

The Cold War Begins

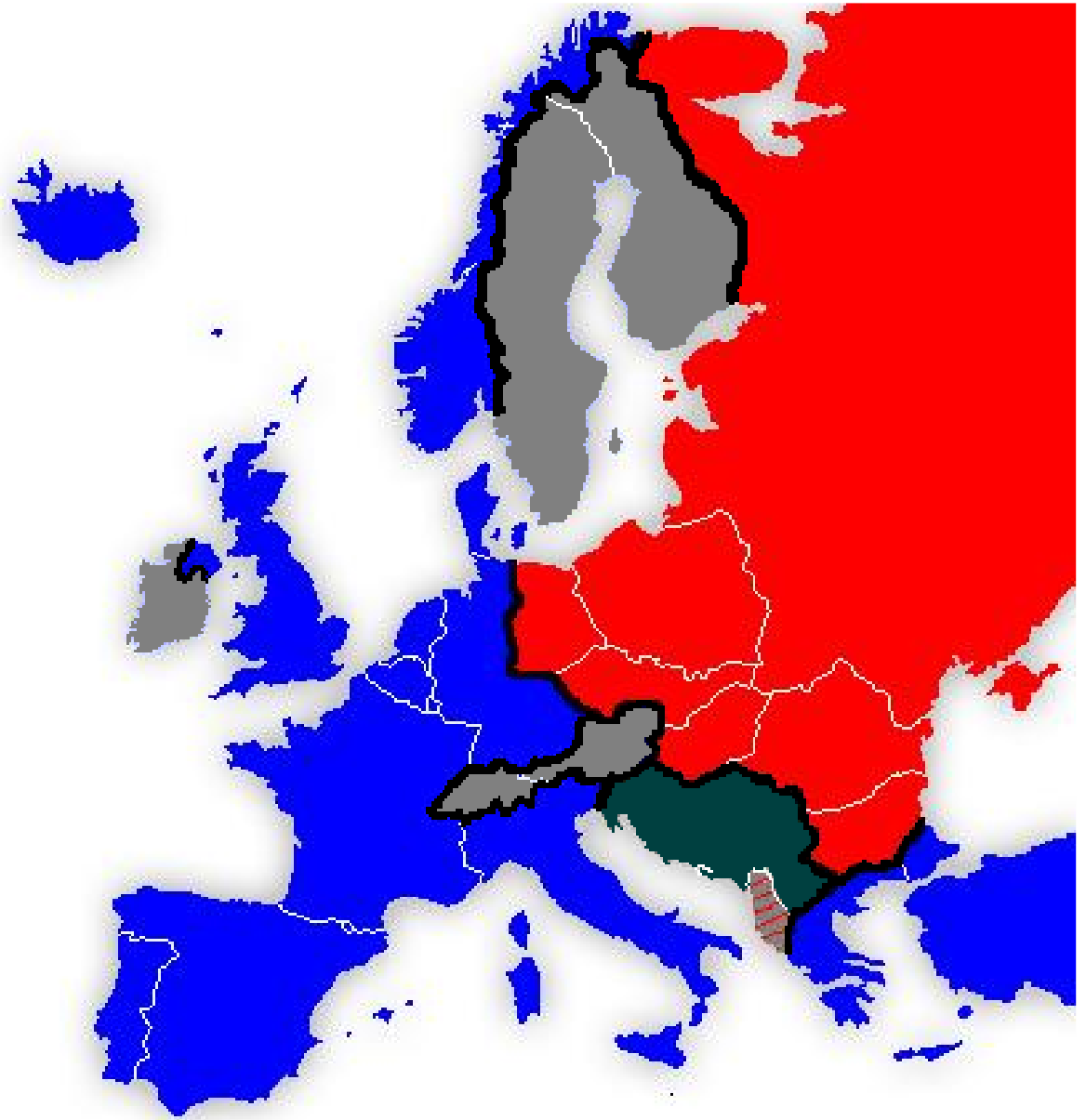
1945-1952

Iron Curtain Speech

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe...all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere”

“From what I have seen of our Russian friends and Allies during the war, I am convinced that there is nothing they admire so much as strength, and there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness, especially military weakness. For that reason the old doctrine of a balance of power is unsound. “

-Winston Churchill



Roots of Postwar Prosperity



US economy enjoyed a trend of sustained growth during the 50s and 60s

Based on continued military spending (R and D), cheap energy, and education (GI Bill)

After WWII, US dominated the postwar economic and political landscape, spreading US influence throughout the world

Truman Doctrine



Churchill described the threat of Communist Expansion (Iron Curtain Speech - 1946)

Truman devoted his postwar foreign policy in Europe to checking Soviet influence

Truman Doctrine said the US should “support free peoples who are resisting outside pressures.”

