Chapter 12: The First Cold War

(1945–1991)



Hiroshima







Nagasaki





Section 1: The Industrialized Democracies

During the post-World War II period, American businesses expanded into the global marketplace. Globalization became normal as more and more countries bought and sold goods with other countries and began to rely on each other more and more.

### **Section 1: The Industrialized Democracies**

Other nations needed goods and services to rebuild. This led to a period of economic success that changed life in the United States. During the 1950s and 1960s, **recessions** (a slowing down of a nation's economy) were brief and mild.

Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) As Americans prospered, they left the cities to live in the suburbs. This trend is called suburbanization and is the opposite of urbanization (when people move to cities from the countryside). Also, job opportunities in the Sunbelt (the southern U.S.) attracted many people to that region.

Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) By the 1970s, however, a political crisis in the Middle East made Americans aware of their dependence on imported oil. The price of oil and gas rose substantially, which meant that people had less money to buy other products. The decades of prosperity ended in 1974 with a serious recession.

# Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) During the period of prosperity in America

During the period of prosperity in America after World War II, African-Americans and other minorities continued to face **segregation** (separation of groups in society based on race or ethnicity). This was common in America; even the U.S. Supreme Court, the country's top court, stated in the famous 1896 case *Plessy v. Ferguson* that it was ok to separate African-Americans and other races (the idea of separate but equal), thus leading to non-whites being treated differently.

Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
But in 1947, President Truman (1945-1953)
began a trend in government when he announced that the U.S. military would no longer be segregated. A few years later, in 1954, the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case overturned the *Plessy* case (saying separation is inherently (automatically) unequal), but discrimination continued.

# Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) Then, in 1955, Rosa Parks, an African-

America woman and the "mother of the Civil Rights movement," refused to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

What followed was the Montgomery Bus

Boycott.



Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
Led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the boycott
was a 13-month protest and boycott of the
Montgomery bus system. It finally ended with the
U.S. Supreme Court ruling that segregation on
public buses was unconstitutional, and also when
Montgomery, Alabama realized it needed AfricanAmerican but riders to make a profit.

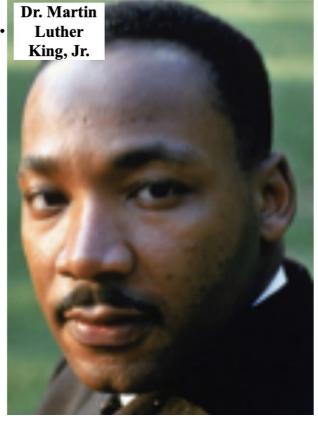


# Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) In 1957, nine African-American students tried to enroll in an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. Called the "Little Rock Nine," President Dwight Eisenhower (1953-1961) initially tried to stay out of the situation and allow states to handle their own segregation problems. Ultimately, because of increasing tension and violence, he reluctantly used the U.S. Army to help enroll the students and keep them safe.

## Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) African-Americans also suffered from

African-Americans also suffered from discrimination in jobs and voting. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. emerged as the main civil rights

leader in the 1960s. Dr. Martin Luther



Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
King preached and used nonviolent protests as his way of educating Americans about the injustice of discrimination. He utilized Freedom Rides (people who rode buses into the segregated southern U.S. from 1961 on to protest

Luther King, Jr.

segregation).

# Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) In the summer of 1963, King led more than 200,000 Americans to Washington, D.C. for a

rally as a form of protest.



Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
At the Lincoln Memorial, speaker after speaker spoke of an America that not only spoke of freedom and liberty for all but a country that followed its beliefs. This March on Washington awoke many Americans to the continued injustice suffered by non-whites.



Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) The next year, 1964, during Freedom Summer, several groups tried to register African-Americans in the south during the summer in order to give them more say in the government and in their lives. Violence ensued. Because of President Lyndon Johnson (1963-1969), the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1965, further eliminating discrimination against African-Americans.

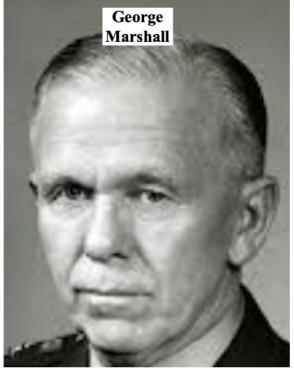
Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) Other minority groups were inspired by King's successes. For example, the women's rights movement helped to end much gender-based discrimination. Other civil rights groups did not preach nonviolence, such as the Black Panthers, and after King's assassination in 1968, "Black Power" replaced the civil rights movement, stressing the need for African-Americans to do whatever was necessary to achieve equality.

# Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) Western Europe rebuilt after World War II.

Western Europe rebuilt after World War II. The **Marshall Plan**, named in 1948 after its creator, U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall,

helped restore European economies by providing

U.S. aid.



Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
Part of the aim of the Marshall Plan was to keep democracy (a system of government led by and for the whole population of a country, usually through representation) alive in Europe and prevent communism (a country where the government owns everything for the good of its people and where classes of society do not exist) from spreading there.

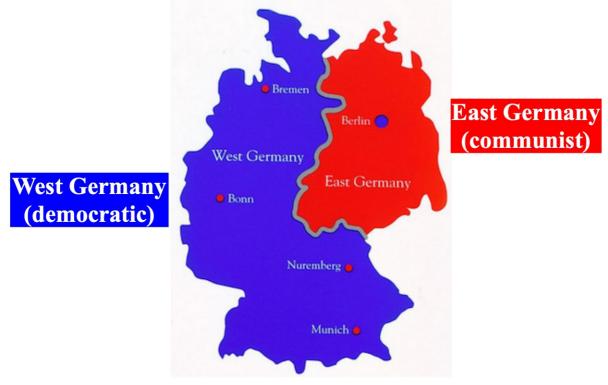
Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
The goal was to allow capitalism (an economic system in a country where production and prices are controlled by buyers and sellers and ownership of businesses by citizens is possible) and free market economies (an economic system based on buyers and sellers with little or no government

Marshall

control) to grow.

# Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) After the war, Germany was divided into two

After the war, Germany was divided into two different countries, the communist **East Germany** and the democratic **West Germany**, but reunited at the end of the 1st Cold War in 1990.



Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
Under Konrad Adenauer, West Germany's chancellor from 1949 to 1963, West Germany built modern cities and re-established trade with the world, while communist East Germany stayed isolated and increasingly had economic problems.

West Germany (democratic)



**East Germany** (communist)

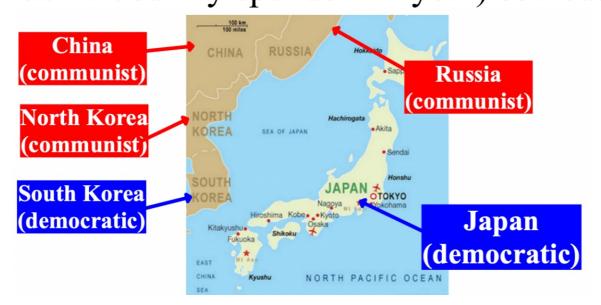
Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.) European governments also developed programs that increased government responsibility for the needs of people. These welfare states required high taxes to pay for their programs.

Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
During the 1980s, some leaders, such as Britain's
Margaret Thatcher, reduced the role of the
government in the economy. Western Europe also
moved closer to economic unity with the
European Union, an organization dedicated to
establishing free trade among its members and a
common currency called the Euro.



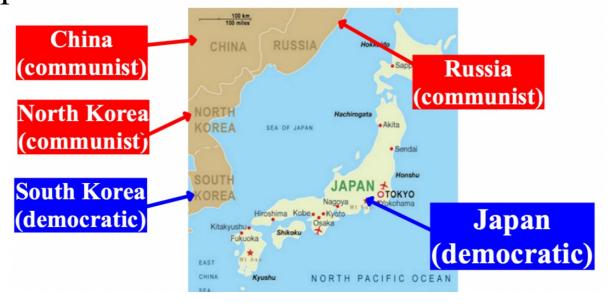


Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)
Japan also prospered after World War II, mostly due to American assistance. Just like in Europe, America was also concerned with keeping communism from spreading in Asia. Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) (a measure of how much a country spends in a year) soared.



