

Geography 365 (GEOG 365) – Political Geography - Final Exam Study Notes

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New Imperialism

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Imperialism

The term "**New Imperialism**" refers to the policy and ideology of **imperial colonial** expansion adopted by **Europe's powers** and later the **United States** during the **late 19th** and **early 20th centuries**; approximately from the **Franco-Prussian War** to **World War I** (c. 1871–1914).

The **World-Systems theory** approach of **Immanuel Wallerstein** sees imperialism as part of a general, gradual extension of capital investment from the "core" of the industrial countries to a less developed "periphery." Protectionism and formal empire were the major tools of "semi-peripheral," newly industrialized states, such as Germany, seeking to usurp Britain's position at the "core" of the global capitalist system.

Immanuel Wallerstein

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immanuel_Wallerstein

Much more, a lasting division of the world in **core**, **semi-periphery** and **periphery** is an inherent feature of the world-system. Areas which have so far remained outside the reach of the world-system, enter it at the stage of **periphery**. There is a fundamental and institutionally stabilized **division of labour** between core and periphery: While the core has a high level of technological development and manufactures complex products, the role of the periphery is to supply raw materials, agricultural products and cheap labour for the expanding agents of the core. Economic exchange between core and periphery takes places on unequal terms: The periphery is forced to sell its products at low prices, but has to buy the core's products at comparatively high prices, an unequal state which, once established, tends to stabilize itself due to inherent, quasi-deterministic constraints. The statuses of core and periphery are not, however, mutually exclusive and fixed to certain geographic areas; instead, they are relative to each other and shifting: There is a zone called **semi-periphery**, which acts as a periphery to the core, and a core to the periphery.

Third World

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_world

Leading members of this original "third world" movement were **Yugoslavia**, **India**, and **Egypt**. Many third world countries believed they could successfully court both the **communist** and **capitalist** nations of the world, and develop key economic partnerships without necessarily falling under their direct influence. In practice, this plan did not work out quite so well; many third world nations were **exploited** or undermined by the two superpowers who feared these supposedly neutral nations were in danger of falling into alignment with the enemy. After World War II, the First and Second Worlds struggled to expand their respective spheres of influence to the Third World. The militaries and **intelligence services** of the United States and the Soviet Union worked both secretly and overtly to influence Third World governments, with

mixed success.

The **dependency theory** suggests that multinational corporations and organizations such as the **IMF** and **World Bank** have contributed to making third world countries dependent on first world countries for economic survival. The theory states that this dependence is self-maintaining because the economic systems tend to benefit first world countries and corporations. Scholars also question whether the idea of development is biased in favor of Western thought. They debate whether **population** growth is a main source of problems in the third world or if the problems are more complex and thorny than that. Policy makers disagree on how much involvement first world countries should have in the third world and whether third world debts should be canceled.

The issues are complicated by the stereotypes of what third world and first world countries are like. People in the first world, for example, often describe third world countries as underdeveloped, overpopulated, and oppressed. Third world people are sometimes portrayed as uneducated, helpless, or backwards. Modern scholarship has taken steps to make academic discourse more conscious of the differences not only between the first world and the third world, but also among the countries and people of each category.

British Empire

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire

The rise of anti-colonial **nationalist** movements in the subject territories in the first half of the **20th century** challenged an imperial power now increasingly preoccupied with issues nearer home, particularly after the Second World War. Seizing the opportunity, first **India**, then other territories in **Asia** and **Africa** demanded independent statehood. After sometimes disastrous attempts to stem the tide, Britain's eventual acceptance of the new situation led to the Empire's transformation into today's **Commonwealth**.

The end of Empire gathered pace after Britain's efforts during **World War II** left the country all but exhausted and found its former allies disinclined to support the colonial *status quo*.

Britain's Palestine Mandate ended (1948) in withdrawal and open warfare between the territory's Jewish and Arab populations. In the Mediterranean, a guerrilla war waged by Greek Cypriot advocates of union with **Greece** ended (1960) in an independent **Cyprus**.

The end of Britain's Empire in Africa came with exceptional rapidity, often leaving the newly-independent states ill-equipped to deal with the challenges of

sovereignty: [Ghana's independence \(1957\)](#) after a ten-year nationalist political campaign was followed by that of [Nigeria \(1960\)](#), [Sierra Leone](#) and [Tanganyika \(1961\)](#), [Uganda \(1962\)](#), [Kenya](#) and [Zanzibar \(1963\)](#), [The Gambia \(1965\)](#), [Botswana](#) (formerly Bechuanaland) and [Lesotho](#) (formerly Basutoland) ([1966](#)), and [Swaziland \(1968\)](#).

British withdrawal from the southern and eastern parts of Africa was complicated by the region's white settler populations: Kenya had already provided an example in the [Mau Mau Uprising](#) of violent conflict exacerbated by white landownership and reluctance to concede majority rule. White minority rule in [South Africa](#) remained a source of bitterness within the Commonwealth until the ending of [apartheid](#) policy in [1994](#).

