

THE COLD WAR

1945 - 1989

“The Greatest Generation”

- Those who lived through the Great Depression and fought in WWII.
- They fought, not for fame or recognition, but because it was the right thing to do.
- When they returned, they built America into a superpower



Prosperity and Growth

- Women returned to traditional roles. The term “nuclear family” (Father, Mother, Children) is coined.
- William Levitt started the society of the suburb by mass producing houses, the first “cookie – cutter” neighborhoods
- The desire to “keep up with the Joneses” caused an increase in spending on a variety of goods (cars, washing machines, TV's, etc)
- The move to the suburbs, purchasing of cars and increased mobility led to the creation of the International Highway and the move to the “sunbelt.”



Levittown

**DRIVE
CAREFULLY**

The G.I. Bill

- Benefits included:
 - low-cost **mortgages**
 - low-interest **loans** to start a business or farm
 - cash payments of **tuition** and living expenses to attend school as well as one year of unemployment compensation.
 - available to every veteran who had been on active duty during the war years for at least ninety days and had not been dishonorably discharged.



Truman's Fair Deal

- Truman's "Fair Deal" called for new projects to create jobs, build public housing, and end racial discrimination in hiring.
- Many Republicans and Southern Democrats worked together to block his plans.
- Congress passed few of his proposals. Only his low-cost public housing measure became law.



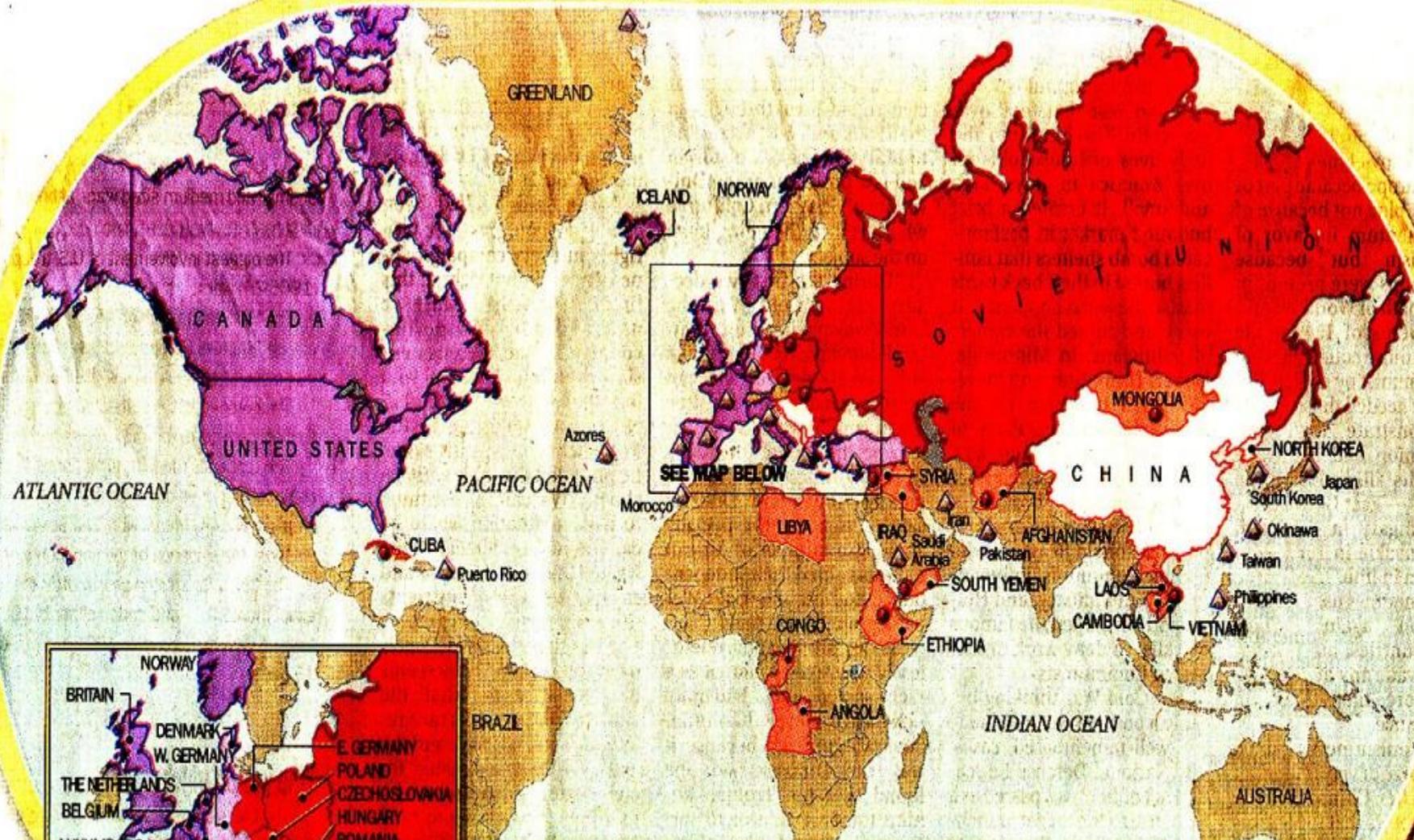
Origins of the Cold War

- The Cold War was a conflict that pitted the United States against the Soviet Union. **The two nations never directly confronted each other on the battlefield. It was a war of threats and intimidation.**
- Causes:
 - Differing economic and political systems resulted in misunderstandings and distrust.
 - Political future of Eastern Europe:
 - After freeing countries from Nazi rule, the Soviets remained in occupation of them
 - Stalin promised free elections in these nations but went on to install pro-Soviet governments. The USSR is formed.



