

The Cold War



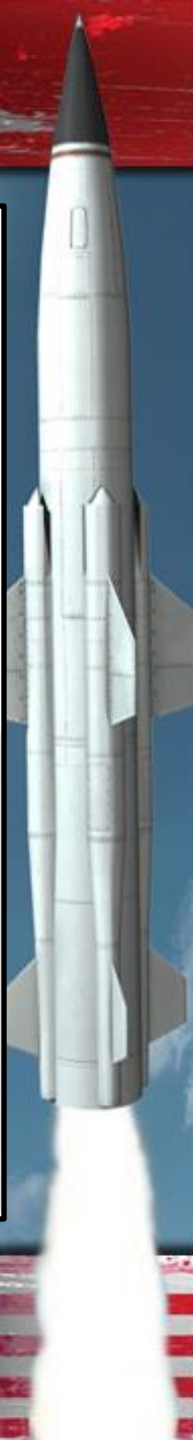


INTRODUCTION

A new bipolar world came with the completion of hostilities at the end of World War Two.

It was obvious that, before the war, the world had greater and lesser powers.

There no longer existed a group of five or six great powers after WW II, however.

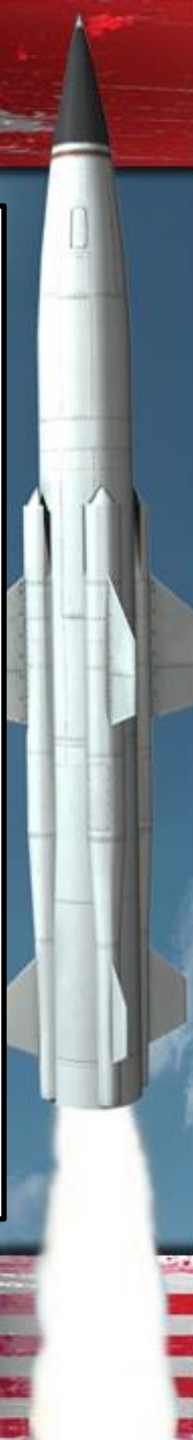




INTRODUCTION

Two superpowers were around, followed by some of the former great powers.

The two superpowers, however, weren't exactly new to the political landscape. Before the war, the Soviet Union went through a period of drastic economic change and revolution.

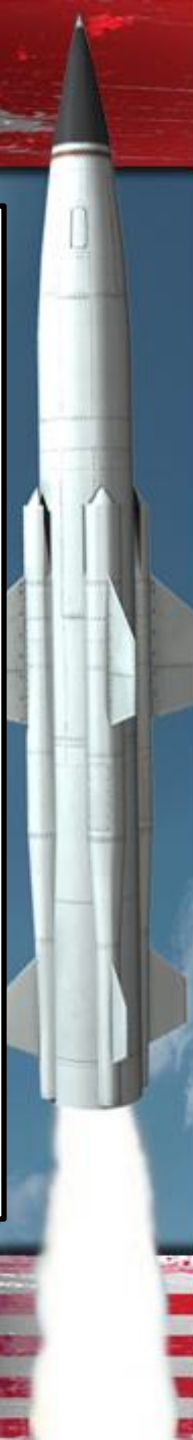




INTRODUCTION

By the size of the Soviet military machine, and Stalin's Five Year Plans, the U.S.S.R. was now one of the superpowers.

However, since the last century, the United States had been an economic superpower.

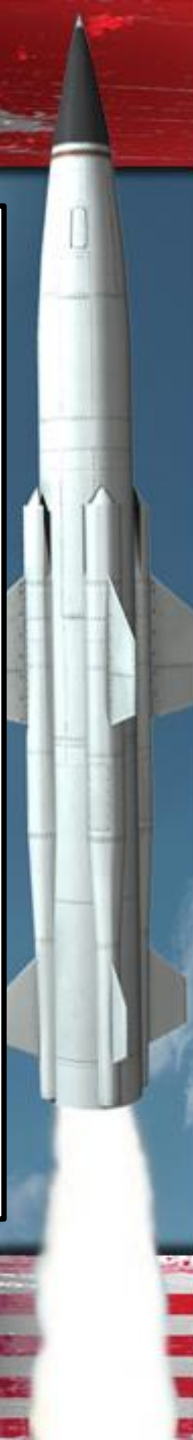




INTRODUCTION

World War II brought the United States out of isolation permanently.

