

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Unit 9

**THE COLD WAR AND
AMERICA'S POSTWAR BOOM**

ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR

- Following the conclusion of WWII, there was great hope for a new and lasting world peace. The U.S. and Soviet Union emerged from WWII as world superpowers. These two, however, will soon be at odds causing world tension and conflict.
- Both the U.S. and Soviet Union had different governments and economies that led to different ambitions for the future. These differences led to what has become known as the Cold War- **the all-consuming conflict between the U.S. and Soviet Union marked by icy tension and conflict without direct military conflict (1945-1991).**
- The **Cold War** will be characterized by both the U.S. and Soviet Union supporting countries and sides, but without direct military conflict between the two superpowers.

- Post-WWII actions and policies of the Soviet Union:
 - Maintain their military presence in Eastern Europe
 - Created many **satellite nations**- countries dominated by the Soviet Union and where communism was instilled
 - Churchill described Europe after World War II as being separated by an “Iron Curtain”



Berlin Blockade

- June 1948
- Soviet leader Stalin shuts down delivery of supplies to West Berlin
- U.S. and British respond by airlifting supplies for almost one year
- Soviets back down



Containment Policy

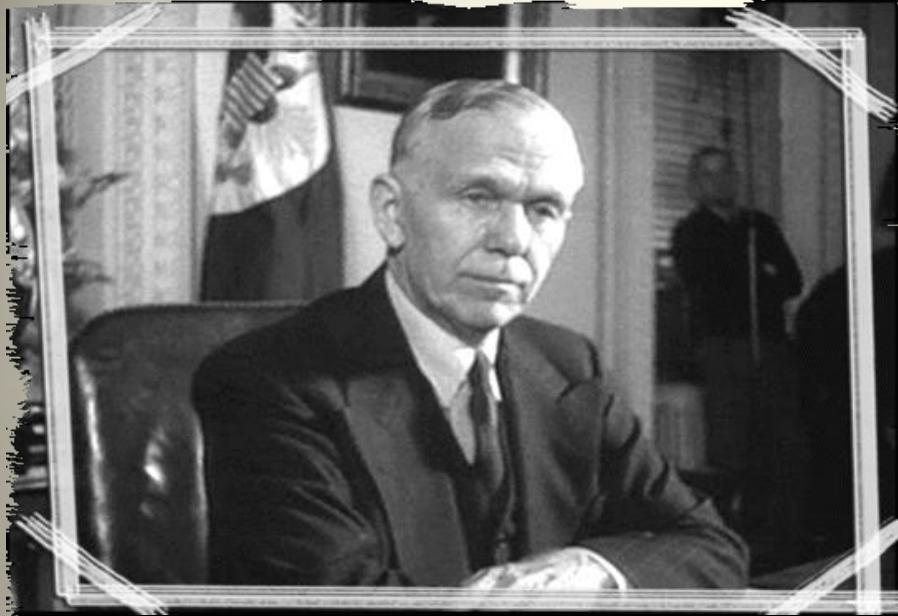
- Plan to stop spread of communism
- Truman Doctrine
 - March 12, 1947
 - President asks Congress for \$400 million to assist Greece and Turkey in resisting Communism

"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."

— Harry S Truman



Harry S Truman



Containment Policy

George Marshall

- Marshall Plan
 - June 1947 plan named after U.S. Secretary of State
 - Offered substantial U.S. aid to rebuild European countries
 - \$12.5 billion in economic assistance
 - Considered a spectacular success in Western Europe (16 nations accepted the aid)



To add even more pressure on each side (U.S./U.S.S.R.), we see the following established:

- **Collective security** (**alliance systems whose main goal is to prevent the eruption of war**) agencies were created by both sides.
 - The U.S. is also going to join **NATO**- (**North Atlantic Treaty Organization**) along with 11 other Democratic nations in 1949.
 - The Soviet Union will respond to NATO a few years later (1955) with the **Warsaw Pact**- military pact linking the Soviet Union with 7 other Eastern European/Communist countries.
 - These alliances added to the growing rivalry and tension between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

- With policies like **containment, Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, and NATO**, the U.S. had one main goal in mind...

to prevent and contain the potential spread of communism throughout post-war Europe. We deemed this vital to even our own security.

- In spite of the onset of the **Cold War**, the U.S. had solidified itself as a world superpower who was going to be much more actively involved in global affairs. We showed that the U.S. was ready to accept more responsibility on a world scale by establishing **NATO** and creating/joining the **United Nations**.

ANALYZE THE FOLLOWING CARTOON



THE COLD WAR HEATS UP

- Prior to the 1931 Japanese invasion of China, Chinese communists and nationalists were fighting a civil war for control of the country. The fighting between them ceased due to the invasion, but resumed immediately upon the conclusion of WWII.
- Leaders of the communist and nationalist forces:
 - Mao Zedong- Communist leader
 - Chiang Kai-shek- Nationalist leader
- The communists proved too strong for the nationalists, even in spite of billions of dollars of financial support from the U.S.. In May, 1949, the communists defeated the nationalists and the remaining nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan.
- This communist victory in China will shock the U.S. This led to our govt. extending European policies on containing communism to Asia as well.