The Truman Doctrine and NATO

- The Truman Administration's main strategy in the Cold War was its containment policy. The goal of containment was to stop the spread of communism.
- The Truman Doctrine promised aid to people struggling to resist threats to democratic freedom.
- This led to formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO).
 - United States, Canada, and ten Western European nations.
- In response, the Soviet Union and Eastern European nations formed the Warsaw Pact



The Cold War world

- NATO founding members (1949)
- Later NATO members
- Warsaw Pact members
- Warsaw Pact allies (1985)
- Independent Communist countries
- Principal U.S. overseas military bases (1962)
- Principal Soviet overseas military bases (1948-87)

Source: Hammond Atlas of World History

Star Tribune graphic by Greg Branson

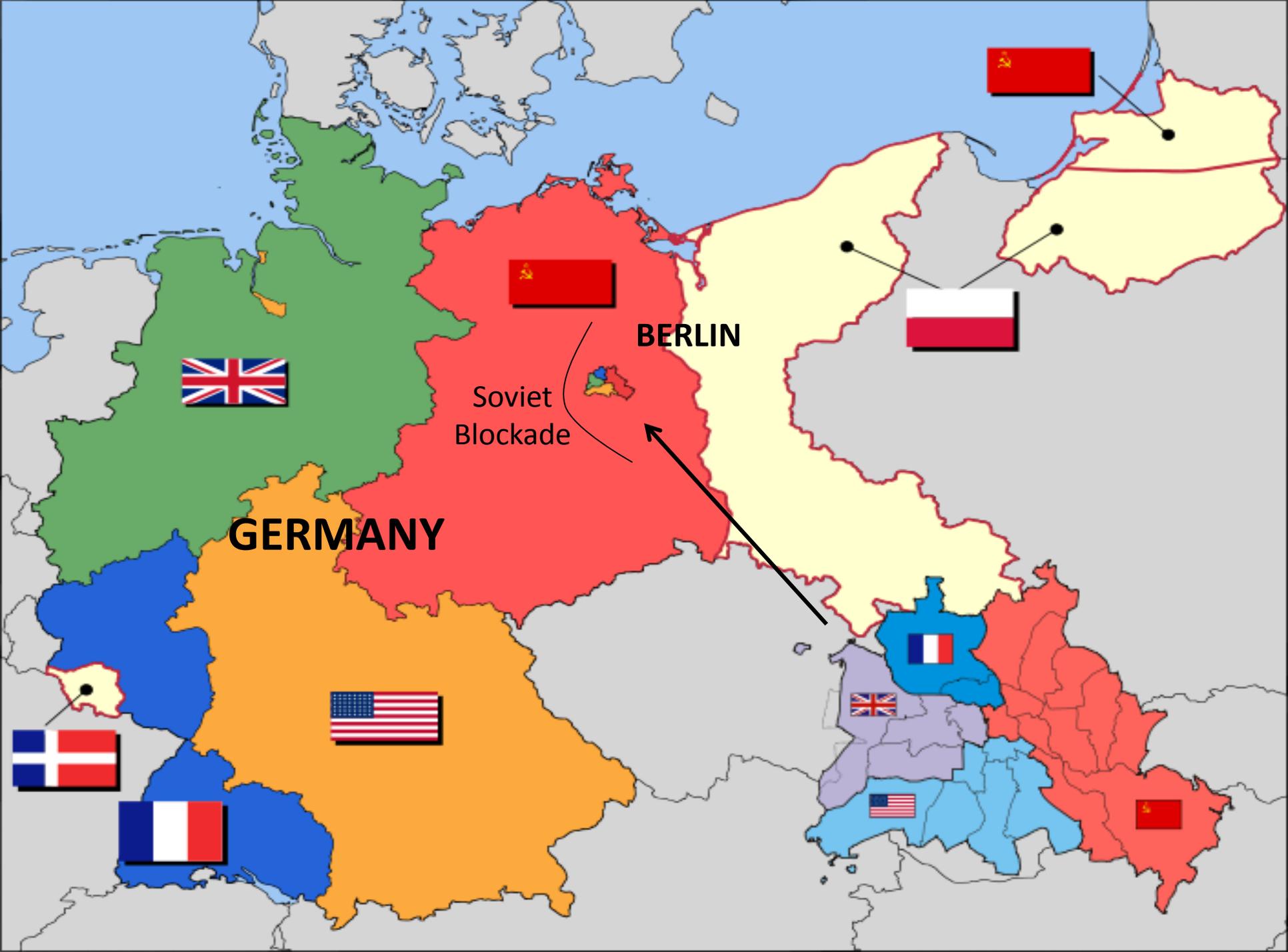
The Marshall Plan

- In an effort to get Western Europe strong enough to stand against the Communist East, America offers assistance.
- The Marshall Plan offered \$13 billion in aid to western and southern Europe.
- The plan helped the nations of Europe rebuild.



Division of Berlin

- In June of 1945, the Allies had agreed to a temporary division of Germany into four zones.
- These were controlled by the **Soviet Union, France, Great Britain, and the United States.**
- The Western powers merged their zones and made plans to unite them as West Germany.
- Stalin feared a united Germany might threaten the Soviet Union.
- Berlin, Germany's former capital, lay within the eastern zone, still held by the Soviet Union. Like Germany, it too had been divided into East and West Berlin.



GERMANY

BERLIN

Soviet
Blockade



The Berlin Airlift

- In 1948, **Stalin** hoped to force the Western powers to abandon the city. His forces **blocked access to Berlin**.
- Truman responded by approving a huge airlift of food, fuel, and equipment into the city.
- **For nearly a year, U.S. and British cargo planes made 275,000 flights into Berlin.**
- **They carried supplies to the city's residents.**
- In 1949, Stalin called off the blockade.
- By May 1949, Germany had been divided into communist East Germany and democratic West Germany.
- In 1961, the Berlin Wall is built.



