Western Society and Eastern Europe in the Decades of the Cold War
Origins of the Cold War

There are now two great nations in the world, which starting from different points, seem to be advancing toward the same goal: the Russians and the Anglo-Americans. . . . Each seems called by some secret design of Providence one day to hold in its hands the destinies of half the world.

— Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (1835)

THEY made it, of course; they drew the iron curtain across the middle of Europe, partly to stop us looking in, partly to stop their own poor wretches looking out enviously at the boundless goods and comforts on our side. Behind the iron curtain were the hapless peoples held captive by the grim-faced Russians and their stooges in office in the satellites; in front of it were ourselves, expressing sympathy for the captives but apologetically remaining very thoroughly armed, in however subdued a way.

A Power Vacuum

- World War II left a power vacuum in Europe.
  - Previously, Britain, France, and Germany had not only been Europe's leaders, but world powers.
  - Their weakness after 1945 left them subordinate to the United States and Soviet Union.

- The continent became an arena for the rivalries of the two superpowers.

- The two sides played out their hostilities in all measures short of actual fighting—hence the term Cold War.

- It became clear that the United Nations would not solve the world's problems.
The Cold War (1945-91) was one of perception where neither side fully understood the intentions and ambitions of the other, leading to mistrust and military build-ups.

United States

- U.S. thought that Soviet expansion would continue and spread throughout the world.
- They saw the Soviet Union as a threat to their way of life; especially after the Soviet Union gained control of Eastern Europe.
Development of the Cold War

Soviet Union

– They felt that they had won World War II. They had sacrificed the most (25 million vs. 300,000 total dead) and deserved the “spoils of war.” They had lost land after WWI because they left the winning side; now they wanted to gain land because they had won.

– They wanted to economically raid Eastern Europe to recoup their expenses during the war.

– They saw the U.S. as a threat to their way of life; especially after the U.S. development of atomic weapons.
Cold War Mobilization by the U.S.

- Alarmed Americans viewed the Soviet occupation of eastern European countries as part of a communist expansion, which threatened to extend to the rest of the world.

- In 1946, Winston Churchill gave a speech at Fulton College in Missouri in which he proclaimed that an “Iron Curtain” had fallen across Europe.

  ... from Stettin on the Baltic to Trieste on 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 -- Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia. 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 nothing for which they have less respect than military weakness.

- In March 1947, U.S. president Harry Truman proclaimed the Truman Doctrine.
The Truman Doctrine (1947)

- **Reasoning**
  - Threatened by Communist influence in Turkey and Greece
  - “Two hostile camps” speech

- Financial aid “to support free peoples resisting attempted subjugation”

- Sent $400 million worth of war supplies to Greece and helped push out Communism

- The Truman Doctrine marked a new level of American commitment to a Cold War.
The Policy of Containment

- **Definition:**
  - By applying firm diplomatic, economic, and military counter-pressure, the United States could block Soviet aggression.

- Formulated by **George F. Kennan** as a way to stop Soviet expansion without having to go to war.

- Ironically, the Soviets were looking for insulation from the Capitalist West.
The Containment Doctrine would later be expanded in 1949 in NSC-68, which called for a dramatic increase in defense spending:

- From $13 billion to $50 billion a year, to be paid for with a large tax increase.

NSC-68 served as the framework for American policy over the next 20 years.
The Marshall Plan (1947-48)

- War damage and dislocation in Europe invited Communist influence
- Economic aid to all European countries offered in the European Recovery Program
- $17 billion to western Europe
- Soviets refused – The blame for dividing Europe fell on the Soviet union, not the United States. And the Marshall Plan proved crucial to Western Europe’s economic recovery.
A Jewish State is Created

- British **Balfour Declaration** – **Arthur Balfour**, British Foreign Secretary, declares that he favors the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

- Arabs consider the Jews invaders and violent conflict emerges.

- In the 1947 United Nations Resolution, the British turn the area over to the United Nations, who partition the Palestine area into two (one Arab and one Jewish).