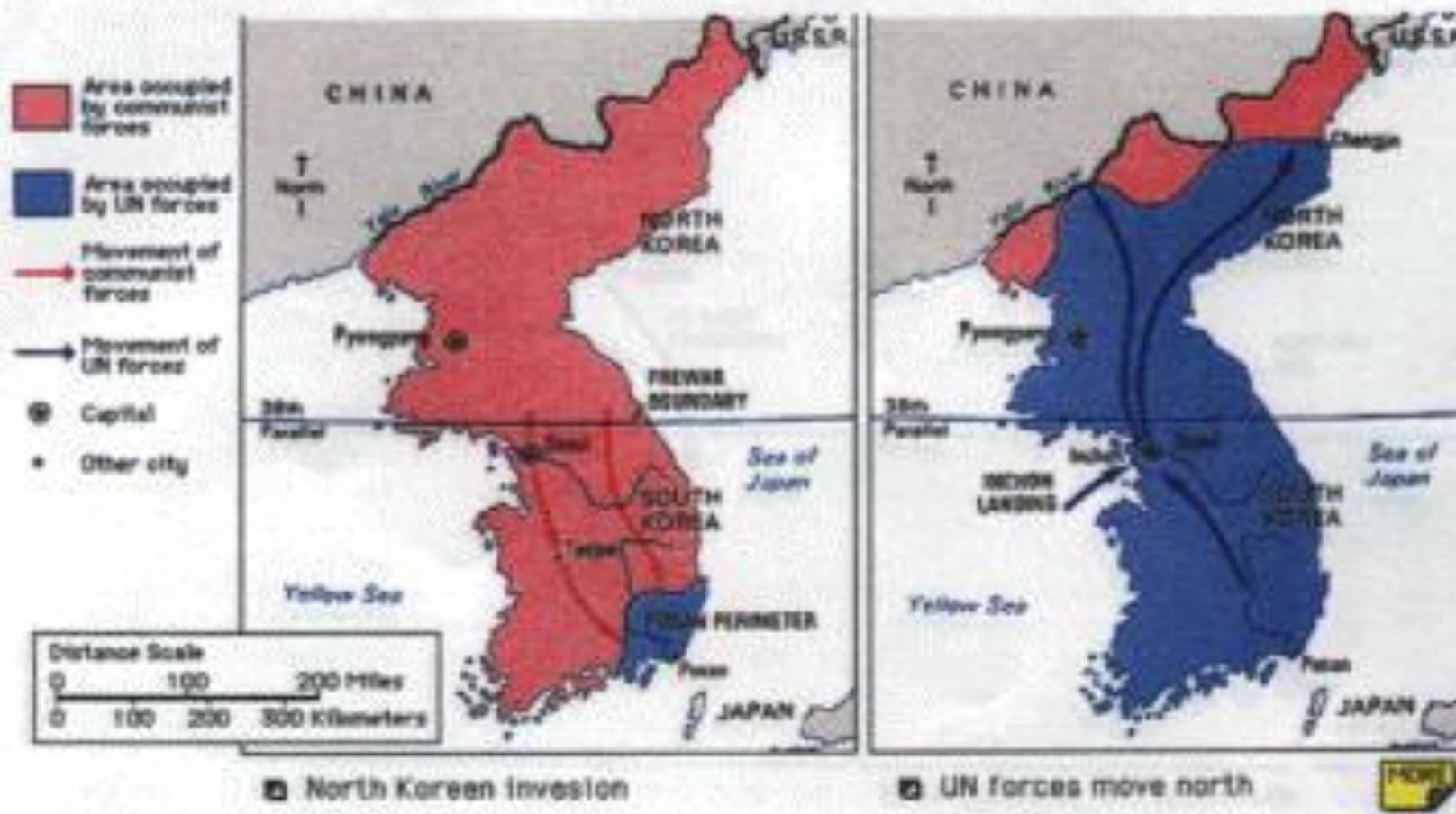
- Following WWII, the Asian country of Korea was divided as Germany had been in Europe. The country was divided at the **38th parallel** with the Soviets controlling the north and the U.S. controlling the south.
- North Korea became communist and South Korea became a democracy. In June, 1950, North Korea attacked catching S. Korea off guard and unprepared.
- South Korea cries for help. The United Nations and the U.S. answer the call. With the U.S., UN, and S. Korea participating, there was a million+ soldier army placed under the command of **U.S. General Douglas MacArthur**.

MAPS OF KOREA



N. AND S. KOREAN ADVANCES

Picture - Korean War



- The Chinese forces will push the U.N. forces back down past the 38th parallel. **MacArthur** got mad and asked **President Truman** to extend the war into China by using nuclear weapons in China. **Truman** said no, but this upset **MacArthur**.
- **MacArthur** began going over **President Truman's** head by talking to other politicians and even giving interviews to magazines and newspapers. This led to **President Truman** removing **MacArthur** of his command (firing him!). **Truman** justified this move by saying **MacArthur's** action jeopardized the concept of our citizen controlled military.
- In July, 1953, a formal armistice was signed by both sides ending the war. The boundaries for the two countries ended where they began, at the **38th parallel**.