Domino Theory

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domino_Theory

The **domino theory** was a [United States](#) political theory advanced by both [liberal](#) and [conservative](#) Americans during the [Cold War](#), especially regarding [Indochina](#). It asserted that if one country were taken over by [Communists](#), neighboring countries would fall like [dominoes](#), in a form of [imperialist](#) expansion of the [Soviet Union](#).

The theory was based on anti-communist Western perceptions of the [Eastern Bloc](#). The [Berlin Blockade](#), as well as the rise of socialist governments in [Bulgaria](#), [Czechoslovakia](#), [Hungary](#), [Poland](#), [Romania](#) and [Yugoslavia](#) were all seen as being masterminded inside the [Kremlin](#). Outside of anti-communist Western circles this view was not widely shared, most people thought realities were different, such as that Yugoslavia was fairly independent of the USSR. Also discounted was the desire of much of the [working class](#) of these countries to have a socialist government - Hungary had already had a socialist revolution decades before a socialist government took power.

In Asia, Soviet forces occupied [Manchuria](#) at the end of [World War II](#), and then expanded military aid to allow the Communists under [Mao Zedong](#) to [gain control](#) over China during the final stages of the [Chinese Civil War](#) from [1946](#) to [1949](#).

On [June 25, 1950](#), Soviet ally [Kim Il-Sung](#) of [North Korea](#) launched an invasion of [South Korea](#). The [United Nations](#) agreed to intervene in South Korea, and the crisis escalated into an explicit [confrontation against the Chinese and Soviet military](#) in the [Korean War](#).

Bantustans

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantustans>

Bantustan refers to any of the territories designated as tribal "[homelands](#)" for [black South Africans](#) during the [Apartheid](#) era. The term "bantustan" was first used in the late [1940s](#) and was coined from [Bantu](#) (meaning "people" in the [Bantu languages](#)) and [-stan](#) (meaning "land of"), and was based on [Hindustan](#). It later became a disparaging term used by critics of the Apartheid-era

Boers

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boers>

Afrikaners are white [South Africans](#) predominantly of [Calvinist Dutch](#), [German](#), [French Huguenot](#) and [Belgian](#) descent who speak [Afrikaans](#). Some settlers from other parts of Europe (e.g. [Scandinavia](#) and [Britain](#)) also joined the ranks of the Afrikaners. Non-Europeans (including [Malay](#), [Indian](#), [Khoi](#) and [Bantu](#)) make up around 5-7% of Afrikaner origins.

Significant amounts were known as Boers (farmers). The semi-nomadic/migrating farmers of the eastern frontier were known as Trekboers

In the [1830s](#) and [1840s](#) an estimated 12,000 Voortrekkers penetrated the future Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal provinces to put themselves beyond the reach of British authority, in order to escape relentless border wars, British colonialism and its Anglicization policies, as well as to ease pressure on an overcrowding frontier where land was becoming scarce. While some historians claim that these series of migrations, later known as the Great Trek, was caused because the Boers did not agree with the British restrictions on [slavery](#), most [Trekboers](#) did not own

slaves, unlike the Cape Dutch; their more affluent cousins in the western Cape who did not trek eastward and migrate or participate in the Great Trek. The vast majority of Voortrekkers were Trekboers from the eastern Cape who engaged in pastoralism.

The Boers established independent states in what is now South Africa: the [Natalia](#) Republic, the [Transvaal](#) Republic (the [South African Republic](#)) and the [Orange Free State](#). The English wish to extend their colonial empire to the Boer areas led to the two [Boer Wars](#) of [1880-1881](#) and [1899-1902](#), which ended with the inclusion of the Boer areas in the British colonies. Following the British annexation of the Boer republics, the creation of the [Union of South Africa \(1910\)](#) went some way towards blurring the division between British settler and Afrikaner.

Apartheid

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apartheid>

Apartheid (*ap-ar-taed*) is an [Afrikaans](#) word meaning "separation" or literally "aparthood" (or "apartness"). It was the name of the policy and the system of laws implemented and enforced by "White" minority governments in [South Africa](#) from [1948](#) till [1990](#). To some the term has come to be used to refer to any legally sanctioned system of [racial segregation](#).

It is conventional to consider apartheid to centre on the beliefs that (i) other races are inferior, (ii) inferior treatment of "inferior" races is appropriate, and (iii) such treatment should be enforced by law. However, there have been and continue to be academic apologists for apartheid who hold that although the South African implementation of apartheid was flawed, it was intended by its architects to be a system which would separate the races, thus preventing the "Whites" (and other minorities) from being "swamped" and losing their identity, but would nevertheless treat the races fairly and equally.

