

Unit X

Elena Butoiu

Per. 2

4/23/03

“Compare and contrast the political and economic affects of the Cold War, form 1945-1991, on Western Europe with the effects on Eastern Europe.” (2001 # 6)

As Europe counted its millions of dead, the hot war gave way to Cold War between West and East. That both the United States and the Soviet Union had at their disposal atomic and nuclear bombs, weapons of unparalleled mass destruction, made enormous the risks of possible conflict. The division of Europe into two camps, Soviet and Western, communist and democratic, was formalized by the creation of corresponding military alliances after the war. The Red Army's drive into Central Europe in the waning months of the war left Eastern Europe and Balkans under Soviet domination. In a speech in Missouri, Churchill lamented that “an iron curtain is drawn down upon their front. We do not know what is going on behind.” Germany was divided into western and Eastern zones, the latter a Communist state. After World War II and the dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan, the world seemed to be on a high sense of alert because they realized that human beings possessed the means to annihilate not only civilization but even human existence on the planet, a thought especially shocking to a world that set one of its highest values on scientific progress. With Europe in shambles, the US accepted the responsibility of the West, and the Soviets took advantage of the East. America helped by taking countries under its wings and protection, by providing the Marshall Plan and the establishment of NATO. The Marshall Plan helped revive the destroyed economy of Western Europe, while NATO politically handled matters. Russia, on the other hand, decides to spread communism to its satellite states through the Warsaw Pact, and opposed those who did not accept. When the Eastern European states rebelled, tanks were sent in and a wall was erected to keep those from leaving East Germany. It became apparent as the two superpowers competed during the 60's through the 80's that the USSR was falling behind the West economically. When Mkhail Gorbachev took over the Soviet Union in 1985, he decided to end the Cold War and grant his Eastern European satellites their freedom, unlike Khrushchev and Brezhnev who invaded Hungary and Czechoslovakia respectfully. Finally, in 1991, Eastern Europe was granted its freedom.

- I. Introduction to NATO and Warsaw pact:
 - A. Start of armaments race
 - 1. On August 5 and 9, 1945, President Truman orders the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
 - 2. A new nuclear age has begun with the atomic bomb's power to wipe out human existence.
 - B. The Baruch Plan
 - 1. The U.S. proposed that the atomic energy be controlled by an international authority and that its use be limited to peaceful purposes.
 - 2. The Soviets objected because the idea that foreigners might freely examine their society was repugnant to them.
 - 3. By 1949 the Soviets were a nuclear power.
 - 4. The nuclear armaments race began.
 - a. In 1952, the U.S. successfully tested its hydrogen bomb.
 - b. The Russians soon evened out the race with their hydrogen bomb in 1953.
 - C. The German Problem
 - 1. The key to the rebuilding of Europe and the strongest area of soviet western contention, was Germany, divided into four zones and occupied by wartime allies, U.S., France, U.K and USSR.
 - a. U.S. considered German reconstruction necessary for European recovery and reduction of European dependence on American financial aid.
 - b. The soviets had their mind set on using German resources to repair the Russian devastation.
 - c. In 1947 the U.S. and British join their zones of occupation into one new zone, "Bizonia". The French soon join "Bizonia" as well. The Soviets decide to establish a communist-like government in their zone.
 - d. IN June 1948, the Western powers, recognizing the need for drastic currency reform to speed West German economic revival, suddenly revoked the old worthless currency and at a 1/10 ration issued a new German mark, the Deutsche mark, without consulting the Soviets.
 - e. The Soviets objected to this and cut of all road and rail access to Berlin.
 - f. Each side preceded with the formation of a German Government. The West established the Federal Republic of Germany and the Russians created the German Democratic Republic.
 - 2. The Marshall Plan