Fear of Communism at Home

- Following WW II, more and more Americans feared that Communism would take root in the U.S.
- Spies caught feeding information to the Soviets made the fear worse.
 - **Alger Hiss** was a former State Department official accused of passing **military information** to the Soviet Union. Tried for lying under oath, he was sentenced to five years in prison in 1950.
 - [Ethel and Julius Rosenberg](#) were members of the American Communist Party. In 1951, they were convicted of passing **atomic secrets** to the Russians. They were executed.



Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

Controlling the Hysteria

- Truman fought Republican charges that his administration was soft on communism.
 - He issued an executive order requiring 3 million government workers to undergo loyalty checks.
 - Federal workers who objected to signing loyalty oaths lost their jobs.
 - Between 1947 and 1951, loyalty boards forced over 3,000 government workers to resign
- HUAC (House of Un-American Activities Committee).
 - targeted actors, directors, and writers in the movie industry for suspected communist ties.
 - Lists of names (blacklists) circulated among the Hollywood movie studios. These people couldn't get jobs
 - The careers of the people on these lists were ruined.

The Korean War

- In 1949, China falls to Communists and Mao Zedong gains control.
- In 1945, Soviet troops occupied Korea north of the 38th parallel. American forces took control south of this line.
- Communist North Korea
- Democratic South Korea
- 38th parallel is the line separating the two



- The Conflict
- In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea.
- Truman calls for the United Nations to assist.
 - 16 nations send soldiers
 - The great majority were Americans under Douglas MacArthur



Korean War Continued

- North Koreans **push almost to Pusan**
- **MacArthur** makes a risky move **and takes his troops behind enemy lines at Inchon.**
- Squeezed from two sides, the North retreats across the 38th parallel.
- MacArthur is allowed to pursue and the **North Koreans are backed up to the Yalu River between Korea and China.**

Photo # SC 357227 Troops watch bombardment of enemy-held area in Korea, Feb. 1951







- Seeing the presence of the UN forces in North Korea, **China sends hundreds of thousands of troops to assist** and the UN forces are pushed back to the **38th parallel**.
- **A two year deadlock keeps forces there.**
- The war **ends with a cease-fire**. No treaty was ever signed. The parallel has been guarded by **North Korean and American** troops around the clock all year ever since.

Old soldiers never die; they just fade away...”

- While in the deadlock, General MacArthur requested permission to blockade China’s coastline and bomb China.
- Truman refused, fearing another world war.
- MacArthur went over the President’s head, speaking to newspaper and magazine publishers as well as to Republican leaders.
- As Commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Truman saw this as undermining his control.
- He fired MacArthur and ordered him home.
- Treated as a hero upon his return, MacArthur gave a farewell speech before Congress.
 - “I now close my military career and just fade away—an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty. Good-bye.”



The McCarthy "Witchhunts"

- In February 1950, Joseph McCarthy, a Republican senator, declared that he had a list of 205 Communists working in the State Department.
- The charges were never proven but McCarthy's claim launched a hunt for Communists that wrecked the careers of thousands of people.

M'Carthy Charges Reds Hold U.S. Jobs

Truman Blasted For Reluctance To Press Probe

Wisconsin Senator Tells Lincoln Fete Here 'Chips Down'

By FRANK DESMOND
Of The Intelligence Staff

Joseph McCarthy, junior U. S. Senator from Wisconsin, was given a rousing ovation last night when, as guest of the Ohio County Republican Women's Club, he declared bluntly that the fate of the world rests with the clash between the atheism of Moscow and the Christian spirit throughout other parts of the world.

More than 275 representative Republican men and women were on hand to attend the colorful Lincoln Day dinner of the valley women which was held in the Colonnade room of the McClure hotel. Dismissing any oratorical fireworks, McCarthy's talk was of an

Wheeling Welcomes Wisconsin's Junior Senator

U. S. Senator Joseph McCarthy, center, is shown shaking hands with Tom Sweeney, Jr., as he arrived at the Stifel airport yesterday to address the Lincoln Day dinner of the Ohio County Republican Women's Club. Looking on is former Congressman Francis J. Leve.

Court Will Order Lewis Drop 'Illegal' Demands; Truman Move Is Awaited

By ROBERT E. LEE
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—(UP)—Federal Judge Richmond B. Keach announced today he would grant an injunction, probably tomorrow, ordering John L. Lewis to drop his "illegal" contract demands on the coal operators, or call off his strike. While the injunction is in force, the National Labor Relations Board will determine the legality of Lewis' demands. Meantime Lewis would have to drop them or face a heavy contempt penalty for violating the injunction.

The labor board will open a hearing February 20 on the legality of the demands. Meantime, there is nothing to prevent Lewis from dropping them and keeping his miners out on strike.

The injunction will apply only to demands which NLR's general counsel Robert N. Denham has called illegal. These are Lewis' insistence on a union shop, a "willing and able to work" clause and a welfare fund restricted to union members. It will not restrain the miners' request for a 50-cents-a-day wage increase and an increase of 15-cents-per-ton in operator royalty.

UMW Lieutenant Doubts Miners Will Obey Writ

Mine Workers Renew 'No Contract' Cry As Writ Announced

BY FRANK K. NOLL

- The term *McCarthyism* stands for reckless charges against innocent citizens.

- In Senate hearings, McCarthy accused the U.S. Army of “coddling Communists.” Army spokesmen then charged McCarthy’s staff with improper conduct.

- He faded from public life after Senate criticism about his actions.

“Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness. . . . Senator. You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?”



The Arms Race

- By **1949**, the **Soviets** had built their own **atomic bomb** with information from spies
- In **1952**, the **U.S.** detonated the first **hydrogen bomb (H-bomb)**, smaller than the atomic bomb but 2500 times more powerful
- By **1953**, the **Soviets** had an **H-bomb**
- By **1961**, there were **enough bombs to destroy the world.**
- By 1967, China had an H-bomb
- By **1986**, it is estimated that throughout the world there were **40,000** nuclear warheads_ - the equivalent of one million Hiroshima bombs.