Eritrea

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrea>

Eritrea had been ruled by many powers before it was colonised by the [Italians](#) in [1885](#). The Italians remained in power until they were defeated by Allied Forces in [World War II \(1941\)](#), and Eritrea became a [British](#) protectorate. After the war, the [United Nations](#) eventually decided that the area was to become part of a [federation](#) with [Ethiopia](#). When Eritrean independence fighters rioted in the early 1960s, the land was annexed by [Ethiopia](#), starting a 30-year long civil war.

This war ended in [1991](#), when Eritrean forces defeated the Ethiopian army. Two years later, after a [referendum](#), independence was declared.

In [1998](#), a border war with [Ethiopia](#) broke out which killed thousands of soldiers from both countries and left Eritrea with significant economic and social stresses, including massive population displacement, reduced economic development, and one of Africa's more severe landmine problems.

Tanzania

The area was a German colony from the [1880s](#) to [1919](#), then became a British trust territory from [1919](#) to [1961](#). In 1964, [Tanganyika](#) and [Zanzibar](#) (which had become independent in 1963) merged to form the nation of Tanzania on [April 26, 1964](#). In 1979, Tanzania declared war on [Uganda](#) after Uganda invaded and tried to annex Tanzanian territory in the north of the country. Tanzania not only expelled Ugandan forces, but also invaded Uganda itself, forcing the ouster of [Idi Amin](#).

Walvis Bay

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walvis_Bay

Nothing much was done with Walvis Bay until 1840, when in the [scramble for Africa](#), [Great Britain](#), a premier seafaring nation at the time, annexed Walvis Bay and a small area surrounding the territory to forestall German ambitions in the region and to ensure safe passage of British ships around the Cape. In 1910, Walvis Bay, as well as the [Cape Colony](#), became part of the newly formed [Union of South Africa](#).

In 1990, South-West Africa gained independence. A new nation, Namibia, was born but Walvis Bay remained under South African control. It took until 1994 for Walvis Bay to be formally returned to Namibia after the local business community and investors in Walvis Bay applied pressure on the South African authorities to resolve the political status of Walvis Bay.

Balkanization

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkanization>

Balkanization is a [geopolitical](#) term used to describe the process of fragmentation or division of a region into many smaller regions that are often hostile or non-cooperative with each other.

Ex: Rwanda, Burundi

Fin de siècle

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fin_de_siecle

Fin de siècle is [French](#) for "End of the Century". The term "**turn-of-the-century**" is sometimes used as a synonym, but is more neutral (lacking some or most of the connotations described below), and can include the first years of a new century.

The expression *Fin de siècle* generally refers to the last years of the [19th century](#).

In a broader sense the expression *fin de siècle* is used to characterize anything that has an [ominous](#) mixture of opulence and/or decadence, combined with a shared prospect of unavoidable radical change. Note that it is not change itself that is implied in the expression *fin de siècle* (but only its [anticipation](#)), e.g. for the historical [19th century](#). *Fin de siècle* the radical changes in the cultural and social order would only occur more than a decade after the new century had started ([World war I](#)), while by the end of the [19th century](#) the [Belle époque](#) was not even at its height (nor had the [Edwardian](#) era, almost seamlessly following the [Victorian era](#), even started). The [War on terror](#) could also be seen to have a definite *fin de siècle* touch (allegedly anticipating an [era](#)

without dictators).

Zero-sum

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero-sum>

Zero-sum describes a situation in which a participant's gain (or loss) is exactly balanced by the losses (or gains) of the other participant(s). It is so named because when you add up the total gains of the participants and subtract the total losses then they will sum to zero. Cutting a cake is zero-sum because taking a larger piece for you reduces the amount of cake available for others. Situations where participants can all gain or suffer together, such as a country with an excess of bananas trading with an other country for their excess of apples where both benefit from the transaction, are referred to as **non-zero-sum**.

New World Order

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_order

The term **New World Order** has been used several times in recent history, referring to what appeared to be a dramatic change in world political thought and the [balance of power](#).

While a similar phrase (*Novus Ordo Seclorum*, in fact a quotation from Vergil) appears in Latin on the back of the U.S. one dollar bill, the phrase "New World Order" was first widely used by [Woodrow Wilson](#) in the period just after [World War I](#), during the formation of the [League of Nations](#). The "[war to end all wars](#)" had been a powerful catalyst in international politics, and many felt the world could simply no longer operate as it once had. The term fell from use when it became clear the League was creating nothing of the sort, and was used very little during the formation of the [United Nations](#).

More recently it was used for a while after the end of the [Cold War](#) by many people, notably former U.S. President [George H. W. Bush](#). Many felt the end of the Cold War would have dramatic effects on the international balance of power, including the hope that the end of the Cold War would usher in a new era of international co-operation through the United Nations.

Autoarchy

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autarchy>

An **autarky** is an [economy](#) that does no trade with the outside world and relies entirely on its own resources. It is also referred to as a "[closed economy](#)".

Today autarky is found very rarely. An example of a currently run autarky is [North Korea](#), but even it has a small amount of trade between [China](#) and [Japan](#).

