



The Cold War and Decolonization,

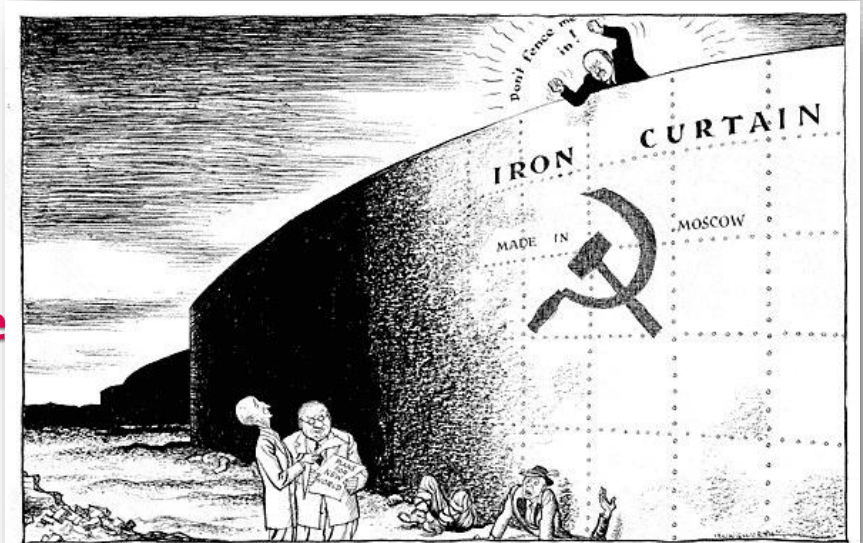
1945-75

Chapter 31



Perils & Promises of a Global Community, 1945 to Present

- After WWII an increasingly **interconnected world** faced NEW **hopes & fears**.
- The **UN** promoted **peace**, **international cooperation**, and **human rights**.
- **Colonized peoples gained independence, and global trade expanded.**
- At the same time, the **US and the USSR**, former victorious Allies, **became vicious contenders in a global contest for economic and political influence.**
 - Thus the “Cold War,” leading to a nuclear stalemate, dispelling notions for world peace.
- For more than a century, political and economic leaders in the Industrialized West had **viewed socialism as a threat to free markets and private property.**
- With the defeat of Germany, the **GROWING Soviets asserted** itself in Europe, coupled with the insurgence of **Communist China**, confirmed to Western leaders the threat of worldwide revolutions.
 - **Western leaders viewed the USSR as the sponsor for these World revolutions .**
- The **“IRON CURTAIN”** had been drawn between Europe and the East, **a line between Capitalism in the West and Communism in the East**, as communist regimes took over in large territories throughout Asia.



The Restructuring of the World Order

Rising up out of the terrors of the Second World War, the global leaders began making alliances and restructuring society in the hopes that these associations would facilitate world cooperation's and assist in maintain peace where the League of Nations failed leading up to WWII.

- **Cold War:** The ideological struggle between communism (Soviet Union) and capitalism (USA) for world influence. The Cold War came to an end when the USSR dissolved in 1991.
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):** Organization formed in 1949 as a military alliance of western European and North American states against the Soviet Union and its east European allies.
- **Warsaw Pact:** The 1955 treaty binding the Soviet Union and countries of eastern Europe in an alliance against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- **United Nations (UN):** An International organization founded in 1945 to promote world peace and cooperation. It replaced the League of Nations.
- **World Bank:** A specialized agency of the UN that makes loans to countries for economic development, trade promotions, and debt consolidation. Its formal name is the International Bank for Reconstruction and development. Placing the load of rebuilding after war not on one country, but sharing that burden with the rest of the world. In an attempt to eliminate the risk that ultimately cause the Great Depression following WWI.
- **Marshal Plan:** US Program to support the reconstruction of Western Europe after WWII. By 1961 more than \$20 billion in economic aid had been dispersed.
- **European Economic Community (Common Market):** An organization promoting economic unity in Europe, formed in 1957 by consolidation of earlier, more limited, agreements. With the addition of many new nations it became the European Union (EU) in 1993.

