

THE USA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1945-1991

The US model in the bipolar world

The USA in Cold war crises: Cuba and Vietnam

**Questioning of the US model: Civil rights and
the hippies**

From 1945 to 1991 during the Cold War, the USA played a huge part in the world diplomacy.

As the main winner of WWII , it helped to establish a new order but had to face the Soviets into a war by proxy: THE COLD WAR

The USA firstly took the lead of the WEST and imposed its model

It also played a part into major Cold War crises

This is why It was questioned in the 60's both by Americans themselves and all around the world

I/ THE USA TOOK THE LEAD OF THE WEST

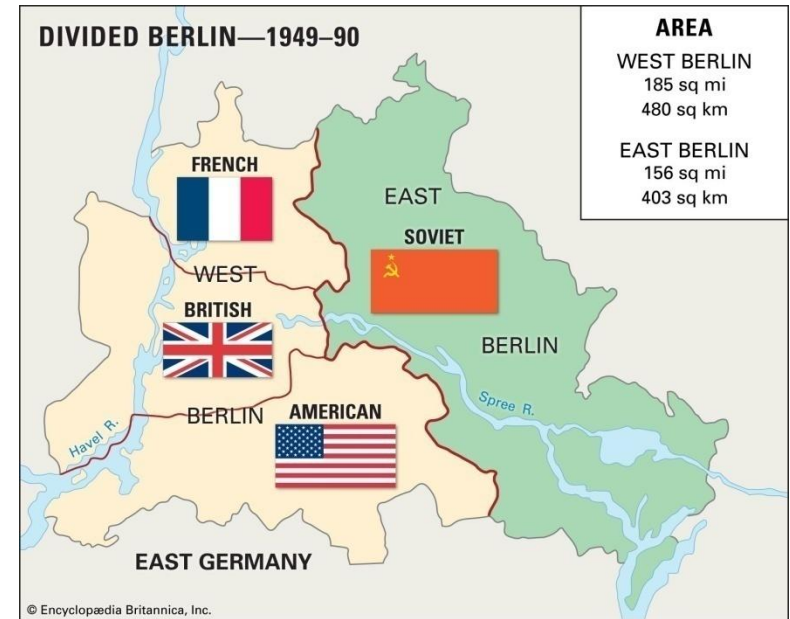
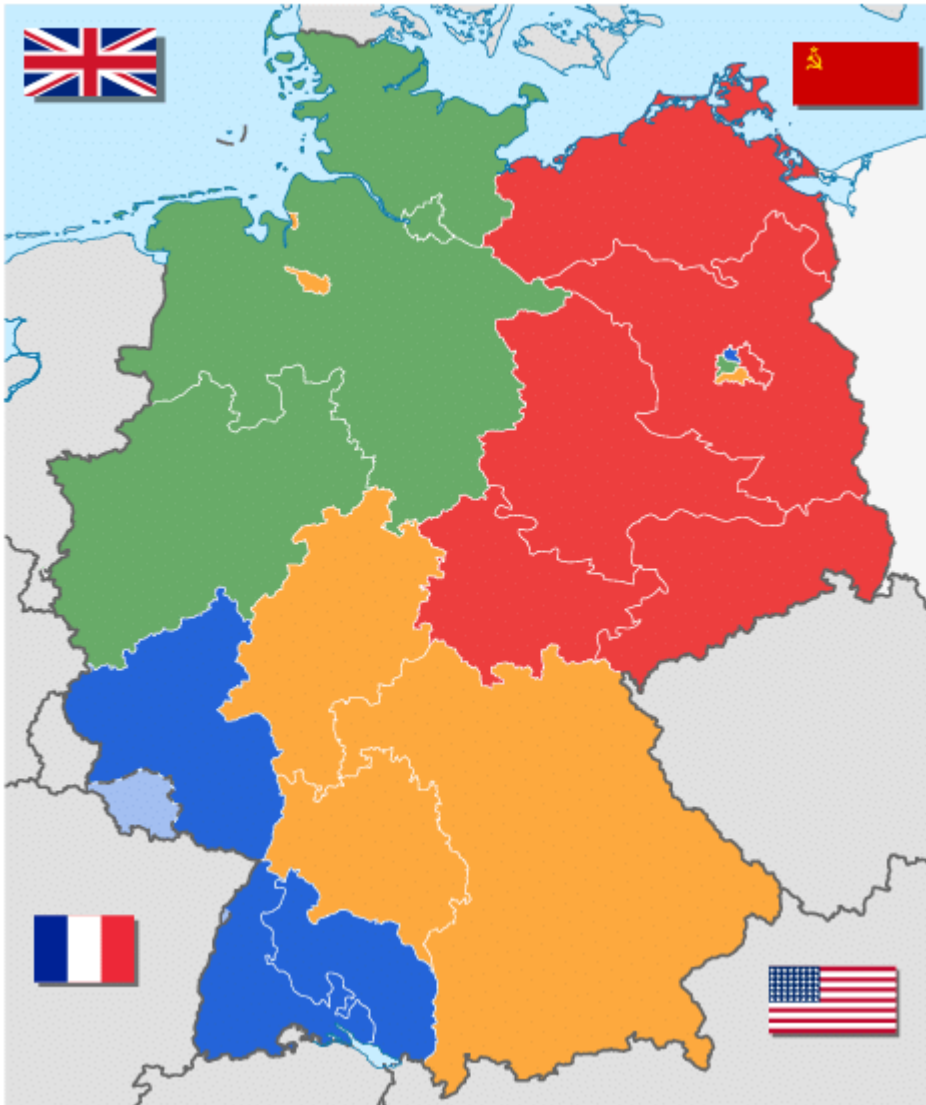
A/ It was active in post-war conferences