In the past, [fascism](#) imposed autarky in [Italy](#) after an [embargo](#) sanctioned by the [League of Nations](#). Autarky was a primary goal for [Adolf Hitler](#) in his [aggression in Europe](#), capturing arable land in [Poland](#) to provide for [Germany](#)'s principal foreign dependency, [food](#).

Mittleuropa

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mittleuropa>

Outside of Germany, the concept of **Mittleuropa** may be best known for that policy of the [Central Powers](#) during [World War I](#) which assumed the creation of

Pan-Germanism

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan-Germanism>

Pan-Germanism, one of the ethnically-charged political movements of the [19th century](#) for unity of the [German](#)-speaking peoples of [Europe](#). Some radical German immigrants in America also sought a union with their German "brothers" back in Europe.

Concert of Europe

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concert_of_Europe

The **Concert of Europe** describes the broad co-operation between [Europe](#)'s great [powers](#) after [1815](#). Its purpose was to maintain the peace settlement concluded at the [Congress of Vienna](#) following the defeat of [Napoleonic France](#).

Boxer Rebellion

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boxer_Rebellion

The uprising was concentrated in north-eastern China where the [European](#) powers had begun to demand territorial, [railroad](#) and mining concessions. [Imperial Germany](#) responded to the killing of two missionaries in [Shandong](#) province (November [1897](#)) by seizing the port of [Qingdao](#). The next month, a [Russian](#) squadron took possession of [Lushun](#), in southern [Liaoyang](#). [Britain](#) and [France](#) followed, taking possession of [Weihai](#) and [Zhanjiang](#) respectively.

Boxer activity began in northern Shandong in March [1898](#), with the slogan "Overthrow the Qing, destroy the foreigner". The movement's emergence was a response to both foreign penetration and the failure of the Imperial court's "[self-strengthening](#)" strategy of officially-directed development, whose shortcomings had been shown graphically in China's [defeat](#) by [Japan](#) in [1895](#).

Entente Cordiale

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entente_Cordiale

The **Entente Cordiale** (French for "friendly understanding") is a series of agreements signed on [April 8, 1904](#), between the [United Kingdom](#) and [France](#).

Beyond the immediate concerns of [colonial](#) expansion addressed by the agreement, the signing of the Entente Cordiale marked the end of centuries of intermittent conflict between the two nations, and the start of the peaceful co-existence that continues to the present day.

Triple Entente

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triple_Entente

The **Triple Entente** was the alliance formed in [1907](#) between the [United Kingdom](#), [France](#) and [Russia](#) after the signing of the [Anglo-Russian Entente](#). The UK had already entered into the [Entente Cordiale](#) with France in [1904](#), while France had concluded the [Franco-Russian Alliance](#) in [1894](#).

Though not a military alliance, the alignment of the three powers (supplemented by various agreements with

[Japan](#), the [United States](#) and [Spain](#)) constituted a powerful counterweight to the "[Triple Alliance](#)" of [Imperial Germany](#), [Austria-Hungary](#) and [Italy](#), (the latter having concluded an additional secret agreement with France effectively nullifying her alliance commitments).

Schlieffen Plan

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schlieffen_Plan

The **Schlieffen Plan**, the [German General Staff](#)'s overall strategic blueprint for victory on the [western front](#) against [France](#) in the years up to [1914](#), takes its name from its author, [Alfred Graf von Schlieffen](#). In essence it envisaged a rapid German [mobilization](#), disregard of [Luxembourg](#), [Belgian](#) and [Dutch neutrality](#), and the overwhelming sweep of German armies through Belgium southwards in the back of the [French](#) defenses pivoting on weakly-held left-wing positions in the province of [Alsace-Lorraine](#). [Paris](#) was not to be taken but to be by-passed in the east. The intent of the plan was not to conquer cities or industry in order to weaken the French war efforts, but to capture most of the [French](#) army and to force [France](#) to surrender. Following the speedy defeat of France, von Schlieffen imagined switching German concentrations to the Eastern Front. His goal was to defeat France in the time it took for Russia to mobilize their army, and turn back to the [Eastern Front](#) before Russia could react.

League of Nations

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations

The **League of Nations** was an [international organization](#) founded after the [First World War](#) by the [Treaty of Versailles](#). The League's goals included reducing [armaments](#), preventing war through [collective security](#) and settling disputes between [countries](#) through negotiation and diplomacy and by maintaining and improving living conditions. The League proved incapable of preventing aggression by the [Fascist](#) powers. The [United Nations](#) effectively replaced it after the [Second World War](#) and inherited a number of agencies and organizations founded by the League.

Treaty of Versailles

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles

The **Treaty of Versailles** of [1919](#) is the [peace treaty](#) created as a result of the six-month-long [Paris Peace Conference of 1919](#) which put an official end to [World War I](#). The ceremonial signing of the treaty with Germany occurred [June 28, 1919](#). The treaty was ratified on [January 10, 1920](#) and required that [Germany](#) and its allies accept responsibility for causing the war and pay large amounts of compensation (known as [war reparations](#)).