- May 14, 1948 – independence of a Jewish state, **Israel** is declared with the support of U.S. President Harry Truman.
  - First prime minister was **David Ben-Gurion**.
  - Arab nations Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq immediately invade Israel but are defeated in 1949, as Israel expands its borders.
Creation of the State of Israel

- Cold War implications – United States and Israel become firm allies, while the Soviet Union supports the Arabs
Dividing Germany

- U.S., Britain, and France merged their zones in 1948 to create an independent West German state.
- The Soviets responded by blockading land access to Berlin.
- The U.S. began a massive airlift of supplies that lasted almost a year. (7,000 tons a day)
- In May 1949 Stalin lifted the blockade, conceding that he could not prevent the creation of West Germany.
- Thus, the creation of East and West Germany.

Berliners watching a C-54 land at Tempelhof Airport (1948)
The Eastern Bloc

Annexed by the Soviet Union
- Eastern Finland
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Memel
- East Prussia
- West Belarus
- Western Ukraine
- Moldavia
- Uzbekistan
- Kazakhstan
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Tajikistan
- Tuva
- Kirgizstan
- Turkmenistan
- Armenia

Soviet Allies
- People’s Republic of Hungary
- People’s Republic of Poland
- Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
- Romanian People’s Republic
- East Germany
- People’s Republic of Albania
- People’s Republic of Bulgaria
- Federal People’s Republic of Yugoslavia
North Atlantic Treaty Organization & the Warsaw Pact

- Stalin’s aggressive actions accelerated the American effort to use military means to contain Soviet ambitions.

- The U.S. joined with Canada, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg to establish NATO, a mutual defense pact in 1949.

- Pledged signers to treat an attack against one as an attack against all.

- When West Germany joined NATO in 1955, the Soviet Union countered by creating its own alliance system in eastern Europe— the Warsaw Pact (1955)
The Cold War Heats Up: Problems of the Atomic Age

- The most frightening aspect of the Cold War was the constant threat of nuclear war.
  - Russia detonated its first atom bomb in 1949.
  - Truman ordered construction of the hydrogen bomb.

- Call for buildup of conventional forces to provide alternative to nuclear war.
Global Nuclear Confrontation

- The Soviet army had at its command over 260 divisions.
- The United States, in contrast, had reduced its forces by 1947 to little more than a single division.
  - American military planners were forced to adopt a nuclear strategy in face of the overwhelmingly superiority of Soviet forces.
  - They would deter any Soviet attack by setting in place a devastating atomic counterattack.
- For the next quarter century, the U.S. and the USSR would engage in a nuclear arms race that constantly increased the destructive capability of both sides.
“Losing China”

- Truman was preoccupied with Europe.
- Events in Asia would soon bring charges from Republicans that the Democrats were letting the Communists win.
- After “losing” China, the United States sought to shore up friendly Asian regimes.
The Korean War (1950-53)

- Since World War II the country had been divided along the 38th parallel
  - The North was controlled by the Communist government of Kim Il Sung
  - The South by the dictatorship of Syngman Rhee.
The Korean War (1950-53)

- Soviet-backed troops from North Korea invaded U.S.-backed South Korea in June 1950.

- The confrontation between capitalist and Communist blocs turned into open military struggle.
The Korean War (1950-53)

- Stalin had agreed to the North Korean attack, but promised only supplies.
  - He would eventually send pilots dressed in Chinese uniforms and using Chinese phrases over the radio.

- Having already “lost” China, it was decided that the United States would fight the North Koreans.
  - It would use enough force to deter aggression, but without provoking a larger war with the Soviet Union or China.
  - The U.S. would not declare war. The United Nations sanctioned aid to South Korea as a “police action.”
The Korean War (1950-53)

- The U.N. Security Council declared North Korea the aggressor and sent troops from 15 nations to restore peace.

  - Under the command of General Douglas MacArthur
  
  - U.S. 350,000; South Korean 400,000; other UN members 50,000

- The move succeeded only because the Soviet delegate, who had veto power, was absent because he was protesting the UN’s refusal to recognize the Communist government in China.
Side effects of the Korean War

- Energized America’s anti-Communist commitments
  - No longer did elected officials hesitate about the need to contain Soviet communism at any cost.

- NATO forces were rapidly expanding.
  - By 1952, there were 261,000 American troops stationed in Europe, three times the number in 1950.
  - By 1953, NATO forces had reached 7 million.