North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)

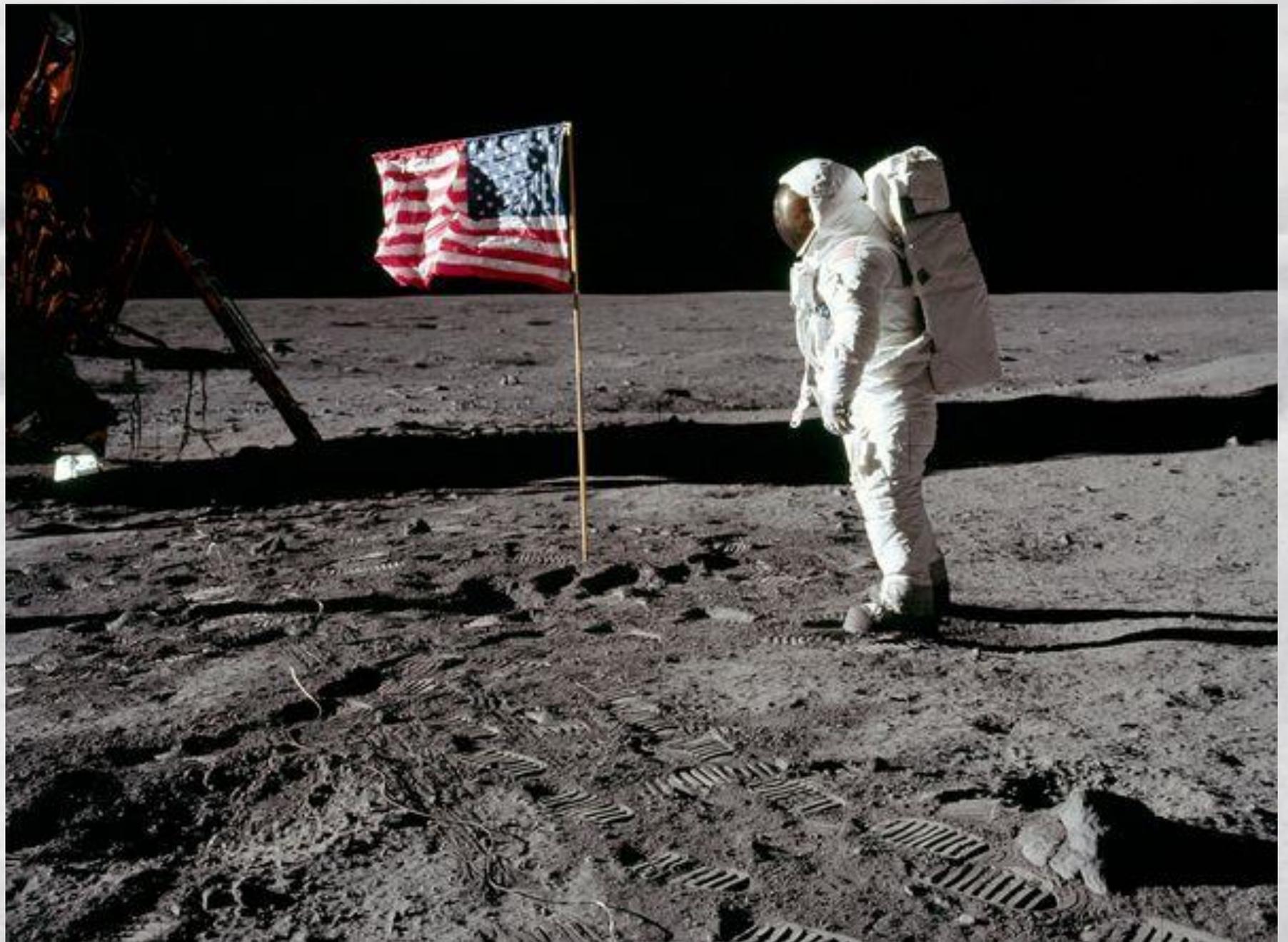
- Suggested in 1956 and approved in 1957, [NORAD](#) is charged with the missions of aerospace warning and aerospace control for North America.
- Aerospace warning includes the **detection, validation, and warning of attack** against North America whether by aircraft, missiles, or space vehicles.

Life in the Shadow of the Bomb

- With the ever present threat of MAD (mutually assured destruction), the governments sponsored many instructional movies to help people feel that they were safe.
 - [Living in a Fallout Shelter](#)
 - [Fallout Shelter Instructions](#)
 - [Duck and Cover](#)
- Some things were never shared with the public.
 - [Secret government bunkers](#)

The Space Race

- The **Soviets sent their first satellite** into space in **1957**.
 - Sputnik
 - Beach ball size and polished to reflect light
 - Meant to scare citizens around the world
- Congress set aside billions for space research
- An orbiting satellite would make it possible to launch a missile to another country (ICBM)
- In 1961, Soviet Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit the Earth
- Less than a month later Allan Shepard became the first American in space.
- In 1967, **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first men to walk on the moon**.



The Baby Boom

- From 1946 through 1961, more people were having larger families.
- In the 1950's, America's **population grew by 30 million**
- More people moved out of cities into **suburbs**
- The **“American Dream”** was to have a house, family, car, TV, radio, washing machine, etc