1-Yalta: in February 1945

It was to decide of the future of Germany

It planned to dismember Germany and create 4 zones of occupation.

Berlin was divided too but It was in the Soviet zone





2-San Francisco:June 1945

-50 states founded the UNO

-It's based on the UN Charter

-It was to preserve peace and improve the former League of Nations.

-It was proposed by the USA

-5 countries were permanent members of the Security Council (Fra, the USA, the USSR, the UK, China)

Each had the right of VETO

In case of a veto or of an absence of one member,
NO RESOLUTION COULD BE PASSED

3-The Potsdam conference in July 17th August 1945

-Attended by: Atlee, Truman, Stalin

It enforced Yalta's decisions



B/ It asserted its economic power

**1-The USA used its economic power to « rescue »
the « old continent »**

-It is part of the « Manifest Destiny »:

Originally, It was a so-called God-given mission to extend (white) civilization westward.

When It was over, It meant defending freedom and democracy in the world

-The USA had two-third of the world gold stock in 1945

This is why the president H Truman launched the TRUMAN DOCTRINE in 1947

The economic branch of this doctrine is called the MARSHALL PLAN

■ The Truman doctrine

"The peoples of a number of countries of the world have recently had totalitarian regimes forced upon them against their will. The Government of the United States has made frequent protests against coercion and intimidation, in violation of the Yalta agreement, in Poland, Rumania, and Bulgaria. [...] At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one.

One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression.

The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio; fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms. I believe that it must be the policy of the United

States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. [...] I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes. [...] The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. [...]"

Harry Truman (1884-1972), Speech to the US Congress, March 12th, 1947.

1-Identify the source

2-What does Truman mean when he refers to « violation of the Yalta agreement »?

The Soviets did not organize free elections in the countries they liberated as it was asked in Yalta

3-What are for him the two alternative ways of life in the world in 1945?

One way is the democracy with freedom and free elections.

It clearly refers to the American model

The other is the dictatorship based on terror and oppression.

It alludes to the USRR

But he never clearly mentions it

4-Why does he suggest economic intervention at the end of the text?

To him economic help would bring “ economic stability” and avoid the spread of totalitarianism

It announces the Marshall Plan (1947): it was an economic help offered to any countries which wanted it.

In return the country would become a US ally.

It's a way to avoid the spread of communism so it was not only an economic program

5- Is this document biased?

Yes because Truman clearly stands up against communism and the USSR even if he never mentions the names

Truman has also a clear Manichean vision of the world in the text

THE 1946 KENNAN TELEGRAM

C/ The USA used its hard power to create a military alliance

1949 NATO: military alliance of the West to defend against a possible communist aggression

It was followed by a series of alliances nicknamed « Pactomania »