- Truman also increased assistance to the French in Indochina, creating the Military Assistance Advisory Group for Indochina.
  - This was the start of America’s deepening involvement in Vietnam.
Military Developments

- MacArthur pushed the North Koreans back to the 38th Parallel.
  - He then decided to invade the North in an effort to unify Korea
  - Chinese Communist “volunteers” entered the war and pushed U.S. back.
Dismissal of MacArthur

- MacArthur wanted to blockade China and use Taiwanese Nationalists to invade mainland China.
  - He ordered China to make peace or be attacked.
- Truman removed MacArthur from all his commands and replaced him with General Matthew Ridgway who gradually pushed back almost to original line.
End of War

- Snags in negotiations.
- Truce talks lasted for two years.
- Truce signed on July 27, 1953

- Cost of the war
  - U.S. – 33,000 deaths & 103,000 wounded and missing.
  - S. Korean – 1 million
  - N. Korean and Chinese - about 1.5 million
Possible Easing of Cold War Tensions

- Armistice in Koreas, the death of Stalin, and a summit in Geneva over nuclear weapons and Germany seem to indicate an easing of the Cold War
- Geneva meeting provides little agreement and the Cold War soon resumes
The Cold War in the 1950s: USSR

- **Nikita Khrushchev** takes over after Stalin’s death in 1953.
  - He repudiates Stalin’s use of the vast Gulag (or labor camp complex) and attempts to separate Stalin’s “crimes” from true communism.

- **Repression and Dissent**
  - Polish and Hungarian intellectuals and students held demonstrations calling for free elections, withdrawal of Soviet troops, etc.
  - 1956 – Soviet Crackdown in Hungary
    - Soviet tanks were sent in to crush dissent.
  - Eastern Europe remained under Soviet control.
The Soviet Union Under Khrushchev

- Soviet Communist leader **Nikita Khrushchev** wanted to keep the dominance of the Communist Party but does reform some of Stalin’s policies
  - **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn** allowed to publish a grim account of Soviet labor under Stalin, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1963)
  - Decentralized economic planning and removed restrictions on private cultivations of wheat

- **The Secret Speech of 1956** – Khrushchev denounces Stalin’s policies and purges and removes Stalin supporters from the government without executing them
The Three Crises of 1956

- **The Suez Crisis** – Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser goes to war with Israel and nationalizes the Suez Canal
  - The British and French intervene militarily, but the United States refuses to
  - The Soviet Union protests the military intervention, but also does not intervene
  - Result was Egypt maintains control of the canal, while the United States and Soviet Union show constraint in attempting to avoid war
The Three Crises of 1956

- **Polish independent action** – Poland refuses Soviet choice for prime minister and puts in **Władysław Gomułka** as Communist leader of Poland; he ends up to be acceptable to the Soviets.

- **Hungarian uprising**
  - New ministry in Hungary led by **Imre Nagy**, wants to make the country neutral and out of the Warsaw Pact.
  - Soviet troops invade Hungary, execute Nagy and put in **János Kádár** as premier.
The Cold War in the 1950s: USSR

- October 4, 1957 – USSR launched the first satellite, Sputnik, into orbit.
  - The Sputnik launch confirmed the Soviet Union’s superpower status.
- Two months earlier they had tested an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- Khrushchev – “We will bury you”
The Cold War in the 1950s: U.S.

- Dwight Eisenhower takes over from Truman in 1953.
  - Democrats charged Republicans for “missile gap”
  - Eisenhower responded.

- Enlarged defense spending; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- By 1962-63, the U.S. had 450 missiles and 2,000 bombers capable at striking the Soviet Union, compared to 50-100 ICBMS and 200 bombers that could reach the U.S.
The Third World

- In the 1950s, French intellectuals coined the term “Third World” to describe the efforts of countries seeking a “third way” between Western capitalism and Soviet communism.
  - By the early 1960s, the term had come to identify a large bloc of countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
  - Charting a “third way” proved difficult, both economically and politically. Both the Soviets and the Americans saw the Third World as “underdeveloped.”