1. Introduction to NATO and Warsaw pact:
 - A. Start of armaments race
 1. On August 5 and 9, 1945, President Truman orders the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
 2. A new nuclear age has begun with the atomic bomb's power to wipe out human existence.
 - B. The Baruch Plan
 1. The U.S. proposed that the atomic energy be controlled by an international authority and that its use be limited to peaceful purposes.
 2. The Soviets objected because the idea that foreigners might freely examine their society was repugnant to them.
 3. By 1949 the Soviets were a nuclear power.
 4. The nuclear armaments race began.
 - a. In 1952, the U.S. successfully tested its hydrogen bomb.
 - b. The Russians soon evened out the race with their hydrogen bomb in 1953.
 - C. The German Problem
 1. The key to the rebuilding of Europe and the strongest area of soviet western contention, was Germany, divided into four zones and occupied by wartime allies, U.S., France, U.K and USSR.
 - a. U.S. considered German reconstruction necessary for European recovery and reduction of European dependence on American financial aid.
 - b. The soviets had their mind set on using German resources to repair the Russian devastation.
 - c. In 1947 the U.S. and British join their zones of occupation into one new zone, "Bizonia". The French soon join "Bizonia" as well. The Soviets decide to establish a communist-like government in their zone.
 - d. IN June 1948, the Western powers, recognizing the need for drastic currency reform to speed West German economic revival, suddenly revoked the old worthless currency and at a 1/10 ration issued a new German mark, the Deutsche mark, without consulting the Soviets.
 - e. The Soviets objected to this and cut of all road and rail access to Berlin.
 - f. Each side preceded with the formation of a German Government. The West established the Federal Republic of Germany and the Russians created the German Democratic Republic.
 2. The Marshall Plan

- a. The secretary of state, George c. Marshal introduced his plan of European reconstruction for which the U.S. would provide financial support.
- b. It was directed "not against country or doctrine, but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos."
- c. The plan offered to all European governments including East and the USSR.
 - 1. The Soviets denounced the plan as "a new venture of American Imperialism."
- d. The result of the plan was very positive. In some countries the production rose over 100% in five years.

II. West vs. East:

A. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- 1. In 1949 the U.S., Canada and ten European nations met in Washington and signed the Atlantic Pact and agreed to military arrangements for the joint defense of Western Europe.
 - a. Coalition between Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the U.K. and U.S.
 - b. NATO is an alliance which brings together free and sovereign countries in order to create a collective security system.
 - c. "An armed attack against one or of more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all."
 - d. Remained Western European shield against Soviet aggression.

B. Warsaw Pact

- 1. Signed in 1955, it brought the six European countries together into a mutual defense alliance.
 - a. The pact was established between Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and the USSR.
- 2. The Soviets wanted a closer relationship with its six Eastern European client states.
 - a. In 1949 they formed economic ties by creating a council for mutual economic aid, or Comecon.
 - b. The Soviets provided low-cost raw materials and oil and offered a large market for East European goods regardless of the quality.
 - c. Most of the economic cooperation benefited the Soviets.
- 3. The Warsaw Pact stated that the relations between the signing countries were equal. It stated that they would uphold noninterference with affairs internally and to have respect for each other's independence. The pact's main purpose was for self-defense among all the joined countries against the hostility from the West, or in other words, NATO.

C. Relations between U.S and USSR under Khrushchev

1. Destalinization
 - a. In a speech to the twentieth party congress in 1956, Khrushchev revealed the "crimes of the Stalin era."
 - i. Stalin had been personally responsible for the purges and executions of the 1930's and millions of victims had been innocent of the charges against them.
 - ii. He also revealed Stalin's initial loss of nerve and ineptitude at the time of the German invasion in June 1941.
 - b. The attack on Stalin undermined faith in a regime which had permitted these evils.
 - c. Khrushchev's speech immediately unloosed a reaction in the East European satellites. Open rebellion broke out in Hungary.
 - d. Cities named in Stalin's honor were renamed; Stalingrad, became Volgograd. Stalin's body was removed from the mausoleum on Red Square.
2. Decentralization
 - a. Khrushchev economy method which attempted to loosen tight central economic controls by creating regional economic councils.
 - i. He offered factory managers greater autonomy and incentives for efficiency and profitability.
 - ii. Khrushchev's most ambitious effort lay in agriculture.
 - b. The Soviet Union's economy was second only to that of the United States in gross national product.
3. Khrushchev's foreign policy
 - i. He pursued an erratic and truculent foreign policy. Proclaiming that war was not inevitable with United States and other capitalist countries, he spoke of "peaceful coexistence," and relations for a time improved
4. Khrushchev's downfall
 - a. In 1960 he scuttled a summit meeting with Allied leaders.
 - b. In 1962 overreached himself in the Cuban missile crisis.
 - c. He clashed openly with Communist China.
 - d. His boastfulness and recklessness, his retreat in Cuba, the failure of his agricultural and other economic policies, his attempt to tamper with the party itself all led to his downfall.