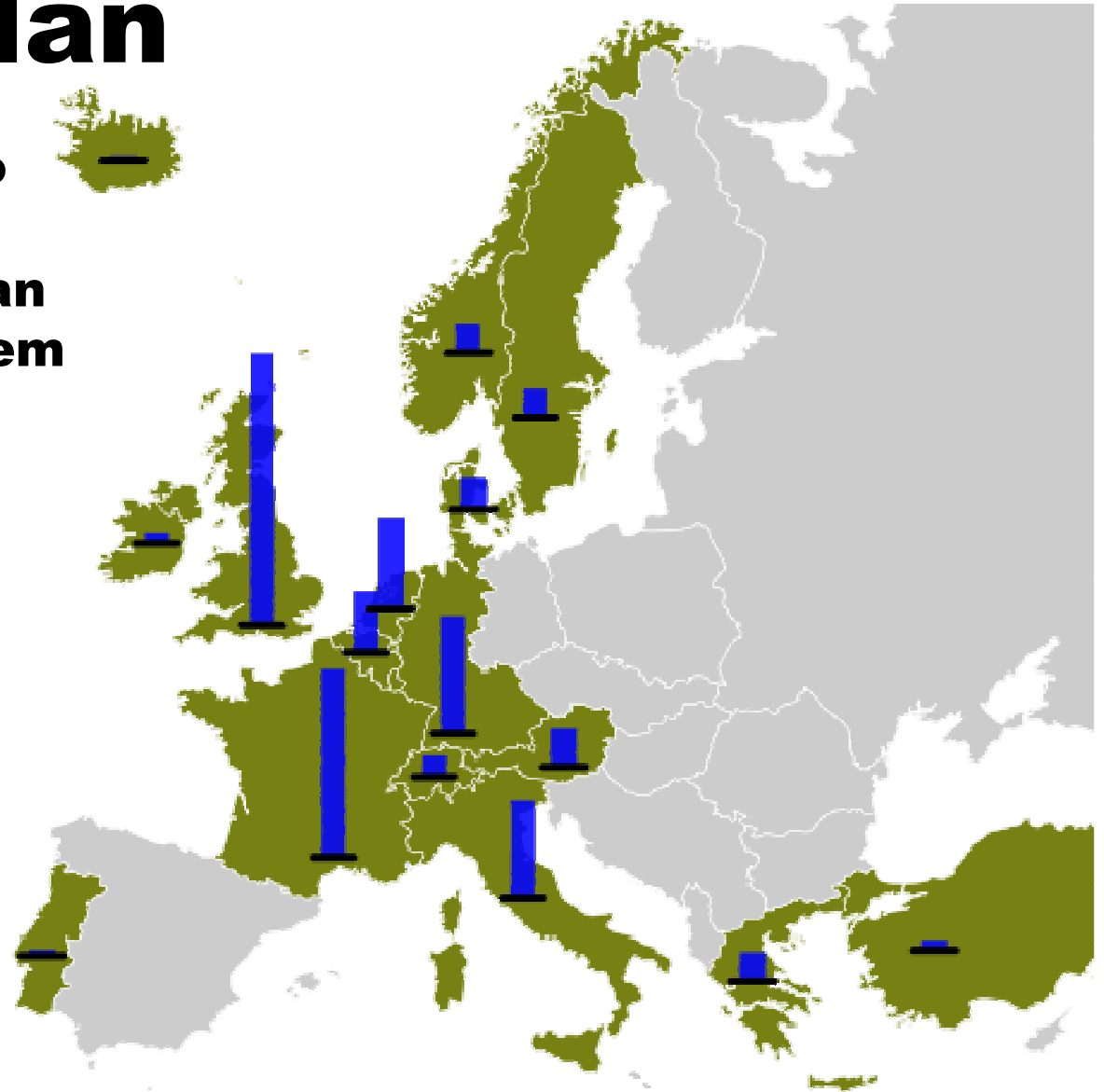
Kennan’s “Long Telegram” called this “Containment”

Marshall Plan

Congress decided to send aid (\$ and Supplies) to European countries to help them rebuild after WW2.