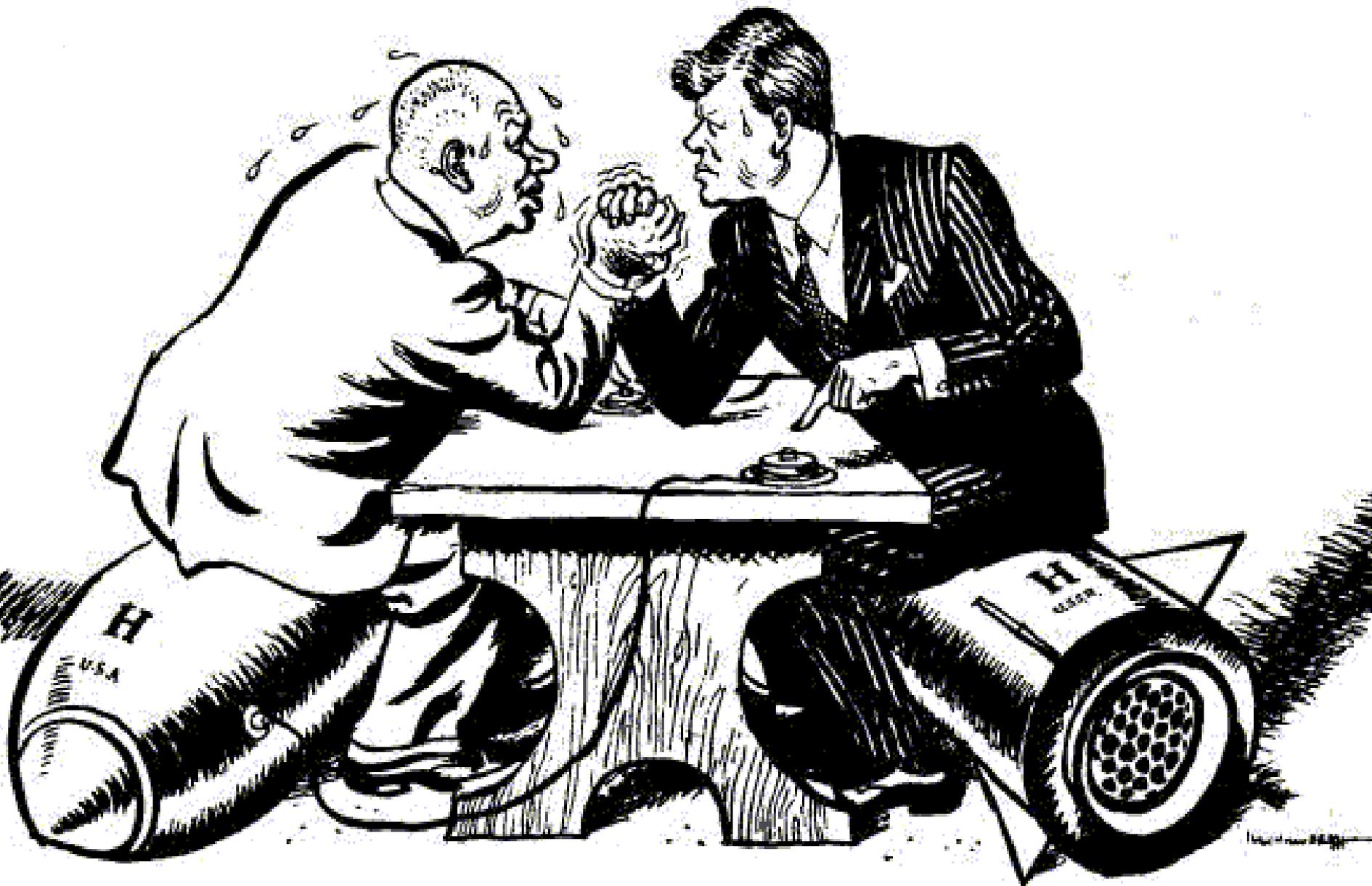
Pop Culture

- By 1960, nine out of ten households had a **television**.
- “Sitcoms” or situation comedies became popular
 - *Father Knows Best*
 - *Leave it to Beaver*
 - *I Love Lucy*
- **Rock-and-roll** was all the rage
 - *Bill Haley and the Comets*
 - *Elvis Presley*



Kennedy and the Cold War

- John F. Kennedy is elected President in 1960
- Bay of Pigs invasion, April 1961
 - An army of Cuban exiles, trained by the United States, invaded Cuba with a plan to overthrow the country's Communist leader, Fidel Castro. Cuban troops easily crushed the invasion. Embarrassing for Kennedy
- The Berlin Wall, June 1961
 - The Soviets build a wall separating East and West Berlin. It quickly becomes a symbol of Communist oppression
- Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962
 - Fidel Castro, believing the United States planned another attack on Cuba, had asked for more Soviet military aid. The United States learned that the Soviets had put nuclear missiles in Cuba. These missiles could reach U.S. cities within minutes.



Civil Rights Movement

- Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954)
 - Schools could no longer be segregated
- Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955)
 - Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person



- Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Organized the Bus Boycott and is chosen to lead the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference** which would conduct the **Civil Rights Movement**. “I Have a Dream” speech. Assassinated in Memphis in 1968.



- Little Rock Nine (1957)

- **Nine black students attempting to go to a desegregated high school are stopped** by mobs of angry citizens and the National Guard. **President Eisenhower sends the 101st Airborne to escort the students to school**



Non-violence meeting Violence

- Black young people engage in [sit-ins](#) where they would **sit at a lunch counter peacefully** as white people abused them. When finally dragged away or arrested, another black person would take their seat and continue.
- [Freedom riders](#) were white and black college students who would take interstate buses and purposefully trade positions with blacks in the front and whites in the back. This led to desegregation of the buses.
- 1964, [Freedom Summer](#). **White and black college students from the North travelled into the deep South to try and get the black population to register to vote.** Many are beaten and killed.



Marches

- 1963, Birmingham, Alabama. [The Children's March](#). SCLC recruited children to march in protest knowing that violence conducted against them would show poorly on television and gain more sympathy for the cause
- 1963, the March on Washington. 250,000 black and white people march in protest to Washington, D.C. King gives his famous ["I Have a Dream"](#) speech at the Lincoln Memorial. The size of the march causes President Kennedy to call for change. He is assassinated before it occurs
- 1965, the March on Selma, Alabama. ["Bloody Sunday"](#). MLK leads a march for voting rights. After crossing a bridge, state troopers on horseback attack them.