- By the middle of the 1960s, as the euphoria of decolonization evaporated and new states found themselves mired in debt and dependency, many Third World nations fell into dictatorship and authoritarian rule.
The Cold War in the 1960s

- Khrushchev: “peaceful coexistence” and Sino-Soviet split
- In 1961, the Soviet begun construction of the Berlin Wall, which cut off movement between East and West Berlin and became a symbol of the eroding relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.
The Berlin Wall
The Bay of Pigs


- Cuban armed forces, trained and equipped by Eastern Bloc nations defeated the invading combatants within three days.

- Nov. 1961 – **Operation Mongoose** was authorized by President Kennedy
Containing Castro: The Cuban Missile Crisis

- October, 1962: Soviet nuclear missiles confirmed in Cuba
- Planned to blockade, invade Cuba
- U.S. imposed naval blockade, world appeared to be on the brink of nuclear war
- Khrushchev agreed to remove missiles in exchange for public statement that U.S. would not invade Cuba and private assurance that U.S. Jupiter missiles in Turkey would be removed
Containing Castro: The Cuban Missile Crisis

- **Political**
  - Kennedy’s popularity soared
  - Democrats gained in Congressional elections

- **Diplomatic effects**
  - Moderation of the Cold War
  - Russians began naval, nuclear buildup
The Invasion of Czechoslovakia

“When forces that are hostile to socialism try to turn the development of some socialist country towards capitalism, it becomes not only a problem of the country concerned, but a common problem and concern of all socialist countries.”

- Leonid Brezhnev

- Russian forces, under the orders of Soviet premier Leonid Brezhnev, invade Czechoslovakia and take more liberal communist leader Alexander Dubcek out of power

- Brezhnev Doctrine – the Soviet Union has the right to interfere in the domestic policies of other communist nations when it feels its necessary
Détente with the United States

- **President Richard Nixon** and Brezhnev conclude agreements on trade and reduction of nuclear arms.

- The United States under **President Gerald Ford**, along with the Soviet Union and other European nations, sign **Helsinki Accord** recognizing the Soviet sphere of Eastern Europe as long as human rights are protected.

- **President Jimmy Carter** demands the Soviets follow the Helsinki Accord, cooling relations between the countries.

- Soviets pursue activist foreign policy maneuvers in many African nations, Nicaragua, and Vietnam.
The Invasion of Afghanistan

- The Soviet Union, wanting more of a presence in the Middle East, invades Afghanistan

- United States response:
  - second Strategic Arms Agreement not signed
  - grain embargo of Soviet wheat
  - boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics
  - aid sent to Afghan rebels, which included radical Muslims

- Invasion fails, weakening and demoralizing Soviets
Communism in Poland

- **Pope John Paul II** – Polish pope who was an outspoken critic of communism

- Protest strikes led by **Lech Walesa**, occur across the country in response to the rise in meat prices

- September 1980 – Polish Communist Party replaced by independent union called **Solidarity**

- 1981 – **General Wojciech Jaruzelski** becomes head of the Communist Party, declares martial law, and arrests Solidarity leaders

1980 strike at Gdańsk Shipyard, birthplace of Solidarity.
Jerzy Popiełuszko and the Strikers in the Warsaw Steelworks
President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Relations

- Reagan, in his first term, intensifies Cold War rhetoric, increases military spending, slows arms limitations, and plans to deploy a Strategic Defense Initiative.

- Russians, in response, increase military spending even though they couldn’t afford to, eventually bringing the country to economic collapse.
Britain’s Withdrawal from India

- Indians basically paid for British rule, as Britain dominated the country through a divide and rule strategy.

- **Mohandas Gandhi** – leader of Indian nationalism and passive resistance movement
  - Led **Salt March** to the sea, breaking the British monopoly on salt.
  - Imprisoned many times, where he became a martyr by going on hunger strikes.
  - 1947 – the British, weary of Gandhi’s policies, leave India.
Conflict Between India and Pakistan

- Gandhi’s vision of a country of many religions does not come true
  - India is partitioned into two; India for the Hindus and Pakistan (under **Ali Jinnah**) for the Muslims
  - Gandhi assassinated by Hindu extremist
  - East Pakistan later breaks away to become Bangladesh

- India and Pakistan have come to the brink of nuclear war over the ownership of the northern territory of Kashmir
More British Retreat from Colonial Empires

- The British, noticing the costs of maintaining an empire and wanting to avoid conflict, start withdrawing from their colonies
  - 1948 – Burma and Sri Lanka become independent / British withdraw from Palestine
  - 1957 – Ghana becomes independent
  - 1960 – Nigeria becomes independent
  - British withdraw from Cyprus, Kenya, and Aden under pressure from militant movements

- Withdrawal has led to poverty and instability in Africa, but stability and economic growth in Asia
France and Algeria

- Voting structure had given the French more power than the native Muslim people of Algeria.

