

# Notes: Confrontation of the Superpowers

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## *Spielvogel Chapter 28*

- I. Confrontation of the Superpowers
  - A. Only two great powers left
    1. Europe basically destroyed itself – only the U.S. and the USSR remain powerful – centuries of western European domination over
    2. Europe becomes like its colonies – a less powerful entity
      - a. leads to resentment of U.S.
      - b. Brits. choose to feel more like family
        - i. still resentment – “There are three problems with Americans – they’re overpaid, oversexed, and over here.”
      - c. France reworks Nazi posters as anti-U.S. posters
  - B. Beliefs of the Two Powers
    1. U.S. believes only it can stop Soviet influences in void left by Nazi power – keep desperate people from embracing communism
      - a. take democracy to the world
    2. Soviets believe they must save world from U.S. Imperialism & capitalism (unfair world)
- II. Developments
  - A. Truman Doctrine – 1947 -- Containment
  - B. The Marshall Plan – 1947
    1. Sec. of State George Marshall declares \$5.3B aid package to help rebuild Europe (eventually totaled \$17B) – rebuild European prosperity and stability
    2. Implication was – to get aid, don’t elect communists
  - C. Partition of Germany
    1. East to Russia
    2. West split between Britain, France, & U.S.
      - a. Immediately united for economic rebuilding
    3. same division applies to Berlin (in East Germany)
    4. 1948 – Berlin Airlift (response to blockade)
    5. Soviets stop because world opinion against them & formation of NATO
      - a. Military alliance of Western European countries against Soviet Union (12-Belgium, Lux, Neth, Italy, Port, Den, Iceland Nor, Canada, Fr. G.B., U.S.)
      - b. An attack against one is attack against all
      - c. Meant to contain Soviet military aggression
    6. May 1949 – Federal Republic of Germany (independent country) (West Germany) created
    7. Soviets created German Democratic Republic (East Germany) Oct. 1949
    8. West Germany
      - a. Unable to arm – German resources used for industry
      - b. Christian Democratic Party had ruled since the war – Konrad Adenauer

- c. 1958 – West Germany leading industrial country in Europe – had not nationalized industry like England and France
    - i. Germany and Japan emerge with most modern industries and factories in the world due to U.S. assistance
  - d. 1960s – charted their own course – was encouraged – few controls
  - e. 1966 – became member of NATO
  - f. 1969 – Social Democrats win with Willy Brandt
    - i. Had fought the Nazis with the Norwegian Resistance
    - ii. Helped calm fears of USSR about German resurgence
    - iii. Worked treaties on borders – accepted East and West Germany – travel restrictions eased
- D. Soviets have A-bomb by 1949 – H-bomb by 1952 (within a year of U.S.)
- 1. Arms race begins
    - a. brinkmanship/balance of terror – idea is everyone is so scared they won't use superweapons
    - b. Soviets have conventional weapon superiority in Eastern Europe/Asia
    - c. Americans have conventional weapon superiority in Latin America
  - 2. 1950-53 – Korean War
  - 3. 1955 – the Warsaw Pact established to counter NATO – military alliance of USSR and satellite countries
  - 4. 1957 – Soviets launch Sputnik – first space satellite
    - a. Space race begins
  - 5. 1961 – Soviets build Berlin Wall to stop flood of refugees out of East Berlin
    - a. The wall becomes a symbol of the ideological division of Europe – built to keep people in rather than out
  - 6. 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis
  - 7. Vietnam War – 1963
    - a. U.S. had pledged to fight communism (Truman Doctrine)
    - b. Stepped in when France quit in 1954
  - 8. Increased tensions lead to a period of détente (relaxation)
    - a. Limited Test Ban Treaty
    - b. Peaceful coexistence (late 1960s – late 1970s)

### III. Decolonization

- A. New colonial realities
  - 1. colonialism/imperialism questioned by U.S. & Japan
  - 2. not effective to revolt directly, so they increase their cost
    - a. economic, moral, and social
  - 3. abandoning colonies often leads to the wrong people in charge
- B. Most scramble to leave colonies, except France
  - 1. India – Mahatma Gandhi
    - a. Civil Disobedience – later copied by others (notably Martin L. King, Jr.)
    - b. against the partition between India/Pakistan
  - 2. Africa
    - a. Lack of knowledge & infrastructure -- intentional by the Europeans

