

Stallin' Times: Section IV

The Aftermath and Consequences of World War II

- The four major Allied powers, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States set up the International Military Tribunal (IMT) in Nuremburg, Germany, to prosecute and punish "the major war criminals of the European Axis."
- Plans to prosecute German political and military leaders were announced in the 1942 St. James Declaration.
- Nazi leader Adolf Hitler was not indicted because he had committed suicide in April 1945, in the final days before Germany's surrender.
- The Tokyo trials began on May 3, 1946, and lasted two and a half years. On November 4, 1948, Webb announced that all of the defendants had been found guilty.
- On December 23, 1948, General Tojo and six others were hung at Sugamo prison.

The Roots of the Cold War in Asia & Europe

- * Europe made the Russians curious of Western allies
- * After the war ended U.S. discontinued lend-lease aid at Soviet Union
- * Free elections in Eastern Europe stopped
- * USSR supported Communist dominated government in Poland, Bulgaria, and Rumania in spring & summer 1945
- * They separated the free from the captive, and from that 20 million Soviet citizens died
- * The Soviet Union rebuilt and protected themselves from another conflict
- * They knew Hitler was planning a new attack, so they demanded defensible borders

- * U.S. declared war aims restoration of independence and self-government to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Central and Eastern Europe, and etc.
- * 1946, George Kennan had a new approach to Long Telegram to State Department
- * Kennan had stated "The Soviet Union wouldn't soften under circumstances."
- * The 1st significant application of the containment doctrine in Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean
- * 1946, U.S. demanded and obtained full Soviet withdrawal from Iran where the Northern half was occupied because of war
- * U.S. supported Turkey and demanded for control of Turkish straits between the Black Sea and Mediterranean
- * 1947, Britain stopped U.S. to support government of Greece against the Communist insurgency
- * For the U.S. to support free people that resisted subjugation by armed minorities by outside pressure
- * President then asked congress Truman for \$400 to provide for military aid

European Nations

- "directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation,+ chaos"
- Soviets left after first meeting + did not want to share data
- Other 16 nations offered request costing \$17000 million in 4 years
- 1948- congress voted for "Marshall Plan"
 - Helped underwrite economic resurgence of Western EU

Postwar Germany

- Divided into U.S., Soviet, British, + French zones
- Berlin in 4 zones
 - Near center of Soviet zone
- Western powers- intention to create consolidated federal state from zones
- June 24, 1948 Soviet forces blockaded Berlin

Berlin Airlift

- Allied air forces took to the sky, flying supplies into Berlin
- U.S., French, + British planes delivered almost 2,250,000 tons of goods
- Stalin lifted blockade after 231 days + 277,264

Soviet Domination

Eastern Europe

Alarmed Europeans

Military alliance to complement economic efforts at containment by Europeans

Norwegian historian Geir Lundestad called it "empire by invitation"

1949- U.S. + 11 other countries established North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Attack against one + attack against all

First peacetime "entangling alliance" w/ powers outside Western Hemisphere in U.S. history

National Security Council (NSC)

President, Cabinet officers, + other executive branch members consider national security + foreign affairs issues

Undertook a full-fledged review of American foreign + defense policy

Resulting document, AKA NSC-68

Assumption: "Soviet Union was engaged in a fanatical effort to seize control of all governments wherever possible"

NSC-68 committed U.S. to assist allied nations anywhere in the world that seemed threatened by Soviet aggression

A reluctant Truman approved the document after start of Korean War

U.S. proceeded to increase defense spending

[The Atomic Age: Living with the Bomb](#)

U.S. detonated first bomb in 1945

Soviet Union tested first atomic bomb in 1949

Worry in U.S.

India: (Subhas Chandra Bose)

-former president of the Indian National Congress who deeply resented British rule over India

- 1940 went to Germany to ask for help to rid India of British rule, but was told to look for help in Japan instead
- with support from Japan, he created the Azad Hind (government free of exile) and organized the Indian National Army which later failed
- Bose dies in a plane crash at the end of the war as he was trying to escape

India:(Quit India Movement)

- rebellion against British rule over India
- Britain offered a devolution of power after the war if India supported them during the war
- Britain ended the war and gave India their independent government

Indo-China:

- nationalist forces wanted independence from French rule after the collapse of Japan

- on September 2, 1945 Ho Chi Minh (nationalist force) announced Vietnam independent

Duck and Cover

- U.S. gov. Produced films explaining the true nature of atomic bombs & demonstrating techniques for surviving atomic attacks
- Film : Duck and Cover was shown to schoolchildren- 1950 :gave children nightmares

Hydrogen Bomb

- 1952: U.S. tested its first hydrogen bomb "H-bomb"
- 1st atomic bombs were the fission bombs—unleased energy created by splitting atoms of uranium
- H-bomb uses fusion
- fusion--uses more energy than fission\-- most powerful force in nature (powers the stars)
- 1st H-bomb was named Mike & was denotated in the South Pacific—Nov. 1952—10 megatons
- Soviet Union Tsar Bomba –yielded 50 megatons & was capable of 100

Decolonization in Asia

- 1945-1960 : 36 states in Asia and Africa achieve autonomy/ outright independence form European colonial rules
- British and France's colonial systems collapsed after war
- War prompted native national movement

India (Part 1)

- For the British, the most significant alteration (in their colonial structure after WW2) was granting independence to India
- The Indian anti-colonial movement—had been in existence prior WW2

Conclusion

- World War Two was the most deadly and destructive conflicts in the human history
- Marked the beginning and end of world imperialism

- American women and blacks began to experience some freedoms unattainable in pre-war society
- Wartime mobilized pulling the American economy out of depression
- Gas chambers, unmanned rockets, and atomic bombs were invented and deployed for use against human beings
- Cities such as London, Berlin, and Tokyo were reduced to rubble due to aerial bombings
- World War Two helped lay the foundations for the Cold War in Europe
- The competition between the United States and the Soviet Union heightened due to the introduction of atomic power