

## The Cold War (1945-1991)

50 year struggle between U.S. (democratic nation) and the USSR (communist nation) after WWII  
-a “cold” war because the U.S. and the Soviet Union **never directly fought each other**

Instead the U.S. & the Soviet Union clashed through **surrogate states**

### **Key events and characteristics/features of the Cold War:**

- 1) After WWII, the Soviet Union took over the small nations of Eastern Europe and turned them into communist **satellite states**-nations dominated by the Soviet Union
- 2) “**Iron Curtain**”-term used by Winston Churchill (Br.) to describe the imaginary line dividing the democratic countries of Western Europe from the communist countries of Eastern Europe
- 3) **Containment**-policy used by the U.S. in which it attempted to stop the spread of communism

### **Two examples of containment were:**

- a) **Truman Doctrine**-U.S. gave \$400 million in economic & military aid to Greece & Turkey to help them defeat communist groups within their countries
  - b) **Marshall Plan**- U.S. gave \$13 billion to the countries of Western Europe to help them rebuild after WW II
- 4) Crisis in Germany
    - a) After WWII Germany was **divided into 2 nations**
      - West Germany became a democratic nation
      - East Germany became a communist nation controlled by the Soviet Union
    - b) **Berlin Wall**- Concrete wall built by the Communists around the city of West Berlin to prevent people in East Germany from fleeing to West Germany
    - c) **Berlin Airlift**- Event in which the US, Britain, & France flew in supplies to the people of West Berlin after Stalin set up a blockade
  - 5) **Military alliances**- Both the U.S. & the Soviet Union formed their own military alliances in order to be prepared for a possible war:
    - a) **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)**
      - military alliance between the U.S., Canada, and democratic nations of W. Europe
      - nations of this alliance agreed that an attack on one nation in the alliance was considered to be an attack on all of the nations of the alliance
    - b) **Warsaw Pact**
      - military alliance between Soviet Union and other Communist nations of E. Europe
  - 6) **Hungarian Revolution of 1956**
    - Hungary (a communist satellite state controlled by the Soviet Union) tried to break away from Soviet control→the Soviet Union sent in the army and repressed the rebellion
  - 7) **Arms Race**-U.S. & Soviet Union competed to build up the largest supply of nuclear weapons
    - raised fears that the 2 superpowers could become involved in a conflict that would destroy the world
- Space Race**-the superpowers also competed in space
- 1957-**Sputnik**-Soviet Union launches a satellite into orbit around the earth
  - US responds by forming **NASA**
- 1958-US launches a satellite into orbit
- 1961-Soviet Union sends the 1<sup>st</sup> man into space
- 1969-US becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> country to put a **man on the moon**

## CUBA

1952-Batista takes power → repressive & corrupt government

→ **Fidel Castro** leads revolt

→ establishes a **Communist dictatorship**-supported by the **Soviet Union**

1961-U.S. supported plot-Cuban exiles to invade Cuba called the **BAY OF PIGS INVASION**

-plot **FAILS** → U.S. imposes a **trade embargo against Cuba**

-Castro allows the Soviet Union to build **nuclear missile bases in Cuba**

**\*\*Cuba is only 90 miles off the coast of Florida\*\***

1962-Pres Kennedy demands the removal of missiles & orders naval blockade → **CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS**

-Soviet Union agrees to remove missiles and U.S. agrees to not invade Cuba

**\*\*This event is the closest the world has ever come to nuclear war between countries**

**NOTE:** During the Cold War-Korea & Vietnam (2 nations in East Asia) were ÷ into 2 separate countries

## KOREA

Post WWII ÷ into **North-occupied by the Soviet Union**

**South-occupied by the United States**

1950- **North Korea invades South Korea** → UN sends troops

→ 1953 armistice signed

→ agree that Korea would be ÷ at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel with a demilitarized zone between the 2 countries

**\*\*Today-North Korea is still communist and South Korea is still democratic**

**VIETNAM**-1954-temporarily divided in half

**North-communist**

**South-non-communist**

**-North Vietnam invades South Vietnam**

→ U.S. sends troops to help prevent **Ho Chi Minh** nationalist/communist leader of N. Vietnam from uniting all of Vietnam under **Communist rule**