Examining the position of the two powers, before we enter the Cold War, is worthwhile.





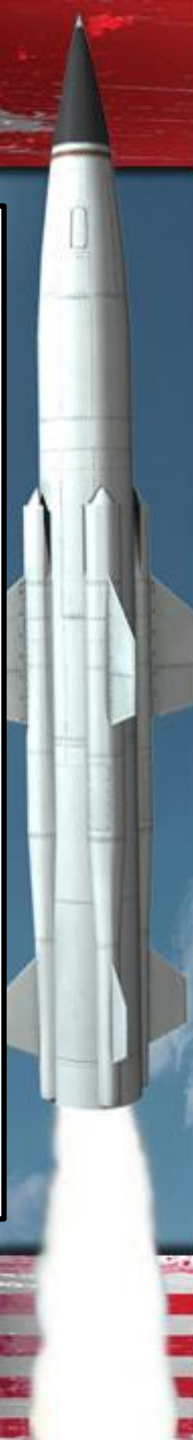
THE AMERICAN POSITION

I. THE BIPOLAR WORLD

A. THE WORLD IS OUR OYSTER: THE AMERICAN POSITION

Everything said about American economic leadership in 1919 existed now, but in an exaggerated form.

Putting the American position in 1945 into perspective is necessary, to understand it...





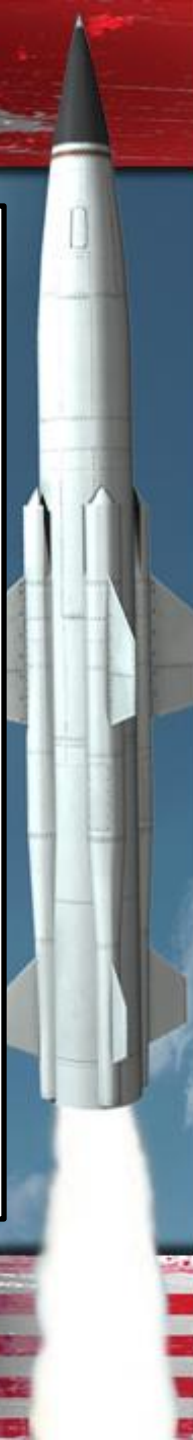
THE AMERICAN POSITION

Germany did not exist as a nation.

Continental Europe was basically in ruins.

The major battlefield had been **Eastern Europe**.

Italy, simply put, was crushed.





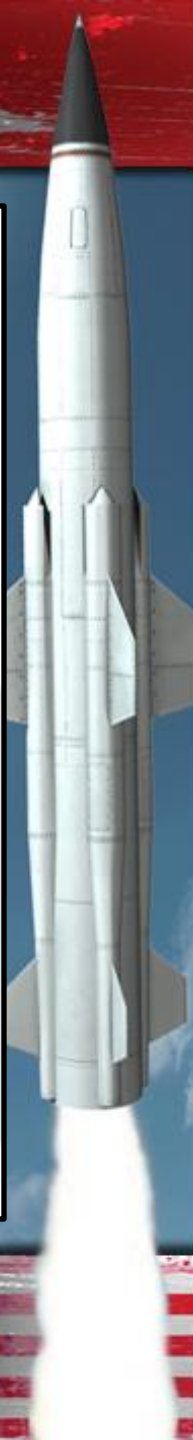
THE AMERICAN POSITION

Russia was just about spent, and, some say, would not have won without Lend Lease aid from America during WWII.

Britain was in a serious decline. For decades Britain would be involved with her empire, which was crumbling down around her.