Legislation

- President Johnson uses Kennedy's assassination to help push the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) through Congress.
 - The law **banned segregation in public places**, such as hotels, restaurants, and theaters. It also created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to prevent job discrimination.
- The violence shown towards the peaceful marchers at Selma, Alabama leads Johnson to sign the **Voting Rights Act of 1965** into law.
 - It **banned literacy tests and other laws that kept blacks from registering to vote**. It also sent federal officials to register voters.

Assassinations

- On November 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Lyndon Baines Johnson went to Texas to campaign. As the presidential motorcade passed through Dallas, thousands of people greeted the president. Suddenly, shots rang out. Kennedy slumped forward; he'd been hit. The president died within an hour. The nation mourned.
- on April 4, 1968, [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. As the nation mourned the slain civil rights leader, African-American neighborhoods across the country exploded in anger. Over 45 people died in the rioting.

The Vietnam War

- The Domino Theory - if a country fell to communism, nearby countries would also topple, like a row of dominoes standing on end.
- 1954 – The Geneva Accords divided Vietnam into North and South at the 17th parallel.
- Ho Chi Minh and the communists controlled the North.
 - He was very popular
- Ngo Dinh Diem became President in the South.
 - In spite of U.S. aid, Diem established a corrupt government rather than a democratic one.
 - Jailed, tortured, and killed opponents.



Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

- With U.S. help, a military coup in 1963 removes the Diem government. Chaos followed.
- By late 1964, combined Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces controlled much of the South Vietnamese countryside.
- The U.S. destroyer *Maddox* had been patrolling in the Gulf of Tonkin when North Vietnamese torpedo boats fired on it.
- President Johnson asks Congress to pass the [Gulf of Tonkin Resolution](#) allowing the him power to use military force in Vietnam.

Viet Cong

- Consisted of **South Vietnamese Communists**
- They fought to overthrow the Diem government and unite the country under communist rule.
- North Vietnam supported the Viet Cong, sending soldiers and supplies along a network of paths called the **Ho Chi Minh Trail**. This supply line wove through the jungles and mountains of neighboring Laos and Cambodia.



Frustrations

- **Limited war for fear of drawing China** into the fight.
- Average age of soldiers was 19
- One year tour of duty meant that, by the time they gained experience, they were leaving
- **No front line.** The Viet Cong mixed with the general population and operated everywhere. Even a child on a corner could toss a grenade into a truck of U.S. troops.
- Viet Cong guerillas had a network of tunnels and had riddled the countryside with land mines and booby traps such as hidden pits filled with sharpened bamboo spikes.
- The heat was suffocating and the rain was constant.
- The Viet Cong were supplied by the North along the Ho Chi Minh Trail



Problems in Vietnam

- **Napalm** – a jellied gasoline substance that sticks and burns on contact. It generates heat of 1,500 to 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Agent Orange** – a defoliant which would destroy trees and other foliage so that the guerillas would be exposed. Toxins from this defoliant has **led to widespread birth defects among the population.**



- When her village was accidentally bombed by S. Vietnamese, nine-year-old Kim Phuc was with a group of civilians trying to flee the village. Planes mistook them for soldiers and bombed them with napalm. She was naked from having her clothes burned off.

Photographer Nick Ut described the scene: “I keep shooting, shooting pictures of Kim running. Then when she passed my camera, I saw her body burned so badly, I said, ‘Oh my God, I don’t want no more pictures.’ She was screaming and crying. She just said, ‘I’m dying, I’m dying, I’m dying,’ and, ‘I need some water, bring water.’ Right away, [I] run and put water on her body. I want to help her. I say no more pictures, I want to help [her] right away.”



- 1967, the Tet Offensive – on the Vietnamese New Year (Tet), the Viet Cong staged a surprise attack on U.S. military bases and more than 100 cities and towns in South Vietnam.
 - They had smuggled weapons in using peddler's carts, food trucks, coffins, etc. Dressed as civilians, they entered towns unnoticed
 - Military defeat for North Vietnam as they lost many men but gained no cities. Showed Americans, though, that no end was in sight and many questioned whether the war was worth the loss of lives.
- 1968, My Lai Massacre – An American platoon rounded up and shot between 175 and 500 unarmed civilians, mostly women, children, and old men.