→ American forces were not able to defeat the communists

→ ceasefire-U.S. pulls their troops out

**→ North takes over the South → entire country becomes communist**

## TOPIC: ECONOMIC ISSUES AFTER WORLD WAR II

### I. Economic Cooperation

After WWII various regions of the world started to create organizations that were designed to increase trade and promote economic prosperity (wealth)

**2 of these organizations include:**

1) **European Union (E.U.)**

-an organization that now includes 27 countries in Europe

-They've decreased tariffs (taxes) and now use a single form of currency called **the Euro**

2) **North American Free Trade Agreement (N.A.F.T.A.)**

-organization that includes the US, Canada, & Mexico

-By decreasing tariffs (taxes) this organization has increased trade between the 3 main countries of North America

**NOTE:** These two organizations are examples of economic interdependence-countries working together and relying on each other

## **II. Oil Politics**

A) Oil (also called petroleum) is among the world's most important natural resources

-most of the world's **oil** is located in the **Middle East**

-Oil is the main reason why the Middle East has developed wealth and influence

B) **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (O.P.E.C.)**

-organization created by the main oil-producing countries of the world

-the member countries of O.P.E.C. determine the price of oil as well as production levels (i.e.- the amount of oil available to other countries)-OPEC is an **example of a cartel**

## **TOPIC: COMMUNISM IN CHINA**

### **I. Communism in China (1949-Present)**

1949-after 22 years of civil war China became the 2<sup>nd</sup> country in the world (after USSR) to adopt communism

### **3 sided struggle for control of China**

1. **Guomindang** aka the **Nationalist party**-leader **Jiang Jieshi**

2. **Communists**-leader **Mao Zedong**

3. **Japan**

Jiang Jieshi & the Guomindang want to **eliminate the Communists**

→**the Long March**

-**Mao & the communists head north** on an epic retreat to escape the **Guomindang**

-Mao wins support from the **large PEASANT population**

→**Mao & the Communists ultimately prevail**→**China becomes a communist country**

→**Guomindang flee** the country & head to the island of **Taiwan**

### **Today there are 2 China's**

1. **The People's Republic of China**

\***communist country**

\***on the Asian mainland**

2. **Taiwan aka the Republic of China**

\***non-communist**

\***small island**

1958-**Mao** launches the **GREAT LEAP FORWARD** attempt to modernize & increase the industrial (factory) & agricultural (farming) output (production)

→sets up **communes**-groups of people were forced to live & work together on government owned land

-set quotas for communes to produce

**FAILED**-poorly made goods & agricultural output declined

NOTE: This program was very similar to the Five Year Plans and Collectivization that took place in the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin

NOTE: Both Mao and Stalin had a **command** (or communist) economy in which the government owned businesses and farms and made all economic decisions

1966-**Mao** launched the **CULTURAL REVOLUTION** to renew peoples **loyalty to communism** & **eliminate all of the opposition** (enemies) that he had within China

-feared the peasants & workers from China's revolution were being replaced with intellectuals who would question his authority

→ Mao used violent young Communist soldiers called the **RED GUARDS** who attacked professors, government officials, & factory managers→many exiled or executed

## U.S. relationship with China

U.S. had refused to recognize the PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1970s-situation was changing-U.S. president NIXON visits China

1976-Mao dies→DENG XIAOPING takes over

→launches the **FOUR MODERNIZATIONS**

→make China a more modern country

→**ECONOMIC** changes but **NO political or social change**

Deng changed the economy of China from

-a command/communist economy (in which the government owns businesses)

to a market/capitalist/free enterprise economy (in which individuals own businesses)

\*This is the system that is largely used in China today

## 1989-TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

\*series of protests-Chinese demonstrators peacefully occupied the square **demanding democratic reform**

**-wanted more rights/freedom & a say in government**

→the government sent in troops & tanks to repress the protests→hundreds maybe even thousands killed & wounded