Ex: 1951 ANZUS: Australia and New Zealand

Ex: 1955 Bagdad Pact with the Middle East

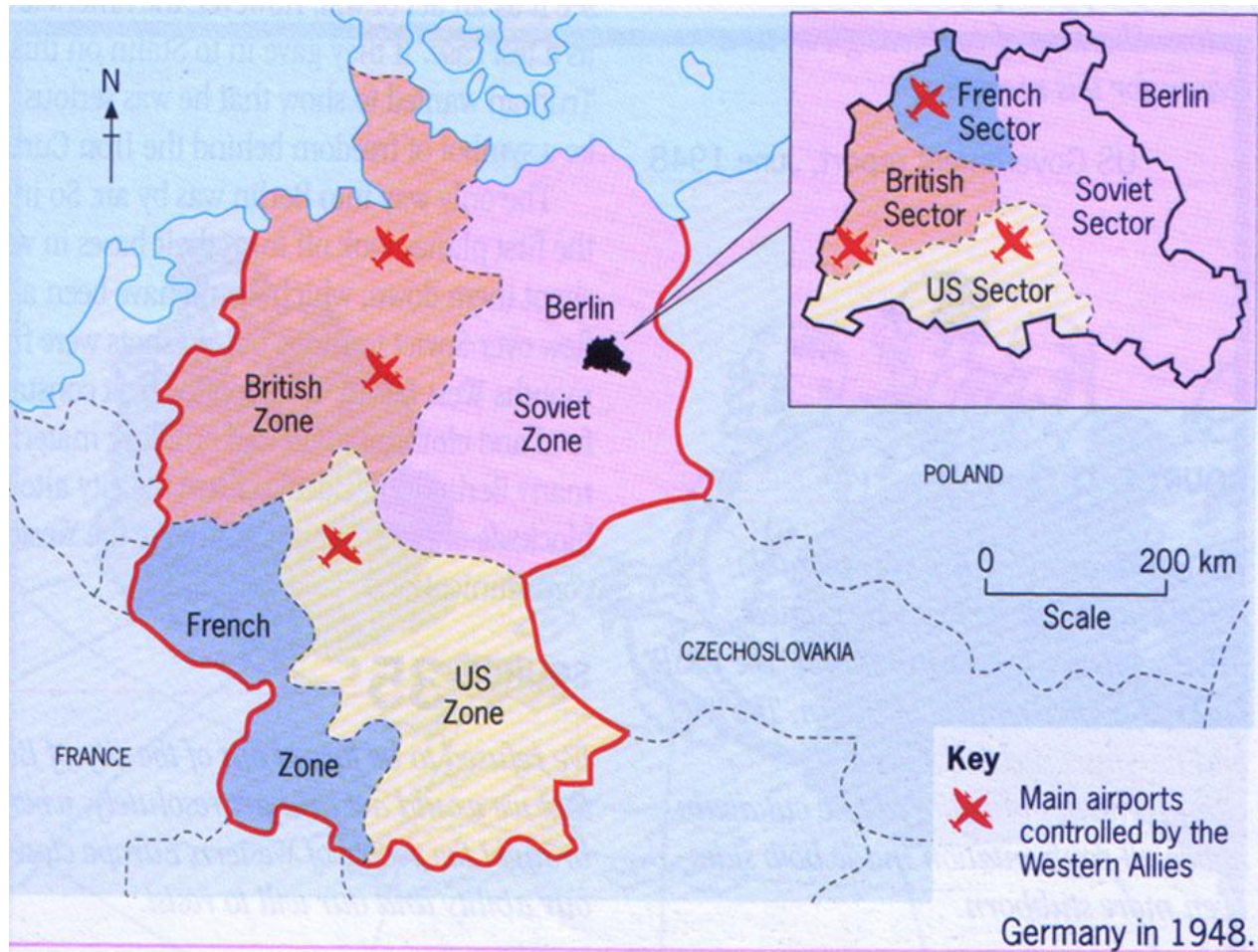
The USA quickly got involved into cold war crises to defend freedom and democracy and to stop the Soviets

III/ THE USA WAS INVOLVED INTO MAJOR COLD WAR CONFLICTS

III/ THE USA WAS INVOLVED INTO MAJOR COLD WAR CONFLICTS

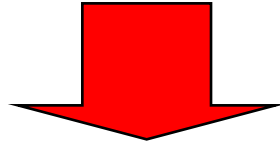
A/ The Berlin blockade: an early source of tension

1-THE SITUATION OF GERMANY IN 1945

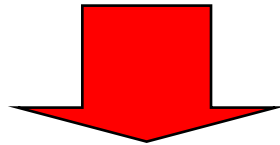


2-How did it start?

In 1948, The British, the French and the Americans decided to unify their zones of occupation and introduce a new single currency: The Deutsche Mark.



Stalin feared the gap between the « poor » German Soviet zone and the « rich » newly-unified German Capitalist zone would widen



He closed all roads, canals, and rail links to Berlin to reduce the city to a STARVATION POINT

BERLIN BLOCKADE

THE BLOCKADE



6 weeks (left of food & fuel supplies)

2,000,000 inhabitants (living in West Berlin)

3-How did Truman react?

