

# Harry Truman- “The Accidental President”

1945-1953

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid teal horizontal bar that transitions into a series of three thin, parallel white lines on the right side of the slide.

# Truman Biography

- Born-Lamar, Missouri
- No College Experience
  - UMKC Law School (2 Years)
- WWI Artilleryman
- Married in 1919 (Bess Wallace)
- Haberdasher in 1921 (Failed)
- Jackson County Judge in 1922
- Elected Senator in 1934 (2 terms)
- Nominated for the Vice-Presidency in 1944 (Henry A. Wallace)



# Truman Bio 2

- Truman was VP for only 82 days when FDR died
- Only had 2 meetings with FDR as VP
- Eleanor Roosevelt- “Is there anything that we can do for you? For you are the one in trouble now.
- "Boys, if you ever pray, pray for me now....but when they told me what happened yesterday, I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."

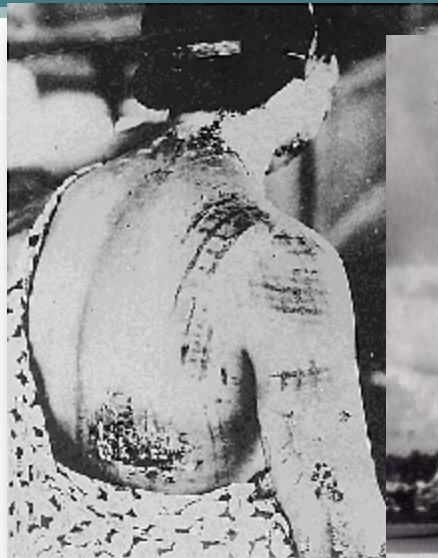
# Manhattan Project

- July 16, 1945-First Test at Trinity Test Site-Los Alamos, New Mexico
  - Led by J. Robert Oppenheimer
  - Cost \$2 Billion for 3 Bombs
  - “I have become death, the shatterer of worlds”
- July 26, 1945-Potsdam Declaration
  - Agreed to by Truman, Churchill, Chiang Kai-Shek
  - Japan would unconditionally surrender or else it would face “prompt & utter destruction”
    - Truman hinted to Stalin about the bomb...

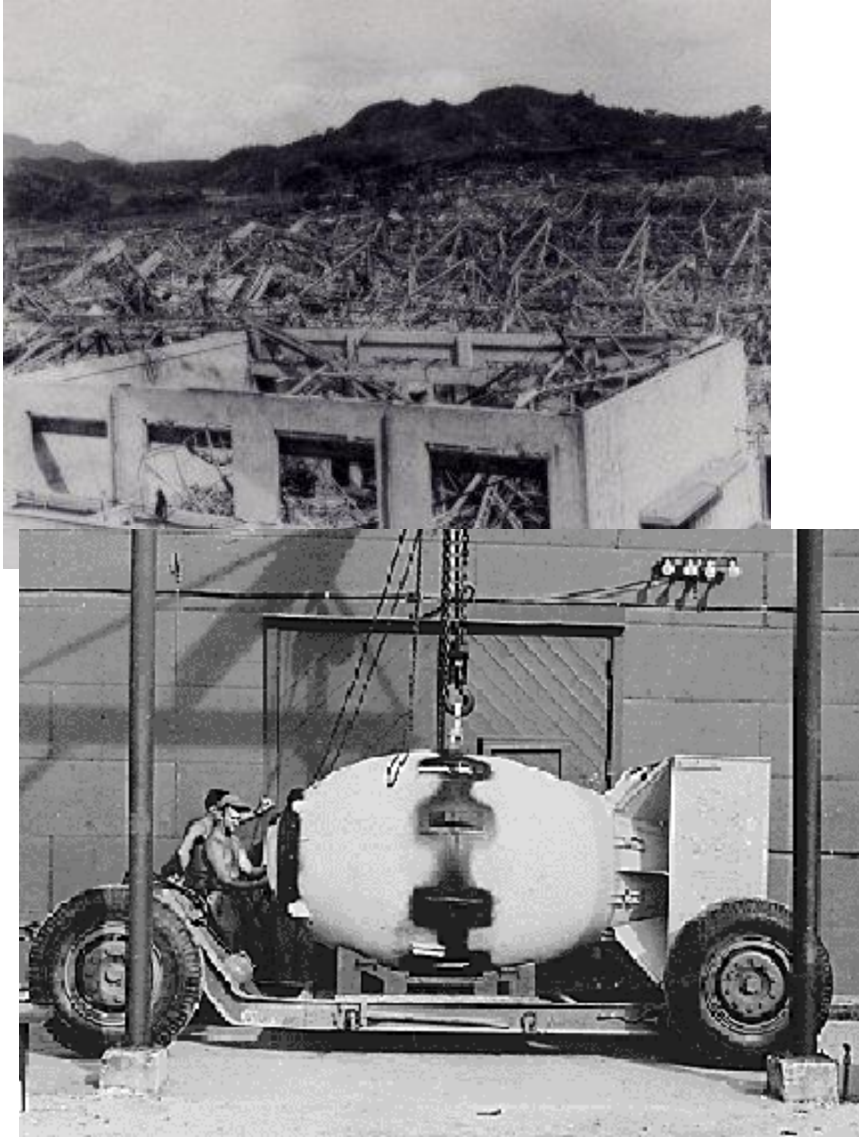


# Hiroshima

- August 6, 1945-Hiroshima Bombed
- 8:15am
- Uranium Bomb- “Little Boy”
- Plane-Enola Gay
- Estimated 140,000 killed
  - Firestorm Engulfed 4.4 Square Miles
  - 20 US POW’s were killed
  - Paper ignited 1.2 miles from ground zero
  - Birds burst into flames
  - 9/10 buildings destroyed within a 1 mile radius



# Nagasaki



- August 9, 1945
- 11:02 Am
- Plutonium Bomb- “Fat Man”
  - 40% more Powerful than Little Boy
- Plane-Boch’s Car
- Estimated 70,000 Killed
- Kokura Arsenal???
- August 10, 1945-Japan Surrenders to US

# Should we have used da Bomb???

## Pros

- Revenge
- Operation Olympic
- Waste of Money
- Unconditional Surrender
- Cold War Act

## Cons

- Murder
- American forces now consolidated
- Operation Magic
- Conventional Bombing would have worked

# Problems with the Economy???

- What should the government do with 12 million returning soldiers?
- Army cut to 1.5 million men?
- Unemployment?
- Women? Serving as the workforce?
- African-Americans?
- Change industry back to refrigerators, washers, and radios???





# Truman Domestic Policy

- After WWII, Economic Concerns???
- 21 Point Program-Move the Economy from a Wartime to Peacetime Economy
  - Expansion of Social Security to a majority of Americans
  - Permanent expansion of Fair Employment Practices Act

# GI Bill of Rights

- June 22, 1944
- Provide Opportunities to Soldiers returning home from War
  - Zero Down, low-interest home loans
  - Soldiers were able to attend the college of their choice free of charge as long as they met entrance requirements
  - Zero Down, low interest loans to Business Owners
  - 2.4 Million went to school!!!