THE COLD WAR AT HOME/The Second Red Scare

- The growing fear of communism is going to lead to some domestic changes here in the United States. Some of these changes came in the form of new executive orders and government agencies:
 - Loyalty Review Board- used to investigate govt. employees (and fire those found to be disloyal to the U.S.)
 - House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)- govt. agency that investigated the movie industry as a source for the spread of communist ideas
- This renewed Red Scare will be further enhanced by two spy cases :
 - Alger Hiss- accused spy ; convicted of perjury
 - Rosenbergs (Julius and Ethel)- Jewish-American anarchist couple accused, convicted, and executed for being involved in selling the Soviets atomic bomb secrets

HISS AND THE ROSENBERGS



- In the early 1950's, a relatively ineffective legislator from Wisconsin, **Joseph McCarthy**, became an anti-communist activist in the United States.
- This communist witch hunt by **Joseph McCarthy** was called **McCarthyism**- **unfair tactic of accusing people of communist activity without providing any evidence**.
- Many people bought into McCarthyism and few did anything to stop him. His baseless accusations will be brought to a screeching halt when he attacks the U.S. Army.
- The 35 days of televised hearings (20 M viewers) on this matter revealed McCarthy to be a bullying, bumbling buffoon, and he lost a great deal of public support. This investigation disgraced the U.S. Senate, and McCarthy left politics a dishonored man. [Hearing](#)

SENATOR JOSEPH McCARTHY



- McCarthyism has often been compared to the earlier concept of nativism, as well as the Red Scare following WWI. All three of these dealt with playing on our own fear of foreigner problems, as well as attacking those who held untraditional American viewpoints.
- These concepts can also be seen in the cases of Sacco & Vanzetti, Alger Hiss, and the Rosenbergs.

TWO NATIONS LIVE ON THE EDGE

- Key events in the Cold War in the early 1950's:
 - United States govt. created the **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**- agency that used spies to gather information abroad and conducted covert (secret) operations to weaken or overthrow governments unfriendly to the U.S.
 - WWII hero **Dwight Eisenhower** was elected President of the United States
 - The ARMS RACE: Both the U.S. and Soviet Union exploded nuclear weapons (H-bombs) and set out on a competition to see who could have the biggest, baddest (and most) weapons
- Under **President Eisenhower**, the U.S. chose to combat communism through the use of **brinkmanship**- threatening all-out war against aggressor nations attempting to spread communism.

PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER



- Other Cold War events that increased tension:
 - **Suez (Canal) War**- the Egyptians played the Soviets and Americans against each other to get more aid for a dam project
 - U.S. found out and pulled it's aid (Soviet influence increased)
 - Egypt refused passage through Suez Canal to ships bound for Israel so Israel, G.B., and France seized control of canal
 - U.N. stepped in and ended the conflict
 - **Eisenhower Doctrine**- President Eisenhower issued this in response to growing Soviet influence in the Middle East; said the U.S. would defend the Middle East against any attack by a communist country (**goal=prevent the spread of communism**)
 - **Domino Theory**- President Eisenhower's idea that if one country in a region fell to communism then others would too. (mainly used with respect to Vietnam)
 - **Soviet launching of Sputnik**- in Oct., 1957, the Soviets launched the first artificial satellite into space to the total shock of the U.S. This pitted the U.S. against Russia in the **space race**, and it led to sweeping changes in the American educational system.

The Space Race

Spacecraft	Sputnik I	Explorer I	Vanguard I	Vostok I	Mercury
Country	Soviet Union	United States	United States	Soviet Union	United States
Date	October 4, 1957	January 31, 1958	March 17, 1958	April 12, 1961	May 5, 1961
Size	23 inches in diameter	80 inches long	6 inch sphere	16 feet	9.5 feet tall
Weight	184 pound satellite	31 pound satellite	3 pound satellite	10,000 pounds	3000 pounds
Highest altitude reached	589 miles	1529 miles	2453 miles	203 miles	116 miles
Orbited for	3 months	through 1967	6 years	single orbit of 108 minutes	15 minutes, 22 seconds
Accomplished	transmitted data for 21 days about temperature inside the satellite	detected zone of intense radiation inside Earth's magnetic field	obtained data about Earth's shape and variations in its gravitational field	first person in space: Yuri Gagarin	first American in space: Alan Shepard

Source: Valerie Neal, et al., *Spaceflight: A Smithsonian Guide*, Macmillan, USA, New York, 1995;
The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., Chicago, 1993.

"Wonder Why We're Not Keeping Pace?"



