AMSCO Chapter 28

The Cold War Era

1. Post WWII Europe was the battle ground for competing ideologies, with Soviet Union wanting to create a buffer between USSR and western Europe by supporting communist regimes, while US wanted self-determination to lead to democracy in Eastern Europe
2. The United Nations: A Structure for Peace
3. UN started on Oct 24, 1945, supported by US, Great Britain, Soviet Union and China
4. General Assembly, one vote per nation
5. Security Council has 5 permanent members (US, France, Great Britain, Soviet Union and China) plus 10 more elected on rotating basis; five permanent members have veto power
6. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
7. United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) established in 1946 to provide food for European children still starving more than one year after end of WWII
8. 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights formalized position, and now UN investigates human rights abuses and refers cases to International Court of Justice, a UN body
9. Protection of Refugees – UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other non-governmental entities work to help people who need to flee their country due to war, famine or natural disasters by providing food, medicine and temporary shelter
10. Peacekeeping – civilians, police and troops from member countries can be sent to areas to try to ease tensions in trouble spots
11. International Monetary Fund and World Bank help with advice and loans to developing nations, while World Trade Organization (WTO) and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) promote free trade worldwide
12. Containment Policy vs. World Revolution
13. Churchhill’s March 1946 speech in Fulton, Missouri symbolized beginning of Cold War, “an iron curtain has descended across the continent of Europe”
14. Soviets were directing Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania to develop communist style 5 year plans for economic development of industry and agriculture at expense of consumer goods and outlaw all other political parties
15. These satellite countries had to import only Soviet goods and export only to the Soviet Union
16. These governments were dictatorial in the Soviet style
17. George Kennan developed theory of “containment”, or holding communism where it was and not allowing any further spread; more aggressive policy argued for “rolling back” Soviet influence
18. Truman Doctrine – 1947 speech stating that US will do whatever it takes to protect Greece and Turkey from Soviet control; US provided economic and military support to both
19. Marshall Plan – June 1947, provided $13 billion to all nations of Europe for economic recovery (12 billion had already been spent), to be used to modernize industry and business practices and reduce trade barriers
20. Soviet Union and satellites refused to participate, and in 1949 Soviets developed their own plan to rebuild eastern Europe (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, COMECON)
21. Problem in Germany
22. Germany and Berlin were divided into four parts after WWII, one each for Britain, France, United States and Soviet Union. Berlin fell within the Soviet part of Germany, leaving the non-Soviet parts of Berlin isolated from the West.
23. 1948, Britain, US and France unify their three parts into West Germany; Soviets view this as a threat and blockade West Berlin from food and supplies entering from the West. Berlin Airlift set up by US and Britain, to air drop food and supplies (over 1 million tons) to residents of West Berlin for 11 months, until May 1949 end of blockade.