Brief History Clip – 2:45





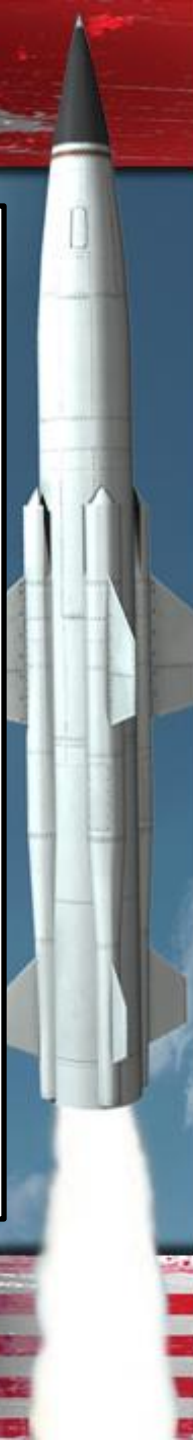
THE AMERICAN POSITION

Europe lost its firm grip on the world.

Japan was now occupied by American forces.

China was dealing with a civil war.

India was heading toward independence, and would be heading for turmoil because of it.

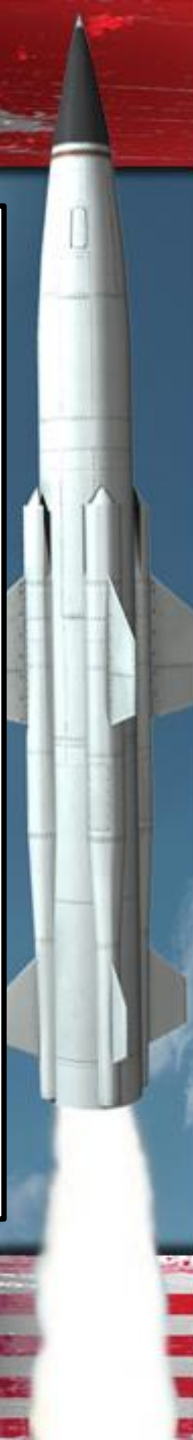




THE AMERICAN POSITION

America was the only power that benefited economically from the war.

America became richer, instead of poorer, because of World War Two.





THE AMERICAN POSITION

Washington now possessed gold reserves of \$29 billion. That is almost two-thirds of the world's total of \$33 billion!

Half of the manufacturing production of the world took place in the USA... which turned out 1/3 of the world production of all types.



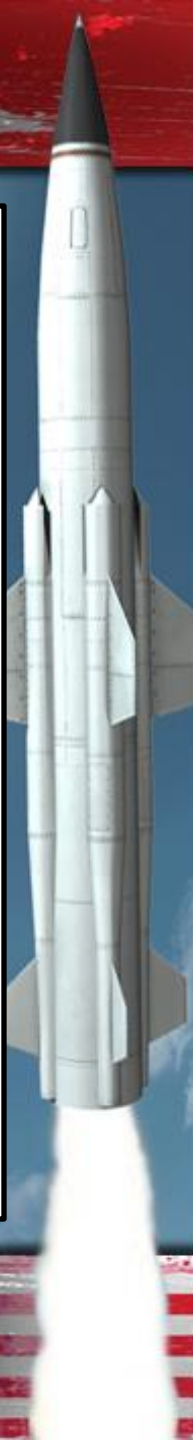


THE AMERICAN POSITION

That made the United States the greatest exporter of goods at the end of the war. It supplied one-third of the world's exports a few years later.

America owned half of the world supply of shipping, because of the shipbuilding facilities massive expansion.

The world was America's oyster, economically.

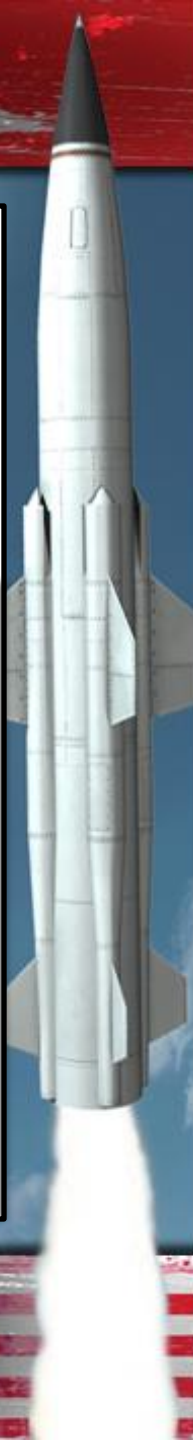




THE AMERICAN POSITION

It would be false to argue that the American position in 1945 was an exaggerated 1919, because America's military strength has not yet been mentioned.

