Chapter 38

The Bipolar World
The “Kitchen Debate”

- American National Exhibition, 1959
- Conflict over Captive Nations resolution passed by Congress
- Prelude: debate over horse manure vs. pig manure
- Public discord over Communism vs. Capitalism
Development of the Blocs

- Winston Churchill: the “iron curtain”
- Division of post-war Germany, especially Berlin
  - Western powers merge occupation zones
  - Introduce German Mark
  - Soviet Blockade of Berlin
Occupied Germany, 1945-1949
Berlin Airlift

- 11 months of air shipments to Berlin, beginning June 1948
- Cold war did not go “hot”
- Retribution: British/U.S. embargo on Soviet imports
- Soviets lift blockade in summer 1949
- East Berlin capital of “German Democratic Republic”
- Bonn capital of “Federal Republic of Germany”
Construction of the Berlin Wall

- 1949-1961: 3.5 million East Germans flee to west
  - Especially younger, highly skilled workers
- August 1961 construction of wall separating East and West
- Symbol of the Cold War
The Arms Race

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 1949
- Warsaw Treaty Organization (Warsaw Pact), 1955
- Nuclear proliferation
- End of 60s: Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)
Division of Korea

- Characteristic of Cold War: localized conflicts, “proxy wars”
- Korea divided along 38th parallel after WW II
- 1948 two Koreas
  - Republic of Korea (South, capital Seoul)
  - People’s Democratic Republic of Korea (North, capital Pyongyang)
Korean War

- North Korea invades in 1950, captures Seoul
- US lands, drives North Koreans back to 38th parallel, then goes on to capture Pyongyang
- Chinese invade, push USA back to 38th
- 3 million killed by ceasefire in summer 1953
- No peace treaty signed, continued tensions
Containment

- Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), Asian version of NATO
- “Domino Theory” moves Eisenhower to consider nuclear weapon use in Korea
Cuba

- Fidel Castro Ruz (1926-), 1959 revolution
- Cancels promised elections, expropriates foreign properties, kills or exiles political enemies
- US imposes trade embargo
- Soviets step in with massive aid, gain foothold off US shores
The Bay of Pigs

- Castro declares undying allegiance to Soviet foreign policy, 1960
- Kennedy and CIA send 1,500 Cubans into Bay of Pigs to spur revolution
- American Air support does not appear, force destroyed in 3 days
- US embarrassment
Fidel Castro at the Bay of Pigs
Cuban Missile Crisis

- October 1962 Soviets begin assembling missiles in Cuba
- Kennedy publicly challenges USSR
- Quarantines CUBA
- Soviets concede, but US guarantees non-interference with Castro regime
- US Secretary of State Dean Rusk: “Eyeball to eyeball, they blinked first”
The Cold War, 1949-1962
Internal US Developments

- Red Scare in USA
  - Senator Joseph McCarthy (1909-1957)
  - “domestic containment”

- Feminism
  - Women pressured to leave workforce
  - Betty Friedan (1921-), *The Feminist Mystique*
The Civil Rights Movement

- Irony of American “freedom,” exploited by USSR propaganda
- Influence of Gandhi on Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)
- Gradual successes:
  - *Brown vs. Board of Education*, 1954, against school segregation
  - Rosa Parks, Montgomery Alabama, 1955
Consumerism

- Western success with household technologies
- Europeans owning cars:
  - 1955: 5 million
  - 1963: 44 million
The Space Race

- Nonviolent aspect of cold war rivalry
- Initial Soviet successes:
  - 1957: Sputnik, first satellite
  - 1961: Yuri Gagarin orbits space
- US sets up NASA, lands Apollo XI on the moon, July 1969
Challenges to Soviet Hegemony

- Rebellions quashed:
  - Yugoslavia expelled from Soviet bloc, 1948
  - Hungary, 1956
  - Prague Spring, 1968

- Brezhnev Doctrine: right to invade any socialist country threatened by elements “hostile to socialism”
The People’s Republic of China

- Civil war between Communists and Nationalists erupts after defeat of Japan
- Jiang Jieshi (Chang Kai-shek) forced to retreat to island of Taiwan with Nationalist forces
  - Takes most of China’s gold reserves
- Mao Zedong proclaims People’s Republic of China, 1949
  - Begins dramatic transformation of Chinese society into Communist mold
Social and Economic Transformations

- Power concentrated in Communist Party
- Ex-nationalists executed or sent to reform camps
- Rapid industrialization under Soviet-style Five-Year Plan, 1955
  - Massive land redistribution
  - Collective farms replace private farming
- Universal health care, education
- Dramatic challenges to gender discrimination
Beijing-Moscow Relations

- Mutual concern over US rehabilitation of Japan
- Beijing recognizes primacy of USSR as Communist leader
  - Receives military aid in return
  - Soviet Union principal trading partner
- Friction over Moscow’s neutrality in conflict with India over Tibet, claimed by China in 1950
- Rift sharpened in 1964 as Khrushchev moves toward peace with US
Détente

- Reduction in hostility between nuclear superpowers
- Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (1972, 1979)
- Friction in early 1980s over improvement in relations between US and China
  - Also, USSR intervention in Afghanistan
  - Earlier US intervention in Vietnam
The US Defeat in Vietnam

- US aids noncommunist Vietnam in south after French departure from territory
- US aid increases, reaches 500,000 troops in 1968
- Conflict with northern communists ends in stalemate
- President Richard Nixon attempts to end war by escalating bombings, extending into Cambodia
- US eventually leaves in 1973, war continues until south is defeated in 1975
Soviet setbacks in Afghanistan

- Afghanistan a Islamic nation, nonaligned until 1978, becomes pro-Soviet through a coup
- Radical non-Islamic reforms provoke backlash
- Soviet Union intervenes, fights nine-year battle against Afghan *mujahideen* (Islamic warriors)
  - CIA supplies them with ground-to-air Stinger missiles
- 1986 USSR forced to pull out
- 1994 Taliban takes over after civil war
Cold War Countercultural Protests

- *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*
  - Critique of nuclear power policies
- Massive anti-Vietnam protests
- Rock and Roll as counterculture
- Watergate Scandal (1972-1974)
  - President Nixon orders illegal wiretaps, discovered and forced to resign 1974
End of the Cold War

- President Ronald Reagan (in office 1981-1989) deeply opposes USSR
  - The “evil empire”
- Promotes massive military spending, beyond Soviet economy to keep up
  - Strategic Defense Initiative (“star wars”)
- Forces Soviet Mikhail S. Gorbachev (1931- ) to implement reforms, ultimately brings down the USSR
Revolutions in Eastern and Central Europe

- Polish trade union Solidarity movement opposes Polish Communist Party rule, forces multiparty elections, 1989
- Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania follow
- The “Velvet Revolution”
  - Bloodless revolutions
- East Germany decides to open the Berlin Wall
  - East and West Germany reunite (1990)
the collapse of the Soviet Union and European communist regimes
Collapse of the Soviet Union

- Reforms under Gorbachev
  - Economic
  - Social
- Perestroika: “restructuring”
- Glasnost: “openness”
- Nationalist sentiments, long suppressed, come to the surface
- Several non-Russian republics secede, August 1991
- Attempted hardliner takeover in Moscow fails, Soviet Union collapses by end of the year