24. After end of blockade, US, Britain and France establish Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) with a new capital in Bonn. Soviets establish the German Democratic Republic with capital in East Berlin
25. Arms Race
26. 1949 China goes Communist, and communist North Korea attacks democratic South Korea, US sees that Soviets are determined to spread communism
27. Both nations develop a hydrogen bomb in 1952
28. Sputnik – Soviets launch first satellite in 1957, US launches in 1958, beginning of Space Race
29. Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) 1959 Soviets test first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), US tests in same year. No matter which country might launch first, both would be destroyed, resulting in a balance of terror
30. Antinuclear Weapon Movement – people worldwide protested and signed petitions against the development of nuclear weapons, beginning in 1954 with Japan
31. New Treaties and Treaty Organizations
32. 1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) included Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the US, based in Belgium
33. 1955 Soviets develop Warsaw Pact included Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union, based in Moscow (communist bloc)
34. Yugoslavia was never part of the Warsaw Pact and Western powers provided aid when Soviets tried to invade; Albania dropped out of Warsaw Pact in 1968, after China and the Soviet Union split
35. 1954 Australia, France, Britain, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and US formed Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO); Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) formed by Britain, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Turkey in the Middle East
36. Non-aligned movement – countries that stayed out of formal alliances and played each side against the other in return for financial assistance, i.e. Yugoslavia, India, Egypt, Indonesia; established Non-Aligned Movement
37. Non-aligned nations sometimes got sucked in when either Soviets or US intervened in internal situations, like in Ethiopia-Somali War or in Guatemala
38. Communism in Asia
39. 1949 Mao Zedong wins control of China, declares nationalization of industry, and institutes five year plan based on Soviet model
40. Great Leap Forward – 1958, Chinese peasants were organized in to communes; 20 million Chinese died from famine or were killed when they protested
41. Cultural revolution – 1966 – supposed to lead China to a communist future, really used Red Guards to quell protest
42. Relations with Soviets – after 1961, border skirmishes were common, as well as competition for global influence
43. Reforms under Deng Xiaoping
44. Return to peasant-leased plots where crops were sold on open market, increasing food production
45. Production of consumer goods and opening of China to foreign companies in special economic zones
46. 1989 – large student led protest was crushed by government soldiers using guns and tanks, killing hundreds
47. Korean War – Korea had been split into north and south after WWII, north communist, south democratic
48. UN forces were sent to help South Korea, Soviet representative on Security Council was not present when that UN vote was taken
49. Most troops were American, led by US General Douglas MacArthur
50. Soviets sent money to North Korea, China sent troops
51. After three years of fighting, a stalemate ended war, and Korea remained divided, with a demilitarized zone in between
52. Vietnam War
53. Vietnam also divided into communist north and noncommunist south
54. Ngo Dinh Diem was leader of South Vietnam, but he was a dictator so it was hard to justify US support
55. Kennedy and Johnson increased troop numbers
56. Johnson believed in domino theory, that if one country in region went communist, the rest would follow
57. Ho Chi Minh, leader of North Vietnam
58. In South Vietnam, pro-communist supporters (Vietcong) fought against US troops
59. US anti-war movement developed, Tet offensive by North Vietnamese and southern Vietcong showed US was not winning
60. Nixon pulls out last troops in 1975 and North Vietnam gained control in the South
61. Developments in Iron Curtain Countries
62. Poland – new secretary comes to power after worker protests in 1956; Gomulka followed an independent domestic policy that allowed private farming, but stayed loyal to Soviet Union
63. Hungary – Leader Imre Nagy followed citizens’ request and declared Hungary’s neutrality in Cold War and withdrew from Warsaw pact in 1956. Soviets invaded, gained control of Budapest, executed Nagy
64. Czechoslovakia – Prague Spring of 1968, Dubcek increased freedom of speech and press and promised to move toward democracy; Soviet Union used Brezhnev Doctrine (Soviets and allies had right to intervene if actions in one country threatened other Soviet bloc countries) to crush the Czech rebellion
65. Developments in Western Europe
66. US and SU were the superpowers, Western Europe was no longer dominant global force, but retained political independence and democratic governments
67. Marshall Plan helped with rebuilding and economic recovery, unlike Eastern Europe
68. Rome Treaty of 1957 (Belgium, Italy, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands and West Germany) created European Economic Community (EEC/Common Market)
69. Free trade amongst member nations
70. EEC become world leader in import of raw materials and export of manufactured goods
71. Denmark, Great Britain, Ireland, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Finland, Sweden all join eventually (European Union, EU)
72. End tariffs and migration restrictions
73. EU parliament to pass laws
74. EU common currency, the euro
75. Conflict in Northern Ireland – most of Catholic Ireland gained independence from Britain in 1922, but northern, protestant Ireland did not.
76. Catholics in Northern Ireland faced discrimination and wanted to rejoin the rest of Ireland, protestants in Northern Ireland refused.