The USA was not a major force in international affairs during the inter-war years of WW1 since, after the war, the USA slipped into isolationism.



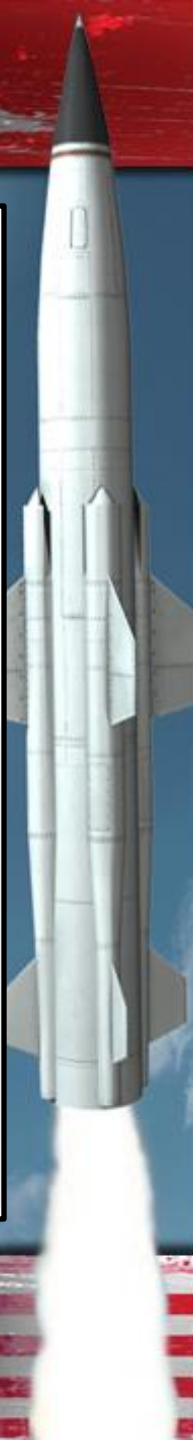


THE AMERICAN POSITION

In 1945, America's position seemed to dictate that the USA should take a bigger role in world affairs now, more than she had in 1919.

The USA had: (these are statistics on her military and economic strength)

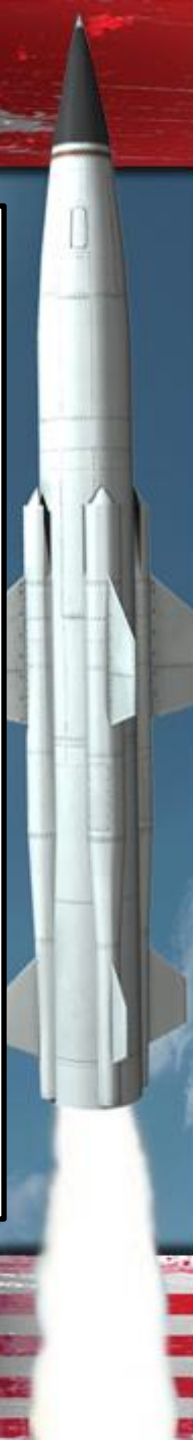
12.5 million men in uniform. 7.5 million were overseas.





THE AMERICAN POSITION

- America had 1200 major warships, which were centred around dozens of aircraft carriers.
- The fleet she owned was now significantly larger than the Royal Navy. No other country had a fleet worthy of mention at that time.

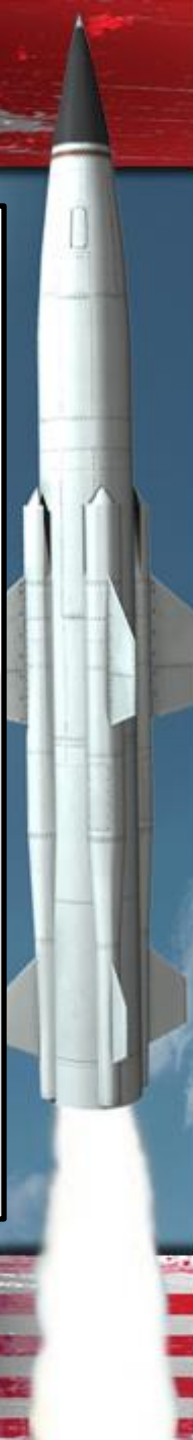




THE AMERICAN POSITION

- The air force America owned had 2000 heavy bombers, 1000 ultra-long-range B-29's, and jet powered strategic bombers. (Like B-36, which promised to 'Hiroshimaize' any enemy.)

