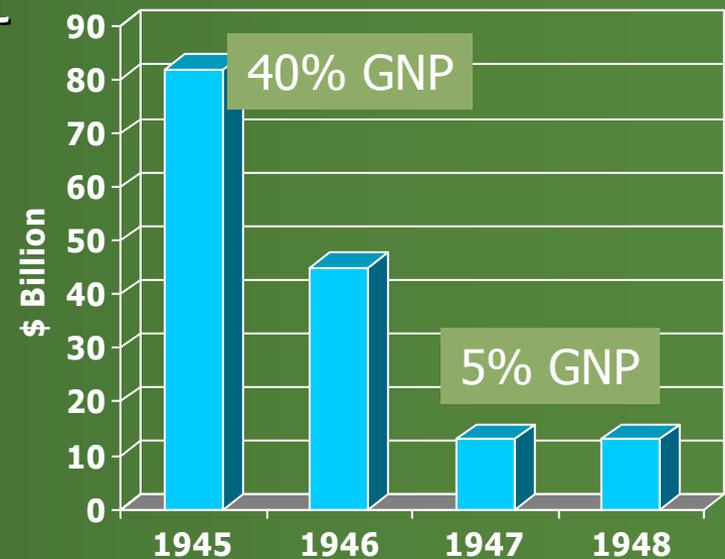
# Views of the Soviet Threat

- FDR on Eve of Cold War:
  - Soviet hostility due to unfamiliarity with West, exclusion, lack of interaction
  - Cooperation, trust, good will can change Soviet behavior
- Kennan: Soviet hostility is internally generated, nature of system & leadership experience
  - Gestures of good faith will be seen as weakness; policy of firmness & patience demanded
  - *Containment* as the foundation of policy

# U.S. National Security Policy 1945-1947

- Use of economic & diplomatic power
  - not military engagement
- De-militarize US Economy

## US Defense Spending



# U.S. National Security Policy 1945-1947

- De-mobilize the Armed Forces
  - Domestic pressures immense (80,000 letters/week to Congress)
  - 1945: 12 million troops
  - 1946: 6.1 million troops
  - 1948: 1.6 million troops
  - Disorganized demobilization left all units under-strength
    - Actual US military strength was far weaker than numbers suggest
    - "hollow" force

# U.S. National Security Policy 1945-1947

- Diplomatic Accommodation with USSR in Europe
  - Negotiations through the UN
    - Withdrawal from Central Europe
    - Withdrawal from China
    - Nuclear Weapons control
  - Positive diplomacy meant not harping on Soviet threat
    - Essential for demobilization

# Institutional Innovations

- UN for collective security & economic redevelopment (1945) as per American agenda
  - western dominated General Assembly
  - Western dominated Security Council
- Baruch Plan (1946)
  - internationalize atomic technology
  - stop Soviets from getting A bomb

# Institutional Innovations

- **AEC 1946**
  - takes custody & control of nuclear programs from Army
  - retains warhead/bomb control until 1953
- **National Security Act 1947**
  - emerges after 2 years of furious infighting
  - original plan called for dominant Sec Def
    - Navy Dept. fought and won it to prevent subordination
  - sets up NSC: Secs Army, AF, Navy dominate NSC
  - Air Force becomes independent service
  - Sec Defense created, in parallel with Secs of Army, Navy, and Air Force
  - CIA created
  - JCS (consensual system)

# Events

- 1945: A-bomb
- 1945: United Nations
- 1946: USSR-Iran Crisis
- 1946-1949: China Crisis
- 1946-1948: Eastern Europe Crisis
- 1946-1949: Greece & Turkey Crises
- 1947: OAS

# Truman Doctrine (1947)

- Response to Crises in Greece & Turkey
  - “...Totalitarian regimes imposed on free peoples, by direct or indirect aggression, undermine the foundations of international peace and hence the security of the United States...”
  - “...I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures...”
- To help nations engaged in self-defense
  - provide surplus arms & training & funding to build indigenous forces
  - No U.S. forces on the ground

# 1948-1949

## Crises & Reaction

# Marshall Plan (1948)

- \$13 billion to rebuild Europe
- Russians & satellites invited to join
  - assumed they would not
  - might drive wedge between Soviets & satellites

# Force Structure Debate

- Long War
  - Army: mobilization strategy – re-fight WWII
    - Small standing army
    - Universal military training
  - Navy
    - Super carrier
- Short War
  - Air Force
    - Air Power (70 wings)
    - Nuclear Weapons
    - Overseas air bases in Europe, N. Africa, and Asia

# Institutional Innovations

- Army pushes universal military training
- Women's Armed Forces Integration Act (1948)
  - Military careers for women: nurses, administrative help