From 28 June 1948- May 1949, there was an Anglo-US airlift

It flew 8,000 tons of supplies to Berlin every day and using 4000 tons of fuel a day
79 pilots died

Stalin had to give in and lifted the blockade In May 49



Coal being unloaded from a plane at Berlin airport, 1948

4-What were consequences?

- 1st major conflict of Cold War
- 1949, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was founded after this crisis
- Stalin understood, he could no longer invade territories in Europe.
- So, he turned to Asia : The Korean War began in 1950.
- In September 49 the Russian had exploded their first A bomb
- Truman responded by creating a hydrogen bomb in 1951 (1000 A Bombs).



III/ THE USA WAS INVOLVED INTO TWO MAJOR COLD WAR CONFLICTS

B/ The Korean War 1950-1953

1- Situation of Korea after World War Two

1945 :Korea controlled by Japan: after the Japanese capitulation (Sept 2nd) Soviets occupied the NORTH, Americans the SOUTH to rebuild the country

The two halves were divided by the 38th Parallel

1947 : elections held in the South supported by the US; The North had its own govt. backed by the Soviets



1948 : The US and the USSR withdrew troops but kept supporting each side.

1949 : China became Communist and supported N Korea

2-The Key Players

- Truman
- Syngman Rhee
(president)
- UN
- General MacArthur
- Bradley (replaced
MacArthur)

SOUTH

- Kim Il Sung (leader):
people's republic of
NK
- Mao Zedong:
Chinese leader
- Stalin

NORTH

3-What happened?

North Korea, **backed by communist China (and China backed by the USSR) ,** attacked the South first

Truman called on support of the UN Security Council

The USSR also permanent member was boycotting meetings because the USA refused to admit Communist China to the UN

No resolution could be passed

So the US proposed to ask the GENERAL ASSEMBLY to vote with a 2/3 majority

The way to pass resolutions was changed for good and UN forces pushed North Korean forces back, under US command

IT SAVED THE UNO

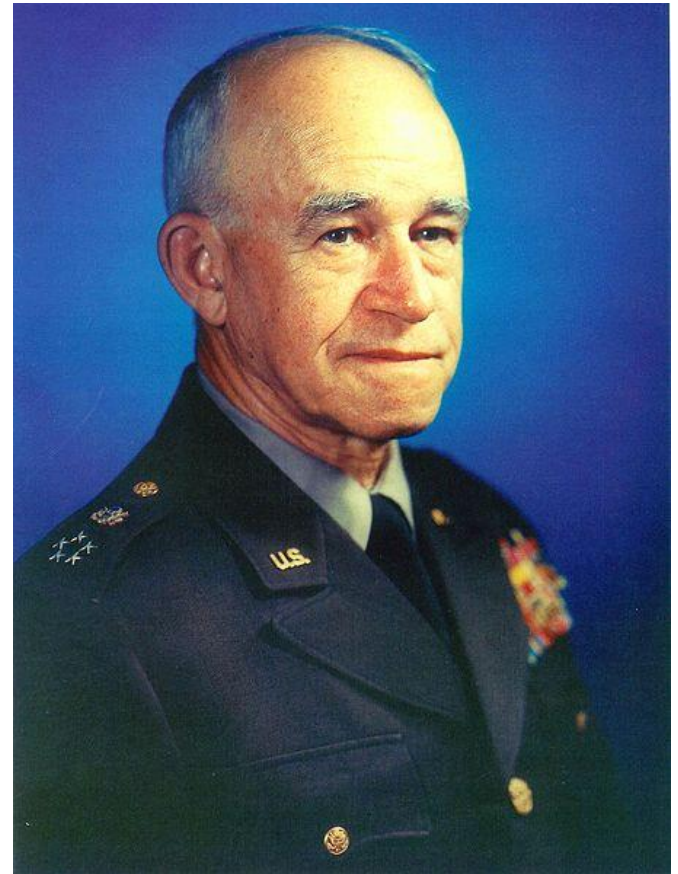
At one point, general Mac Arthur in charge of UN forces proposed to use the A Bomb

He was discharged and replaced by General Bradley



MacArthur 1880-1964

- April 1951 – MacArthur was removed from position and replaced by General Bradley because he wanted to launch an A Bomb on North Korea.