# Executive Order #9981

- July 26, 1948
- Establishes equal opportunities for all races, colors, religions, or national origins
- Desegregates the US Armed Forces

**EXTRA — By Executive Order**

# PRESIDENT TRUMAN WIPES OUT SEGREGATION IN ARMED FORCES

**2nd Order Sets Up FEPC In All Government Jobs**

**NATIONAL Edition Chicago Defender** **10¢ PAY NO MORE**

CHICAGO, ILL., WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1948

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## Under 'States' Rights' Posse, Bent On Lynching, Searches Woods For Prey

**Rumor Negroes Would Resist Scatters Mob**

By JAMES W. WELLS

... (text continues) ...

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## Wallace Says He'll Stay In Race, But Won't Predict Victory In '48

**BY SENATOR'S SPEECH**

... (text continues) ...

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## Snub Truman's Wife; Friends Are Too Dark

... (text continues) ...

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## 6 Killed, 19 Hurt As Trucks Collide On Memphis Highway

... (text continues) ...

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## Demand Return To Dixie Of Coast Businessman Freed 21 Years Ago

... (text continues) ...

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## Aubrey Williams Bids Dixie Demos Farewell: 'Get Out And Stay Out'

By JOHN LEAFLEY

... (text continues) ...

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## Bullington Sidesteps Court Order Ending Golf Link Jim Crow

... (text continues) ...

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## Judge Moore's Reappointment Was Bar Nod

... (text continues) ...

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## WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN—TODAY

— Urge Him To VOTE FOR —  
**PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION**  
 "Human Rights for You!"  
 WRITE YOUR Congressman In Washington TODAY!

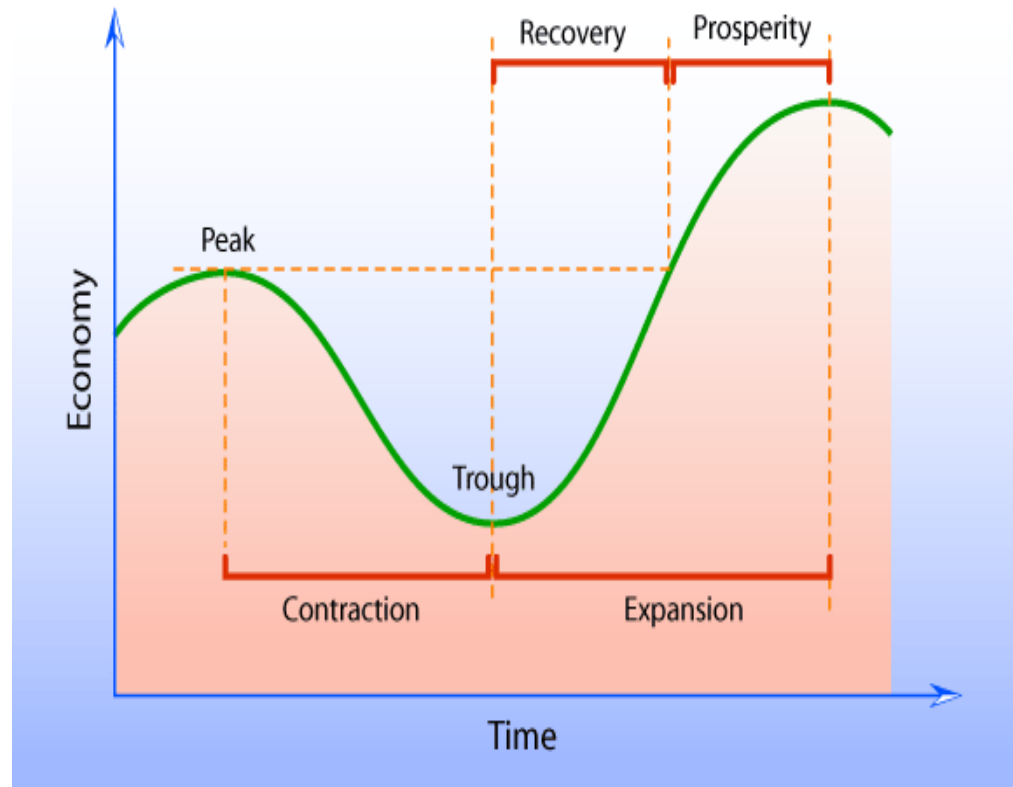
# Railway Strikes (1946)



- Spring of 1946
- Lasted 1 month Nationwide
- Reason: During the war, the government put restrictions on wages, prices, unions
  - Ex: Income Tax 90%
- All Freight & Passenger Lines shutdown
- Truman threatened to draft the striking workers into the military

# Employment Act (1946)

- Based on the beliefs of John Maynard Keynes
  - Noted Economist
  - Believed that the only way out of a depression was to spend, spend, spend
- Government's purpose is to encourage full employment for anyone that wants a job

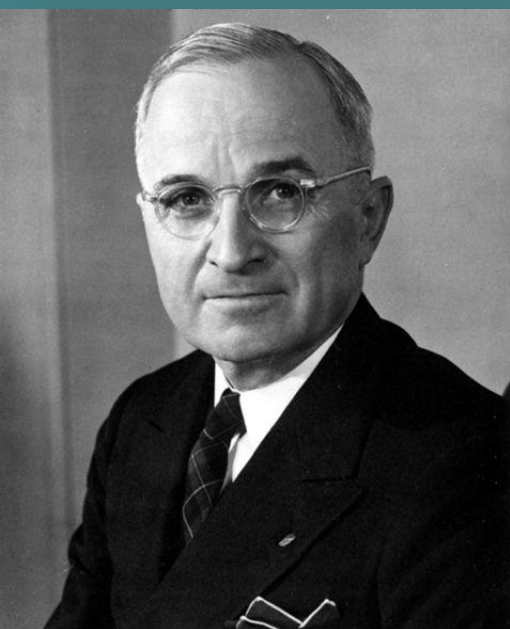


# Taft-Hartley Act (1947)

- Limited the Power of unions in the country after the war
- Outlawed closed shop unions
  - Ex: Teachers + Airline Pilots
- Bill was passed over a Truman veto

# Reasons for Postwar Prosperity

- Permanent War Economy
  - 1948-\$97 million, 1949-\$128 million, 1951-\$225 million
- Research and Development
  - New technologies-TV?
- Cheap Energy
  - Discovery of oil in Iran, Saudi Arabia, etc
- Increases in Productivity/Energy
  - Shift from Wartime to Peacetime Economy
    - US had put away \$140 Billion in savings during the war
    - Average weekly wage up to \$44/week



# The Election of 1948

Candidates:

Harry Truman (Democrat)

Thomas Dewey (Republican, NY)

-Ran in 1944, gained ground on FDR, expected to win the Presidency

Strom Thurmond (Dixiecrat, SC)

