The Cold War



AMERICA AND THE COLD WAR

<u>Cold War</u> – period of extreme tension between the US and the USSR (1945 – 1989) – no actual fighting

United despite differences during WW2 – didn't trust each other

Causes of the Cold War: BEAR

- **B** beliefs
- **E** events (turned mistrust into war)
- A aims
- **R** resentment (about history)



B – Beliefs

USSR – communist country ruled by a <u>totalitarian</u> dictatorship - <u>Joseph Stalin</u> -government ruled with absolute power

US – capitalist democracy **Capitalism and Communism are opposite**

E – Events (turned mistrust into war)

<u>Yalta Conference 1945</u> – Allies decide what to do about Germany and Poland after war

-Germany divided into zones -Poland's government would have communists and some non-communists

-plans for United Nations

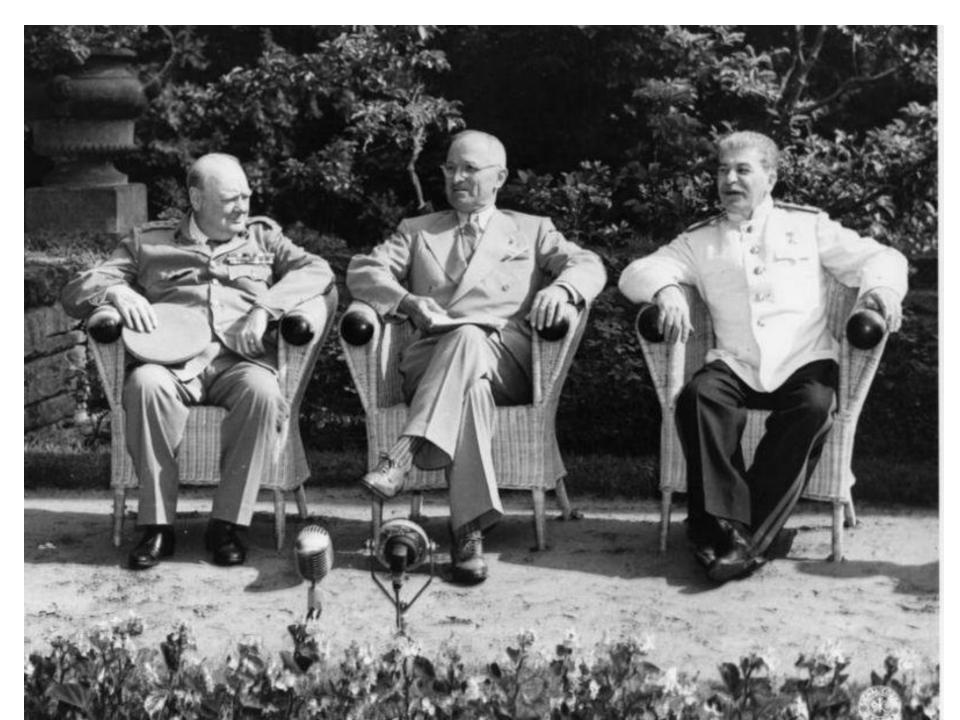
The Big Three – Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin



E – Events (turned mistrust into war)

<u>Potsdam Conference 1945</u> – Allies discussed ending war with Japan, argued about Germany

-Non-communists arrested in Poland -US did not tell USSR about atomic bomb



A – Aims

USSR wanted reparations from Germany; US wanted to help them recover

USSR wanted to rebuild on their terms (lost 20 mil in WW2) - wanted a "buffer of friendly states" *-protection*

A – Aims

Stalin refused free elections in eastern Europe

By 1948:

Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany Soviet Satellites – heavily influenced by USSR

A – Aims

Yugoslavia became communist Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania became part of Soviet Union

"an iron curtain has descended across the Continent." – Winston Churchill, 1946 Brief Iron Curtain Speech - YouTube



R – Resentment (about History)

Stalin felt abandoned during WW2 – hoped for D-Day invasion sooner -Stalingrad/invasion of Italy

Other Allies upset USSR signed agreement with Germany