**\*\*\*This proved that China's government was NOT willing**

**to make political or social democratic changes-ONLY ECONOMIC\*\*\***

## RETURN OF HONG KONG

Britain gained island of Hong Kong after the **Opium War** as part of the **Treaty of Nanjing**

-under British rule→ Hong Kong modernized & became wealthy

-Britain decided they would return Hong Kong to China in 1997

China had to agree **not to change Hong Kong's social or economic system for 50 years**

→allow the island a degree of self-rule

## Current issues in China

1) China controls the **Buddhist** region of **Tibet**-the people of Tibet **want independence (self-government)**

2) China denies its people human rights such as freedom of speech/press-massive censorship

3) to prevent **overpopulation** China had only allowed each family to have **one child**-recently amended in certain areas

## TOPIC: DECOLONIZATION

### I. Intro to Decolonization

A) Decolonization is the period after WWII in which the nations of Africa and Asia finally gained independence from the European (Western) nations that controlled them

### III. Decolonization in Africa (1945-1980)

1945-1980-many nations of Africa finally gained independence from the European (or Western) nations that controlled them  
Independence was achieved largely due to the efforts of nationalist leaders who led movements to gain self-government

Two leaders that fought to gain independence from Great Britain (England) include:

1) **Jomo Kenyatta**- Gained independence for Kenya

2) **Kwame Nkrumah**- Gained independence for Ghana

### C) South Africa after independence

1) After independence-white Europeans still controlled the government of South Africa

→they established the racist system known as **apartheid**

2) Apartheid was the **system of racial segregation** that was used in South Africa from 1948-1990

-Black South Africans were required to use

\*separate bathrooms \*attend separate schools \*carry ID passbooks \*go to separate beaches etc

### 3) **Nelson Mandela**

- a) Black South African nationalist leader who fought against Apartheid
- b) imprisoned for 27 years by the white South African government
- c) became the first black president of South Africa after apartheid officially came to an end in 1990

### D) **Rwanda after independence**

- 1) 1990s-serious ethnic conflict between 2 groups in the African nation of Rwanda:the Hutus & Tutsis
- 2) 1994- The Hutus slaughtered 800,000 Tutsis in only a few months

This was an example of **genocide**-attempt to exterminate a group of people-and an example of human rights violation

## **IV. Decolonization in Southeast Asia (Cambodia and Vietnam)**

Between 1953 and 1954 Cambodia and Vietnam both gained independence from France

**Ho Chi Minh**- Nationalist leader-led 8-year war against France to gain independence for Vietnam

-Vietnam after independence was divided into 2 countries:

**North** Vietnam-**communist**- Ho Chi Minh

**South** Vietnam-democratic-Ngo Dinh Diem

-After the Vietnam War all of Vietnam was reunited to form one communist nation

**\*Vietnam is still communist today**

## **Cambodia**

During the Vietnam War Cambodia was a supply route for the North Vietnamese & Vietcong -communist (Vietcong-communist rebels trying to overthrow the American supported South Vietnamese government of Ngo Dinh Diem)

→American forces bombed then invaded Cambodia to destroy the route

Once U.S. pulled out of Vietnam & left Cambodia communist group called the **Khmer Rouge** & their leader **Pol Pot** took over the government (1976-1979)

-**Pol Pot** was a brutal dictator who **denied his people of human rights**

→he began a reign of terror to remove all western influences

→over 1 million Cambodians were slaughtered →known as the **Killing Fields**

## **Myanmar**

Myanmar-(formerly called Burma) had been a **British possession** in SE Asia  
gained **independence** but remained a poor country

-plagued by ethnic tension -ruled by a repressive military government

1990-the **opposition party** which was led by **Aung San Suu Kyi** won electoral victories but the military

-**rejected the election results** -put Suu Kyi under **house arrest**

2011-new president U Thein Sein **freed her**

2012 election-Suu Kyi **won a seat in Parliament**

\*Parliament is still controlled by the military but political & economic changes continue as do cultural & religious tensions

## **V. Nationalist leaders of Decolonization**

A) NOTE:

The Regents really wants you to know that many of the individuals discussed above are nationalist leaders since they were loyal and devoted to their people and their nation.