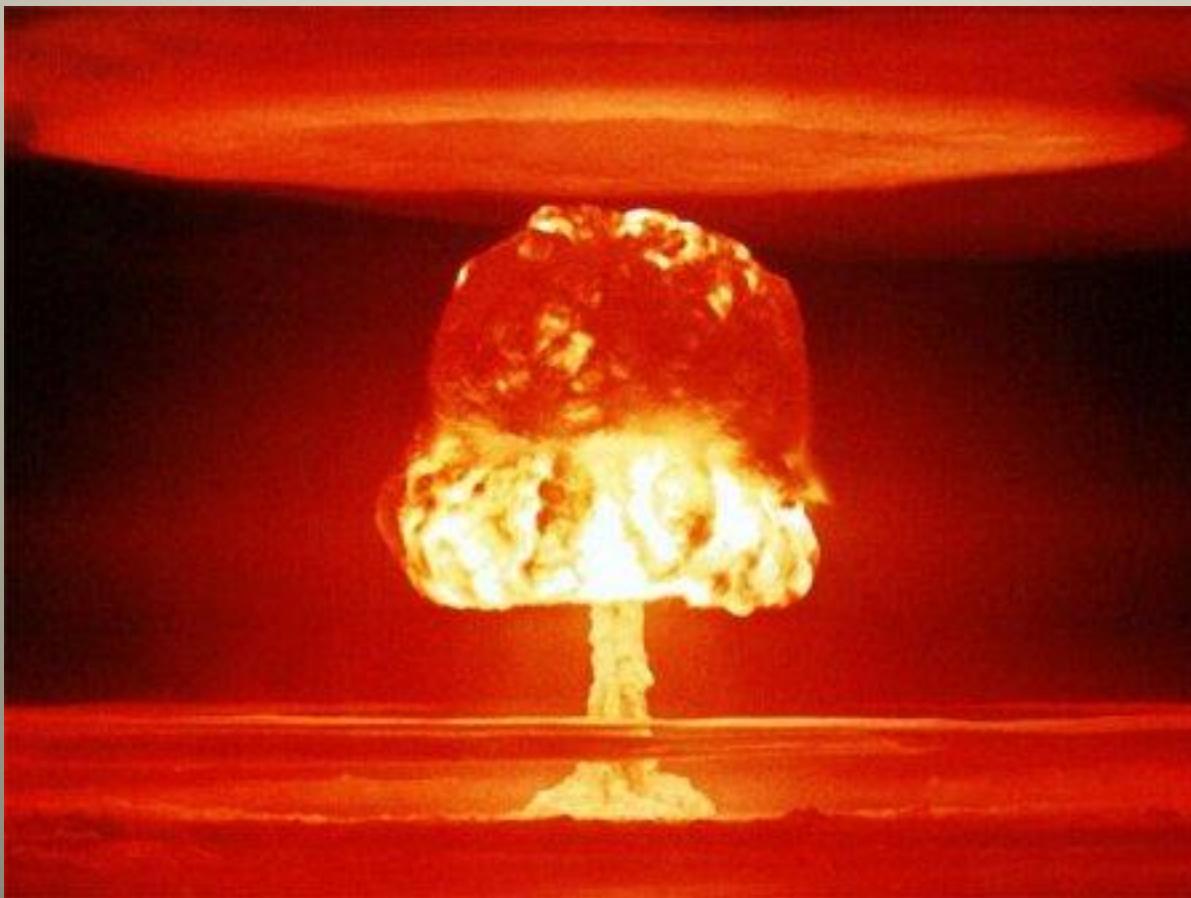
U-2 SPY PLANE

U-2 incident- in 1960 the Soviets shot down an American U-2 spy plane in Soviet air space; **Pres. Eisenhower** initially denied it, but the Soviets had captured the pilot, **Francis Gary Powers**. This made tension between the two countries as great as ever.

[video](#)



- Even with all these events and the potential to go to armed conflict between the U.S. and Soviet Union, it did not happen. The main reason for this is that both countries had nuclear weapons and the thought of an all-out nuclear war kept them from reaching that point.



POSTWAR AMERICA

- Our soldiers returning home was one of the biggest postwar issues in the U.S. Thanks to the **G.I. Bill of Rights**, veterans had the ability to borrow money for education and business opportunities, obtain low-interest loans for housing, and get unemployment benefits while job hunting.
- Another issue was the African-American veterans demanding equal rights as citizens. **Pres. Truman** began to address this issue when, in 1948, he issued an executive order for the integration/desegregation of our military. **This was viewed as a positive step for civil rights.**
- **Pres. Truman** did have some popularity issues headed into the 1948 presidential election as an underdog. He began a “**whistle-stop**” train campaign across the country, and this relentless and tireless campaigning helped him win the election.

