Challenge to Communism
Background

- **KISS**: Explosive mix of historic imperialism, Soviet ideology, and fierce HUN nationalism
- Every E. Bloc nation suffered economically compared to pre-WWII as Soviet satellites (551)
  - Khrushchev’s dilemma: relax tensions in E.EUR to better relations w/ West while not letting Bloc collapse (552)
  - Jun. 1953 – USSR tanks put down DDR uprising anyway
- Dulles’s “Liberation Theory” – use peaceful means to help Bloc get rid of communism
  - Ike’s containment doesn’t support this (553)
Uprising in Poland

• June 1956 – Riots ignite in POL; dozens killed
  – POL gov’t. calls for nationalism, socialism
  – Tanks on their way, but NK blinks first & withdraws
  – Gomulka, purged in ’51, installed as POL leader w/ promise of maintaining socialism & staying in W. Pact
• KISS: 30M Poles w/ courage & willingness to resist foreigners would be too expensive (555)

…Except this guy.
Roots of Hungarian Revolt

• 1940s – Matyas Rakosi – Staunch Stalinist

• 1953 – Imre Nagy – Reformer replaces Rakosi→ removed from Party & Rakosi back

• 1956 – Nationalist Erno Gero replaces Rakosi
  – Students demand basic freedoms, trial of Rakosi, departure of USSR troops, Nagy’s return
  – Nagy leads revolution & is martyred when he refuses to denounce it afterward (556)

I love Stalin!

Can’t we all just get along?

I don’t want to be here
October 1956

- Soviet tanks move in & revolt ensues → USSR settles for a Titoist HUN. Tanks retreat, but revolution doesn’t end; want democracy

- USA: did little to aid revolt beyond words
  - **KISS:** Proves they can’t do two things @ once & assumptions about USSR stopped them, like Korea (557)
  - Dulles encouraged revolt by offering aid
  - **KISS:** Ike didn’t rebuke USSR over HUN when he was castigating UK/FRA for same thing in Suez
    - Couldn’t use force b/c it’s “not what’s best for E.EUR or UN”
    - Meanwhile, HUN freedom fighters & **Radio Free Europe** calling for US help
Daylight for Democracy?

- **10/30** – PM Nagy sets up multi-party state
- **10/31** – USSR statement: Soviet troops are in W. Pact countries are there because they’re wanted
  – **KISS**: Ike sees this optimistically → naive (560)
- **11/1** – Nagy declares independence & leaves Pact
Nope.

- 11/4 – Janos Kadar (Nagy’s General Secretary) comes back & ruthlessly subjugates revolution
  - Arrests Pal Maleter (head of Army) & Nagy; later executed

- UN passes resolution demanding withdrawal, but conflicted w/ Suez, so ignored (562)
Short Run Results

• **KISS**: US fell far short of its rhetoric. Kremlin had no consequences, and they should’ve at least been warned. Too soft on USSR aggression (563)

• Nonaligned more fearful of USSR than US, so typically sided with them (564)

• Dulles still trying to apologize for how he came off as aggressive to USSR six weeks later (565)
  
  — No legal reason to aid HUN
Long-Run Results

- USSR can avoid Containment & threaten US openly, knowing they won’t respond (566)
- USSR suffers in Bloc b/c it’s too costly to support communism in countries that never really buy into it
- Kadar does gradually move toward liberalization → USSR treated HUN more liberally than POL or CZE later on
- 7000 Russians & 30,000 Hungarians died in revolt