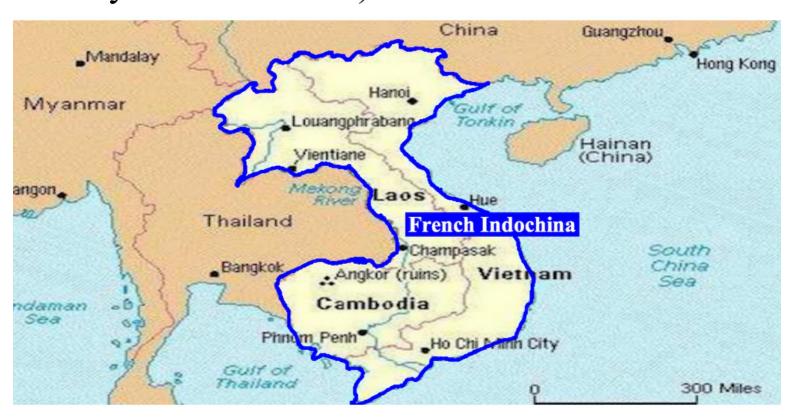
### Section 1: The Industrial Democracies (cont.)

Like Germany, Japan built factories. The government protected industries by raising **tariffs** (taxes) on imported goods, making Japanese goods cheaper to buy than other countries' good sold in Japan. This helped create a trade surplus for Japan.



### Section 2: War in Southeast Asia

In the 1800s, France ruled the area in Southeast Asia called **French Indochina** (peninsula land directly south of China).



Section 2: War in Southeast Asia

During World War II, Japan controlled that region, but faced resistance from **guerrilla warfare** (those who use hit and run attacks against stronger forces). After the war, Japan left Vietnam and the French tried to reestablish its authority in

Vietnam.



Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)
However, forces led by communist leader Ho Chi
Minh (North Vietnamese communist dictator from
1945-1969) fought the French. The French left
Vietnam in 1954 after the Vietnamese victory at
Dienbienphu.



# Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.) After that, Ho Chi Minh controlled communist North Vietnam with China's support while the United States supported democratic South Vietnam.



Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)
Ho Chi Minh wanted to unite Vietnam. He

Ho Chi Minh wanted to unite Vietnam. He provided aid to the National Liberation Front, or **Viet Cong (VC)**, which was a communist guerrilla organization in South Vietnam that supported North Vietnam.



Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)
American leaders saw Vietnam as an extension of the Cold War and developed the domino theory. This was the belief that if communists won in South Vietnam, then communism would spread to other governments in Southeast Asia.



Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)
After a North Vietnamese attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer in 1964, Congress authorized the President to take military measures to prevent further communist aggression in Southeast Asia. The Vietnam War (1964-1975) began.



Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)

Despite massive American support, the South Vietnamese failed to defeat the South Vietnamese Viet Cong (VC) and their North Vietnamese allies.



### Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)

In addition, the American attempt to win over the minds and hearts of those in North Vietnam in order to have a better chance of winning the war failed. Then, in early 1968, the North Vietnamese attacked cities all over the south in a surprise offensive called the **Tet Offensive**.



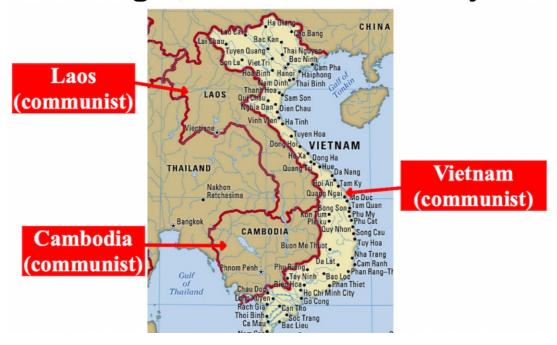
Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)

Even though the communists were not able to hold any cities, the Tet Offensive marked a turning point in U.S. public opinion. Upset by civilian deaths from the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam as well as growing American casualties, many Americans began to oppose the war and anti-war protests increased throughout America.

Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.) U.S. President Nixon (1969-1974) came under increasing pressure to terminate the conflict. To meet this goal, America began to put more and more responsibility of the war in the hands of the South Vietnamese. Called Vietnamization, this policy allowed America to exit the war.

Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)

The Paris Peace Accord of 1973 established a ceasefire and American troops began to withdraw. Two years later, in 1975, communist North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam. Today Vietnam is a single, communist country.