III. Developments during the Cold War:

A. Revolts against Soviet Union control

1. IN Poland, 1956, open revolts led by communist leaders broke out for freedom from the Moscow's power. This unrest brought to power a communist leader, Wladyslaw Gomulka. Khrushchev, who took power after Stalin, threatened military action but

1. Destalinization
 - a. In a speech to the twentieth party congress in 1956, Khrushchev revealed the "crimes of the Stalin era."
 - i. Stalin had been personally responsible for the purges and executions of the 1930's and millions of victims had been innocent of the charges against them.
 - ii. He also revealed Stalin's initial loss of nerve and ineptitude at the time of the German invasion in June 1941.
 - b. The attack on Stalin undermined faith in a regime which had permitted these evils.
 - c. Khrushchev's speech immediately unloosed a reaction in the East European satellites. Open rebellion broke out in Hungary.
 - d. Cities named in Stalin's honor were renamed; Stalingrad, became Volgograd. Stalin's body was removed from the mausoleum on Red Square.
2. Decentralization
 - a. Khrushchev economy method which attempted to loosen tight central economic controls by creating regional economic councils.
 - i. He offered factory managers greater autonomy and incentives for efficiency and profitability.
 - ii. Khrushchev's most ambitious effort lay in agriculture.
 - b. The Soviet Union's economy was second only to that of the United States in gross national product.
3. Khrushchev's foreign policy
 - i. He pursued an erratic and truculent foreign policy. Proclaiming that war was not inevitable with United States and other capitalist countries, he spoke of "peaceful coexistence," and relations for a time improved
4. Khrushchev's downfall
 - a. In 1960 he scuttled a summit meeting with Allied leaders.
 - b. In 1962 overreached himself in the Cuban missile crisis.
 - c. He clashed openly with Communist China.
 - d. His boastfulness and recklessness, his retreat in Cuba, the failure of his agricultural and other economic policies, his attempt to tamper with the party itself all led to his downfall.

III. Developments during the Cold War:

A. Revolts against Soviet Union control

1. IN Poland, 1956, open revolts led by communist leaders broke out for freedom from the Moscow's power. This unrest brought to power a communist leader, Wladyslaw Gomulka. Khrushchev, who took power after Stalin, threatened military action but

nothing happened. Gamulka relaxed political and economic controls.

2. In Hungary, in 1956, when the news of the success of the revolts in Poland was heard, young rioters even toppled a statue of Stalin. Imre Nagy a former premier of Hungary rose to power and raised feelings of democracy, parliamentary governing, and the severance of ties with Moscow.
 - a. The Soviets removed Nagy from premier and replaced him with Janos Kadar, who accepted Soviet intervention.
 - b. Khrushchev reestablished the communist rule and imprisoned and later hanged Nagy.
3. In Czechoslovakia, Alexander Dubcek came to power in 1968. He permitted freedom of the press, democratized the government and allowed non-communist political organizations. This was known as the "Prague Spring."
 - a. Brezhnev, who had replaced Khrushchev in 1964, found these reforms as a threat to the Soviet grip on Eastern Europe and put an end to it by sending troops to crush the developing revolution.
 - b. The Czechs were then forced to restore communist party control and remove Dubcek and all his reforms.
4. The Soviets, who had just crushed a budding revolution served notice under the "Breznev Doctrine" that it reserved the right to intervene if a socialist regime was threatened. They also served notice of the limits to which they would tolerate freedom and independence in Central and Eastern Europe.
5. The Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT I)
 - a. In 1972 Nixon visited Moscow. He and the Soviet leaders reaffirmed the goal of "peaceful coexistence" and signed the SALT I treaty.
 - i. Each nation agreed to reduce its antimissile defense system to make it possible to work toward equality in offensive weapons.
 - ii. They agreed also to hold stipulated offensive weapons to a fixed ceiling for a period of five years.
 - iii. After Nixon resigned from the presidency in 1974, détente continued under President Ford, his successor.
 - a. Through détente, in 1975 thirty-five nations- the sixteen members of NATO, the seven

Warsaw Pact states, and twelve European countries not formally members of either alliance -- met at Helsinki in a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and pledged themselves to work for permanent peace in Europe, economic and cultural cooperation, and the protection of human rights.