- i. Some countries governed by Western-educated black Africans
    - ii. Many governments overthrown by terrorism and guerilla wars of independence – late 1950s – early 1970s – warlord control
  - b. Most African governments today are dictatorships – many brutal
    - i. most change their names to hide their true nature
- 3. The Middle East
  - a. Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq gain independence between the wars as a result of the collapse of the Ottoman and Persian empires
  - b. Syria, Lebanon, Jordan independent after WWII
    - i. Given up by France and Britain
  - c. Biggest issue – the creation of the state of Israel in 1948
    - i. Carved out of Palestine – supported by the U.S. and Britain (Balfour Declaration – 1917)
    - ii. Immediate and continued resistance by Arab Muslims continue to this day
      - Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) – terrorist group dedicated to eliminate Israel

### C. France & colonies

- 1. France had colonies for sentimental reasons
  - a. less racist – i.e. willing to marry
  - b. wanted them to join France – called them “France overseas”
- 2. Algeria (Muslim)
  - a. resistance of French settlers (similar to Scotland & Ireland)
    - i. home to 1/8 of Europeans or 1 million Europeans
  - b. French government at home too politically divided – too many different parties to raise a coalition
  - c. Algerian resistance formed during WWII
  - d. France dive-bombs a demonstration
    - i. kills at least 6,000 people
    - ii. common – same in Madagascar
  - e. Vietnam end – Battle of Tien Ben Phu
    - i. Algerians wonder if they can get independence too
    - ii. form an army
  - f. unsuccessful army leads to terrorist tactics
    - i. mostly on teens in clubs
  - g. May 1958 – French settlers hold Algerian coup
    - i. spreads to Corsica
    - ii. by June 1, paratroopers ready to attack defenseless Paris
    - iii. a worried France makes de Gaulle their new leader
- 3. France
  - a. Third Republic gone with German occupation of 1940
    - i. Provisional government – 1945-46
  - b. Fourth Republic established 1946
    - i. Had faults of third Republic – weak executive – too many political parties for a majority in national assembly

- ii. Continuation of empire (imperialism) brings it down – Algerian war for independence 1958
- c. Fifth Republic (1958-present)
  - i. 1958 – De Gaulle takes over – establishes 5<sup>th</sup> Republic
    - his condition for ruling – absolute power
    - writes France’s present constitution
  - ii. Algeria (again)
    - de Gaulle goes to Algeria, speaks, convinces them to let France stay
    - works for 4 years
    - demonstration against France turns into a police riot/massacre – which De Gaulle keeps quiet
    - 1962 – 90% of all French vote for Algerian independence
    - 6,000 Arabs and thousands of French (who had never been to France) flee to France
  - iii. De Gaulle constantly threatened with assassination
  - iv. Increase in welfare (modern socialism/welfare state)
  - v. Rejects Nuclear arms pact of 1963 – wanted France to be a nuclear power
  - vi. 1966 – pulled France out of NATO – headquarters moved from Paris to Brussels, Belgium
  - vii. Revolutions of 1968
    - University students protest poor conditions outside Paris
    - Protest picked up by working class – 10M on strike – clash with police
    - Students see start of new French Rev. – ideological rhetoric not accepted – workers wanted better conditions only
    - De Gaulle’s popularity drops – resigns 1969 – dead within a year

#### IV. Recovery and Renewal in Europe

##### A. The Soviet Union

##### 1. Stalin

- a. Stalin fears attack from western powers
- b. Postwar 5-year plan emphasized heavy industry and military – achieves nuclear power in 1949
  - i. 1950 – USSR second only to U.S. in industrial production – done without Marshall Plan money – refused
- c. USSR grew economically by forced trade with satellite nations
  - i. Satellite nations suffer while USSR improves
- d. After announcing another planned purge, Stalin dies in 1953

##### 2. Nikita Khrushchev

- a. Power struggle ensues – Nikita Khrushchev gains power 1954
  - i. He had been Stalin’s henchman; now denounced Stalin as cruel
- b. Relaxes some economic control to try to enhance productivity