Bradley 1893-1981

Battles settled around 38th parallel

In 1953 an armistice signed at Panmunjom

It was a military stalemate (impasse) and Korea stayed divided with the 38th parallel



Leslie Illingworth 1953 British Cartoon

III/ THE USA WAS INVOLVED INTO MAJOR COLD WAR CONFLICTS

C/ The Cuban crisis October 1962

1-What happened?

Cuba, small island, 160 miles from coast of Florida

US ally, US businesses & US military base (Guantanamo)

Domino theory

1959, Fidel Castro overthrows Battista (US-backed dictator), and establish a Communist government.

Castro takes over US businesses

AMERICAN REPLY

January 1961, US breaks off diplomatic relations

April, 1961, Bay of Pigs – 1,400 anti-Cuban exiles attempted to overthrow Castro

Autumn 1962, Cuba has received 1000s of USSR missiles and some launchers were set

Cuba, small island, 160 miles from coast of Florida

US ally, US businesses & US military base (Guantanamo)

Domino theory

1959, Fidel Castro overthrows Battista (US-backed dictator), and establishes a Communist government.

Castro takes over US businesses

January 1961, the US breaks off diplomatic relations

April, 1961, Bay of Pigs – 1,400 anti-Cuban exiles attempted to overthrow Castro

In 1962, Cuba has received 1000s of USSR missiles and some launchers were set

2-Why was the USSR interested in helping Cuba?

Cuba was a new Communist state and an “open door “ to South America

Cuba provided a launch base for USSR inter-continental missiles (ICMs)

Khrushchev wanted to test strength of new US president, JFK

Khrushchev wanted to force JFK into negotiating over US missiles in Europe (Turkey)

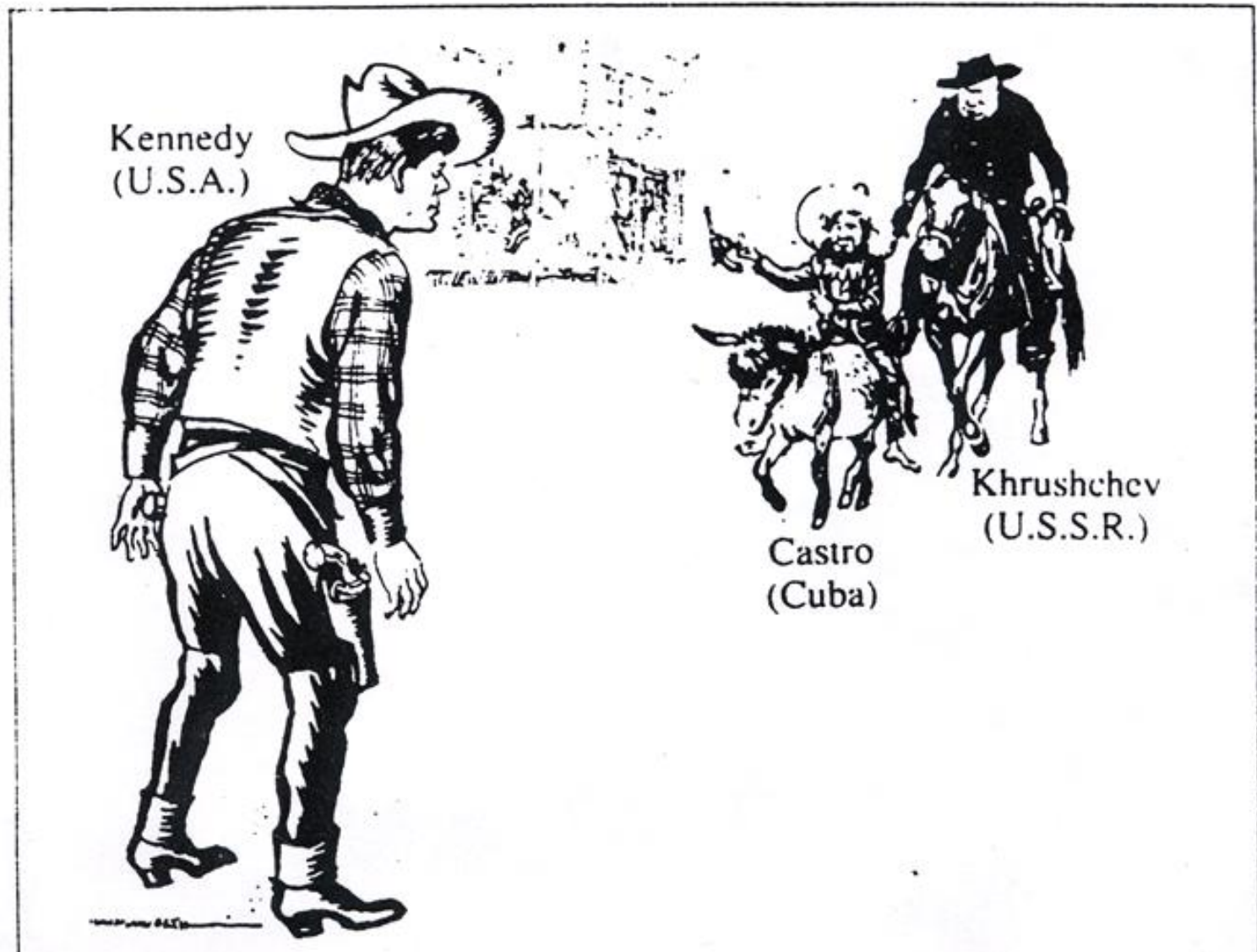
Kennedy received a letter from Khrushchev/
KHROUCHTCHEV offering to negotiate : he accepted
to withdraw the missiles from Cuba providing the
USA withdrew theirs from Turkey

