

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



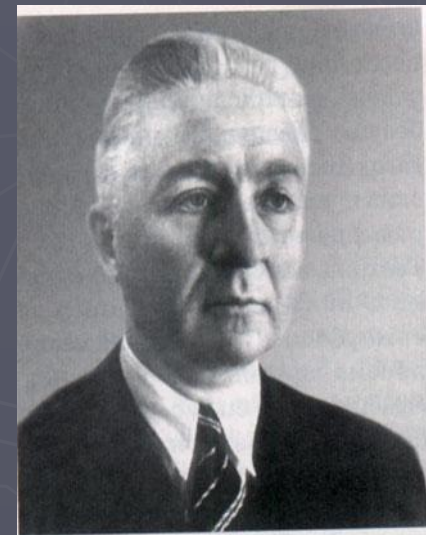
Origins of the Cold War – Sovietization of Eastern Europe: Rumania

- ▶ 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

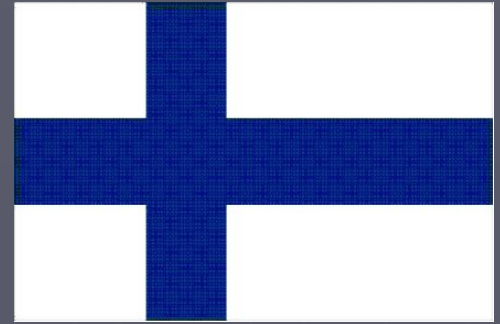
- ▶ Stalin tried to overthrow Tito by non-military means:
 - He expelled them from Cominform
 - Cut off economic aid
 - Withdrew Soviet advisors
 - Made the satellites break their agreements with Yugoslavia
 - Launched a propaganda campaign against Tito

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