The treaty provided for the creation of the [League of Nations](#), a major goal of US president [Woodrow Wilson](#). The purpose of the organization was to arbitrate conflicts between nations before they lead to war.

Other provisions included the loss of German colonies and loss of German territories.

Monroe Doctrine

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monroe_Doctrine

The **Monroe Doctrine**, expressed in [1823](#), proclaimed

Good Neighbor Policy

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_Neighbor_Policy

The "**Good Neighbor**" policy was the policy of the [United States](#) Administration of [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) in relation to [Latin America](#) in [1933-45](#), when the active U.S. intervention of previous decades was moderated in pursuit of hemispheric solidarity against external threats.

"In the field of world policy I would dedicate this Nation to the policy of the good neighbor—the neighbor who resolutely respects himself and, because he does so, respects the rights of others — the neighbor who respects his obligations and respects the sanctity of his agreements in and with a world of neighbors."

Manchuria

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchuria>

Between [World War I](#) and [World War II](#) Manchuria became a political and military battleground. Japanese influence extended into Outer Manchuria in the wake of the [Russian Revolution](#) but Outer Manchuria had reverted to [Soviet Russian](#) control by [1925](#). Japan took advantage of the disorder following the Russian Revolution to occupy Outer Manchuria but Soviet successes and [American](#) economic pressure forced Japanese withdrawal.

Rhineland

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhineland>

The **Rhineland** (*Rheinland* in [German](#)) is the general name for the land on both sides of the river [Rhine](#) in the west of [Germany](#).

The [Treaty of Versailles](#) (1919) specified the demilitarization of the entire area after [World War I](#) to provide a buffer between Germany on one side and [France](#), [Belgium](#) and [Luxembourg](#) (and to a lesser extent, the [Netherlands](#)) on the other side.

In violation of the [Locarno Pact](#) and the [Treaty of Versailles](#), [Nazi Germany](#) reoccupied the Rhineland on [March 7, 1936](#). The occupation was done with very little military support and could easily have been stopped had it not been for the [appeasement](#) mentality of post-war [Europe](#). The remilitarization of the Rhineland was very popular with locals, however, because of a resurgence of German nationalism and harbored bitterness over French occupation of the Rhineland until 1926.

Lebensraum

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebensraum>

Lebensraum ("Living space") is an idea that was used to justify the expansionist politics of [Nazi Germany](#).

Hitler himself was attracted to these Pan-European

ideals, but was initially unsure as to where the space should come from. Indeed, he admonished Germany's wartime government for supporting [Austria-Hungary](#) against Russia. By the time that *Mein Kampf* was published in 1926, though, Hitler had come to believe that Russia was, in fact, the direction in which Germany should expand. He had become suspicious of the links between the [Bolshevik](#) revolutionaries and the [Jews](#), and decided that only through the elimination of the Eastern European Jewry could Germany acquire its living space.

The elements of the program outlined in *Mein Kampf* included 3 general ideas:

- Idea of military expansion and force expulsion of the nations of ([Poland](#), [Ukraine](#), [Russia](#) and other countries) in order to prepare settlements for German people (both [Reichsdeutsche](#) and [Volksdeutsche](#)). The German historians underlined German claims to those countries.
- Idea of supporting a high birth rate among the German women, to increase the country's population.
- Idea of selection of young German women and German soldiers, in order to produce optimal from the [racial](#) point of view [Germanic](#) material to replace soldiers killed in action.

Anti-Comintern Pact

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Comintern_Pact

The **Anti-Comintern Pact** was concluded between [Nazi Germany](#) and [Japan](#) on [November 25th, 1936](#). The pact was directed against the Communist International ([Comintern](#)) in general, and the [Soviet Union](#) in particular. In case of an attack by the Soviet Union against Germany or Japan, the two countries agreed to consult on what measures to take "to safeguard their common interests". They also agreed that neither of them would make any political treaties with the Soviet Union, and Germany also agreed to recognize the Japanese [puppet regime](#) in [Manchuria](#). In [1937 Italy](#) joined the Pact, thereby forming the group that would later be known as the [Axis Powers](#).

German-Soviet Pact

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Soviet_pact

The **Molotov-Ribbentrop pact**, also known as the **Hitler-Stalin pact** or **Nazi-Soviet pact**, was a [non-aggression treaty](#) between [Germany](#) and [Russia](#), or more precisely between the [Soviet Union](#) and the [Third Reich](#). It was signed in [Moscow](#) on [August 23, 1939](#), by the Soviet foreign minister [Vyacheslav Molotov](#) and the German foreign minister [Joachim von Ribbentrop](#). The non-aggression treaty lasted until [Operation Barbarossa](#) of [June 22, 1941](#), when Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union.