The monopoly on nuclear bombs would last till 1949. Unknown to the world, the USA had no more nuclear bombs for a brief time after the war.

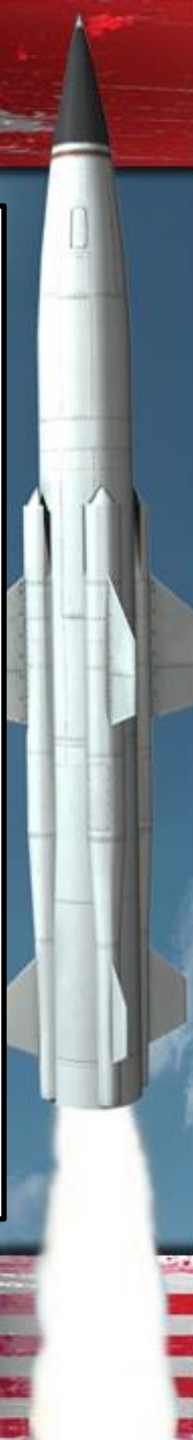




THE AMERICAN POSITION

The importance of American economic and strategic superiority is summarized:

"All this combined to make the United States committed to the creation of a new world order beneficial to the needs of western capitalism, and, of course, to the most flourishing of the western capitalist states."

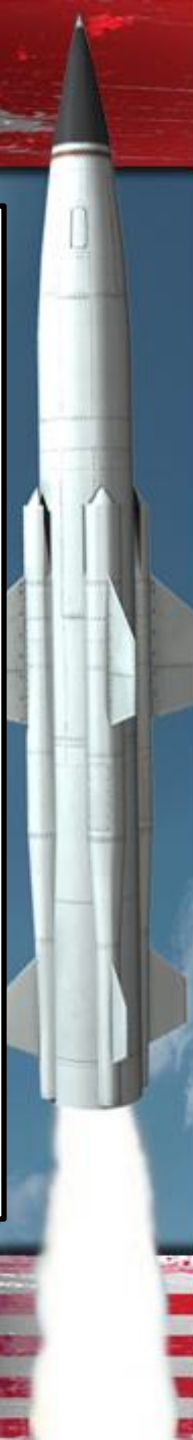




THE AMERICAN POSITION

To many Americans, America now had the opportunity to put right what other former powers had messed up.

The US really believed that it could practise their foreign policy based on the ideals that America was built upon.

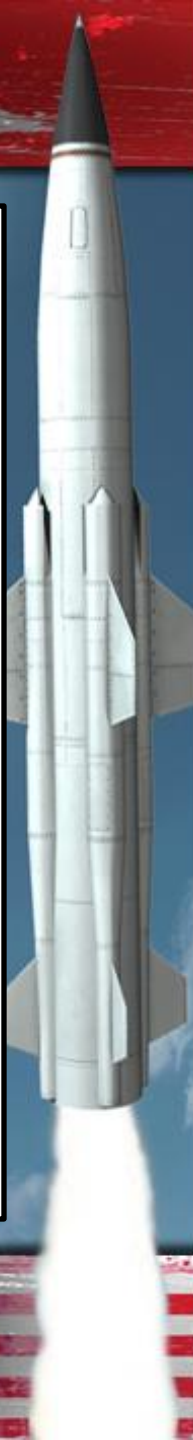




THE AMERICAN POSITION

“The American experience,” Henry Luce said, “is the key to the future.”

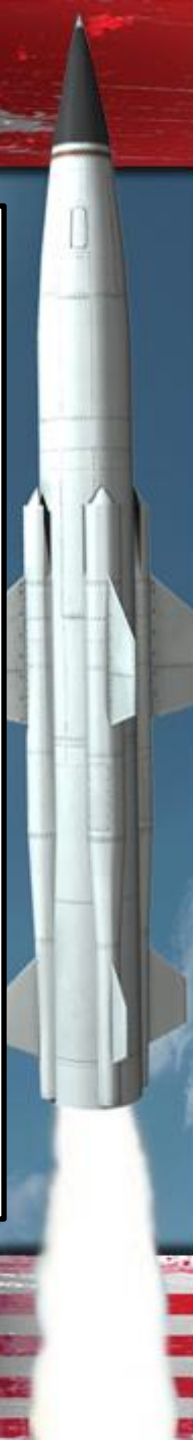
Henry Luce meant that if the rest of the world would imitate American ideals of self-help, free trade, democracy and entrepreneurship the international machinery would work properly.