-Longest filibuster in US History, States' Rights initiative, ran because of Executive Order #9981

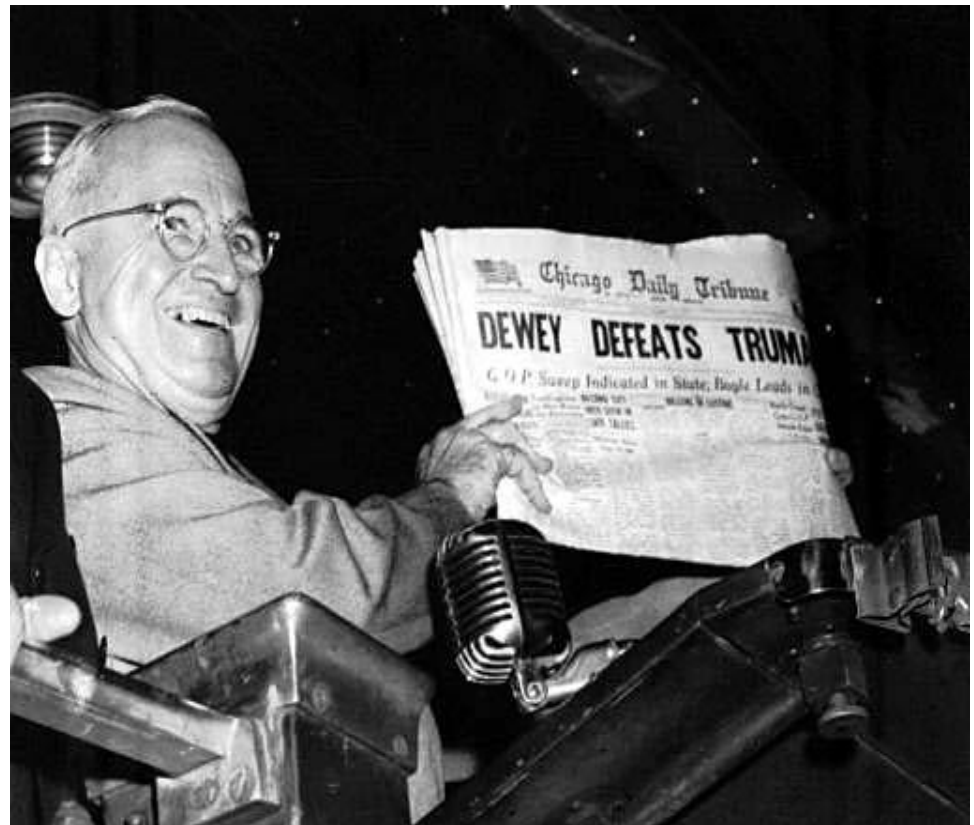
Henry Wallace (Progressives)

-Friend of the Communist Party, believed that we needed socialized medicine, friendly relations with USSR, etc.



# Background on 1948

- Early Polls
  - Dewey 44%, Truman 31%, Thurmond 16%, Wallace 9%
- Biggest Political Upset in US History
- Whistlestop Campaign
  - “Give em hell, Harry!”
- Dewey Defeats Truman???
- Why?
  - Truman went on the attack!
  - Dewey never countered!
  - African-Americans and other minorities voted for Truman
  - Farmers remembered FDR during the Great Depression





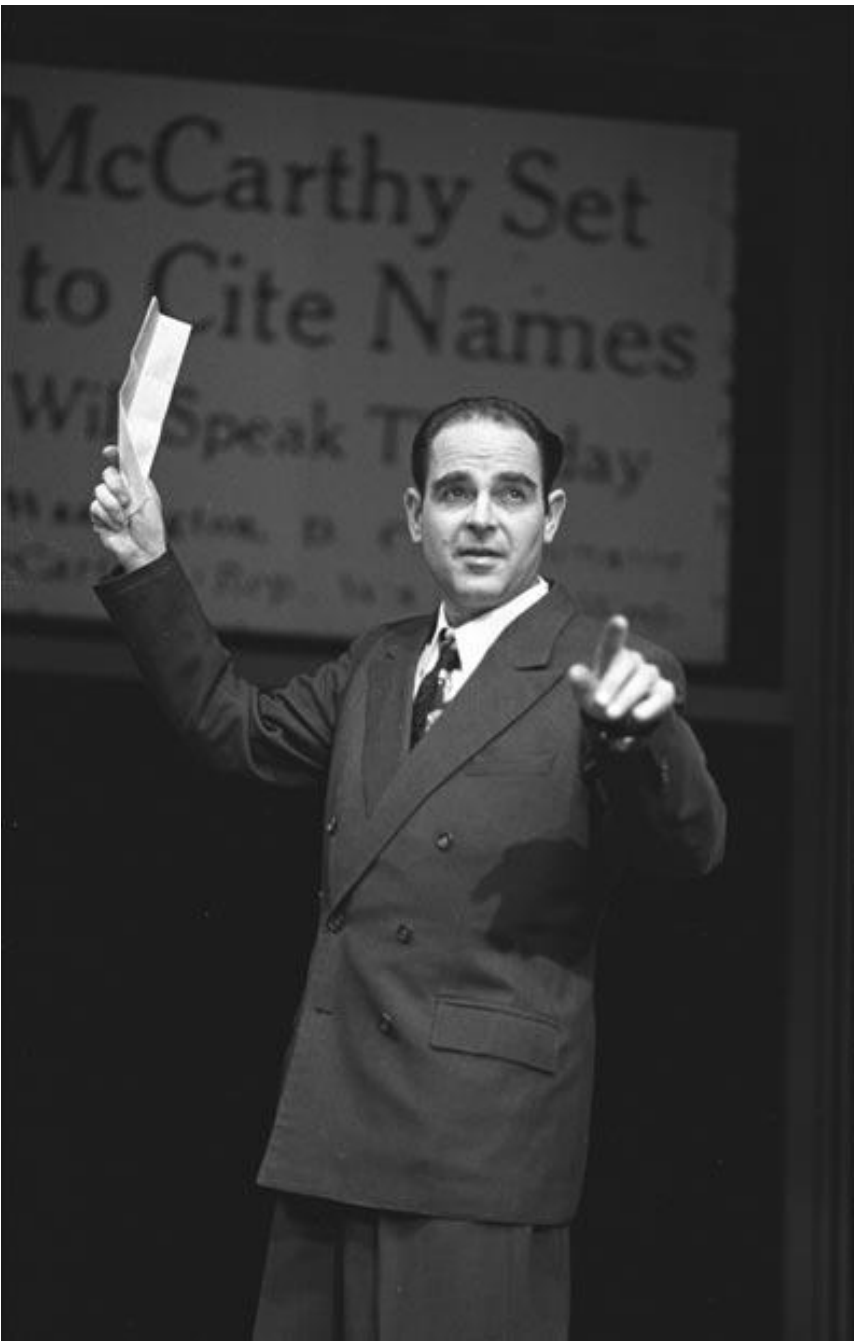
# The Fair Deal (1949)

- Continuation of the Liberal Practices of FDR's New Deal
- After 16 years of Democrats, the country was ready for a move to conservatism
- Increased Minimum Wage to .75 cents
- Extended Social Security + Universal Health Care?
- Housing Act (1949)
  - Billions for Slum Clearance
  - FHA set up for mortgage help



# Reasons for Limited Success

- Remember Truman tried to pass a 21 point plan!
- 1. Republicans control Congress in 1946
  - “To err is Truman”
- 2. Tax Cuts were passed quickly through Congress-US was put into spending deficits
- 3. Price Controls were removed!