1948 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

- HARRY TRUMAN THOMAS DEWEY STROM THURMOND

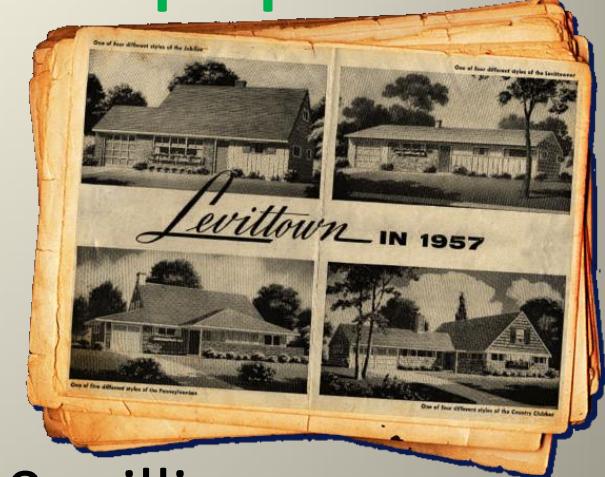


TRUMAN VICTORIOUS



- Following his reelection in 1948, Pres. Truman will propose the **Fair Deal**- **Truman's new domestic policy that continued Roosevelt's New Deal that proposed the following:**

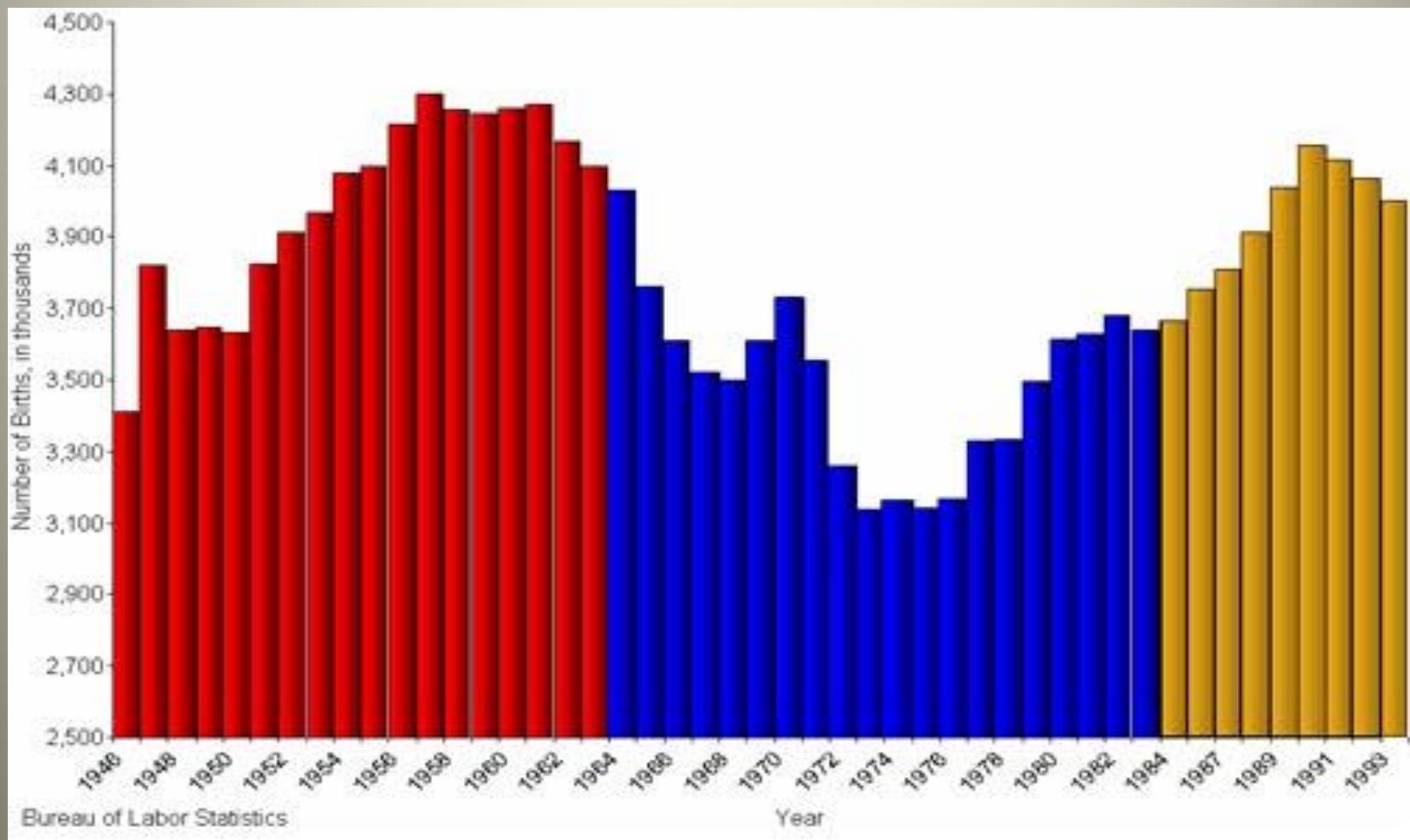
- Create jobs for Americans
- Build public housing
 - Led to the growth of suburbs
- Extend social security benefits (to 10 million more people)
- Raise minimum wage (from \$0.40/hr to \$0.75/hr)
- Sought to end job discrimination against Af-Ams
 - He ordered the desegregation of the U.S. military—he figured Af-Ams deserved recognition and equal treatment for what they had done for this nation.