Kennedy showed he was tough

But... Cuba remained communist

(Relations with the USA were normalized in 2012)

a cartoon from a British newspaper, *The Daily Mail*, October 1962)



D/ Vietnam 1965-1973

1-THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM



-A French colony until 1954

It was separated along
the 17th parallel

-In the SOUTH,
1955 a referendum
chose **NGO DIEM** as
president of south Vietnam.

-He was backed by the
USA

-The USA had the
Domino theory in mind



In the NORTH, there was a communist government led by **HO CHI MINH**

-He had an army:
the VIETMINH

-He was backed by
Communist China
and the USSR

He aimed to control
the whole country



2-SOME ISSUES IN SOUTH VIETNAM

-Diem's regime was quickly discredited:

he was from a catholic family when 75% of the population was Buddhist

He discriminated Buddhists against

It was a very corrupt system

He was murdered 1963 buy the CIA

Diem's abuses led to a growing Communist opposition in South Vietnam : the **VIETCONG**

It received supplies from North Vietnam which was backed by China which was backed by the USSR. (war by proxy)

Kennedy in 1961 launched a **secret** operation to control the Vietcong:

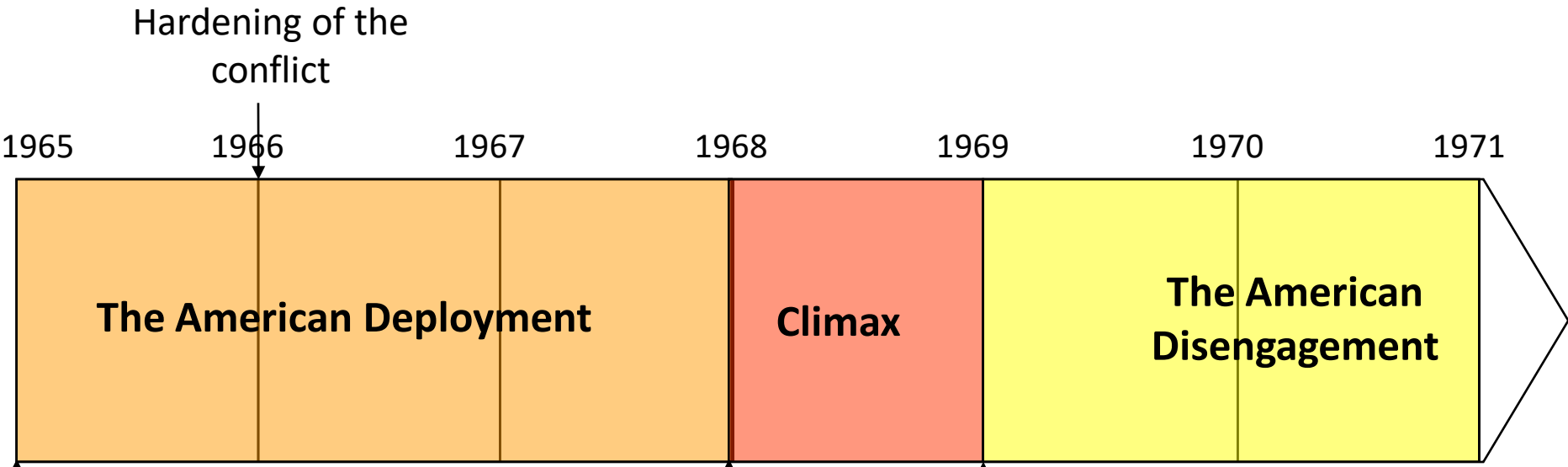
11 000 « advisors », called green berets (CIA) launched the « **search and destroy policy** »

3- The star of the war :March 1965 JOHNSON sent the first American soldiers who landed in Da Nang

...