# The Red Scare

Led by Senator Joseph McCarthy (R, Wisconsin)

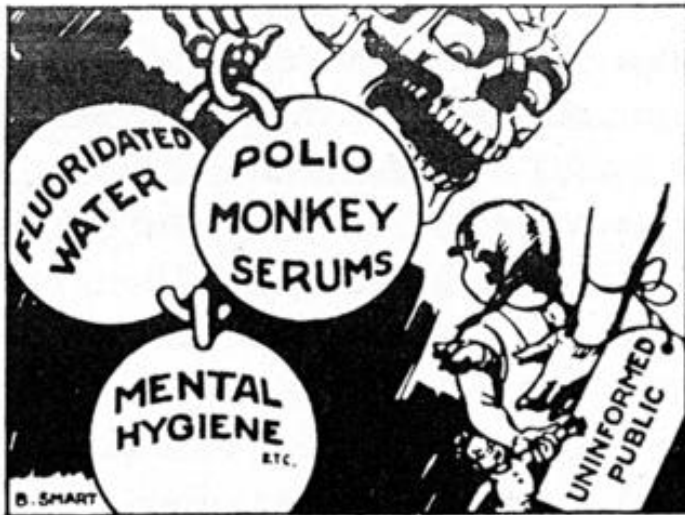
Speech @ Wheeling, WV

- “In my hands I have a list of 205 members of the state department that are communists.”
- Needed to get reelected in 1948.
- Organized House Committee of Unamerican Affairs (HUAC)
  - To investigate people that were deemed “unAmerican”

# What is a communist?

- Anyone keep late nights?
- Drink Fluoridated Water?
- Get vaccinations?
- Read a non-fiction book or listen to “alternative” music?
- Drug use?
- Wear any bright or vibrant colors!

# At the Sign of THE UNHOLY THREE



Are you willing to PUT IN PAWN to the UNHOLY THREE all of the material, mental and spiritual resources of this GREAT REPUBLIC?

## FLUORIDATED WATER

1—Water containing Fluorine (rat poison—no antidote) is already the only water in many of our army camps, making it very easy for saboteurs to wipe out an entire camp personnel. If this happens, every citizen will be at the mercy of the enemy—already within our gates.

## POLIO SERUM

2—Polio Serum, it is reported, has already killed and maimed children; its future effect on minds and bodies cannot be gauged. This vaccine drive is the entering wedge for nation-wide socialized medicine, by the U. S. Public Health Service, (heavily infiltrated by Russian-born doctors, according to Congressman Clare Hoffman.) In enemy hands it can destroy a whole generation.

## MENTAL HYGIENE

3—Mental Hygiene is a subtle and diabolical plan of the enemy to transform a free and intelligent people into a cringing horde of zombies.

Rabbi Spitz in the American Hebrew, March 1, 1946: "American Jews must come to grips with our contemporary anti-Semites; we must fill our insane asylums with anti-Semitic lunatics."

**FIGHT COMMUNISTIC WORLD GOVERNMENT by destroying THE UNHOLY THREE!!! It is later than you think!**

KEEP AMERICA COMMITTEE  
Box 2094, Los Angeles 34, Calif. H. W. Courtols, Secy.

May 16, 1955



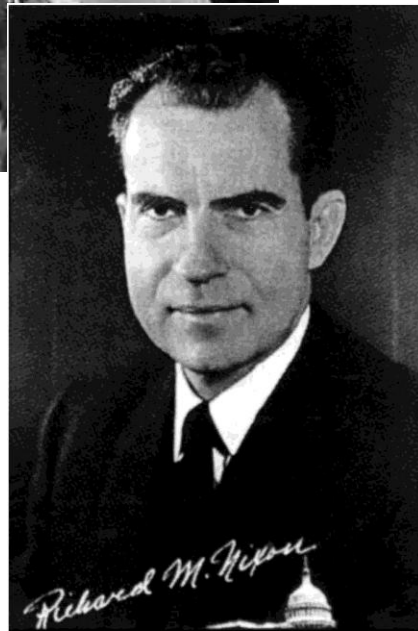
# Violation of the Smith Act of 1940

- 11 Communists arrested for spreading information about trying to overthrow the govt.
- All non-citizens must register with the govt.
- Affected 4,000,000 people
- Loyalty Oaths to the US?





# Alger Hiss Case (1950)



- Accused of being a communist by Whittaker Chambers
- Hiss denies and is charged with 2 counts of perjury
- Taken in front of HUAC and attacked by Richard Nixon
- McCarthy gave his Wheeling speech 2 weeks after the trial.

# The Rosenbergs

- Julius & Ethel Rosenberg
- Accused of selling “nuclear secrets” to the USSR
- Executed in 1951
- First peacetime execution for treason in US history

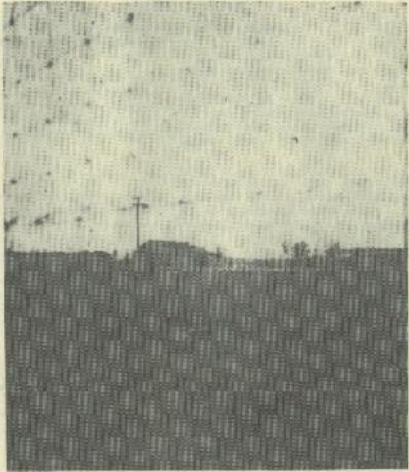


# McCarran Internal Security Bill(1950)

- Gave the US Government the right to “Arrest and Detain Suspicious and Questionable People that could be a threat to the USA.”
- Had to register with the Attorney General
- Background of the Patriot Act

**HARD TO BELIEVE BUT...**

**THERE ARE  
CONCENTRATION  
CAMPS  
IN  
AMERICA**



The above is a scene from one of America's new concentration camps. This one's at Florence, Arizona. There are others elsewhere in Arizona and in Michigan, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma and California. The camps are already staffed and "ready to go." Is not this picture proof enough that American democracy is engulfed in a crisis? The concentration camps, according to Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada, who wrote the law which created them, are "for subversives." But, you say, that's what Hitler said when he built the concentration camps! That's right—and that's why we have placed this advertisement in your daily newspaper.