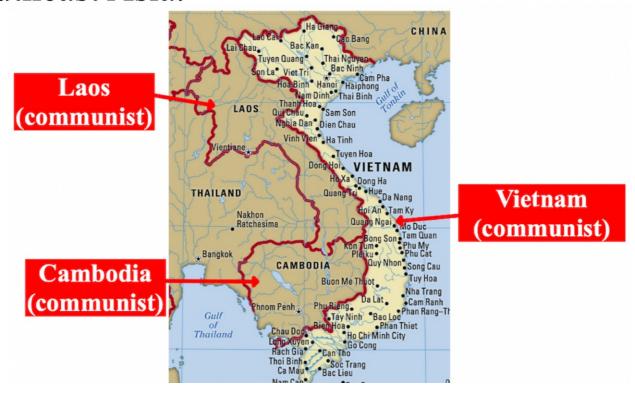


Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)

Neighboring Cambodia and Laos also ended up with communist governments. In Cambodia, guerrillas called the Khmer Rouge came to power. Led by the brutal dictator Pol Pot, their policies led to a genocide that killed about one third of the population.

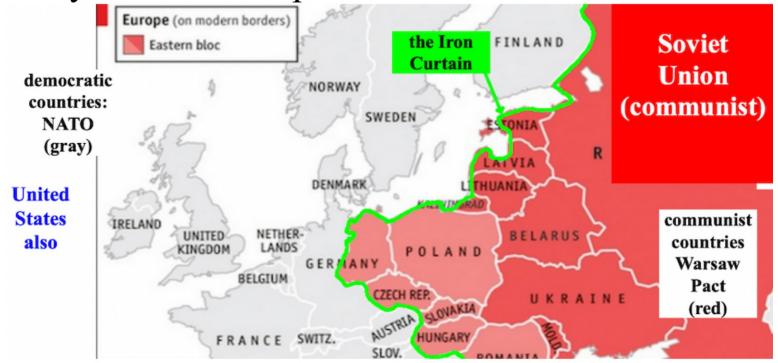


Section 2: War in Southeast Asia (cont.)
When Vietnam invaded Cambodia, the genocide ended. Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge were forced to retreat. Communism did not spread any farther in Southeast Asia.



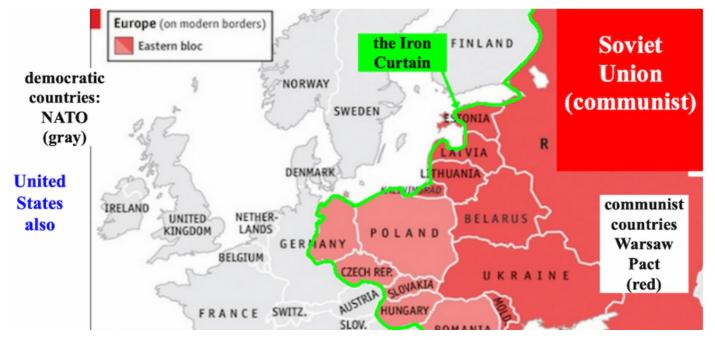
#### **Section 3: The End of the Cold War**

The **Soviet Union** (the name of Russia while it was communist from 1917-1991) emerged from World War II as a superpower with control over many Eastern European countries.



### Section 3: The End of the Cold War

For many people, the country's superpower status brought few rewards. Consumer goods were inferior and workers were poorly paid. Because workers had lifetime job security, there was little incentive to produce high-quality goods.



Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.)
Still, the Soviet Union had some important technological successes. One example was Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite, launched into space in 1957. But keeping up with the United States for decades in an arms race strained the Soviet economy.

# Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.) Then in 1979, Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan (country in central Asia directly south of the Soviet Union) and became involved in a long war.



Soviet Union (communist)

## Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.) The Soviets had few successes battling the

mujahedin, or Muslim (followers of the religion of Islam) religious warriors, creating a crisis in morale of money in the USSR (the official name of the Soviet Union).

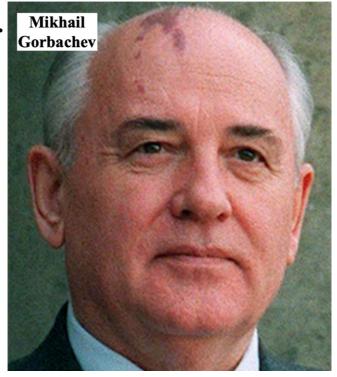


Soviet Union (communist)

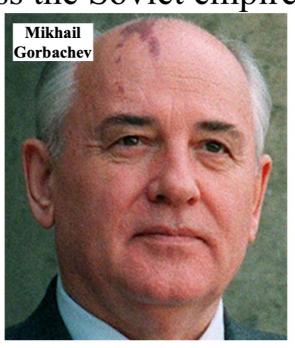
## Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.) Then, new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

Then, new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (1985-1991) urged reforms. He called for glasnost (a policy within the Soviet Union of openly and frankly discussing economic and

political realities).



Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.)
He ended censorship and encouraged people to discuss the country's problems. Gorbachev also called for **perestroika**, or a restructuring of the government and economy. His policies, however, fed unrest across the Soviet empire.

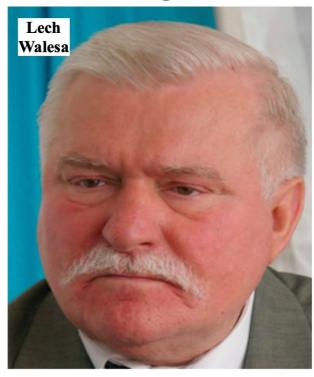


## Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.) Eastern Europeans demanded an end to Soviet

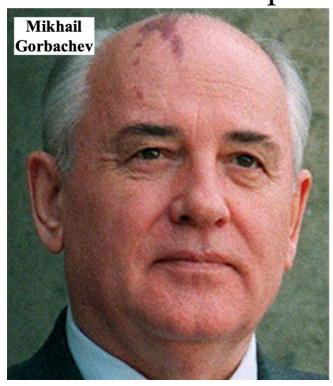
Eastern Europeans demanded an end to Soviet rule. Previous attempts to defy the Soviets had failed. When Hungarians and Czechs challenged the communist rulers in the past, military force subdued them. By the end of the 1980s, a powerful democracy movement was sweeping the region.

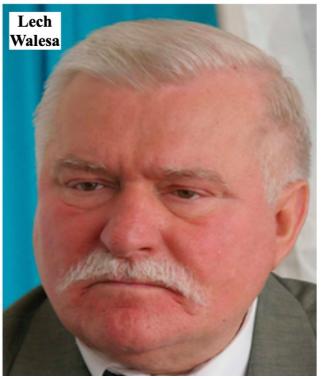
Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.) In Poland (country in Europe between Germany and the Soviet Union), Lech Walesa led Solidarity, an independent, unlawful labor union demanding economic and political changes.





Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.) When Gorbachev declared he would not interfere in Eastern European reforms, Solidarity was legalized. A year later, Walesa was elected president of an independent Poland.





### **Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.)**

Meanwhile, East German leaders resisted reform, and thousands of East Germans fled to the West. In Czechoslovakia, Václav Havel, a dissident writer, was elected president. One by one, communist governments fell. Most changes happened peacefully, but Romanian dictator

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Soviet Union (red border) (communist) 1917-1991

Russia (blue border) (democratic) 1991 on



## Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.) Most changes happened peacefully, but Romanian

Most changes happened peacefully, but Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu refused to step down and he was executed. Many states regained independence.

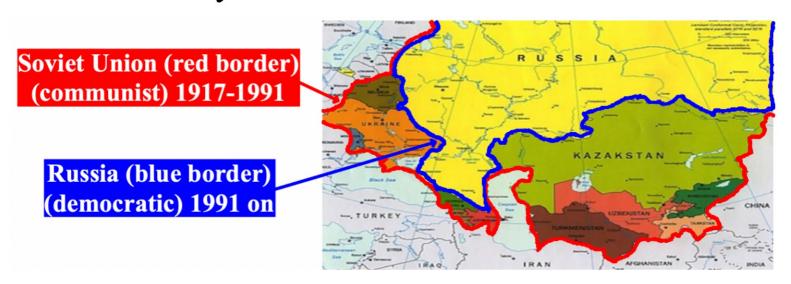
Soviet Union (red border) (communist) 1917-1991

Russia (blue border) (democratic) 1991 on



#### **Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.)**

By the end of 1991, the remaining Soviet republics had all formed independent nations. On Christmas Day, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist after 74 years of communist rule.



Section 3: The End of the Cold War (cont.) In 1992, Czechoslovakia was divided into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Additionally, some communist governments in Asia, such as China, instituted economic reforms.