THE AMERICAN POSITION

The belief that Americans had in their own invincibility and moral superiority would last until the Korean War.

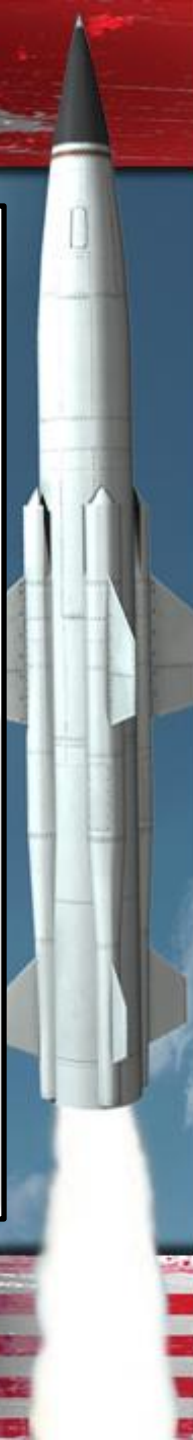




THE SOVIET POSITION

The U.S.S.R. may have been a military giant at the end of the war, but it was not ready to go against the USA for world power and influence.

The U.S.S.R. was poor, unbalanced and deprived economically. The main task for the U.S.S.R at the moment would be to restore production to pre-war levels.

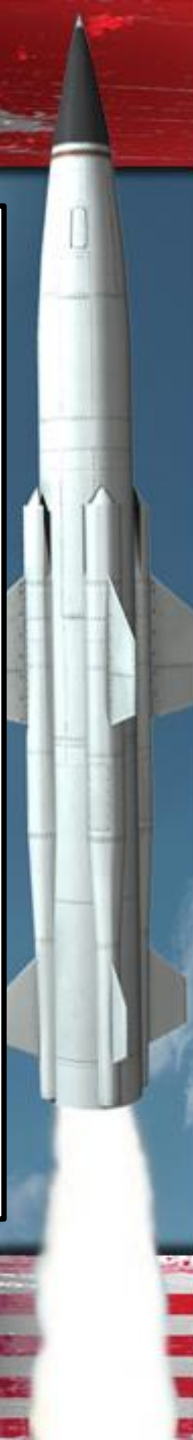
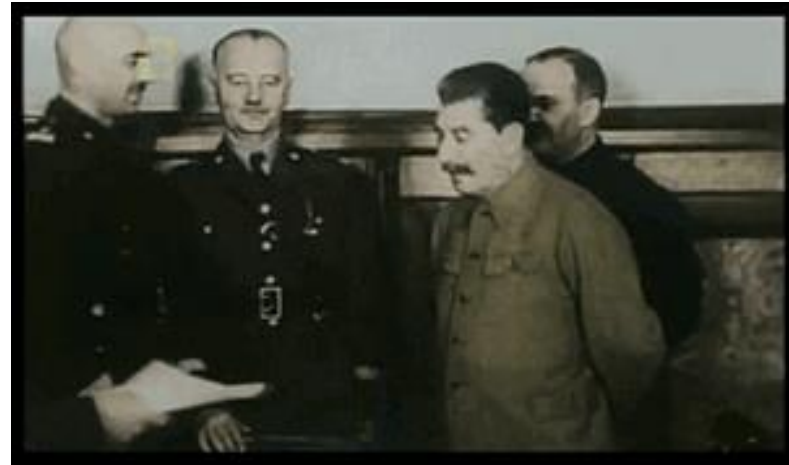




THE SOVIET POSITION

For about a decade, the Soviets would have a period of restoration.