- Violent clashes between the Muslims and the French directly after World War II spur on even more Algerian nationalism.

- Civil war breaks out in 1954 between Algerian nationalists led by the National Liberation Front and the French – the war divides French opinion and does not end until 1962.

- Under General Charles de Gaulle, France eventually grants Algeria independence in 1962.

- Many Muslims who supported France either flee Algeria for France or are massacred.
France and Vietnam

- Communist, anti-colonial, and nationalistic Vietnam leader **Ho Chi Minh** declares Vietnam’s independence from France in 1945

- Civil war breaks out in 1947
  - The French are crushed at Dien Bien Phu
  - Peace accord in 1954 splits Vietnam in two
    - North Vietnam – Ho Chi Minh and the communists
    - South Vietnam – French controlled
Vietnam and the Cold War

- The United States, believing that North Vietnam was a puppet of the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China, form the **Southeast Asia Treaty Organization** to combat the communists.

- France withdraws from South Vietnam in 1955, leaving Vietnamese political groups to fight for its power.

- United States supports **Ngo Dinh Diem**, a strong anti-communist nationalist (but certainly not for democracy).
  
  - The **National Liberation Front** with its military wing the **Viet Cong** make it a goal to overthrow Diem.
  
  - Diem becomes more repressive.
  
  - In 1963, Diem is assassinated by an army coup, supported by the United States.
Vietnam and the Cold War (cont.)

- The United States, hoping for popular support in South Vietnam, support **Nguyen Van Thieu** to be in charge.

- Kennedy is assassinated and his successor **Lyndon Johnson** steps up the commitment to South Vietnam, especially after an attack on an American ship in the Gulf of Tonkin.
The Vietnam War

- 1965–1973 – major bombing attacks of Vietnam
- January 30, 1968 – Tet Offensive launched
- At war’s peak – 500,000 American troops are stationed in Vietnam – 58,000 Americans killed
- 1969 – Vietnamization – President Nixon’s policy to gradually withdraw troops from Vietnam
- Peace negotiations start in 1968, but no treaty until 1973
The Vietnam War (cont.)

- 1975 – South Vietnamese troops evacuate country, but are routed by the North Vietnamese, turning all of Vietnam over to the communists / South Vietnam capital renamed Ho Chi Minh City

- Vietnam’s results in the U.S.:
  - War hurt American prestige
  - Many European nations felt the United States neglected them to fight an aggressive colonial war
  - Produced enormous divisions and debates in the United States
U.S. Troops Engaged in Combat in South Vietnam
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn expelled from country

- Wrote several books banned by the Soviet government including *Cancer Ward* and *The Gulag Archipelago*
- In 1974 he was arrested, deported to West Germany, and stripped of Soviet citizenship
- He was a Slavophile wanting a return of Russian monarchy, traditional Russian culture, Russian Orthodoxy

Harassment of Jewish citizens
Continued Soviet Oppression Under Brezhnev

- Dissidents such as **Andrei Sakharov** placed in psychiatric hospitals or under house arrest
  - Designer of Soviet Union’s Third Idea, a codename for Soviet development of thermonuclear weapons
  - In 1950, he proposed an idea for a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes
  - By 1960s, Sakharov became political activist against nuclear proliferation
The Reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev

- Economic **perestroika** – or “restructuring” – reduced size and importance of the centralized economic ministries
  - Advocated private ownership of property and the steering of the economy towards a free market system
  - Economic policies fail as economy remains stagnant

- **Glasnost** or openness - Gorbachev allows criticism of the government, less censorship, free expression encouraged and dissidents released from prison

- Applied perestroika to government with free elections that elect Gorbachev president in 1989

- Despite the reforms, Gorbachev is unable to address the complaints of ethnic minorities which split the country
1989: Communism Collapses in Eastern Europe