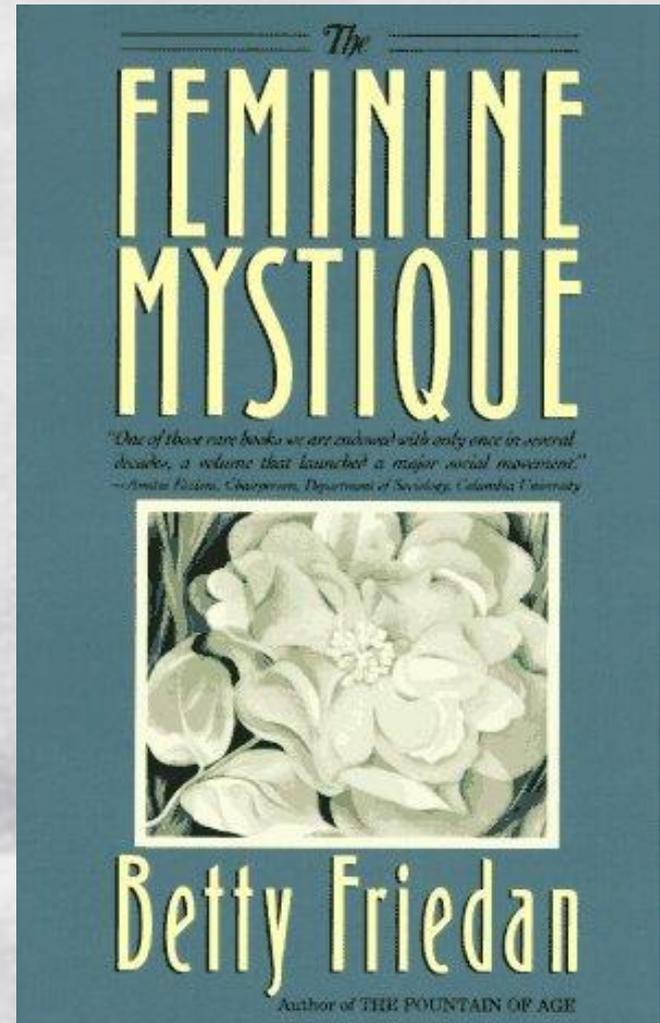
Problems at Home

- Nixon announced his plan to gradually turn the fighting over to the Vietnamese (Vietnamization) but proceeded to bomb Cambodia trying to stop movement on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
 - Americans were angered that he had expanded the fighting while claiming to be withdrawing troops.
- Americans were angry that those drafted were primarily poor.
- Protests occur at college campuses all over the U.S.
 - Kent State – Four college students are shot by the National Guard in Ohio.
- Public anger and distrust lead to Nixon withdrawing the troops.
- In 1975, South Vietnam falls to North Vietnam and is united under one Communist Flag.



The Feminist Movement

- In the 60's, women were kept out of many jobs and had limited legal rights. They couldn't sign contracts, get credit or sell property. Pregnant women could be fired
- Betty Friedan writes *The Feminine Mystique* describing the problem and organizes the National Organization for Women (NOW)



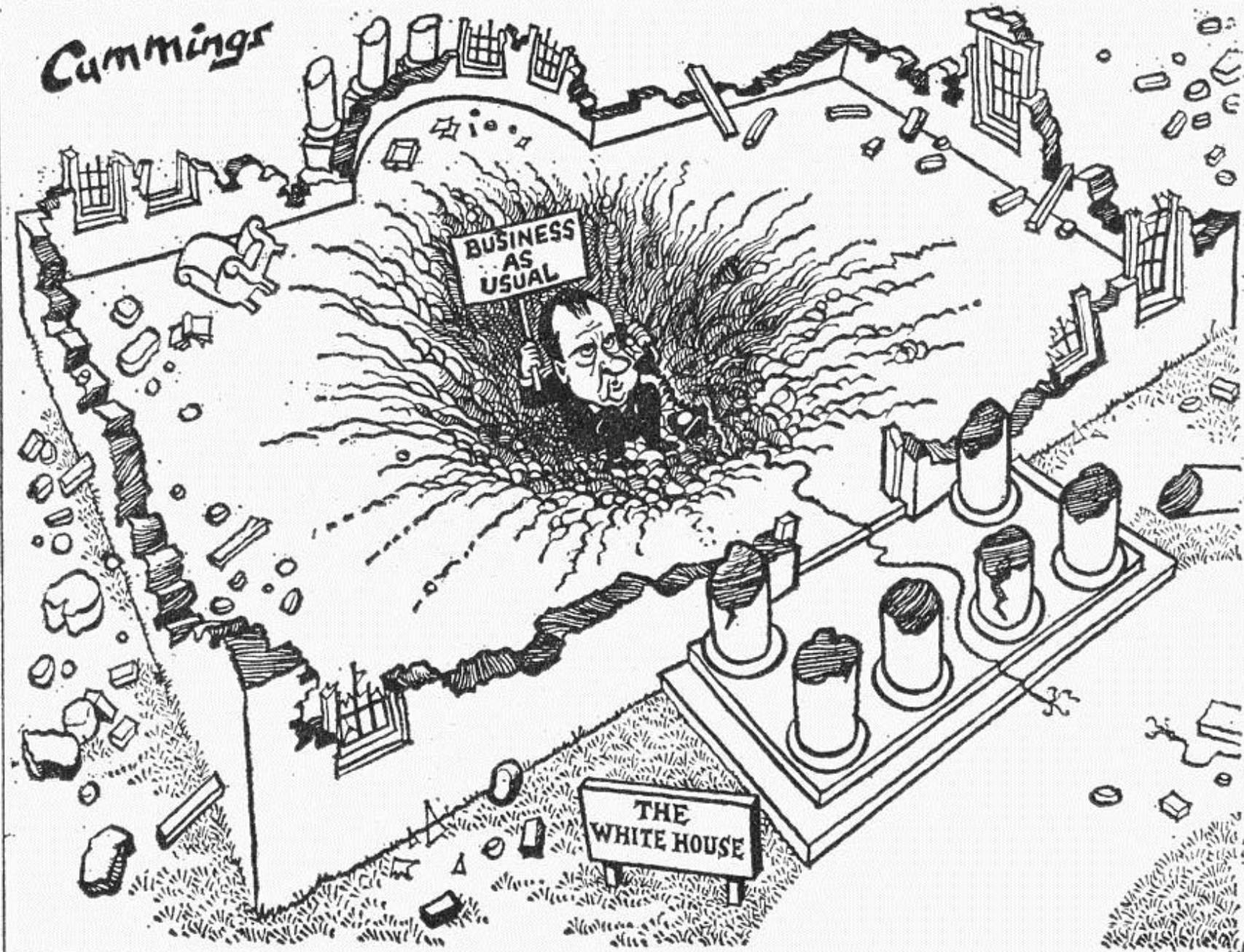
Nixon and China

- Nixon opposed communism but believed that a nation of a billion could not be ignored.
- He arranged a trip to visit China in 1972.
- This trip led to the opening of diplomacy and trade with the Chinese.
- Nixon's China trip affected American relations with the Soviet Union, which was having conflicts with China.
- The Soviets feared closer relations between the United States and China. So they invited Nixon to Moscow in May 1972.
- As a result, Soviet-American relations improved.
- Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty of 1972 put a limit on the number of nuclear weapons that country can have.