4- Steps of the war



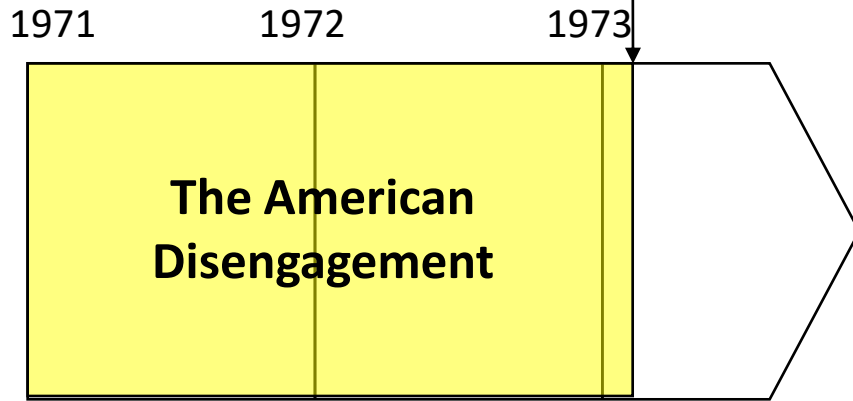
January 1968 :

The Têt
Offensive

It was a campaign of surprise attacks against military and civilian command and control centers throughout South Vietnam
The US army had heavy losses and Johnson was forced to draft more soldiers.

This shifted the US public opinion towards a desire to end the war.

**January 1973 :
The Paris Agreements**



↑
« Vietnamisation » of the
conflict

Results of the war

	Number of Killed
The USA	58 183
North Viêt Nam including Viet Cong forces	1 000 000
South Viêt Nam	223 748
Vietnamese Civilians	4 000 000

➤ 5- A source of criticism

➤ The Vietnamese economy was badly touched by the conflict mostly because of the **bombings** and more than **5 MILLION vietnamese** died from 1965 to 1975

➤ Ecologically the situation is dramatic:

the Americans used 15 000 000 tons ammunitions
(3 times the tonnage of WWII)

16% of lands were touched by **chemical weapons:**
orange agent and napalm. Lands are still poisoned

➤ The USA's image was badly tarnished on the world stage

➤ It was a failure for the USA

NAPALM

During the Vietnam War

(Photos and videos)

Napalm bombings



More napalm bombings...



The French Aviation naval drops napalm over Viet Minh guerrilla positions during an ambush.



A riverboat of the US mounted flamethrower in Vietnam deploying an ignited napalm mixture.

Effects of napalm



AGENT ORANGE

During the vietnam war

(Photos and videos)

Effects of Agent Orange



Use of Agent Orange



**The criticisms were worse and worse
in the 60's and even culminated in
1968**

III/ THE USA WAS QUESTIONED IN THE LATE 60'S

A/ Within the Country, the Civil Rights movement
was very destabilizing

December 1st, 1955 Rosa Parks (1912-2005)-
Arrested

It led to the Montgomery bus boycott
supervised by Martin Luther King Jr

1954: Buses were desegregated

1955: schools were desegregated

It was followed by a campaign for civil rights led by MLK

It culminated in 1963, when he delivered his famous speech "I have a dream" in Washington

Another black activist also campaigned for civil rights: Malcolm X

But he advocated violent methods ("an eye for an eye")

MLK: Nobel peace prize in 1964

Both were assassinated

2 key dates to remember

-1964: Civil Right Act: Official end of segregation

-1965 Voting right act: right to vote without restriction

Even after these laws, the Black community kept campaigning for rights and equality

-The Black Panthers from 1966 who advocated violent methods and were close to communist ideas

-The black power which refused assimilation and praised a "black identity": Olympics 1968

Racial Demonstration

MEXICO 68



Black Power

B/ The hippie movement born in the USA was
another form of criticism

The hippie « **counter culture** » was a youth movement that arose in the United States during the mid-1960s and spread to other countries around the world.