THE AMERICAN DREAM IN THE 50'S

- American society in the 1950's can be characterized using the word "conformity":
 - Higher paying "white-collar" jobs were replacing "blue-collar" jobs
 - Business world saw the intro of **franchises**- when a company offers similar products/services in many locations that are not owned by the parent company
 - Examples?
 - U.S. experienced what became known as the **baby boom**- population explosion from births during the 1950's
 - Largest generation of people in U.S. history
 - Led to booms in many areas like home buying, rise of suburbs, and automobile sales

BABY BOOMER CHART



- “**Automania**” swept the country as more and more Americans were buying cars
- This led to the following:
 - Interstate Highway Act (1956)
 - development of suburbs
 - “**White flight**” occurred during the 1950s in which middle-class white Americans left the city for the suburbs.



POPULAR CULTURE

- The 1950s ushered in the era of **mass media**- **means of communication that reached large scale audiences**. The television soon the most popular form of mass media as 90% of American homes had a television in 1960.
- Early TV shows and programs always portrayed the perfect, ideal white American family. There was little attention paid to the plight of the many people with problems throughout the country. Many citizens were upset and angry of this ideal portrayal of society.

EARLY TELEVISION



TV Sitcoms

- The beginning of a genre
- “I Love Lucy”
- Broadcast live
- Spontaneity

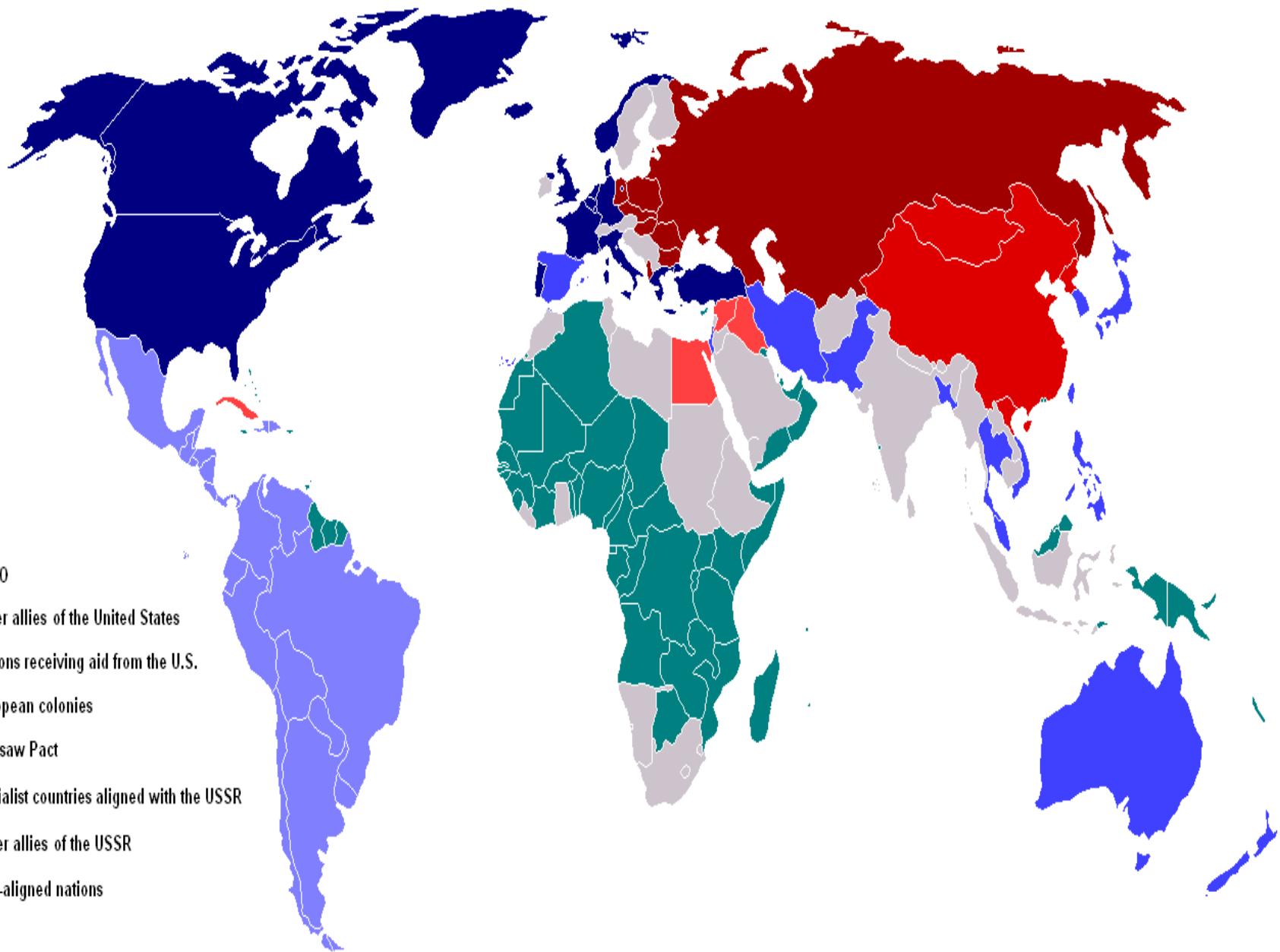


- American society of the 1950's expected women to be non-working wives and mothers. This is what society was accustomed to, but many women wanted more freedom and independence to pursue job outside the home. Many wanted non-traditional jobs as well.
- Americans were making more money and enjoying more leisure time than ever before.
 - Magazines, self-help books, and fiction novels
 - Sports
 - Time saving, convenience devices dominated homes
 - Vacations
 - Television became HUGE (entertainment/advertising)
- Buying on credit/installment plans was being utilized by more Americans than ever before
- Subcultures began to develop in the U.S. with dissenting voices about the TV image of the perfect white family. These subcultures found a voice in both literature and music and made **non-conformity** (**not following the norm**) a point of emphasis.

- **Beat movement**- expressed the literary and social **nonconformity of artists, poets, and writers**. The word “beat” originally meant weary, but also came to refer to a music beat.
- **Rock-n-Roll**- mixture of both black and white music, most commonly R-n-B, country, and pop; condemned by many adults for its nonconforming style to more traditional music of the day



COLD WAR MAP IN 1959



KENNEDY AND THE COLD WAR

- Cold War actions/events during Kennedy's presidency:
 - Introduced his concept of **flexible response**- preparing for a variety of military responses rather than focusing on the use of nuclear weapons- to take the place of brinkmanship.
 - A revolution had occurred in Cuba—the U.S.-supported dictator, Fulgencio Batista, was overthrown by Cuban rebels led by a young lawyer named Fidel Castro
 - Many Cubans fled the nation
 - The U.S., initially, provided money to Castro, but we cut him/them off after we found out he was accepting aid from the Soviets also
 - **Bay of Pigs Invasion**- CIA trained- and U.S. backed-Cuban exiles invaded communist Cuba led by **Fidel Castro**, but will be humiliatingly defeated;
 - this defeat was a complete embarrassment for **Kennedy** and the U.S.

BAY OF PIGS INVASION MAP



CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS!

THE MEN INVOLVED:

Kennedy

Castro

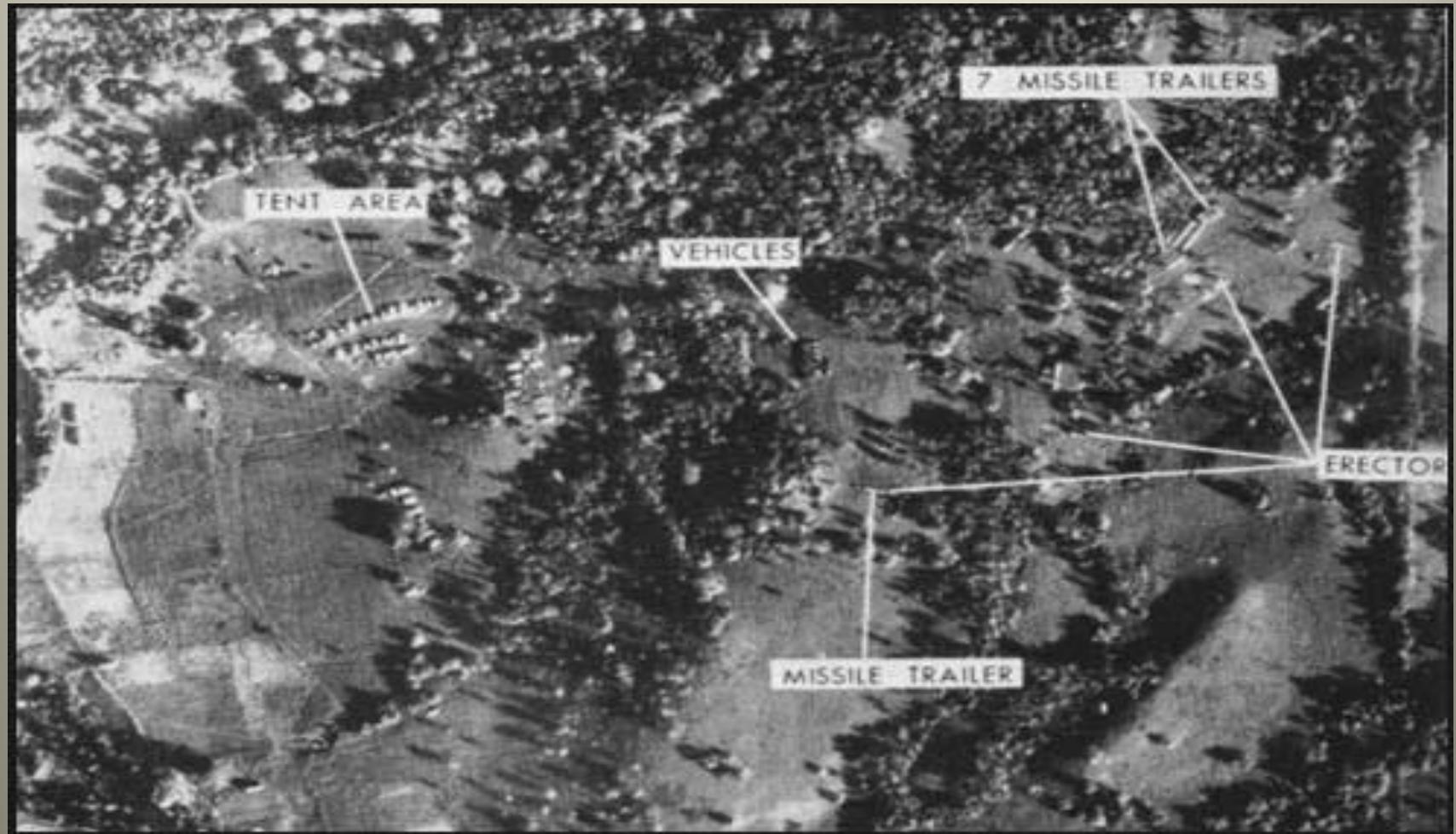
Khrushchev



- **Cuban Missile Crisis**- Cuba and the Soviet Union had gotten very tight and the Soviet Union was sending weapons (including nuclear missiles) to **Castro** in Cuba
 - In Oct., 1962, U.S. spy planes photographed Soviet missile sites in Cuba
 - **Kennedy** informed the nation of the findings and said any missile attack from Cuba would be answered by an all-out attack on the Soviet Union
 - The U.S. navy quarantined Cuba not allowing any ships to reach Cuba
 - For six days the world sat on the edge of nuclear destruction until the Soviet ships halted progress to Cuba.
 - In the end, Soviet ruler **Nikita Khrushchev** removed the missiles from Cuba and the U.S. removed missiles from Turkey

THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS!

IMAGES AND PHOTOS



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The Washington Post FINAL

Evening Edition

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1962 TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Kennedy Orders Blockade of Cuba As Reds Build Nuclear Bases There; U. S. Will Sink Defiant Arms Ships

Navy to Stop
And Search
Cargo Craft

President肯尼迪
授权封锁古巴
并扣押军火船

肯尼迪总统

命令海军拦截和检查所有驶向古巴的船只。他声称苏联正在古巴建立核武器基地，这是对美国的“赤色威胁”。肯尼迪还表示，如果任何军火船被发现，将被击沉。

肯尼迪在讲话中说：“我们不能容忍苏联在我们的后院建立一个核武器基地。这将是一个严重的军事威胁。”



President Kennedy in speech before the House of Representatives yesterday. He charged that the Soviet Union was building nuclear missile bases in Cuba.

肯尼迪总统在众议院发表讲话，指控苏联在古巴建立了核导弹基地。

U. S., Russia
Now Facing
Test of Will

肯尼迪总统
授权封锁古巴
并扣押军火船

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By Theodore H. White
*President Heeds
History's Lesson*