12.5 billion in aid flowed into 16 European countries that agreed to work together to speed economic recovery

Soviet Influence in Europe is checked



Containment in Asia

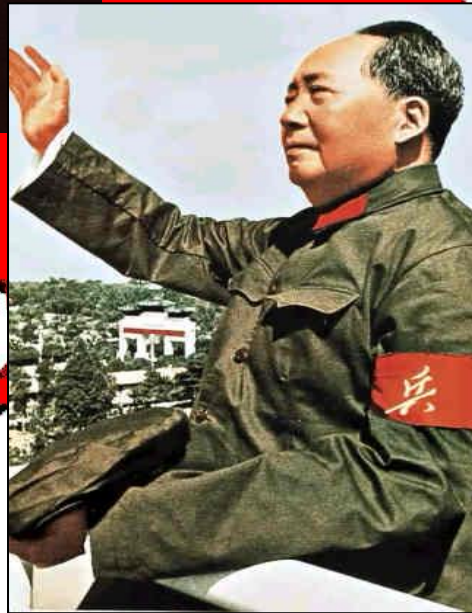
China was involved in civil war from 1929-1949

US backed Nationalist government forces under Chiang Kai-Shek

Mao Tse Tung lead the Communist forces

When Chiang fled to Taiwan in 1949, Mao declared victory

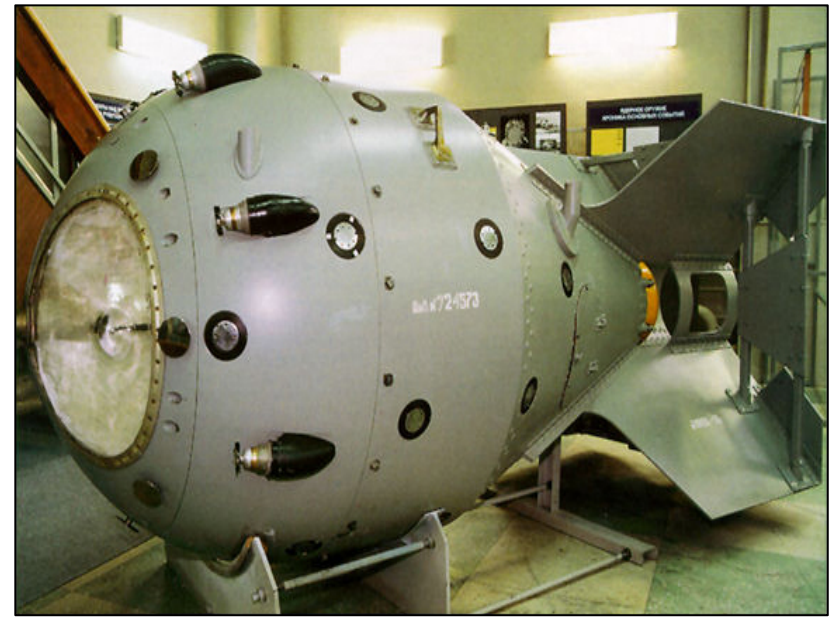
Truman was blamed for “losing China”



1st Lightning



A team of Soviet scientists led by Igor Kurchatov raced to develop a nuclear weapon for the USSR and were successful in August, 1949



Nuclear Arms Race

An aerial photograph showing a massive, billowing mushroom cloud from a nuclear explosion over a body of water. The cloud is dark and dense, with a bright white core at the base of the stem. The surrounding water is dark, and the sky is filled with lighter, wispy clouds.

In 1952, the US successfully tested a Hydrogen Bomb which is an implosion bomb + nuclear fuel

Detonated at Bikini Atoll in 1952

Survey teams picked up fish in the sea 3 miles from Ground Zero that had the skin burned off them

Nine months later, the USSR detonated one too

McCarthyism



House Un-American Activities Committee investigated government

Senator Joseph McCarthy used his contacts w/ the FBI to investigate suspected “Reds”



When McCarthy started to investigate the Army in a series of televised hearings, public opinion turned against him

He failed to prove any of the accusations he made and the Senate decided to censure McCarthy in 1954

Election 1948



In 1949, triumphant Truman called for huge spending increases to influence countries in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East away from Communism

Truman proposed a sweeping domestic policy as well, continuing many of FDR's New Deal programs