

World War II and the Origins of the Cold War: It Takes Two to Tango

I. World War II in Europe

A. The Origins of World War II and the Versailles Peace Treaty

1. Reparations
2. War Guilt Clause

B. Why Was Hitler Surprised When England Declared War on Germany?

1. France and England said Germany was not allowed to rearm
 - a. 1935 — Hitler announced German rearmament
 - b. result: nothing happened
2. France and England said Germany was not allowed to occupy the Rhineland
 - a. 1936 (March) — Hitler ordered German troops into Rhineland
 - b. result: nothing happened
3. France and England said Germany was not allowed to unite with Austria
 - a. 1938 (March) — Hitler announced *Anschluss* with Austria
 - b. result: nothing happened
4. France and England guaranteed territorial integrity of Czechoslovakia
 - a. Hitler said he would take “Sudetenland” anyway
 - b. 1938 (September) — Chamberlain and Daladier signed Munich Agreement
5. Allies said Germany was not allowed to occupy Czechoslovakia
 - a. 1939 (March) — German troops occupied Prague
 - b. result: nothing happened
6. Allies said Germany was not allowed to attack Poland
 - a. 1939 (September) — Germany army invaded Poland
 - b. result: France and England declared war on Germany

C. Conduct of World War II in Europe

- 1939 — German–Soviet Non-Aggression Pact (August)
 - German and Soviet armies invade Poland (September)
- 1940 — German occupation of France (June)
- 1941 — German army invades the Soviet Union (June 22)
- 1941 (Sept.)–1943 (Jan.) — siege of Leningrad
- 1943 — Capture of Paulus’ forces at Stalingrad (January)
 - Capture of Rommel’s forces in North Africa (May)
 - Western Allies invade Sicily (July); Italy surrenders (September)
- 1944 — D-Day (June 6)
 - Warsaw Uprising (August-September)
- 1945 — Yalta Agreement (February 4–12)
 - Nuremberg Trials (November 1945 to October 1946)

II. World War II in the Pacific

A. Origins

1. Japan — Showa Period (1926–1989) — Emperor Hirohito
2. World Depression
 - a. Japanese economy hit hard
 - b. From Westernization of Japan to Japanization of Asia
3. Mukden Incident (1931)
– Manchukuo – puppet state in Manchuria
4. Attempted military coup (February 1936)
5. Japanese invasion of China (1937)
6. Japanese invasion of Indochina (1940–1941)
 - a. U.S. embargo against export of scrap iron, rubber, and oil (July 1941)
 - b. Ministry of Education issues “The Way of Subjects” (Summer 1941)
 - c. Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941
 - d. Japanese attack on Philippines December 8, 1941

B. Ending

1. Bombing of Civilians
2. Atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima (Aug. 6, 1945)
3. Soviet Union enters war against Japan (Aug. 8, 1945)
4. Atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki (Aug. 9, 1945)
5. Japanese offer of surrender (Aug. 10, 1945) – accepted 4 days later
 - a. attempted military coup (August 14–15, 1945) — Major Kenji Hatanaka
 - b. Hirohito’s radio address to Japanese nation (August 15, 1945)

Recommended Reading:

– Lester Brooks, *Behind Japan’s Surrender: The Secret Struggle That Ended an Empire*, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1968.

III. Origins of the Cold War

A. Deep Roots of Suspicion and Mistrust

1. Bolshevik Revolution (November 1917)
2. Allied intervention in Russia 1918–1920
3. Rapallo Treaty between Germany and the Soviet Union 1922
4. English and French Attitudes and Actions Toward the Soviet Union in the 1930’s
5. Stalin’s Response to English and French Attitudes and Actions

B. Temporary Wartime Alliance

1. Problem of the Second Front
2. 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)

C. 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. Soviet occupation of Northern Iran
 - b. Marshall Plan → Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon)
 - c. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949) → Warsaw Pact (1955)
 - d. Creation of West Germany → the Berlin Blockade 1948–1949
 - e. Acheson's speech → Korean War 1950–1953 (Soviet boycott of UN)
3. Internal Phenomena Resulting from Cold War Mentality
 - a. Zhdanovism
 - b. McCarthyism

IV. The World's Policeman: Crises in Latin America

A. The Missile Gap (1960), Bay of Pigs (1961), and Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

B. Right-Wing Dictators vs. Left-Wing “Dictators”

1. “Good” Guys

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Battista (Cuba) b. Samoza (Nicaragua) c. Christiani (El Salvador) d. Marcos (Philippines) e. Pinochet (Chile) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> f. Trujillo (Dominican Republic) g. Ceaucescu (Romania) h. Tito (Yugoslavia) i. Noriega (Panama)
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2. “Bad” Guys

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Arbenz (Guatemala) b. Castro (Cuba) c. Ortega (Nicaragua) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. Allende (Chile) e. Noriega (Panama)
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recommended reading: Walter LaFeber, *Inevitable Revolutions: The United States in Central America*, exp. ed., New York, W. W. Norton, 1984

V. The U.S. Excursion into “Star Trek” Diplomacy: Policymaking in the Rearview Mirror in Korea and Southeast Asia

A. Captain Kirk and the Starship *Enterprise* as Metaphor for American Foreign Policy

B. Korean War (1950–1953)

1. Korea Divided After World War II
2. Attempt to Reunite Korea
 - a. U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson Makes a Speech
 - b. Soviet Union Boycott of Security Council of UN

C. War in Vietnam (1945–1973)

1. Ho Chi Minh Declares Vietnam’s Independence (1945)
2. French Reoccupation
 - a. Battle of Dien Ben Phu (1954)
 - b. Geneva Treaty (1954)
 - (1) Temporary demarcation line at 17th parallel
 - (2) Elections of a united Vietnam to be held within two
3. American Involvement
 - a. U.S. Prevents Elections
 - b. Domino Theory
 - c. Lack of Information Concerning Vietnam Among Policymakers
 - a. Vietnam was traditional enemy of China
 - b. Vietnam was like Korea
 - c. Extrapolation of Cold War thinking to Southeast Asia
 - Diem = “good” guy who became “bad” guy
 - Ho Chi Minh = “bad” guy