These men include:

**Mohandas Gandhi**   **Kwame Nkrumah**   **Jomo Kenyatta**   **Nelson Mandela**   **Ho Chi Minh**

## **COLLAPSE OF EUROPEAN IMPERIALISM**

Post WWII marked the final collapse of European Imperialism

India gained independence in 1947 but struggled with **ethnic & religious conflicts**

### **Indian Independence & Partition**

Indian nationalists had been demanding independence from Britain since the 1800s

-Sepoy Rebellion

-Amritsar Massacre

-Mohandas Gandhi-led the Indian nationalist movement

\*passive resistance-non-violent opposition      \*civil disobedience-refusing to obey an unjust law

\*boycotts-refusing to buy British goods like textiles

-put off granting independence but expected them to support Britain in WWII

In India-**Hindus**-majority

-**Muslims**-minority → formed the **Muslim League**-goal-**separate country** for Muslims

**1947**-India is granted independence → drew borders that created **Hindu India** & **Muslim Pakistan**

**\*the partition of India did not bring peace instead independence set off mass migrations of Muslims fleeing India & Hindus fleeing Pakistan**

**→ millions were killed crossing the borders\***

### **Current Problems**

Both India and Pakistan wish to control **Kashmir**

→ raises fears of a nuclear conflict since both India & Pakistan have nuclear weapons

Why do both India and Pakistan believe control of Kashmir is so important?

**1. Control of the Indus River**-the headwaters of the Indus River are located in Kashmir

→ if control the headwaters control the river -the Indus is vital-brings green fertile life wherever it flows

-the Indus begins in Kashmir then flows through Pakistan & then flows into mainland India

→ since Kashmir is part of India they could dam the Indus and change the flow of the river

→ without fertile land to grow crops Pakistan would become a desert → its people would starve

Pakistan does not trust India & India does not trust Pakistan

-they will not share control of the Indus → they both want total control

**2. Religious Sites**-Both Pakistan & India have sites in Kashmir important to their respective religions

\* **Pakistan** is predominately **Muslim** & so is **Kashmir**

\* **India** is predominately **Hindu**

**3. Strategic Location.**

-for India-Kashmir acts as a buffer

-for Pakistan-Kashmir offers a fertile roadway into India for possible invasion

### **Who controls Kashmir today, and why?**

Approximately 60 years ago-Kashmir was offered a choice by the UN to become

1. part of India    2. part of Pakistan    3. independent

-Pakistan wanted to secure Kashmir for themselves

→ Pakistan invades Kashmir because Muslims see this as a holy war → the ruler of Kashmir fled to India

→ agreed to place Kashmir under Indian rule if India would protect Kashmir from invasion

\*If there had been a vote in Kashmir by the people, the majority probably would have voted to become part of Pakistan for religious reasons\*

→ since there was no vote Pakistan has never accepted India's control of Kashmir

Pakistan believed then and still believes today that Kashmir should be part of Pakistan however for many years now Kashmir has been part of India

\*Both India and Pakistan are convinced that they are right and that they will prevail if they continue their fight as they are doing, although this plan has not worked in six decades\*

→ past 60 years Pakistan & India have fought 3 wars over Kashmir

-India won all three → today the fight continues with acts of terrorism

### Why doesn't the US lend a helping hand with the Kashmir conflict?

The US wants to be friends with both Pakistan & India

→ that makes US involvement in this problem very difficult

-Pakistan shares a border with Afghanistan → in the U.S. fight on terrorism that border is very important

→ Pakistan's help is critical

-India is a friend/ally of the U.S. → the U.S. doesn't want to anger India

- there is a great deal of trade with India that is mutually advantageous

→ If Pakistan goes to war with India the U.S. would be in a difficult situation

→ try very hard not to get involved-no win situation

### India after independence:

1) India established a democratic government

2) India followed a policy of **nonalignment** or neutrality during the Cold War which means that it did not take sides-it remained neutral