6. The Afghanistan War

- a. In December 1979, the Soviet Union brandished the Brezhnev Doctrine by moving troops into the neighboring state of Afghanistan in order to bolster a weak pro-Soviet leftist regime that it believed threatened from within.
- b. It was the first Soviet military intervention of this kind outside Eastern Europe.
- c. Carter denounced it as a new phase of expansion by the Soviets threatening the entire Middle East--"a steppingstone in their possible control over much of the world's oil supplies."
 - i. He warned in Jan. 1980 that "an attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States" and would be repulsed "by any means necessary, including military force."
 - ii. He withdrew the SALT II treaty from the Senate, embargoed sales of grain and high technology to the Soviets, approved aid to the Afghan insurgents in rebellion against the leftist government, sent arms to Pakistan for the use of the rebels, increased the military budget, set up procedures at home for a renewal of the draft, and called for a boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games scheduled for Moscow.
 - a. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he informed the USSR was the most serious threat to world peace since 1945.
 - b. Afghanistan turned out to be the USSR's Vietnam; 100,000 troops fought for over eight and a half years before withdrawing ignominiously in 1989.
 - c. The Soviets were unable to use their overwhelming military power to defeat the Muslim guerrillas who, armed with American weapons, fought fierce battles from their mountain strongholds.

7. These events alienated the Communist faithful in many parts of the

world.

Warsaw Pact states, and twelve European countries not formally members of either alliance – met at Helsinki in a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and pledged themselves to work for permanent peace in Europe, economic and cultural cooperation, and the protection of human rights.

6. The Afghanistan War

- a. In December 1979, the Soviet Union brandished the Brezhnev Doctrine by moving troops into the neighboring state of Afghanistan in order to bolster a weak pro-Soviet leftist regime that it believed threatened from within.
- b. It was the first Soviet military intervention of this kind outside Eastern Europe.
- c. Carter denounced it as a new phase of expansion by the Soviets threatening the entire Middle East—"a steppingstone in their possible control over much of the world's oil supplies."
 - i. He warned in Jan. 1980 that "an attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States" and would be repulsed "by any means necessary, including military force."
 - ii. He withdrew the SALT II treaty from the Senate, embargoed sales of grain and high technology to the Soviets, approved aid to the Afghan insurgents in rebellion against the leftist government, sent arms to Pakistan for the use of the rebels, increased the military budget, set up procedures at home for a renewal of the draft, and called for a boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games scheduled for Moscow.
 - a. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he informed the USSR was the most serious threat to world peace since 1945.
 - b. Afghanistan turned out to be the USSR's Vietnam; 100,000 troops fought for over eight and a half years before withdrawing ignominiously in 1989.
 - c. The Soviets were unable to use their overwhelming military power to defeat the Muslim guerrillas who, armed with American weapons, fought fierce battles from their mountain strongholds.

7. These events alienated the Communist faithful in many parts of the world.

B. The Berlin Wall

1. For quite some time, since the blockade by the Soviets in June, 1948, the Soviets were working towards ridding the other three occupants of Germany from Berlin.
2. On Nov. 27, 1958, a decade after the blockade, President John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev delivered an ultimatum to the other occupants to leave Berlin within a gracious six month period in which they would transform it into a "demilitarized free city."
3. President Kennedy disagreed and reminded the soviets of the Western resolve to remain in Berlin. Realizing the potential of the Soviet outrage, he asked Congress to expand military force, inaugurated a civil defense program, and made plans for a fall-out shelter in case of a nuclear war.
4. During the summer of 1959 in Geneva, May 1960 in Paris, and June 1961 in Vienna, the Soviets tried to work out things with the west dealing with Berlin, and in the end, nothing was accomplished.
5. With more and more refugees, Khrushchev met with the Communist Party heads on Aug. 6, in Moscow, and was given the right to create a border between East and West Berlin.
 - a. On August 7 Khrushchev announced on the radio that the escape routes to the West would be closed.
 - b. This announcement instilled fear in many and on Aug. 12 alone, over four thousand escaped East Berlin.
6. Around 4 p.m. on Aug. 12. 1961, project "Wall of China" was under way. Twenty-five miles of barbed wire and thousands of posts were set up. Police and troops began to mobilize and eventually East Berlin was covered by units. Only those with special authorization would be allowed into West Berlin.
7. On Aug. 13. 1961, it was announced that the Warsaw Pact countries wished for effective controls in and around East Berlin. Within an hour, 67 out of 81 crossing points were sealed off and all underground transportation was stopped.
8. ON August 8th the final blow was dealt. All was done to keep the East out of the West. Now, those coming form the West needed proof of residence in East Berlin to pass through.

