

Origins of the Cold War

I. The West vs. the Soviet Union

A. Was There Any Way to Have Avoided the Cold War?

1. Western view—the Soviet Union started it
2. Soviet and New Left view—United States started it
3. Mirror Image—individuals in prominent positions on both sides fostered it

B. Deep Roots of Suspicion and Mistrust

1. Bolshevik Revolution (November 1917)
 - a. Marxism vs. Capitalism
 - b. “Revolutionary” vs. “Bourgeois Diplomacy”
2. Russia Leaves the War (March 1918) – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
3. Allied intervention in Russia 1918–1920
4. Versailles Treaty 1919 (Hunt’s comparison Wilson’s and Lenin’s visions)
5. Rapallo Treaty between Germany and the Soviet Union 1922
6. English and French Attitudes and Actions toward the Soviet Union in the 1930s
7. Stalin’s Response to English and French Attitudes and Actions (Nazi-Soviet Pact)

C. Temporary Wartime Alliance

1. Problem of the Second Front
2. Concern other side would seek a separate peace
3. Teheran — 1943; Yalta — 1945; Potsdam — 1945
 - a. Great Britain (Winston Churchill to Clement Atlee)
 - b. United States (Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Harry S Truman)
 - c. Soviet Union (Joseph Stalin to Joseph Stalin)

D. Conduct of the Cold War

1. Foreign Policy (Mirror-Image) Assumptions

- a. They are out to get us
- b. Brinkmanship, Games of Bluff, and Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)
- c. The other empire is evil
- d. Any action taken in the national interest is moral and justified
- e. We have to maintain a large military force because they do

2. Action-Response Spiral

- a. London Conference (September 1945) – Council of Foreign Ministers
 - Stalin's Speech (February 9, 1946)
 - Churchill's "Iron Curtain" Speech (March 5, 1946)
 - Stalin's Response to Churchill's Speech (March 13, 1946)
- b. Soviet occupation of Northern Iran (threat by HST to drop a-bomb, 1946)
- c. Marshall Plan (June 5, 1947) → Molotov Plan (October 5, 1947)
 - (1) Cominform (1947–1956)
 - (2) Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) (January 1949)
- d. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (April 4, 1949) → Warsaw Pact (May 14, 1955)
- e. Refusal to Seat Communist China in UN → Soviet boycott of UN (1950)

3. Creation of West Germany → the Berlin Blockade 1948–1949

- a. Differing Views Among the Occupying Powers of Governing Post-War Germany
- b. Formation of Bizonia by Great Britain and U.S. (January 1, 1946)
- c. Currency Reform for American, British, and French Zones (February 1948) new currency – "Deutsche Mark"
- d. Formation of Trizonia by France, Great Britain, and U.S. (May, 1948)
- e. Berlin Airlift (June 24, 1948 to May 12, 1949)

4. Internal Phenomena Resulting from Cold War Mentality

- a. Zhdanovism (A. A. Zhdanov)
- b. McCarthyism (Joseph McCarthy)

Recommended Reading:

George Kennan, *Russia and the West under Lenin and Stalin* (1st published, Boston: Little, Brown, 1961).