3) **Caste System**- Although India's constitution prevents discrimination against the lowest social classes or castes in India

\*there continues to be discrimination in rural /farming areas since tradition remains strong there

\*Discrimination against **untouchables**-the lowest class/caste is especially severe

## TOPIC: THE MIDDLE EAST AFTER WORLD WAR II

**Middle East**-is a **crossroads** for people of Africa, Asia, & Europe

→ **diversity of people**, belief systems, & cultures in the region → **these differences have sometimes lead to conflicts**

**Discovery of oil**—>power for some Middle Eastern nations

-oil is **not evenly distributed** across the region—>wars fought over control of oil rich land

-dependence on oil reason why countries around the world take an interest in conflicts in the Middle East

**Zionism**-movement to build a **Jewish state** in Palestine due to **rising anti-semitism**

→ large numbers of Jews began migrating to Palestine

During WWI-the British made conflicting promises to the Jews & Palestinians

1. give **Palestinians independence**

2. **Balfour Declaration**-separate Jewish state

Post WWII/Holocaust → increased support for Jewish state in Palestine

**After WW II- part of the Holy Land (sacred area of the Middle East that includes Jerusalem) was used to create the Jewish nation of Israel**

- 1947-the UN divided Palestine (which had been under British rule) into an Arab state & a Jewish state

### **PROBLEM**

**Both Jews & Palestinian Arabs claimed the right to the land**

-Jews-claimed they were entitled to the land they had ruled 3,000 years ago

- **Palestinians**-Arab Muslims that live in the Holy Land claim that they should have control over the region since they have lived there for hundreds of years

**Since the creation of Israel Arab nations have vowed to drive the Jews out & restore Palestine as an Arab nation → wars & smaller conflicts**

1948-1973-4 major wars were fought between Israel and the Arab nations of the Middle East

- 6 Arab states-Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, & Saudi Arabia invaded Israel
- **Israel won**→gained land→Israel doubled in size
- →over 700,000 **Palestinians** became **refugees**
- →placed in refugee camps meant to be temporary but became permanent over time
- **Palestinians** are still fighting to gain control of the Holy Land and frequently use terrorism (i.e.- suicide bombings) to achieve their goals
- 1964-**Palestine Liberation Organization PLO** was formed led by Yasir Arafat
  - want to **destroy Israel** →many Israeli civilians have been killed by PLO terrorists
- 1987-young Palestinians growing up in Israeli-occupied land began widespread attacks of civil disobedience called **the intifada or uprising**

### **Attempts at peace have made little progress**

- -Camp David Accords
- -Oslo Peace Accords

Late 1970s increasing numbers of Muslims were opposed to westernization

→ **Islamic Fundamentalism**-belief that governments should create societies that are based firmly on the rules of Islam

Two countries that have established such societies in recent decades are:  
Iran and Afghanistan

### **B) Iranian Revolution (1979)**

**discovery of oil** → great interest in the area

1950s-an Iranian nationalist leader who had communist support tried to nationalize the oil industry

→1953-Br. & U.S. help **Mohammad Reza Pahlavi** gain power in Iran

→Pahlavi proclaimed himself **shah**

→he **westernized/modernized** the country but also ruled as a dictator

1970s-opposition to the shah was led by the **Ayatollah Khomeini**-an Islamic religious leader

1979-**Islamic Revolution**

-mounting protests→shah fled the country

→Ayatollah Khomeini declared Iran an **Islamic republic** based on **Islamic fundamental beliefs**

- **Iran** is still a **theocracy**- A country that is ruled by religious leaders

## Afghanistan

1979-1989 fought off the USSR who wanted to strengthen the Afghan Communist government there

-Once the Soviets withdrew Afghanistan was divided by civil war

→Islamic group the Taliban seized power in 1996 & set up an Islamic government

**Taliban-an Islamic group** that ruled **Afghanistan** from 1996-2001

-created laws that were strictly based on **Sharia** (Islamic law)

\*In countries that are based on Islamic Fundamentalism, women have very few rights

\*They cannot vote and are required to dress very conservatively (modestly) in public

