

Causes of The Cold War





A Clash of Interests

- Truman-Molotov meeting showcased the deepening divide between the US and USSR, with Truman expressing disappointment over Soviet actions in Poland.
- Truman's firm stance marked a significant shift in US foreign policy towards the Soviets, signaling a more confrontational approach.
- Definition of the Cold War era as a period of ideological, political, and military tension between the US and USSR, lasting roughly from 1946 to 1990.

Soviet Security Concerns



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- After suffering devastating invasions by Germany in World War I and World War II, Soviet leaders were deeply concerned about their security.
 - Stalin's desire to keep Germany weak and ensure control over neighboring countries reflected a defensive mindset shaped by historical experiences.
 - Soviet leaders' belief in the inevitability of conflict between capitalism and communism heightened suspicions of capitalist nations, including the United States.

American Economic Concerns

- Roosevelt and his advisors believed that economic instability, exacerbated by the Great Depression, had contributed to the outbreak of World War II.
- Emphasis on promoting economic growth through international trade and free enterprise as a means to prevent future conflicts.
- Connection between democratic governance, economic prosperity, and stability, leading US leaders to advocate for both international trade and democratic governments.





Yalta Conference

- Yalta Conference held in February 1945, attended by Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin, aimed to plan the postwar world.
- Discussion on Poland highlighted tensions, with Roosevelt and Churchill advocating for free elections and Stalin insisting on a pro-Soviet government.
- Agreements reached at Yalta, including the division of Germany and the Declaration of Liberated Europe, laid the groundwork for the postwar order but also contributed to future tensions.

Potsdam Conference



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- Potsdam Conference in July 1945, attended by Truman, Stalin, and Churchill (replaced by Clement Attlee), focused on issues like Germany's fate and reparations.
 - Truman's insistence on German industry revival clashed with Stalin's demand for heavy reparations, leading to tensions.
 - Truman's revelation of the successful atomic bomb test added a new dimension to the negotiations and further strained relations between the US and USSR.

The Iron Curtain Descends

- Churchill's "iron curtain" speech in March 1946 highlighted the division of Europe into Western and Soviet spheres of influence.
- Establishment of pro-Soviet Communist governments in Eastern Europe, known as satellite nations, demonstrated Soviet control in the region.
- Churchill's speech symbolized the beginning of the Cold War era, characterized by ideological and geopolitical divisions between the East and West.



The End