IV. The End of the Cold War

A. Russia

1. As the 1980's emerged, many Soviet citizens were infuriated for not receiving promises made for their obedience and loyalty such as employment, health care, or better housing and consumer goods, and better quantity of food.

2. Mikhail Gorbachev rose to power and improved relations greatly with the U.S. which were not good after the Cuban Missile Crisis.
 - a. Gorbachev met with President Reagan in Dec. of 1987 and agreed to remove missile bases in Europe and Gorbachev agreed to remove short-range nuclear weapons.
 - b. In 1990, after Gorbachev and Reagan had close relations, President Bush and Gorbachev came to the point where they could jointly hail the end of the Cold War.
3. In 1991, Gorbachev resigned from the presidency after the USSR voted itself out of existence. Before, in 1990, Boris Yeltsin became President of Russia by the Russian Supreme Soviet, and when Yeltsin resigned from the communist party, the USSR was given its independence.

B. The Berlin Domino

1. In May, 1989, the barrier to get to Czechoslovakia from East Berlin was torn down, allowing for passage to Hungary through Czechoslovakia. About 150, 000 reached the West during the opening nine months.
2. On Nov. 4, the East Germans were free to leave for West Germany via Czechoslovakia. On Nov. 9, the freedom to go and come as they pleased was granted. Also, the command to tear down the wall was made.
3. On Sept. 1990, the West gave up rights on Berlin, and the unification of Germany was underway.
4. Soon the domino effect came into play, and communism disappeared in Eastern Europe, and freedom was granted.

In many ways, the Cold War defined the history of Europe and of the United States, China and many other states for four decades following World War II. The ideological and power struggles between the Soviet Union and the United States greatly affected the political histories of each state. This was also true of the smaller Eastern European states dominated by the Soviet Union. The rivalry between the two Great Powers and their allies strongly influenced the political life and foreign policies of the Western Europe states, as well as those of the emerging states of the Third World. Europe's place in international affairs declined markedly, although the emerging partnership between France and the German Federal Republic became the cornerstone of Europe in the post-World War II era. Superpower competition between the Soviet Union and the United States made European powers less important in the world. So did the surging economic strength of Japan and the rise of China as a Great Power. The decline of Britain as a Great Power was itself symbolic as its colonies became independent states.

2. Mikhail Gorbachev rose to power and improved relations greatly with the U.S. which were not good after the Cuban Missile Crisis.
 - a. Gorbachev met with President Reagan in Dec. of 1987 and agreed to remove missile bases in Europe and Gorbachev agreed to remove short-range nuclear weapons.
 - b. In 1990, after Gorbachev and Reagan had close relations, President Bush and Gorbachev came to the point where they could jointly hail the end of the Cold War.
3. In 1991, Gorbachev resigned from the presidency after the USSR voted itself out of existence. Before, in 1990, Boris Yeltsin became President of Russia by the Russian Supreme Soviet, and when Yeltsin resigned from the communist party, the USSR was given its independence.

B. The Berlin Domino

1. In May, 1989, the barrier to get to Czechoslovakia from East Berlin was torn down, allowing for passage to Hungary through Czechoslovakia. About 150, 000 reached the West during the opening nine months.
2. On Nov. 4, the East Germans were free to leave for West Germany via Czechoslovakia. On Nov. 9, the freedom to go and come as they pleased was granted. Also, the command to tear down the wall was made.
3. On Sept. 1990, the West gave up rights on Berlin, and the unification of Germany was underway.
4. Soon the domino effect came into play, and communism disappeared in Eastern Europe, and freedom was granted.

In many ways, the Cold War defined the history of Europe and of the United States, China and many other states for four decades following World War II. The ideological and power struggles between the Soviet Union and the United States greatly affected the political histories of each state. This was also true of the smaller Eastern European states dominated by the Soviet Union. The rivalry between the two Great Powers and their allies strongly influenced the political life and foreign policies of the Western Europe states, as well as those of the emerging states of the Third World. Europe's place in international affairs declined markedly, although the emerging partnership between France and the German Federal Republic became the cornerstone of Europe in the post-World War II era. Superpower competition between the Soviet Union and the United States made European powers less important in the world. So did the surging economic strength of Japan and the rise of China as a Great Power. The decline of Britain as a Great Power was itself symbolic as its colonies became independent states.