77. Catholics (Irish Republican Army) and Protestants (Ulster Defence Association) fought from 1969-1994, even engaging in terrorism on British soil; ceasefire established in 1994 renounced use of violence
78. Separatists in Spain
79. Basque Homeland and Freedom (ETA) wanted independence for Basque region of Spain, starting in 1959
80. ETA killed Franco’s hand-picked successor, eventually declared a ceasefire and renounced the use of violence
81. 1968: Year of Revolt
82. Universities across Europe were overcrowded and students were unhappy.
83. In France, student protestors were joined by 10 million French workers in a general strike; elections were called for and President Charles de Gaulle was re-elected
84. Student protests occurred in Northern Ireland, Mexico, Brazil, England, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, US, Russia, Poland and Japan (see chart)
85. In the US, Vietnam, civil rights for women and African-Americans also caused strikes, leading to the Ohio National Guard shooting and killing four student protestors at Kent State University on May 4, 1970
86. Other Crises of the 1960s
87. Berlin Wall
88. West Berlin and West Germany was prosperous, so East Germans wanted to move there
89. East Germany and Soviet Union built first a barbed wire fence, and eventually a solid, permanent wall between East and West Berlin (Berlin Wall) which separated the city from 1961 to 1989, when it was torn down
90. Bay of Pigs Crisis
91. Fidel Castro overthrew Batista in 1959 and established a communist state in Cuba
92. US broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba and Castro began to accept Soviet aid
93. 1961, Under Kennedy, the US assisted a group of exiled Cubans to invade Cuba, but the invasion failed and Cuba was then drawn even closer to the Soviet Union
94. Cuban Missile Crisism 1962
95. Soviet Premier Khrushchev started sending nuclear missiles to Cuba, which were observed by a US flight over Cuba. Because the US had missiles in Turkey, Soviets felt their missiles in Cuba were equivalent
96. Kennedy ordered the US navy to blockade any Soviet ships coming to Cuba so that no more missiles could be delivered, but called it a quarantine (because a blockade is an act of war) and world was on brink of another nuclear war
97. Khrushchev called his ships back in return for a secret promise that tue US would remove missiles from Turkey
98. 1963 US and Soviets establish Hot Line, direct telegraph link between US and US to avoid further face-offs
99. 1963, both sign Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, along with 100 other nations, outlawed nuclear testing above ground, underwater, and in space
100. 1968, Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty called for nuclear powers to prevent spread of nuclear technology to nonnuclear countries
101. Final Decades of the Cold War
102. Detente – a relaxation of strained relations between US and SU. US President Nixon visited SU in 1972 and along with Brezhnev signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT), freezing number of ballistic missiles on both sides; Nixon also visited China
103. US began to sell excess grain to SU, which was experiencing shortages, but President Carter stopped in 1979 when the SU invaded Afghanistan, ending détente
104. Reagan’s term (1981-1989) had increased tension; Reagan called SU the “evil empire” and sent military aid to Afghan rebels
105. More than 12,000 missiles were pointed at each side
106. Reagan calls for the development of Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) which would enable US to shoot down Soviet missiles
107. Soviets could not compete financially in the arms race
108. The Thaw – non-aligned nations felt they had to chose a side
109. Mikhail Gorbachev takes control in 1985
110. Perestroika – economic restructuring to allow some free enterprise
111. Glasnost – opening Soviet society and politics to greater freedoms
112. 1987, US and SU sign INF treaty, reducing number if intermediate range nuclear weapons, and backing off threat of nuclear option on either side
113. End of the Soviet Union
114. Soviets also ended economic support to Soviet bloc nations under Gorbachev
115. These other countries then began to break off from the bloc
116. Berlin Wall is torn down and in 1990 East and West Germany are reunited
117. One by one Soviet bloc countries overthrew communism and began to establish democratic forms of government, and Warsaw Pact dissolved
118. 1991 Gorbachev out and USSR falls apart, with Russia emerging as strongest newly independent nation