Cold War

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War

The **Cold War** (c. [1945-1991](#)) was the open yet restricted rivalry that developed after [World War II](#) between groups of nations practicing different ideologies and political systems. On one side was the [Soviet Union](#)

Treaty of Westphalia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Westphalia

The **Peace of Westphalia**, also known as the treaties of *Münster* and *Osnabrück*, is the series of [treaties](#) that ended the [Thirty Years' War](#) and "officially" recognized

the [United Provinces](#) and [Swiss Confederation](#).

Congress of Vienna

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_Vienna

The **Congress of Vienna** ([October 1, 1814](#) - [June 9, 1815](#)) was a conference between ambassadors from the major powers in [Europe](#) that was chaired by the Austrian statesman [Klemens Wenzel von Metternich](#) and held in [Vienna, Austria](#). Its purpose was to redraw the continent's political map after the defeat of Napoleonic [France](#) the previous spring.

Iron Curtain

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Curtain

The Iron Curtain is a term used in the West to refer to the boundary line which divided [Europe](#) into two separate areas of political influence from the end of [World War II](#) until the end of the [Cold War](#).

During this period, Eastern Europe was under the political influence of the [Soviet Union](#), and the direct political control of either the Soviet Union or national [communist régimes](#). Most of the democratic countries of Western Europe were aligned with the [United States](#) in NATO. Those states which bordered on the Iron Curtain where the metaphor was a inappropriate, were [Finland](#), [Austria](#), [Yugoslavia](#), and [West Berlin](#).

Berlin Airlift

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_Airlift

The [Soviet Union](#) blocked Western rail and road access to [West Berlin](#) from [June 24, 1948](#) - [May 11, 1949](#). This **Berlin Blockade** was one of the major crises of the [Cold War](#). The crisis abated after the Soviet Union did not act to stop [American](#), [British](#) and [French](#) airlifts of food and other provisions to the Western-held sectors of Berlin following the Soviet blockade.

When [World War II](#) ended in Europe on [May 8, 1945](#), Soviet and Western (U.S., British, and French) troops were located in particular places, essentially, along a line in the center of Europe. From [July 17](#) to [August 2, 1945](#), the victorious Allied Powers reached the [Potsdam Agreement](#) on the fate of postwar Europe, calling for the division of a defeated [Germany](#) into four occupation zones (thus reaffirming principles laid out earlier by the [Yalta Conference](#)), and the similar division of [Berlin](#) into four zones. The French, U.S., and British sectors of Berlin were deep within the Soviet occupation zones, and thus a focal point of tensions corresponding to the breakdown of the U.S.-Soviet wartime alliance.

The Soviets sought to create a unified but demilitarized Germany under their tutelage, or as Soviet Foreign Minister [Vyacheslav Molotov](#) told U.S. Secretary of State [James F. Byrnes](#) in 1946, a united Germany that could be neutralized after Russia received industrial reparations from Germany. This strategy was a response to a 150-year history of repeated Western assaults on Russia, including [World War I](#) and [Napoleon's](#) 1812 invasion. Stalin considered it essential to destroy Germany's capacity for another war, which conflicted with the U.S. desire to rebuild Germany as the economic center of a stable Europe. (Stalin assumed that [Japan](#)

Marshall Plan

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marshall_Plan

The **Marshall Plan**, known officially following its enactment as the **European Recovery Program** (ERP), was the main plan of the [United States](#) for the reconstruction of [Europe](#) following [World War II](#).

Between [1948](#) and [1951](#), the United States contributed more than \$13 billion dollars (nearly \$100 billion at present-day U.S. conversion rates).

After six years of war much of the European continent was devastated. Battles had been fought throughout the continent, covering a far larger area than in the [First World War](#). The economies of the region were ruined, millions were homeless, and the destruction of agriculture had led to conditions nearing starvation in much of the continent. Many of the continent's greatest cities, including [Warsaw](#) and [Berlin](#) were in ruins, and others, such as [London](#), were severely damaged. Especially damaged was the transportation industry as railways, bridges, and roads had been heavily targeted by air strikes, while many merchant shipping boats had been sunk. None of these problems could be easily fixed, as the nations engaged in the war had exhausted their treasuries in its prosecution.

The one country whose infrastructure had not been significantly harmed was the United States. It had entered the war later than most European countries and had only once been significantly attacked during the conflict. The American gold reserves were still intact as

was its massive agricultural and manufacturing base.

The effects of the Marshall Plan were surprising to even its most optimistic of supporters. The years 1948 to 1952 saw the fastest period of growth in European history. Industrial Production increased by 35%. Agriculture had substantially surpassed pre-war levels. The poverty and starvation of the immediate post-war years disappeared and Western Europe embarked upon an unprecedented two decades of growth that saw standards of living increase dramatically. The communist threat to western Europe was greatly reduced as throughout the region the communist parties faded in popularity.