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## IRAQ

Dictator **Saddam Hussein** led Iraq into several conflicts

1980-Iraq-Iran War-Saddam seized control of disputed border area btw Iraq & Iran →war

1990-Iraq invaded the neighboring oil rich country of Kuwait →UN sent multi-national force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait

→the U.S. saw it as a threat to the flow of oil from the Middle East

## **TOPIC: THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM**

### **I. The Collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union (1991)**

By the 1970s the U.S. & the Soviet Union realized that Cold War tension could end in mutual destruction

both countries promoted a period of détente-lessening of tension

1979-Soviet Union invades Afghanistan to keep a procommunist government in power end to détente

Between 1989 and 1991- the Cold War ended and Communism disappeared from Europe

### **Mikhail Gorbachev**

1) Soviet leader who helped bring an end to Communism in the Soviet Union

-pulled troops out of Afghanistan

#### 2) **Perestroika**

a) program in which Gorbachev **changed the economy** of the Soviet Union from a communist/command economy-where the government owns and operates businesses to a market/capitalist/free enterprise economy-where individuals own and operate businesses

\*stimulate economic growth      \*make industry more efficient      \*free market reforms

#### 3) **Glasnost**-openness

program in which Gorbachev allowed **freedom of speech** within the Soviet Union

→ended censorship

\* encouraged the people to discuss openly problems in the country

\*It was a major step towards democracy in the Soviet Union

## **The Soviet Union was multinational country**

-as political restrictions were eased people living in the non-Russian republics who opposed Russian domination started to regain their independence-for example

\*Latvia \*Lithuania \*Estonia

**Eventually all of the Soviet republics declared their independence**

**Boris Yeltsin** - He was the **first democratically elected president** in the history of Russia

## **II. The Collapse of Communism in Germany (1989)**

A) Throughout the Cold War, Germany had been divided into two nations:

**West** Germany-**democratic** country

**East** Germany-**communist** country controlled by the **Soviet Union**

B) 1989- The **Berlin Wall** (the symbol of the Cold War) was finally  **Torn down**

**This symbolized the end of the Cold War and the end of Communism**

C) 1990- **West Germany & East Germany** were **reunited** to form one democratic country

**Under communism ethnic tensions had been suppressed in the Soviet Socialist Republics of the USSR**

→with the fall of the Soviet Union these ethnic tensions were resurfacing

-Czechoslovakia-split peacefully into 2 separate countries → the Czech Republic & Slovakia

In other areas ethnic tension →conflict

-**Chechen Muslims** have been **fighting for independence** for over 150 years

-1991-Soviet Union collapses and Russia refused to recognize Chechnya as an independent nation

→bitter war between Russians & Chechen separatists

## **RUSSIA & UKRAINE**

Ukraine has strong historic ties to Russia since it was once a republic in the former Soviet Union

-many citizens that consider themselves more Russian than Ukrainian live in East Ukraine & Crimea

**Eastern European countries would then also demand independence & democracy**

## **TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

### **I. Human Rights Violations**

Human rights are the basic rights that all humans are supposed to have-Basic human rights include:

**freedom of speech** -**freedom of religion** -**the right to vote** -**the right to live**

**Genocide**- the deliberate attempt to eliminate a group of people

It is the ultimate violation of human rights. Examples include:

1) **Armenian Massacre**

- The **Turks** of the **Ottoman Empire** murdered about one million **Armenians** during WWI

2) **Ukrainian Famine**

- Joseph Stalin-dictator of the Soviet Union took away food from the people of the Ukraine

\*resulted in the death of millions of people-forced famine

3) **Holocaust**

- Hitler and the Nazis murdered 6 million Jews during World War II

4) **Rwanda**

- The **Hutus** killed almost one million **Tutsis** in 1994.

5) **Cambodia**

- **Pol Pot** was the ruler of Cambodia who killed 2 million people within his nation.

6) **Yugoslavia**

- **Slobodan Milosevic**-Serbian ruler of **Yugoslavia**

\*violently attacked non-Serbs (especially Albanians) living in his lands

## **TOPIC: ECONOMIC SYSTEMS**

### **I. Economic Systems**

An economic system is the way that a society produces, distributes, and uses goods and services.