- c. Attempted to give more freedom to satellite countries – must stay within communist guidelines
    - i. Works in Poland
  - d. Hungary (1956)
    - i. Nationalist search for it's own brand of economic policy – didn't want Soviet communism
      - Declared itself an independent state
    - ii. Soviet Red Army invades Budapest – rebellion brutally put down
      - A lesson for other satellite countries
      - West looks on – does nothing – can't (Warsaw vs. NATO)
  - e. Khrushchev gone by 1964 – Failure of the Cuban Missile Crisis main catalyst – replaced by Leonid Brezhnev
- B. Eastern Europe
- 1. Soviet sphere of influence – satellite countries
    - a. Countries behind the iron curtain
      - i. East Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia
  - 2. Non-Soviet Communism
    - a. Balkan peninsula
      - i. Albania
      - ii. Yugoslavia – Marshal Tito (Joseph Broz) able to withstand Soviet pressure by pushing Slavic nationalism
  - 3. Political unrest – remember it can lead to death – Comms. are totalitarians
    - a. Czechoslovakia (1968)
      - i. Alexander Dubcek – head of govt. – communist but wants more liberal policies – pulls out of Warsaw Pact (“communism with a human face”)
      - ii. Called the “Prague Spring” – liberalizing movement grows – Brezhnev hesitates
      - iii. Finally troops (200,000) sent in – movement crushed – fear Czech would leave Soviet Union
    - b. Soviets finding it more and more difficult to isolate themselves from a more prosperous western world
- C. Western Europe
- 1. Great Britain
    - a. Churchill conservative govt. turned out after the war in favor of the Labour Party
    - b. Nationalized major industries (mines, steels, transportation, banks)
    - c. Welfare state (modern socialism)
      - i. Nationalized medicine – compulsory education – becomes welfare state – greater taxes to benefit the poor
    - d. Britain had outgrown itself – needed imports to feed and clothe itself – colonies were gone
      - i. Could not generate enough exports (outmoded industrial structure) to offset imports

- ii. By the late 1950s, Britain was no longer a first-rate world economic power – Replaced by Germany, Japan, U.S., USSR
  - e. Suez Crisis – 1956 shows England no longer a world military power
    - i. Gamal Nasser of Egypt nationalizes the canal
    - ii. England threatens war – national interests threatened
    - iii. U.S. forces her to back down
- 2. The move toward unity
  - a. Decade of the 1950s brought the beginnings of economic union among some western European nations
  - b. European nations begin to realize the wealth of the U.S. comes from great domestic markets without tariffs – try it themselves
    - i. 1948 – **Benelux** – the first – agree to reduce tariffs among themselves 1951 – European Coal and Steel
  - c. Community (ECSC) – Fr, W. Ger, Italy, Benelux – coal and steel industries administered as a unit
  - d. 1958 – European Economic Community (Common Market) – hope to eliminate international tariffs – same countries – free trade (like Zollverein) Britain refused to join – other countries are in & out – national preservation still high priority
    - i. 1960s – EEC becomes an important trading block – can compete on a world level
    - ii. Biggest obstacles – nationalism and Charles de Gaulle

## V. Europe's New Society

- A. The Welfare State (towards Socialism [evolutionary]) – growing sense that public/private should be separate (new idea)
  - 1. Increase in power of the state over the lives of its people
    - a. state monopoly on violence (police) & communication (MA Bell)
  - 2. Benefits
    - a. Better working conditions (vacations, workday, etc.)
    - b. Eliminate poverty, homelessness
    - c. Everyone gets medical service (universal health care), education, social security, unemployment compensation
    - d. Stability
  - 3. Costs
    - a. Extremely high taxes
    - b. Wealthier end up paying for poor
    - c. Lack of boom periods, innovation
- B. Women in Postwar Europe
  - 1. Far more women in the workforce following WWII
    - a. Common to see married women working for first time since Middle Ages
    - b. Women still earning far less than men (50-60%)
    - c. By 1970s – girls thought in terms of jobs and careers – not just marriage and homemaking
      - i. Many had the responsibility for both
  - 2. European birthrates decline rapidly after 1960

- a. Birth control & abortion more common/accepted
  - b. Need for employment
- 3. The Feminist Movement – Women’s Liberation
  - a. Want absolute equality with men; *social* & political
  - b. Most women not exercising their right to vote in order to accomplish change
  - c. Simone de Beauvoir a leader for active feminism
    - i. Writes *The Second Sex*
    - ii. Upper middle class – well educated
    - iii. Helped women begin to liberate themselves from a male controlled society
- C. Student Revolts – 1968
  - 1. “hippie” movement in U.S.
    - a. part of countercultural movement
  - 2. response to what they consider ill treatment – uncaring universities