Stalin turned inward in some ways. The Soviets controlled a gigantic inland empire by the late forties.



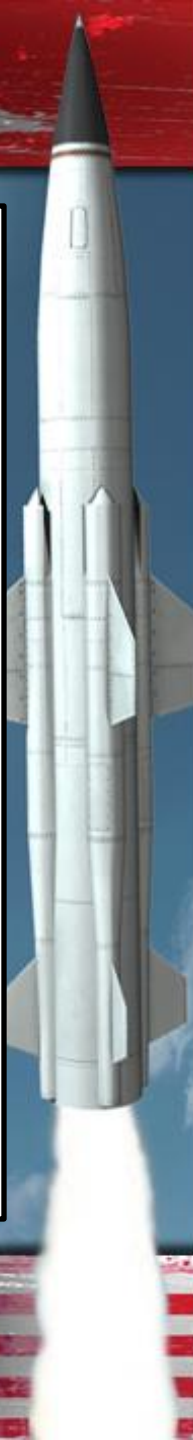


THE SOVIET POSITION

Stalin spent his time purifying, not just the Soviet state itself, but also the communist parties of newly gained satellite states.

The main features of communism were: (as practiced by Stalin after 1945)

- Internal discipline
- Absolute conformity

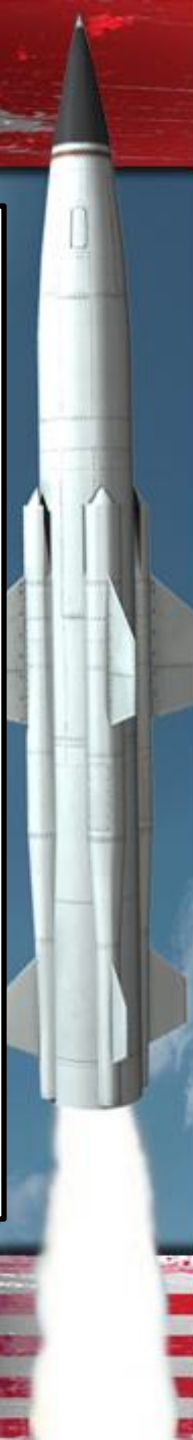




THE SOVIET POSITION

Stalin shot or imprisoned most of his own POW's who were returning, since anyone with foreign connections was suspect.

A renewed round of anti-Semitism became unleashed with the rising of Israel, since the loyalty of Russian Jews was questionable.





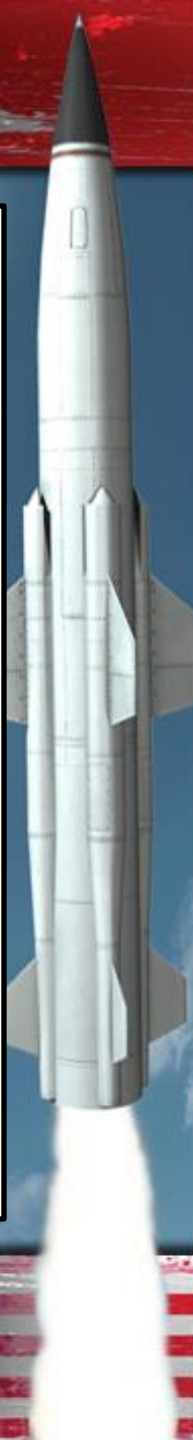
THE SOVIET POSITION

Marshall Zhukov, a respected World War II hero, was dismissed and the army was cut down drastically.

In all areas Censorship was intensified.

Similar actions were enforced in the new satellite states and certain rival groups were eliminated.

The show trial returned.