There are three main types of economic systems that the Regents might ask you about.

#### **Traditional Economy**

- 1) based on **barter**-trade without using money and **subsistence agriculture**-farming in which the crops are used only to feed the farmer and his family
- 2) People have the same occupation as their parents (usually related to farming)
- 3) Economic decisions are often influenced by tradition and religious beliefs

#### **Market Economy**

- 1) **Individuals** (NOT the government) own businesses and make economic decisions
- 2) **Individuals** (NOT the government) determine the price of goods based on supply and demand
- 3) The terms **capitalism**, **laissez-faire**, and **free enterprise** have the same meaning as market economy
- 4) Most of the world today (including the United States) uses a market economy

#### **Command Economy**

- 1) The **government** (NOT individuals) own businesses and make economic decisions
- 2) The **government** (NOT individuals) determines the price of goods
- 3) **Communist countries** like the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin and China under Mao Zedong used a **command economy**

### **I. Ethnic Conflicts**

Currently, there are many areas of the world where there is tension between ethnic groups.

Some examples include:

- 1) **Palestinians fighting the Jews** for more control over the **Holy Land** in the Middle East
- 2) **Tibet** is a **Buddhist region** that wants independence (self-government) from China
- 3) **Catholics and Protestants** have fought for control of **Northern Ireland**
- 4) **Muslims in Pakistan and Hindus in India** both claim control over the region called **Kashmir**
- 5) **Serbs, Croats, and Muslims** have battled for control over the **Balkans** (SE Europe)
- 6) The **Kurds**-group of people who are scattered throughout areas of **Turkey, Iraq, & Iran**  
-they want to create their own nation called **Kurdistan**
- 7) **Chechnya**-a **Muslim region** that has used terrorism to gain independence from Russia

## **II. Environmental Problems**

### **A) Ozone Layer**

- 1) Small layer of gases in the atmosphere that absorbs the sun's ultraviolet rays and protects us from skin cancer
- 2) Currently being destroyed by chemicals due to pollution
- 3) Demonstrates a need for stricter pollution laws throughout the world

## B) **Acid Rain**

- 1) Rain that contains chemicals due to pollution
- 2) Demonstrates a need for stricter pollution laws throughout the world

## C) **Deforestation**

- 1) Elimination of rainforests in Brazil (Amazon Basin), Costa Rica, and the Congo (in Central Africa)

## D) **Desertification**

- 1) Change from arable (fertile) land to desert. Causes include deforestation and overgrazing
- 2) Especially a concern in the Sahel (region south of the Sahara Desert in Africa)

## E) **Chernobyl**

- 1) Nuclear disaster in Ukraine (a republic of the Soviet Union) in 1986
- 2) Thousands exposed to radiation/cancer

## F) **Greenhouse Effect**

- 1) Trapping of warm air in the atmosphere → leads to global warming
- 2) Caused by chemicals (like carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere
- 3) Could lead to flooding of coastal areas

## G) **Solutions**

- 1) **Kyoto Protocol** (1997)- International agreement calling for a decrease in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses from the 1990 levels
- 2) NOTE: All of the problems listed above demonstrate that international cooperation is needed to improve the earth's environment

## III. Science and Technology

### A) **Green Revolution**

- 1) The term refers to the use of technology to increase the food supply (began in the 1960s)
- 2) Methods included  
**improved irrigation machinery fertilizer pesticides better seeds and livestock**
- 3) The Green Revolution has helped increase food production and decrease hunger in areas of Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

NOTE: The **Green Revolution** has been especially **successful in India**

### B) **Nuclear Proliferation**

- 1) Nuclear proliferation refers to the **spread of nuclear technology** to countries that do not currently possess them
- 2) Although nuclear technology can be used to develop energy (i.e.- electricity) the same technology can also be used to create nuclear weapons
- 3) North Korea (a communist nation) recently developed nuclear weapons and Iran may be in the process of developing nuclear weapons