~ Flower Power ~



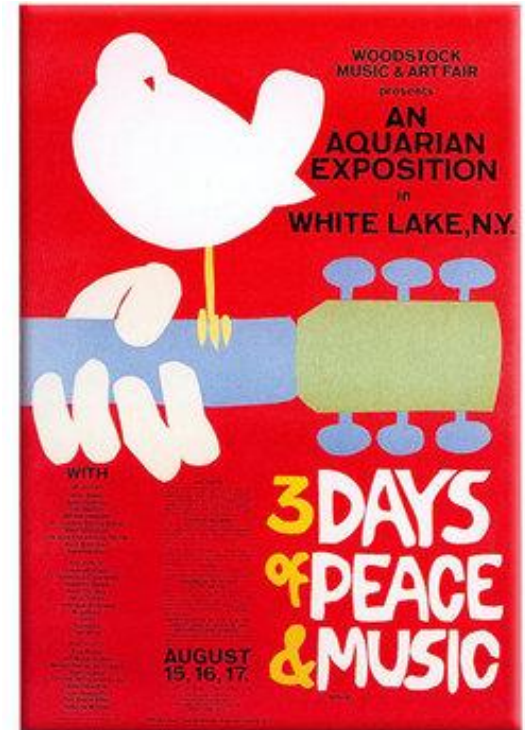
It opposed the Vietnam War



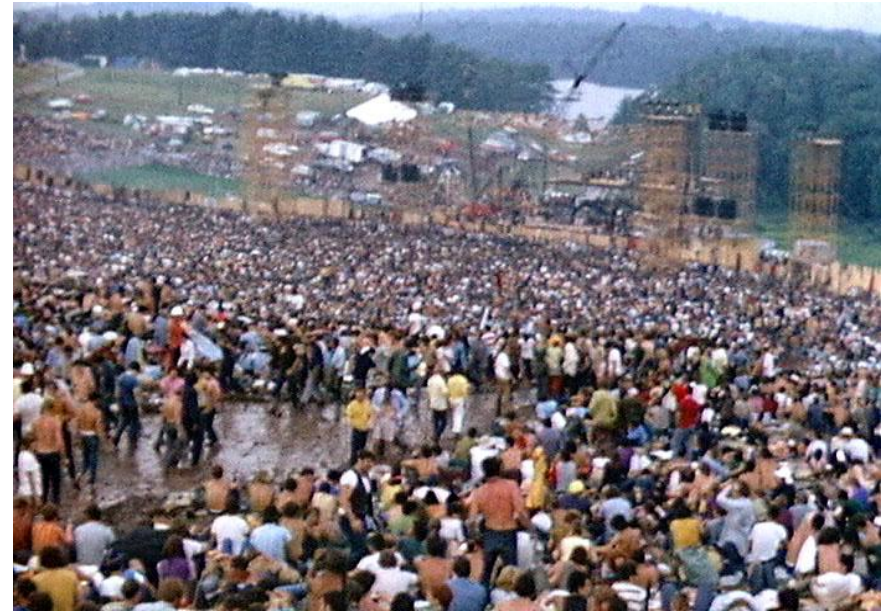
They promoted free love, communal living, recreational drug use, nudity, music (particularly psychedelic rock, blues, and folk music), vegetarianism, and ecology.

Most of all hippies promoted the ideals of Love and Peace

The WOODSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL IN AUGUST 1969 STAYS THE CLIMAX OF THIS MOVEMENT



**From the 15th
to the 18th of
August 1969**



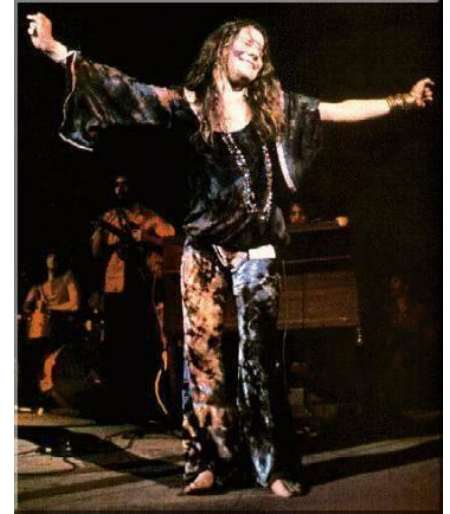
More than **450 000**
people

Cost \$ 2.4 million dollars

Symbols:

The Vietnam song
Joan Baez

Jimmy Hnedrix playing the
American anthem



CONCLUSION

In 1991 Gorbachev dissolved the USSR and ended the Cold War

The USA claimed it won the Cold War

What was true however was that It was an economic and military power and led the « new world order » in 1991...