- **Poland** – Communist government, unable to control Solidarity this time, calls for free elections where communist leader **Jaruzelski** is roundly defeated and appoints a non-communist prime minister, **Tadeusz Mazowieck**

- **Hungary** – **János Kádár** stripped of his power as communist leader and Hungarian Communist Party is replaced by Socialist Party, which promises free elections
1989: Communism Collapses in Eastern Europe

- **Germany** – old communists in power resign, East German government orders opening of Berlin Wall and within days Germany is reunited under one leader, Helmut Kohl (unification recognized by world in early 1990)
The Borders of Germany in the Twentieth Century
1989: Communism Collapses in Eastern Europe

- **Czechoslovakia** – Vaclav Havel’s supporters known as the **Civic Forum** force communist leader **Gustav Husak** out of power and elect Havel as president.

- **Bulgaria** – The day after the Berlin Wall was breached, Todor Zhivkov was ousted by his Politburo and succeeded by Petar Mladenov. The new regime permitted non-communist parties to form and the right to gather freely.

- **Romania** – the only violent revolution, where communist leader **Nicolae Ceausescu** fires on opposition crowds, but later is overthrown and along with his wife executed.

- Other communist regimes collapsed in Albania and Yugoslavia.
1989 Protest in China

- The mainly peaceful conclusions to these revolutions may have been a reaction to the **Tiananmen Square Massacre** in the People’s Republic of China, where the communists responded to protests violently.
Soviet Response to Revolution

- Gorbachev renounces Brezhnev Doctrine and refuses to interfere on the behalf of the communists in Eastern Europe
- Troops withdrawn from Eastern Europe haphazardly

Mikhail Gorbachev and President George Bush on board the Soviet cruise ship *Maxim Gorky*, Marsaxlokk Harbour.
The Soviet Union Collapses

- 1989 – Gorbachev announces the Soviet Communist Party has abandoned its monopoly on power
- 1990 – three major political groups vie for power:
  - **Conservatives** – wanted to keep Communist Party and Soviet army
  - **Reformers** – led by Gorbachev critic **Boris Yeltsin** (later elected president of Russian Republic) – wanted to move quickly to a market economy and democracy
  - **Nationalists** – some republics in the Soviet Union wanted independence / Gorbachev fails to make new constitutional arrangements with these places, leading directly to the rapid collapse of the Soviet Union
The Soviet Union Collapses

- 1991 – the **August 1991 Coup** – communists attempting to seize power, place Gorbachev under house arrest
  - Coup fails within two days because of Boris Yeltsin’s followers
  - Gorbachev returns to Moscow humiliated by his own followers
  - Yeltsin steadily takes control of government

- Soviet Union collapses in December, 1991 as Gorbachev leaves office and the **Commonwealth of Independent States** appears

- Soviet Union broken up into fifteen constituent republics, in which eleven are part of the Commonwealth of Independent States
The Yeltsin Decade

- Yeltsin’s troubled reign
  - Yeltsin, supported by the West, puts down Parliament protest that attempts to overthrow him
  - New Parliament and constitution voted on in 1993
  - Russia at war with Islamic province of Chechnya still to this day
  - Economic downturn due to corruption by the “oligarchs,” defaults on international debts and political assassinations
  - Yeltsin resigns in 1998 and is replaced by Vladimir Putin
North Caucasus region
Civil War and the Collapse of Yugoslavia

- Yugoslav leader **Tito** keeps the many different ethnic and national groups under control – his death eventually leads the country into chaos and civil war.

- Nationalist leaders **Slobodan Milosevic** in Serbia and **Franjo Tudjman** in Croatia gain authority.

- 1991 – Slovenia and Croatia declare independence from Yugoslavia.