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授权封锁古巴
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Hemisphere
Held Periled
By Missiles

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股市震荡
股价波动
预测未来

肯尼迪总统

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS!

THE SITUATION:



- Both **Kennedy** and **Khrushchev** realized the gravity of their decisions and the potential for nuclear war. So in response to the Cuban Missile Crisis, (and in an effort to work better together), they did two things:
 - Limited Test Ban Treaty- barred either country from doing any nuclear weapon testing in the atmosphere
 - Hot line- direct phone line was established between the White House and Kremlin (office of the Soviet Union's ruler) instantly connecting leaders if need be
- Berlin Wall- Germans in communist East Berlin were fleeing in great numbers to democratic West Berlin. **Khrushchev** ordered the Berlin Wall built to keep East Berliners from fleeing
 - The wall and armed guards stationed there did indeed slow the flow of fleeing East Berliners to a trickle
 - It also became a nasty symbol of Soviet/communist oppression

The Berlin Wall

The crossing points between West and East Berlin:

- 1 - Checkpoint Charlie
- 2 - Heinz-Hermann-Straße
- 3 - Bornholmer Straße
- 4 - Chausseestraße
- 5 - Invalidenstraße
- 6 - Oberbaumbrücke
- 7 - Sonnenallee
- 8 - Friedrichstraße-Bahnhof
- 9 - Potsdamer Platz
- 10 - Stadtkirche

The crossing points between West Berlin and GDR:

- 11 - Dreilinden/Drewitz
- 12 - Wuhletalstraße



- The Berlin Wall was 15 feet or 5 meters high and encircled West Berlin. All in all, it ran 103 miles or 165 kilometers long.
- The part dividing East from West Berlin was 28 miles or 45 kilometers long.