The United States & Vietnam

- The **MOST IMPORTANT post-war communist movement** arose in **French Indochina in SE Asia**. (aka: Vietnam)
- The **Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh** (1890-1969) had spent several years in France during WWI and **helped form** the **French Communist Party**.
 - In 1930, after training in **Moscow**, he returned to Vietnam to found the Indochina Communist Party.
 - Forced to take refuge in China during WWII, Ho cooperated with the US while Japan controlled Vietnam.
 - At the end of WWII, the **French government was determined to keep its colonial possessions, including Vietnam**.
 - Ho Chi Minh's **nationalist coalition**, called the Viet Minh, **fought the French with help** from the People's Republic of China. After a brutal struggle, the French stronghold of Dinebienphu fell in 1954, **marking the end of France's colonial enterprise**.
 - **Ho's Viet Minh government took over in the north, and a nationalist government ruled in the south**.
- Under **POTUS Eisenhower**, the **US provided limited support** to the French, but ultimately decided not to prop up French colonial rule in Vietnam (**seeing an end to European colonialism**).



Vietnam War Kick's Off

- **After winning independence**, communist **North Vietnam** supported a communist guerilla movement—the **Viet Cong**—against the **noncommunist government** of **South Vietnam**.
 - Thus an **ideological and economic** issue of **Vietnam independence** begins.
- Thus, **POTUS JFK** changes American policy to **SUPPORT** the **South Vietnamese**.
 - In the hopes of **upholding** a **non-communist government** in SE Asia, which would stem the spread of communism and hopefully assist in the US's plight in the Cold War.
 - **Why? Due to the Domino theory**, if one country would “fall” to communism the other states around them would also fall. So, the US Chose to get involved to prevent further spread of communism.

- **The USA entered the fight, helping the South Vietnamese in 1961.**

- The war raged on resulting in a mass of casualties on all sides:

- **South Vietnam**

- 200,000-400,000 civilians
- 170,000-220,000 soldiers

- **USA**

- 58,000 dead
- 300,000 wounded

- **North Vietnam**

- 50,000+ Civilians dead
- 400,000 – 1,000,000 troops
- Over 500,000 wounded.



The non-Communist state—who the US agreed with.