The plan was thus implemented by the states of Western Europe acting in concert. This cooperation gave important impetus to the formation in the west of the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#) and later to the [European Economic Community](#) and today's [European Union](#).

Truman Doctrine

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truman_Doctrine

The **Truman Doctrine** stated that the [United States](#) would support "free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

The doctrine was specifically aimed at assisting governments resisting [communism](#). Truman insisted that if [Greece](#) and [Turkey](#) did not receive the aid that they needed, they would inevitably fall to communism with the result being a [domino effect](#) of acceptance of communism throughout the region.

The Truman Doctrine also contributed to America's first involvements in what is now the nation of [Vietnam](#). Truman attempt to aid France's bid to hold onto its Vietnamese colonies. The United States supplied French forces with equipment and military advisors in order to combat a young [Ho Chi Minh](#) and communist revolutionaries. Truman's policy of containment was the first American involvement in the [Vietnam War](#).

NATO

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO>

The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, sometimes called **North Atlantic Alliance**, **Atlantic Alliance** or the **Western Alliance**, is an [international organization](#) for defense collaboration established in [1949](#), in support of the [North Atlantic Treaty](#) signed in [Washington, DC](#), on [April 4, 1949](#).

The core provision of the treaty is Article V, which states:

The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the [Charter of the](#)

Suez Crisis

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suez_Crisis

The **Suez Crisis**, also known as the **Suez War**, **Suez Campaign** or **Kadesh Operation** was a [war](#) fought on [Egyptian](#) territory in [1956](#). The conflict pitted Egypt against an alliance between [France](#), the [United Kingdom](#) and [Israel](#). The alliance between the two European nations and Israel was largely one of convenience; the [European](#) nations had economic and trading interests in the [Suez Canal](#), while Israel had a pressing need to open the canal for Israeli shipping.

Military-industrial Complex

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military-industrial_complex

The term **military-industrial complex** usually refers to the combination of the [U.S. armed forces](#), [arms industry](#) and associated political and commercial interests, which grew rapidly in scale and influence in the wake of [World War II](#), although it can also be used to describe any such relationship of industry and military. It is sometimes used to refer to the [iron triangle](#) which exists between weapons makers/[military contractors](#), [The Pentagon](#) and the [United States Congress](#).

Though the term is usually used in reference to the United States, it has also been occasionally used to describe other militarily strong nations, such as the former [Soviet Union](#) or [Nazi Germany](#). The term *permanent war economy* has also been used in association with the concept.

Vietnam War

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War

The **Vietnam War** was a [war](#) fought between [1957](#) and [1975](#) on the ground in [South Vietnam](#) and bordering areas of [Cambodia](#) and [Laos](#). (See [Secret War](#)) and in bombing runs ([Rolling Thunder](#)) over [North Vietnam](#).

Fighting on one side was a [coalition](#) of forces including the [Republic of Vietnam](#) ([South Vietnam](#) or the "RVN"), the [United States](#), [South Korea](#), [Thailand](#), [Australia](#), [New Zealand](#), and the [Philippines](#). Participation by the South Korean military was financed by the United States, but Australia and New Zealand fully funded their own involvement. Other countries normally allied with the United States in the [Cold War](#), including the [United](#)

[Kingdom](#) and [Canada](#), refused to participate in the coalition, although many of their citizens volunteered to join the US forces. Fighting on the other side was a coalition of forces including the Democratic Republic of Vietnam ([North Vietnam](#)) and the [National Liberation Front](#), a South Vietnamese opposition movement with a [guerrilla](#) militia known in the U.S. as the "[Viet Cong](#)". The [USSR](#) provided military and financial aid along with [diplomatic support](#) to the North Vietnamese and to the NLF, partly as support against the U.S. and South Vietnamese government and partly as a counter to [Chinese](#) influence in the region.

Operation Urgent Fury

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Urgent_Fury

The **Invasion of Grenada**, known to US forces as **Operation Urgent Fury**, was an [invasion](#) of the island nation of [Grenada](#) by the military forces of the [United States of America](#) and several [Caribbean](#) nations. The conflict began on [October 25, 1983](#), when the [United States armed forces](#) landed troops on the beaches of Grenada. They were opposed by some Grenadian and Cuban military units.

In [1979](#), a bloodless coup, led by [Maurice Bishop](#), toppled the government of Grenada to establish a leftist government that quickly aligned itself with the [Soviet Union](#) and [Cuba](#). Under Bishop, Grenada began constructing an international airport with the help of Cuba. To begin to establish a case for invasion, seven months before the operation began, Ronald Reagan pointed to this airport and several other sites as evidence of the potential threat posed by Grenada towards the United States. Reagan accused Grenada of constructing facilities to aid a Soviet-Cuban military build-up in the Caribbean.