Marshal Josip Broz Tito, Yugoslav President (1953–1980), and Prime Minister (1945–1963)
Civil War and the Collapse of Yugoslavia

- Civil war erupts in 1992 between Serbs and Croatians
  - Serbia accuses Croatia of fascism, while Croatia accuses Serbia of being a Stalinist regime
  - Both forces attempt to divide up Bosnia-Herzegovina
  - Muslims in Bosnia are caught in the middle and are subject to “ethnic cleansing” by the Serbs
- NATO, led by the United States, does strategic bombing of Serbia to remove the Serbs from Sarajevo
- 1995 – peace agreement signed in 1995 in Dayton, Ohio
Breakup of Yugoslavia
Civil War & the Collapse of Yugoslavia

- Serbs again force NATO into action by attacking Albanians in Kosovo in 1999
  - An air campaign – the largest since World War II – is sent to protect the ethnic Albanians

- 2000 – revolution overthrows Milosevic

The Yugoslav Army withdrawing from Kosovo, handing over total control of the province to the Kosovo Force. Pictured, US Army M1 Abrams passing a Yugoslav Tank.
Putin and the Resurgence of Russia

- Putin becomes president of the Russian Federation in 2000
- Revives war in Chechnya
- Central government dominates economic & political life
- Putin uses economic recovery to reassert Russia’s position as a major power
- August 2008 invasion of Georgia epitomizes new Russian aggressiveness
- The worldwide financial crisis threatens Russian economic stability and the plans of its leaders
Arab Nationalism

- Radical Islamism rose in reaction to secular Arab nationalism of the 1920s and 1930s
- Radical Islamists reject Western ideals and culture
- Middle Eastern Arab countries become rich off oil
- The Saudi royal family turns education over the rigorist form of Islam known as Wahhabism, while modernizing its infrastructure
- Egypt pitted Islamic groups against one another
- Poor Arabs remain poor while religious leaders remained hostile to the Soviet Union
The Iranian Revolution of 1979

- Led by **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini**, revolutionary leaders overthrow a modern, but repressive, government supported by the United States and turn Iran into a **theocracy**, a government controlled by religion.

- Revolution embodied Islamic fundamentalism or Muslim reformism.

- Iran considered the United States to be “The Great Satan” and opposed the state of Israel on religious and nationalist grounds.

- The deposed Shah of Iran seeks refuge in the U.S.
Afghanistan and Radical Islamism

- **The Taliban** – rigorist Muslims who impose Muslim law through the strict regimentation of women, public executions, floggings, and mutilations for a variety of criminal, religious or moral offenses.

- **Al Qaeda** – groups of Muslim terrorists supported by the Taliban.

- Ideology came from Pakistan, which taught *madrasas* – the rejection of liberal and secular views, intolerance towards non-Muslims, repudiation of Western culture, and hostility and hatred towards the U.S. and Israel.
Jihad Against the United States

- Arabs redirect their **jihad** (religious war) from the Soviet Union to the United States, especially after the Persian Gulf War of 1991
  
  - The United States drives Iraq under **Saddam Hussein** out of Kuwait with the support of conservative Arab governments such as Saudi Arabia.
  
  - Islamic extremist leader **Osama Bin Laden** is horrified that the United States is allowed to have their military in Saudi Arabia, home of Islam’s two holiest cities Mecca and Medina.
Jihad Against the United States

- Terrorist attacks on United States citizens
  - World Trade Center Bombing – 1993
  - U.S. army barracks bombed in Saudi Arabia – 1996
  - U.S. embassies in East Africa bombed – 1998
  - Attack on the ship USS Cole in Yemen – 2000
  - 9/11/2001 – attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. leave more than 3,000 dead

The north face of Two World Trade Center (south tower) immediately after being struck by United Airlines Flight 175
The 9/11 Response and War in Iraq

- U.S. **President George W. Bush** responds to 9/11 by attacking the Taliban in Afghanistan; Taliban defeated, but Al Qaeda and Bin Laden still in hiding and intact.
The 9/11 Response and War in Iraq

- Bush preemptively attacks Iraq, citing dangers to the United States, sparks controversy at home and abroad
  - United States and Great Britain, with token support of fifty other nations, invade Iraq in March 2003
  - Iraqi government collapses and Saddam Hussein is eventually captured
  - Invasion sparks opposition from France, Germany, Russia and many other nations, splitting the European Union and directed hostility from European citizens to the United States
  - Many anti-war protesters in the United States, due to the never found weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)
Recent Events in Europe and U.S.

- Bush re-elected President in 2004 and Iraq has first free elections since the 1950s in 2005
- Britain re-elects **Tony Blair** as prime minister, but with a much reduced parliamentary majority