Origins of the Cold War
Truman is NOT FDR

- Didn’t trust Stalin & did not feel connection to Allies
  - Doesn’t listen to WC on keeping troops east of line to see what Stalin will do in SoI → Withdraws troops to line & UK follows.
  - Thinks he can mediate like FDR

Potsdam Conference

- **July-Aug, 1945** in eastern GER
- New Big Three: Stalin, Truman, Attlee
- $20B in GER reparations (1/2 to USSR)
- **Neisse River** confusion; USSR obviously wants eastern one to make POL smaller
- Stalin wants, but doesn’t get:
  - Base in Bosporus, Soviet trusteeship of ITA-Afr. Colonies, four-power control of Ruhr, Western recognition of Soviet govs. in ROM & BUL
- Agreement: Four powers take reparations out of Zones, W. Neisse border, Stalin helps w/JPN
In which I told Stalin we expect to drop the most powerful explosive ever made on the Japanese. He smiled and said he appreciated my telling him but he did not know what I was talking about—the atomic bomb.
Peace?

• Sept.-Dec. 1945 – Foreign ministers meet to draw up peace treaties for FIN, HUN, ROM, BUL
  – Stalin accepts some democratic measures in E.EUR ➔ Basically lies.

• No more Four Policemen idea

• KISSINGER: Despite losing 20M people in WWII 20M in purges, and devastating W. RUS, Stalin was aggressive and had no fear of bomb. Didn’t think US would use it.
  – Aggressive pro-war propaganda campaign post-war because he realized USSR couldn’t exist w/ a peaceful foreign policy
Iron Curtain

• 3/5/1946 – Churchill gives “Iron Curtain” speech
  – Russians will control E.EUR, US/UK need to ally and avoid war at all costs
  – Sept. 1947 – Cominform – group of worldwide Communist parties in FIN, YUG, POL, CZE, ALB, BUL, ROM, HUN
George Kennan

- Leading anti-Soviet advisor under HST
  - E.EUR occupation inevitable b/c USSR forces already occupied area
  - BUT believed USSR couldn’t maintain domination
  - AMBROSE: All his predictions come true, but not for four decades
  - “Long Telegram” (1946) – “[USSR needed to be] contained by the adroit and vigilant application of counterforce at a series of constantly shifting geographical and political points” → Foundation for Truman Doctrine (“Containment”)
Brisk

- Amb. Harriman thinks USSR will need money, so use as bargaining chip to stand firm on issues
- Apr. ’45 – HST meets w/ Molotov over free POL elections ➞ Molotov says POL more important to them b/c of proximity
  - World angry @ US double-standard – demand free elections, but control LAm.
- May ’45 – HST Ends Lend-Lease & USSR embargo
  - USSR/UK outraged ➞ HST rescinds order

“American influence would never be as great as American power” – HST
Frosty

• USSR wants $6B in aid contingent on following US demands in E.EUR→ Nope.

• Instead, Stalin issues new 5-Year-Plan based on kleptocracy in USSR & E.EUR

• June ’45 – US accepts POL Communist gov.

• Problems w/ GER occupation—FRA/USSR wanted to weaken GER, while US/UK wanted to rebuild

“You. Give me your money.”
COLD

• Massive retaliation – HST threatens to use bomb if any country tries to get too powerful
  – **AMBROSE:** Doesn’t work b/c bombs not strong enough to act as deterrent & we didn’t have enough
  – Red Army was just as much of a deterrent
  – A-Bomb = ultimate weapon, needed ultimate situations

• Stalin reacts to “Iron Curtain” speech with “call to war”
  – Removes USSR from World Bank, IMF
  – Claims equal partnership w/Turks in Dardanelles (Aug ’46)
  – → HST sends aircraft carriers and Stalin backs down
  – Many historians claim this is the beginning of the Cold War