**SPEAK UP, AMERICA!**

Concentration camps are un-American. They are foreign to every concept of the American tradition. The American people are being kept in the dark about these concentration camps. How did they

criticism aimed at himself by the press of his state through intimidation of advertisers, he has taken a long step toward an even lower ranking on the roster." This man dares to speak of "Communist domination" or any other kind of domination!

want a horrible atomic war of mass destruction and murder. We want peace. We think peace is obtainable if the great powers sit down around a table and talk it out.

# Detonation of the H-Bomb (1952)

- Hydrogen Bomb
- Detonated on Bikini Island
- 1000x more powerful than the Atomic Bomb that hit Hiroshima & Nagasaki



# Jackie Robinson (1947)



- April 15, 1947
- First African-American Baseball Player in the Major Leagues
- Career .311 hitter
- 6 time All-Star
- 1949 NL MVP
- Still owns the record for stealing home 19 times

# Assassination Attempt + 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

- November 1, 1952
- White House being rebuilt
- 2 Puerto Ricans wanted independence from the US
- Killed 1 Secret Service Agent
- Truman not harmed
  
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment-
  - Limits the President to 2 Full Terms (10 Years Max)

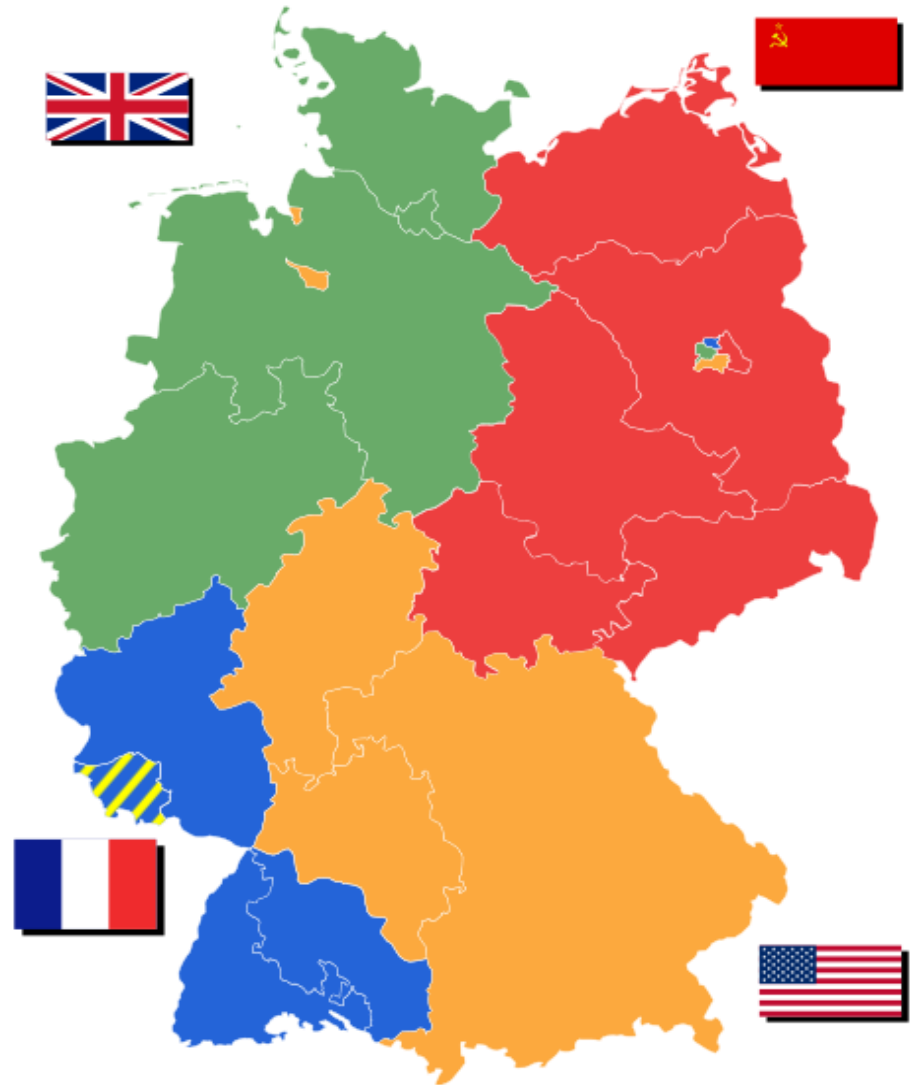


# Truman Foreign Policy “Let’s Keep Score”

- 1. UN Established June 26, 1945 (Tie)
  - April 1945, 50 Nations met in San Francisco
  - HQ in New York
  - Permanent Members-US, UK, China, USSR, France
  - Trygve Lie-1<sup>st</sup> UN Secretary General
- 2. US Drops Atomic Bombs (Win)
  - Hiroshima August 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Nagasaki August 9<sup>th</sup>

# 3. German Occupation (Tie)

- Potsdam Conference-splits Germany into 4 Occupation Zones
  - US, UK, France (West Germany)
  - USSR (East Germany)
- Also Split Berlin (4 Zones)
- Promised to crush NAZI party
  - Nuremberg Trials-sentenced 11 to death





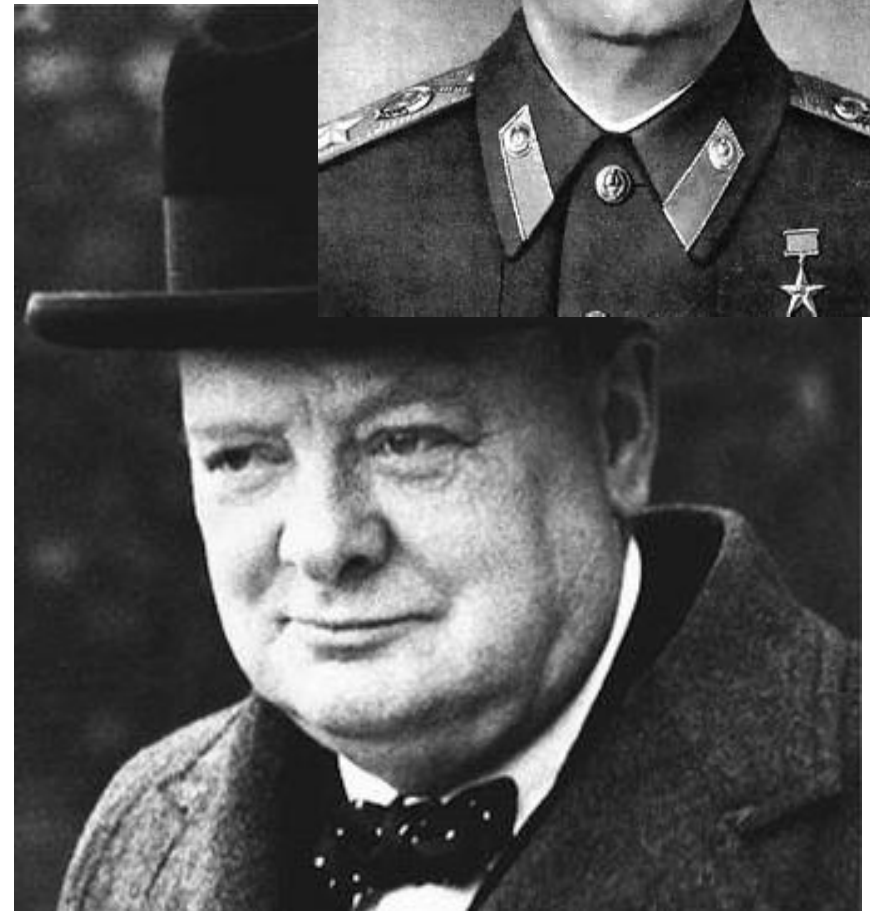
## 4. Japanese Occupation (Win)