Watergate

- On June 17, 1972. Five men were caught breaking into Democratic Party headquarters in the [Watergate](#) office-apartment complex in Washington, D.C. The burglars had cameras and listening devices for the telephones. They were linked to Nixon's reelection campaign staff.
- **Nixon attempted to cover up any White House connection.**
 - He and his aides lied, paid people to lie, and used the CIA to halt the FBI investigation. He also agreed to pay “hush money” to keep the burglars quiet.
- **Facing impeachment, Nixon resigned from the presidency.** His vice-president, Spiro Agnew, had resigned 10 months earlier when he was found to have accepted bribes.
- Americans lost faith in government.

Cummings



Ford and Carter

- Gerald Ford
 - Lost the confidence of many Americans when he [pardoned Richard Nixon](#)
 - High inflation and a recession putting people out of work led him to lose the election to
- Jimmy Carter
 - Oil and natural gas shortages forced many schools and businesses to close.
 - Oil prices went up. Inflation surged beyond 10 percent and unemployment rose.
 - In foreign policy, he negotiated the [Camp David Accords](#) in **which Israel and Palestine signed a peace treaty.**

Iran Hostage Crisis

- For decades, the United States had supported the Shah (king) of Iran. In 1979, Muslim leaders overthrew his government. When Carter allowed the Shah to come to the United States for medical treatment, Iranians struck back at the United States.
- On November 4, 1979, they overran the American embassy in Iran's capital of Tehran and took 52 Americans hostage.
- They remained hostage for over two years.



Reaganomics

- The economic policy of Ronald Reagan
 - Lower taxes for corporations (“trickle down” economics)
 - Deregulation
 - Fewer Government Programs
 - A Conservative Supreme Court
- By 1983, inflation had decreased, and more people found jobs. Business boomed.
- Reagan’s policies created a problem. Because of the tax cut, the federal government took in less money and had to resort to deficit spending.
- As a result, the national debt doubled from 1981 to 1986.
- Video - Rachel Maddow on the failure of [Reagonomics](#)

Star Wars

- On March 23, 1983, President Reagan proposed the creation of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), an ambitious project that would construct **a space-based anti-missile system**.
- This program was immediately dubbed "Star Wars."
- SDI was designed to **vaporize missiles from space by way of a laser guidance system**, before they reached U.S. soil.
- This system would **tip the nuclear balance toward the United States**.
- Although work was begun on the program, the technology proved to be **too complex** and much of the research was cancelled by later administrations.
- **Billions were spent** on this program.

Space Shuttle Challenger

- January 28, 1986 - *Space Shuttle Challenger* broke apart 73 seconds into its flight, leading to the deaths of its seven crew members.
- The spacecraft disintegrated over the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of central Florida at 11:38 EST.
- Christa McAuliffe, a schoolteacher from New Hampshire, was one of the seven crewmembers who perished.
- [The nation mourned.](#)



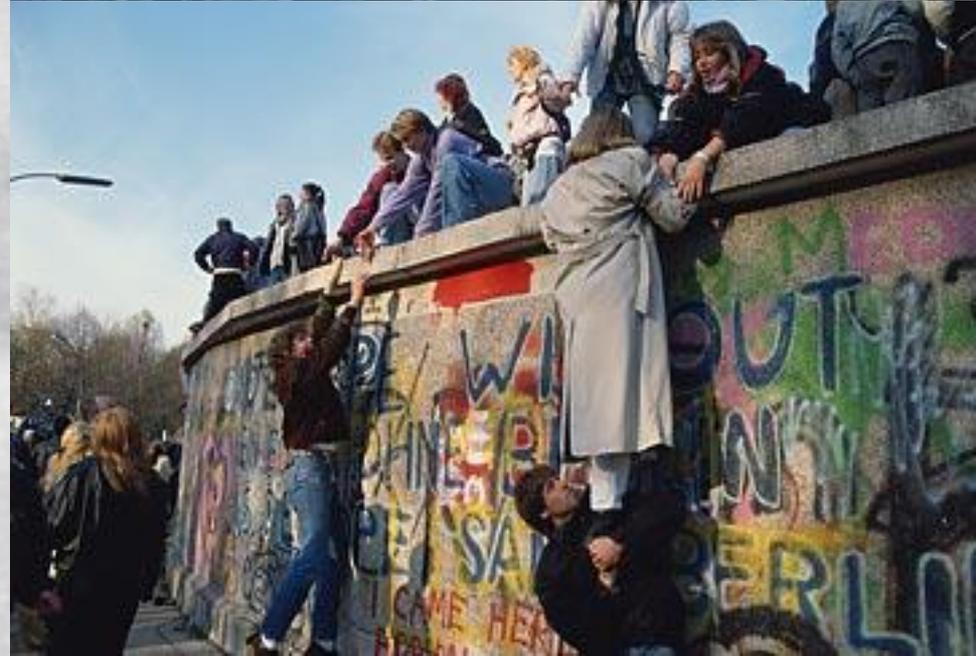
Terrorism as a Political Tool

- **1983 – Bombing of U.S. Embassy in Beirut**
 - **Sixty-three people**, including the CIA's Middle East director, were **killed** and **120 were injured** in a 400-pound suicide truck-bomb attack.
- **1983 – Bombing of Marine Barracks in Beirut**
 - A 12,000-pound bomb destroyed the U.S. compound, killing 242 Americans.
- **1985 – TWA Hijacking**
 - The eight crew members and 145 passengers were held for seventeen days, during which one American hostage, a U.S. Navy sailor, was murdered.
- **1988 – Pan Am Bombing**
 - 259 killed when Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland.



Fall of the Wall

- Communists built the Berlin Wall in 1961 to separate Communist East Berlin from West Berlin.
- In the 1980s, the U.S.S.R. was failing. [Reagan](#) pushed for an end to the separation and communism in 1987.
- In November 1989, East Germans tore down the [wall](#).



The End

