

# Origins of the Cold War – Eastern Europe-Soviet Influence



# Origins of the Cold War – Percentages Agreement

- ▶ When Churchill visited Stalin in Moscow in October 1944, they agreed to divide up influence in the Balkans:
  - Rumania – Russia 90%; Others 10%
  - Greece – Others 90%; Russia 10%
  - Yugoslavia – 50-50%
  - Hungary – 50-50%
  - Bulgaria – Russia 75%; Others 25%

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe



▶ All countries in Eastern Europe became communist. This was done by one of two methods:

- Eliminated anti-Communist leaders before elections
- Forcefully installed a Communist government if a government other than Communist was elected

▶ East Germany and other countries became marginally independent “satellite” states bound to the Soviet Union

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe

- ▶ Once this was done, the countries would undergo political and cultural “sovietization”:
  - The local military and police would be infiltrated by Soviet Military Intelligence
  - Education and culture would be remodelled on the soviet pattern
  - Censorship would be imposed

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe

► The Soviet Union did not annex the countries because:

- If fully absorbed, these areas would cease to be a buffer-zone
- Stalin wanted to get an empire without the title so he wouldn't completely alienate the West
- The war-ravaged USSR could not absorb the new territories
- Many of the states of Eastern Europe were accustomed to a much higher standard of living than the USSR

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe

France, Britain, and the U.S. wanted a reunited Germany

The USSR responded by tightening their grip on their Eastern zone



# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Poland

- ▶ The U.S. wanted an independent Poland because:
  - An independent Poland next to the large Soviet Union would probably be allies with the U.S. for protection
    - ▶ Poland had been partitioned three times
    - ▶ Poles invaded Russia
    - ▶ Katyn Forest Massacre
    - ▶ Red Army halts
    - ▶ Stalin didn't recognize the Polish gov't in exile
    - ▶ The independence of Poland had been at least partly the cause of why Britain and France had gone to war





# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe:

## Poland

At Yalta, it was determined that:

- The new Eastern frontier of Poland should be the Curzon Line
- No agreement could be reached about the western border
- The Polish Government was to be enlarged and free elections held





# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Poland

- ▶ The Soviets wanted Poland because:
  - Russia wanted a buffer area because they had been invaded many times:
    - ▶ 1 time by the French
    - ▶ 2 times by the Germans
- ▶ The Soviets then installed a Polish Communist government. Free elections were never held

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Hungary

- ▶ Were treated by the invading Red Army as a defeated enemy
- ▶ A coalition gov't was formed led by the Smallholders Party
- ▶ When the PM Ferenc Nagy went to Switzerland to see a medical specialist, he was asked to resign by the Communists, using his family as hostages



# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Hungary

- ▶ Rigged elections were held in August 1947
- ▶ Leaders of non-communist parties fled
- ▶ The remainder of the parties were incorporated into a communist led coalition, the National Independence Front



# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Rumania

- ▶ Rumania was a defeated enemy
- ▶ In 1947, Peasant Party leader Ion Maniu was accused of being an agent of the U.S. and Britain
- ▶ He and others were arrested
- ▶ The King eventually abdicated



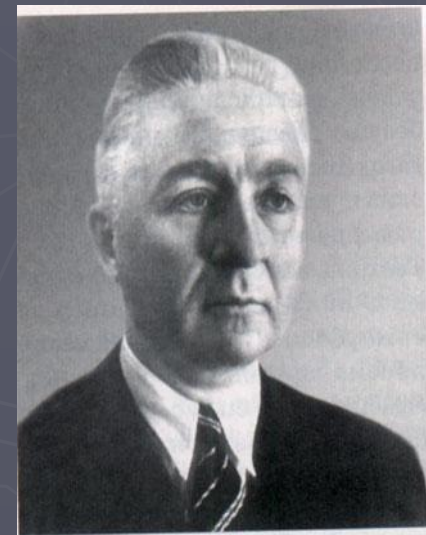
# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Rumania

- ▶ In Feb. 1948, the Peasant Party was merged with the communists
- ▶ The coalition of parties won rigged elections



# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Bulgaria

- ▶ Bulgaria had been an enemy, but was treated as a liberated ally
- ▶ In Jun. 1947, the leader of the Agrarian Party, Nicola Petkov, was arrested
- ▶ The Agrarian Party was merged with the Communists in the Fatherland Front
- ▶ During 1948, the coalition won rigged elections



# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Czechoslovakia

- ▶ Czechoslovakia was treated as a liberated ally
- ▶ The Communist Party already had a mass following of workers and students
- ▶ The failure of the policy of appeasement was the cause of the rise of Communism





# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Czechoslovakia

- ▶ In Feb. 1948, the communist Minister of the Interior, Vaclav Nosek, replaced the eight police commissioners in Prague with communists
- ▶ The cabinet voted to reverse this, but the minister refused to agree and the PM supported him
- ▶ Non-communist members of the cabinet all resigned in protest

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Czechoslovakia

- ▶ Anti-Communist demonstrations took place in Prague
- ▶ Two ministers were killed by defenestration
- ▶ In June, the president resigned and political parties were merged into a single communist dominated National Front

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Yugoslavia

▶ When the Germans withdrew, the communist partisans led by Joseph Tito took over the country



# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Yugoslavia

- ▶ There were problems between the USSR and Yugoslavia:
  - Soviet advisers were arrogant
  - Stalin offered Yugoslavia no support in its claim upon Trieste
- ▶ As a result, Tito acted independently from the USSR



# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Yugoslavia

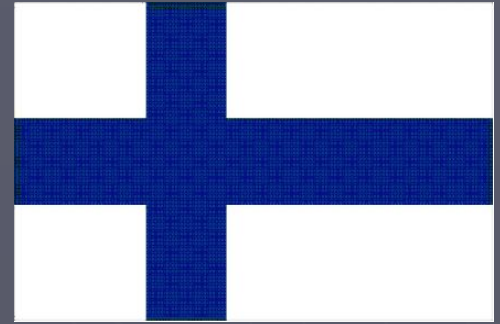
- ▶ Stalin tried to overthrow Tito by non-military means:
  - He expelled them from Cominform
  - Cut off economic aid
  - Withdrew Soviet advisors
  - Made the satellites break their agreements with Yugoslavia
  - Launched a propaganda campaign against Tito

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Yugoslavia

## ► As a result:

- Tito became a popular leader
- They received aid from the West
- Witch hunts and mass trials were held in other satellite states in order to remove nationalist communists from positions of authority and make those states subservient to Stalin

# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Finland



- ▶ Finland had been an ally of the Germans and was right next to the USSR
- ▶ After the war, the Finns agreed to:
  - Neutrality in the Cold War
  - No alliances
  - A foreign policy that wouldn't work against the USSR
  - Host Soviet military bases in return for non-interference in Finland's internal affairs



# Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Albania

- After the withdrawal of the German forces, the communist partisans took over control of Albania
- Royalists in exile were secretly trained by the British and secretly sent to Albania to incite a civil war against the Communists
- However, they disappeared because the operation had been betrayed by a double agent