- Only US controlled the rebuilding of Japan
  - Did not want to split Japan like Germany
- Create a Democratic government
- Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur
  - He wrote the constitution
  - Not militaristic!
  - No more weapons/army

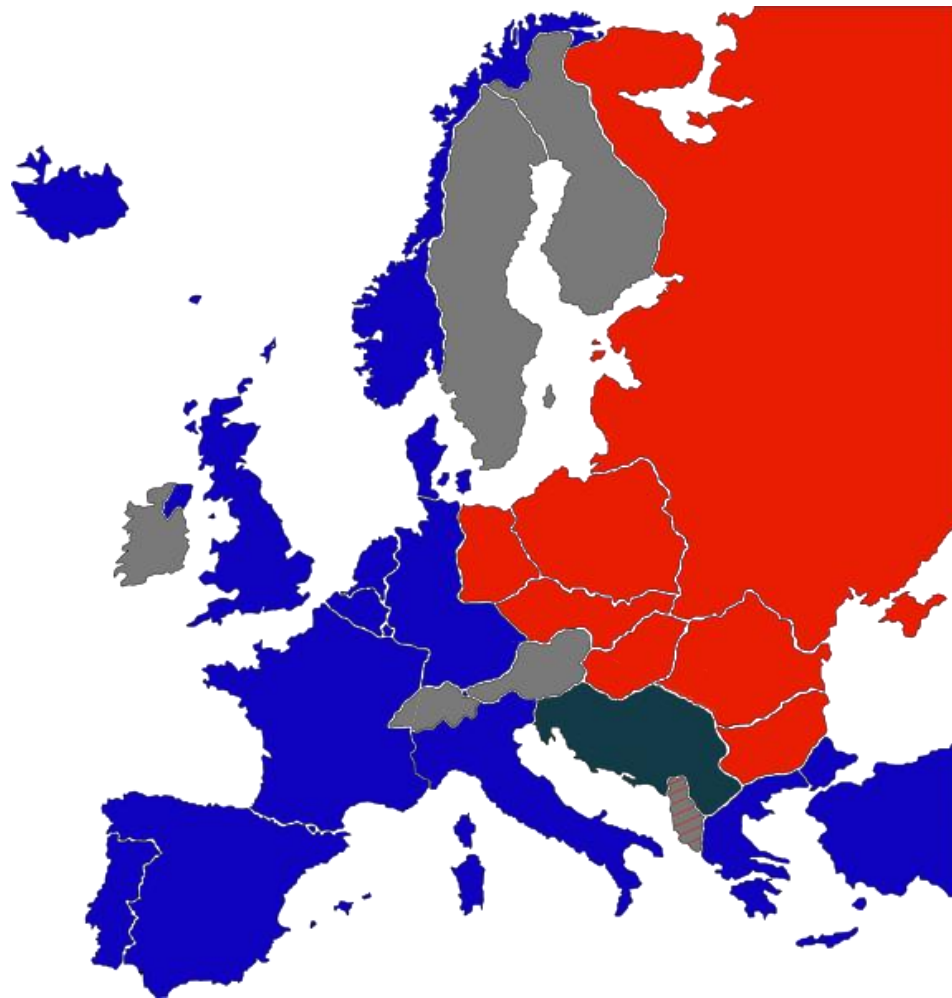
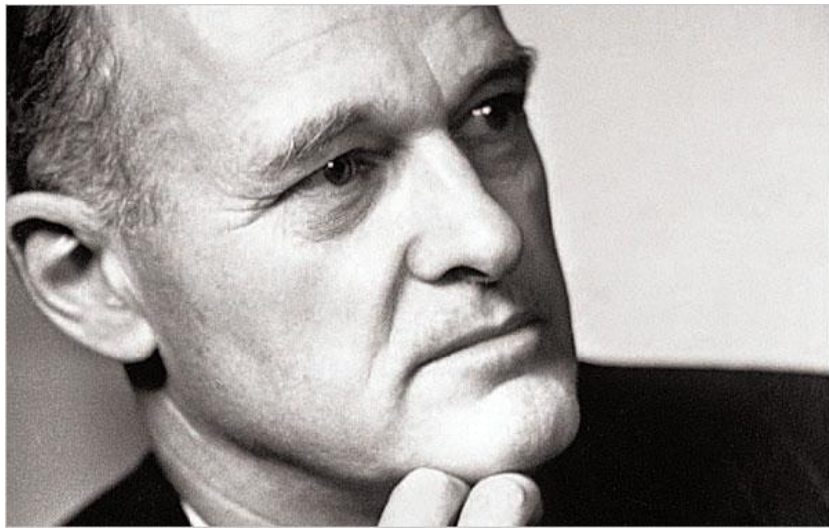
## 5. Eastern Europe (Loss)

- Right after the war, Stalin takes the Baltic States
  - Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia
- Stalin's Promise of Free Elections in Eastern Europe
  - Went back on promises at Yalta
- Iron Curtain Speech-Winston Churchill, Missouri
- “An iron curtain has descended across Europe...”



# 6. Containment Policy

- Authored by George Kennan
- Fundamentally changes US Foreign Policy forever
- Learned our lesson from WWII
  - Appeasement @ Munich
  - Soviets want to expand, we need to push them back!