# Institutional Innovations

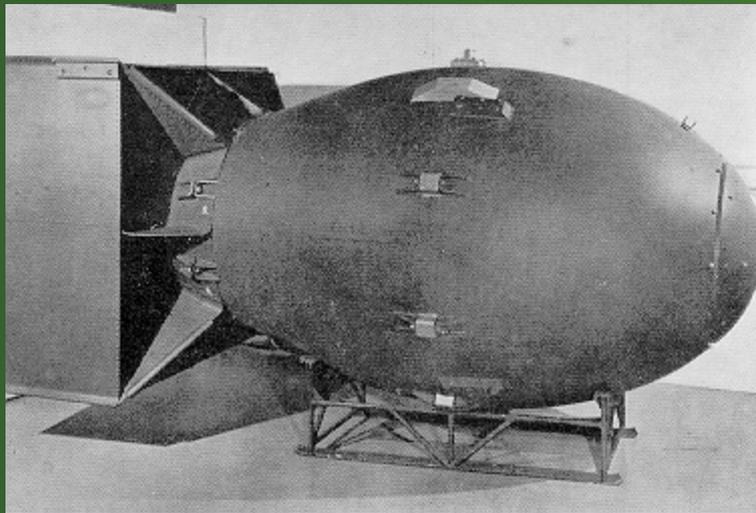
- Executive Order 9981 (1948)
  - mandatory racial integration of units
  - Military argues that integration would hurt recruitment, harm morale & discipline, cut readiness
    - Air Force, Army, & Marines maintain segregated subunits
    - Navy shuffles blacks into stewards branch, shore logistics
  - note this was an *executive order*, not a law....why?
    - And why was this done?
- National Security Act 1949 Amendment
  - result of inter-service squabbling over missions and nuclear weapons
    - Reorganization based on money, budgets, & inter-service rivalry
  - Creates single Defense Dept
  - Armed services subordinated to Sec Def & extends authority
  - Sec Def gets deputy and 3 assist Sec Defs

# Events of the Period

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# A-Bomb

"Fat Man"

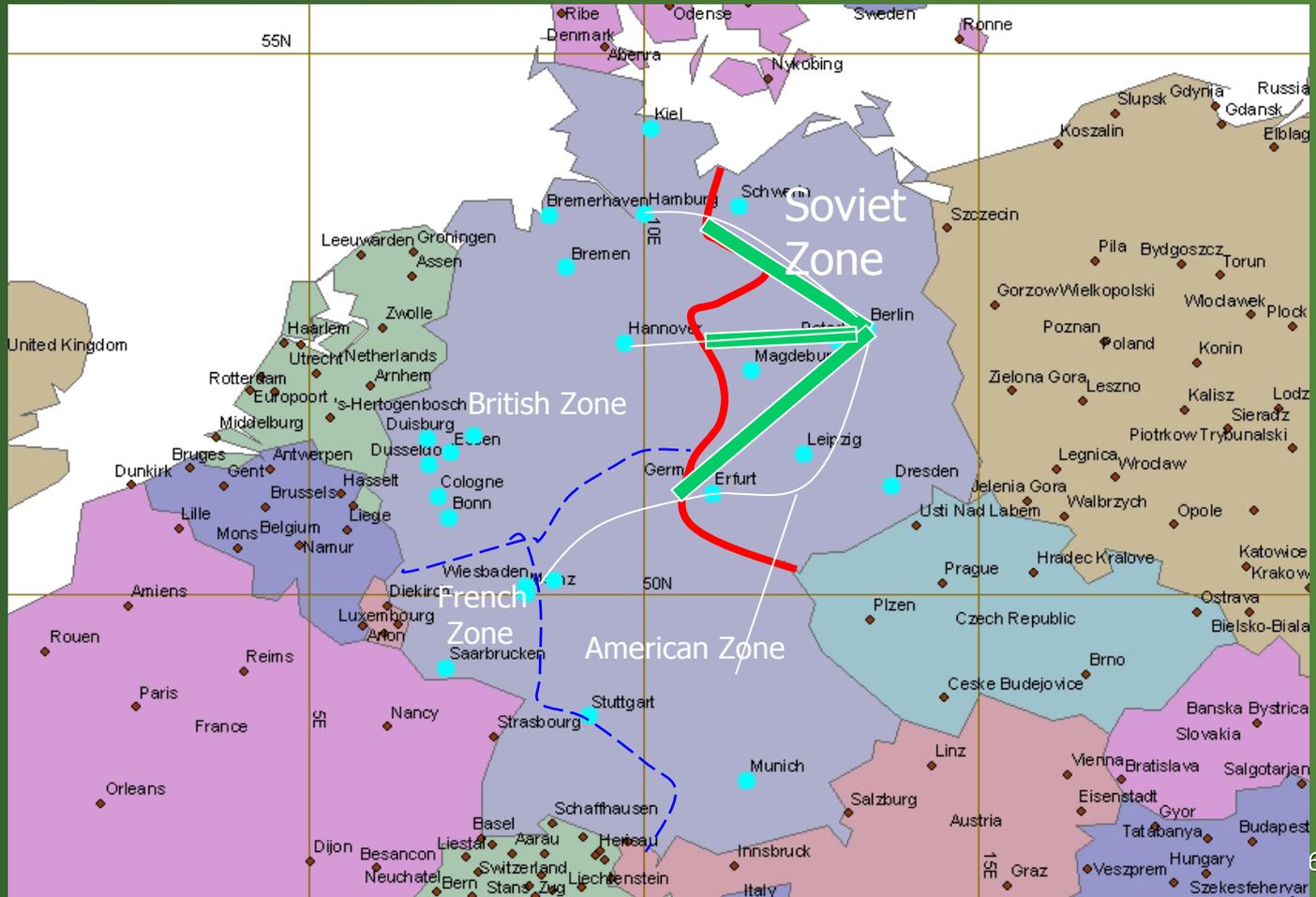


"Little Boy"

B-29



# Berlin Crisis



# Berlin Crisis