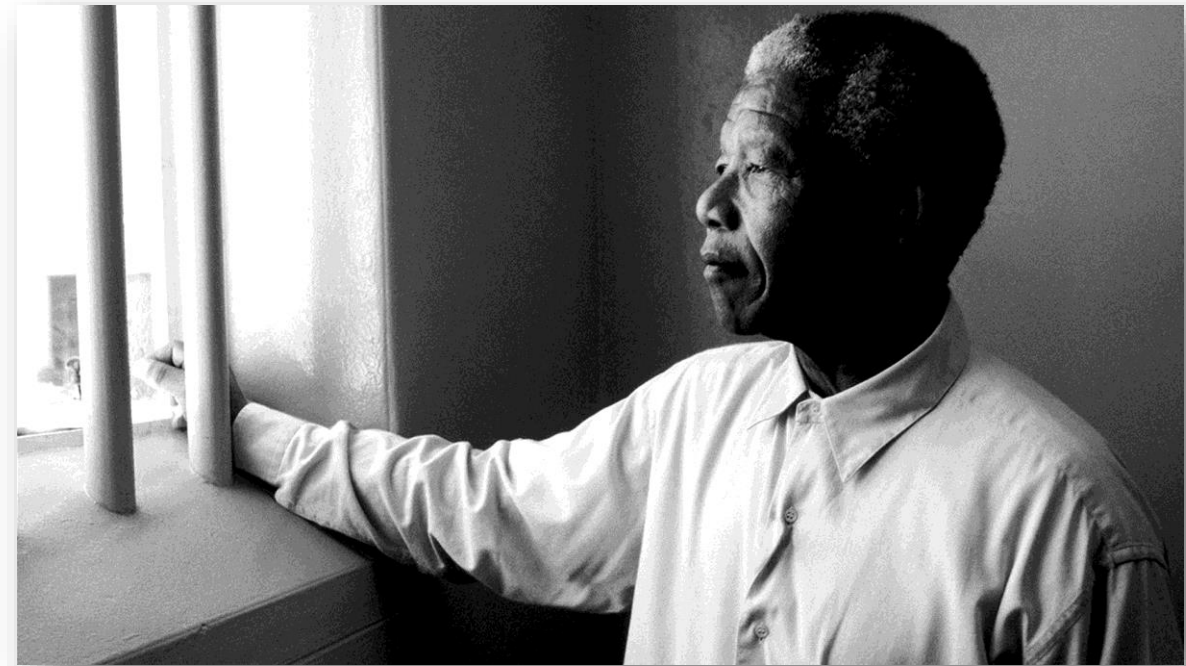
The Vietnam War

- Frustrated with the **lack of progress**, **POTUS Nixon** ordered the **big bombers-B-52s**—to strike **Hanoi (north Vietnam's capital)**, beginning Dec. 16, 1972.
- **In less than two weeks**, these strategic bombers had **shattered the north's defense**. On Jan. 27th, 1973, a **peace accord was signed between North Vietnam and the US**.
- The **ceasefire allowed Nixon to declare “peace with honor,”** but **no provisions** existed for **enforcing** the terms of the accords. ← Like the post-WWI, no enforcement.
- **North Vietnam spent 2 years rebuilding their military**; South Vietnam was hamstrung in its responses by a fear that the US Congress would cut off aid **IF** it took action **against** the **North's military buildup**.
 - **On March 5, 1975 the North invaded again.**
 - In the end, the fighting and casualties became **to much for the government to answer for back at home.**
- **Large demonstrations**, especially amongst University students, eventually brought the war effort in the USA to its knees.
 - No American **air strike came** to aid the South, despite Nixon's earlier promises.
- **On April 30, the North Vietnamese entered the South capital of Saigon, US helicopters rescued US diplomats and flew some South Vietnamese to safety, but most were left behind.**
- North & South Vietnam were then both **combined** into the **Socialist Republic of Vietnam** in 1976.
- America's war in Vietnam **FAILED** to salvage the Republic of South Vietnam, **but it did buy surrounding countries time to improve their economies and defensive capabilities, thus discouraging the expansion of communism in parts of SE Asia.**