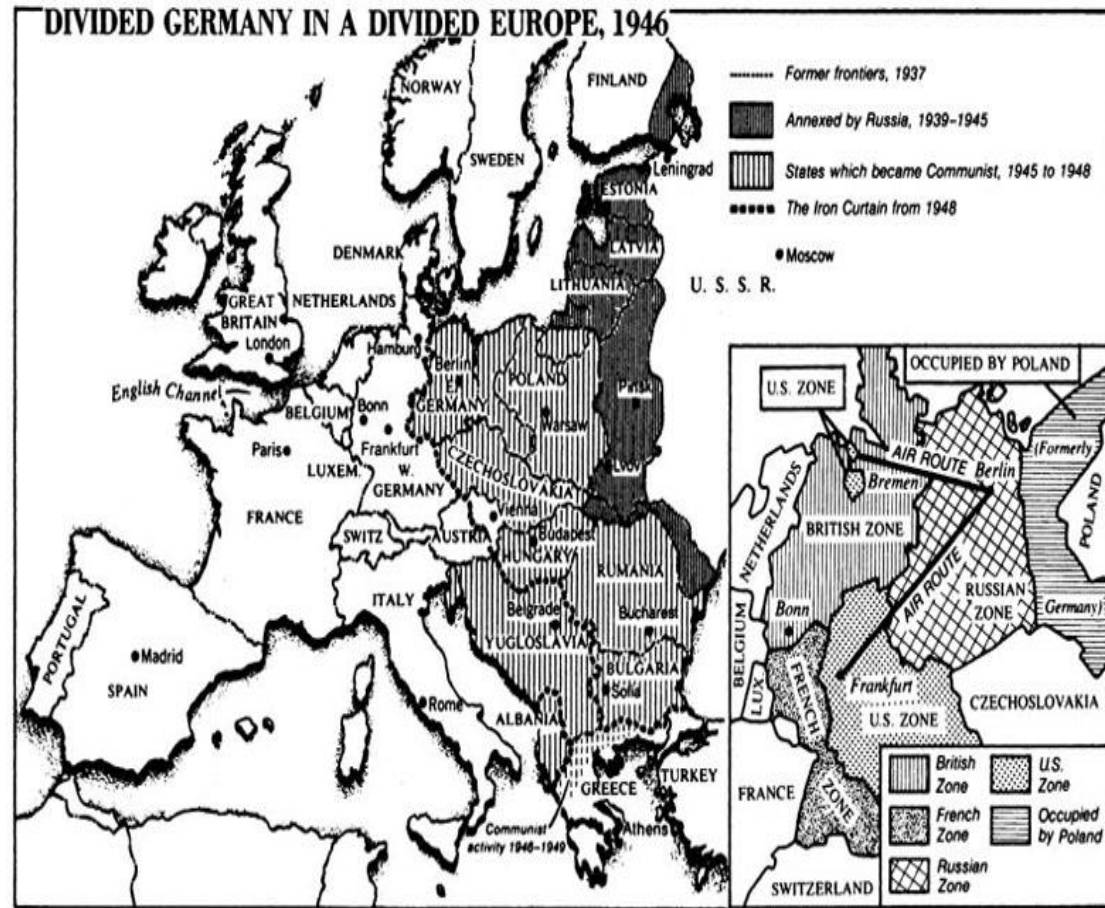
# Truman Doctrine



- Announced March 12, 1947
- “It must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples from conquest or subjugation by outside pressures.”
- What does this mean???

# Marshall Plan

- European Recovery Act
- April 3, 1948
- Aid package to prevent the countries of Western Europe from turning to communism
- \$12 Billion to France & Italy to stay strong and free
- \$400 million to Greece & Turkey



# North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)



- July 12, 1949
- 9 Western European nations, US, Canada
- 1<sup>st</sup> time in US history where we joined into a “defensive alliance”
- “If any one country is attacked it is regarded as an attack on all.”
- Supreme Commander-Dwight Eisenhower

# National Security Act (1947)

- July 26, 1947
- Created the Department of Defense
  - All Military Forces under 1 Command
  - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
- Created Central Intelligence Agency
- Created the National Security Council



# 7. Greece and Turkey (Win)

- 1<sup>st</sup> true application of containment!
- Why here?
  - USSR wanted a warm water port into the Mediterranean
  - Test the resolve of the US!
- Gave \$400 million under Marshall Plan to keep them free!





# 8. Israel (Win)



- Recognized May 14, 1948
- 11 minutes after Israel declared their independence
- Reasons for recognition???

  - Humanitarian-Holocaust & 6 million Jews
  - Political-Truman is in a struggle in the Election of 1948
  - Containment-Not allow the USSR to expand!!

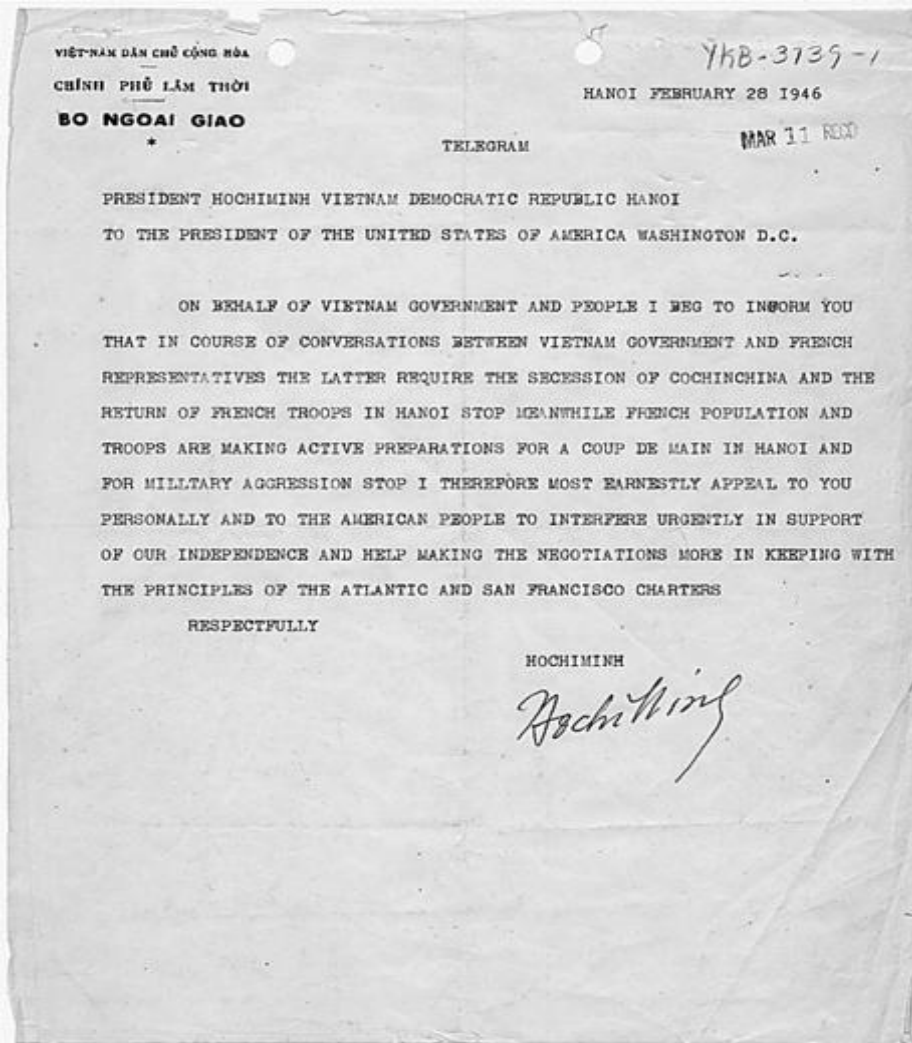


# 9. Berlin Crisis (Win)

- June 26, 1948-May 12, 1949
- USSR cut off access to W. Berlin by rail, street, canal
- Now what does Truman do?
  - Nothing-Appeasement! (Bad)
  - Invade-WWIII (Bad)
  - Berlin Airlift (Stalin's Decision)
- Institutes Berlin Airlift!
- Have to haul 5000 tons of supplies into W. Berlin
  - Planes took off every 3 minutes
  - Toilet Paper Run!!