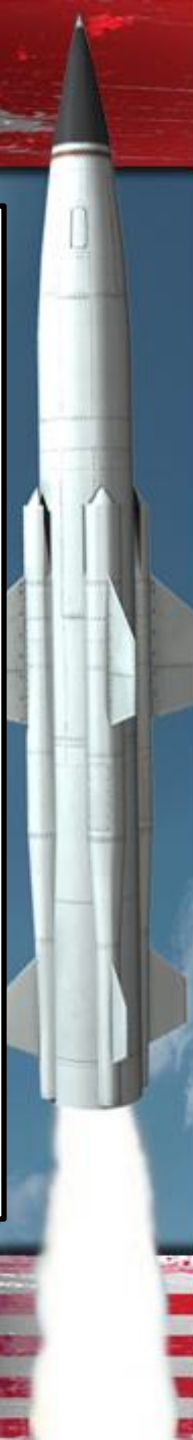




DEFINITIONS & CAUSES

The Cold war, basically, is a fight for power and influence, on a global scale, between the USA and U.S.S.R.

As a result, the world divided into two hostile camps.

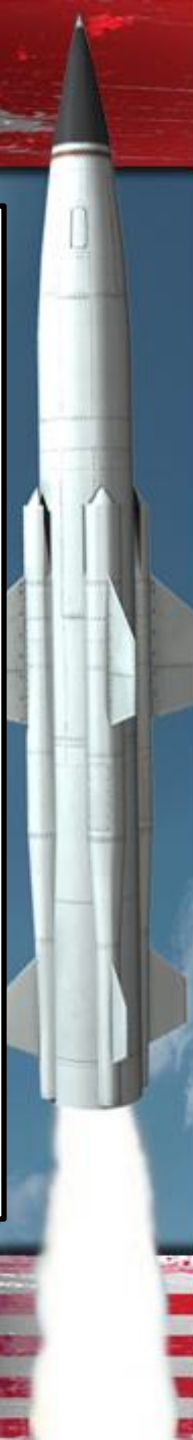




DEFINITIONS & CAUSES

The Cold War is characterized by the dominant powers of the East and West, each wanting to gain influence and each wanting to extend their ideologies over the rest of the world. They would do that by:

- Economic and military aid
- Alliances



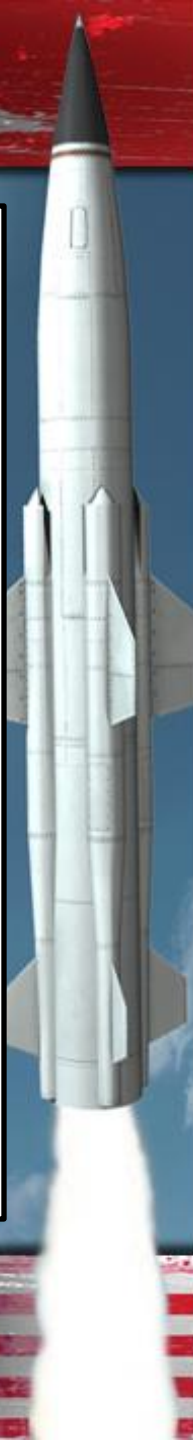


DEFINITIONS & CAUSES

- Propaganda

- Conquest.

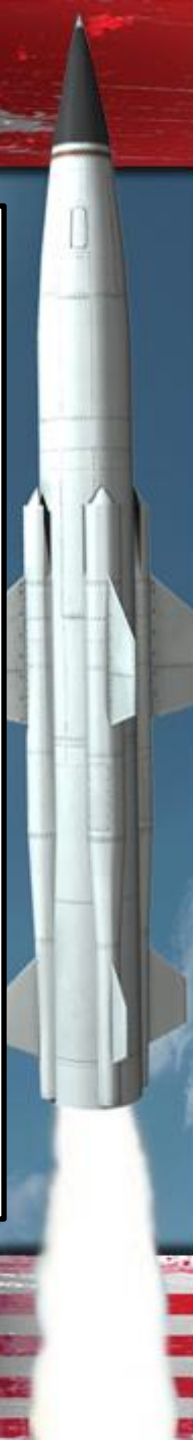
However, in the usual sense of the word, the Cold War was not a 'real' war.





DEFINITIONS & CAUSES

During the years of the Cold War, never did the USA and the U.S.S.R face each other in direct military combat... even though many local or regional wars had roots in this struggle.





Up Next...

The NEW Nationalism

The NEW Imperialism