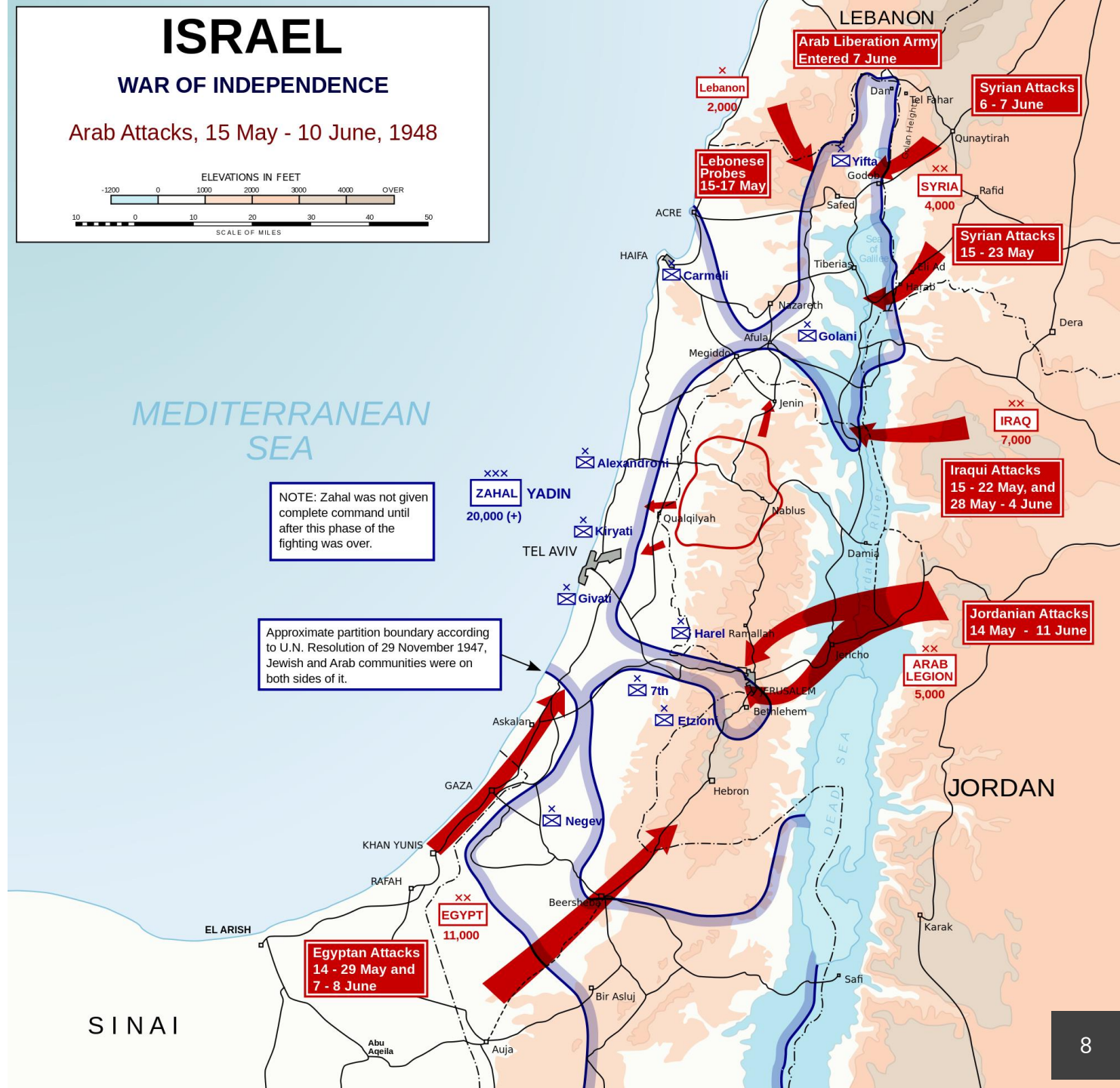
Decolonization

- Independence in **India & Pakistan** led to war over Kashmir, which has continued to cause conflict.
- **Algeria** gained independence from France after a long and violent revolution.
- **West African** colonies eventually gained independence from **Great Britain and France** through **negotiations**, but the **Belgian Congo** fell under the power of a **dictator**.
- In **Southern African** colonies, where large white settler populations **resisted independence**, and **whites in South Africa instituted a system of segregation called the apartheid**.
 - **Making South African Blacks 2nd class citizens in their own lands.**
- In **Latin American nations** economic nationalist sought to reduce or eliminate the economic influence of the US.
- The **CIA interfered forcefully in Guatemala**, and its attempt to do the same in Cuba **helped lead** to the **Cuban missile crisis**; meanwhile, **Castro created a socialist economy**.



Decolonization

- In the **Middle East**, after decolonization new nations organized the “nonaligned movement” to assert a middle ground between the Cold War rivals.
- After WWII, **Japan** followed the **capitalist industrial model** while **China** under Mao tried and failed to industrialize using mass mobilization and central planning (like **Stalinism**).
- **Israel’s** military victories over its Arab neighbors in 1967 and 1973, while expanding the nation’s borders, **initiated an enduring cycle of regional tensions and violence** between Israelis and Palestinians.
- OPEC’s 1973 embargo of oil shipments to nations that supported Israel soon led to steep price increases and a massive **redistribution** of wealth to **oil-producing nations**.
- During the **1970s** young people **provided crucial leadership** to a worldwide movement to **conserve natural resources and protect the environment**.



Questions?