# 10. Vietnam (Tie)

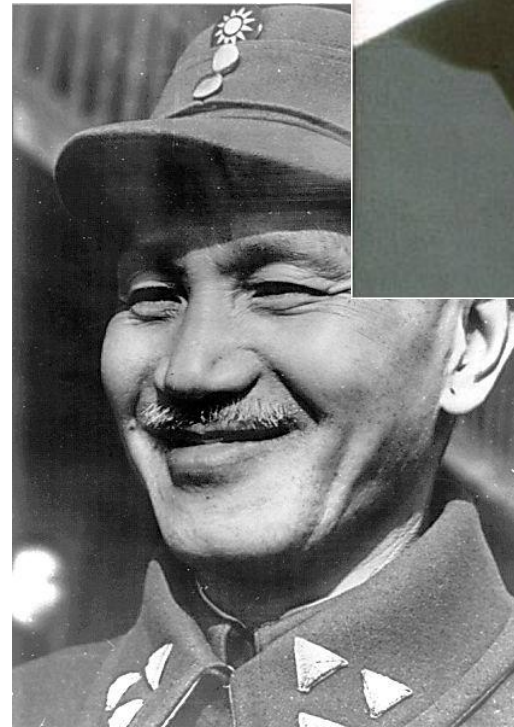


- August 15, 1945
- Ho Chi Minh declares independence from French
- Under Truman Doctrine who should we help?
- July 27, 1950
- Truman sent 300 advisors and \$3 Billion in aid to the French in order to fight communism



# 11. China Becomes Communist (Loss)

- October 1, 1949
  - Mao Zedong (Communist)
  - Chiang Kai-shek (Nationalist)
- Mao's communists overrun the nationalists who flee to Formosa (Taiwan)
  - Why? Mao had the support of the people
  - Mao had USSR support
- In response, Truman sent in the 7<sup>th</sup> fleet to protect Taiwan
- China is represented by Taiwan in the UN!!!



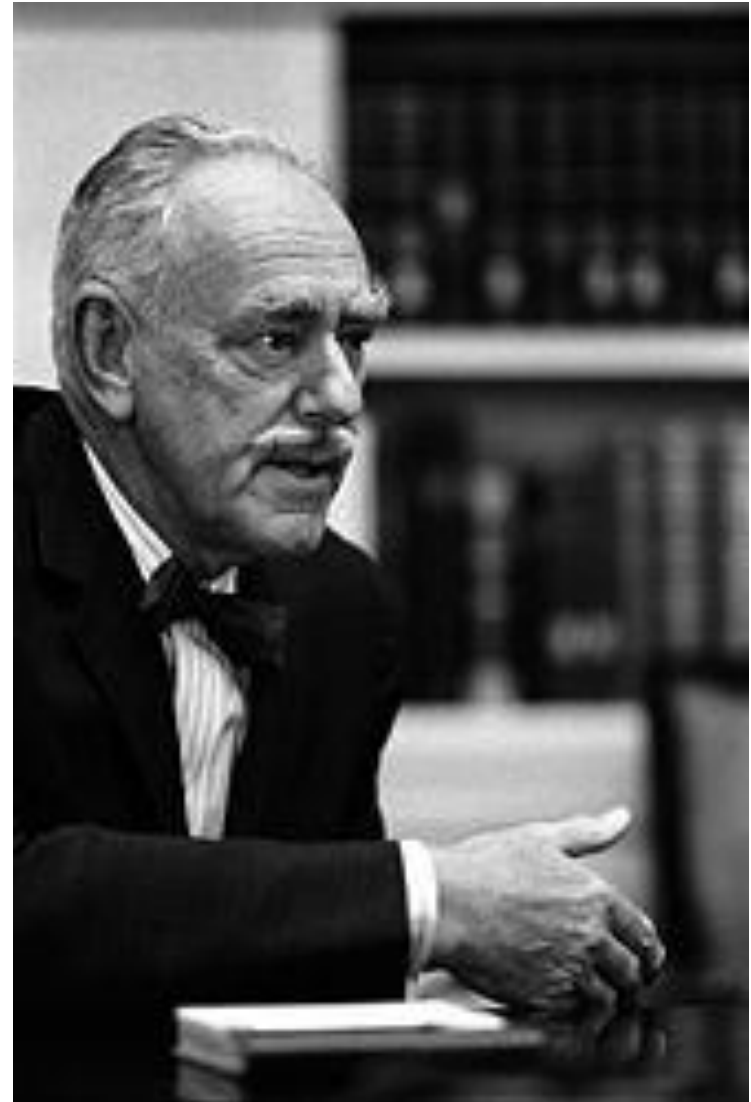
# 12. Korean War (Tie)

- WWII-Potsdam Conference (1945)
  - Agreed to partition Korea @ 38<sup>th</sup> parallel
  - North-Communist-Kim Il Sung
    - Supported by USSR
  - South-Democratic-Syngmann Rhee
    - Supported by USA
- Korea never divided before!!



# Reasons for the Korean War

- 1. NSC-68 (1950)- Quadruples the Defense Dept. Budget
- 2. US/USSR Withdraw from Korea (1949)
  - Had occupied for 4 Years
- 3. Dean Acheson-Defensive Perimeter
  - Secretary of State
  - “We will defend any area to the East of this line.”
- 4. Stalin’s Approval of the Invasion
  - North Korea wanted to reunify w/South Korea



# Stages of the Korean War

- 1. North Korean Attack (June 25, 1950)
  - UN forces pushed back to the Pusan Perimeter
  - June 27, 1950-UN meeting...
  - What happened to the USSR diplomat?
  - UN sends Douglas MacArthur



# Stages of the Korean War (cont.)

- 2. UN Counterattack (Operation Chromite)  
September 15, 1950
  - MacArthur's Daring Move
  - Caught North Koreans off guard!!
  - Eventually pushed North back to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel
  - Now what?





# Stages of the Korean War (cont.)

- 3. China Enters the War
  - MacArthur advances to the Yalu River
  - China warned the US not to approach their border
  - 1 million Chinese “volunteers” cross the border and push the US back to the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel



# Stages of the Korean War (cont.)

- 4. Stalemate at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel (July 1951)
  - The war bogs down along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel
  - Now what?
  - MacArthur wants 1 million more men and wants between 30-50 bombs to “nuke China”
  - Truman’s Decision
    - Replaces MacArthur w/Matthew Ridgway (Pgh.)
    - Knows that he will not be relected...



# Mac & Ridgeway





