

## The World in the Middle of the Twentieth Century: An Overview

### United States

#### I. Harry S Truman, President 1945–1953

- A. Economy: Labor problems; wage and price controls
- B. Society: Segregation
- C. Politics: McCarthyism (Sen. Joseph McCarthy, HUAC)

### Soviet Union

#### I. Joseph V. Stalin, Party General Secretary, 1919–1953

- A. Economy: Labor shortages; war-time devastation
- B. Society: Gender differentiation
- C. Politics: Hard-line anti-West (V. V. Zhdanov); Threatened purges

### Europe

#### I. Germany (4 zones → 2 countries)

#### II. Western Europe and the Marshall Plan

#### III. Eastern Europe: The Soviet Bloc

### Latin America

#### I. Economic and Political Dependency

- A. Economy: Wealth differential
- B. Society: Racial differentiation
- C. Politics: Dictatorships and military coups slowly giving way to democratic administrations

### Africa

#### I. Emerging independent countries (Gold Coast → Ghana, 1954)

## Middle East

### I. Arab-Israeli Conflict

II. Iran: Parliamentary elections, 1947; Mohammed Mossadegh nationalizes oil industry April 29, 1951

## Southern Asia

### I. India-Pakistan Relations

## Far East

### I. Japan: American Occupation and General Douglas MacArthur

#### A. 1945–1950: Economic difficulties and the Dodge Plan

1. *Zaibatsu* reorganized around their banks
2. Joseph Dodge – Detroit banker
  - a. goals: halt inflation, remove government controls over trade, bring economy back to full strength
  - b. measures: balanced budget; end subsidies; end lending by Reconstruction Finance Bank; fixed exchange rate for yen

#### B. 1950–1953: Economic revival during Korean War

### II. China

#### A. Establishment of People's Republic of China, October 1, 1949

### III. Korean War (1950–1953)

#### A. Korea divided after World War II at 38<sup>th</sup> parallel (Col. Dean Rusk)

#### B. Attempt to reunite Korea: June 25, 1950: North invades the South

1. United Nations Resolution, June 27, 1950
2. Soviet Union Boycott of Security Council of UN over Seating of China
3. Furthest advance south of North Korean troops, September 15, 1950
4. Furthest advance north of UN troops, November 25, 1950

### IV. War in Vietnam (1945–1954)

#### A. Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam's Independence, 1945

#### B. French reoccupation

1. Battle of Dien Ben Phu (1954)
2. Geneva Treaty (1954)
  - a. Temporary demarcation line at 17th parallel
  - b. Elections of a united Vietnam to be held within two years