Détente

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%E9tente>

Détente was the general reduction in the tension between the [Soviet Union](#) and the [United States](#), and a "thawing" of the [Cold War](#) that occurred from the late [1960s](#) until the start of the 1980s. More generally, it may be applied to any international situation where previously hostile nations not involved in an open war "warm up" to each other and threats de-escalate.

Détente began to unravel in [1979](#) due to a series of events. The [Iranian Revolution](#) and the subsequent hostage crisis embarrassed the United States and led much of the American public to believe their nation had lost its international power and prestige.

The Soviet invasion of [Afghanistan](#) to shore up a struggling allied regime led to harsh criticisms in the west and a boycott of the [1980 Summer Olympics](#), which were to be held in [Moscow](#). American President [Jimmy Carter](#) boosted the U.S. defense budget and began to heavily subsidize the anti-Soviet fighters in Afghanistan.

The [1980 American presidential election](#) saw [Ronald Reagan](#) elected on a platform opposed to the concessions of Détente and committed to restarting the

Foreign Direct Investment

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a cross-border [investment](#) made by an [investor](#) with a view to establishing a lasting financial interest in an [enterprise](#) and exerting a degree of influence on that enterprise's operations and where the foreign investor holds an interest of at least 10% in [equity capital](#).

FDI is often mentioned as a lead driver for [economic growth](#) and thought to bring certain benefits to national economies. It can contribute to [Gross Domestic Product](#) (GDP), [Gross Fixed Capital Formation](#) (total investment in a host economy) and balance of payments.

End of History

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/End_of_History

The End of History and the Last Man is a [1992](#) book by [Francis Fukuyama](#) expanding on his [1989](#) essay "The End of History?", in which he argues the controversial thesis that the end of the [Cold War](#) signals the end of the progression of human history:

"What we may be witnessing is not just the end of the [Cold War](#), or the passing of a particular period of post-war history, but the end of history as such: that is, the end point of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalization of Western [liberal democracy](#) as the final form of human government." (quoted from "The End of History?", 1989)

There have been, needless to say, many criticisms of the 'End of History' thesis. Some of these include:

- Islamic Fundamentalism. Some critics state that Islamic Fundamentalism (as represented by [Osama Bin Laden](#) for example) stands in the same relation to [21st century](#) democracy as communism and fascism did in the [20th century](#) i.e. as a fundamental intellectual alternative. Fukuyama discusses this briefly in *The End of History*. He argues that Islam is not an [Imperialist](#) force like communism and fascism: i.e. that it has little intellectual or emotional appeal outside the Islamic 'heartlands'.
- Marxism of course, is another End of History philosophy. Therefore Marxists like [Perry Anderson](#) have been amongst Fukuyama's fiercest critics. Apart from pointing out some obvious points (that democracies are still riven with poverty, racial tension etc.).
- There is also the [environmentalist](#) challenge. Environmentalists argue that the capitalist economies' propensity towards growth will eventually collide with the earth's natural [Limits](#)

[to Growth.](#)

The Clash of Civilizations

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Clash_of_Civilizations

The **clash of civilizations** is a controversial theory in [international relations](#). It was originally formulated in an article by [Samuel P. Huntington](#) entitled "The Clash of Civilizations?" published in the [academic journal](#) *Foreign Affairs* in [1993](#). Huntington later expanded this [thesis](#) in his [1996](#) book *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*.

In the article, he argued that the primary political actors in the [21st century](#) will be [civilizations](#), and that the primary conflicts will be conflict between civilizations rather than between [nation states](#). The article was written in response to the idea by [Francis Fukuyama](#) that the world was approaching the [end of history](#) in which Western [liberal democracy](#) would prove triumphant. In the *Foreign Affairs* article, Huntington writes:

It is my hypothesis that the fundamental source of conflict in this new world will not be primarily ideological or primarily economic. The great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural. Nation states will remain the most powerful actors in world affairs, but the principal conflicts of global politics will occur between nations and groups of different civilizations. The clash of civilizations will dominate global politics. The fault lines between civilizations will be the battle lines of the future.

These civilizations are mostly divided along religious lines.

Gulf War

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_War

The **Gulf War** was a conflict between [Iraq](#) and a coalition force of 34 nations led by the [United States](#). The war started with the [Iraqi](#) invasion of [Kuwait](#) in August 1990. The result of the war was a decisive victory for the coalition forces, which drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait with minimal coalition deaths. The main battles were aerial and ground combat within Iraq, Kuwait and bordering areas of [Saudi Arabia](#). The war did not expand outside of the immediate Iraq/Kuwait/Saudi border region, although Iraq fired [missiles](#) on [Israeli](#) cities.

Bush Doctrine

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bush_Doctrine

The term initially referred to the policy formulation stated by President Bush immediately after the attacks that the U.S. would "make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them". The immediate application of this policy was the [invasion of Afghanistan](#) in early October 2001 after the [Taliban](#)-controlled government of Afghanistan refused to hand over [al-Qaida](#) terrorist leader [Osama bin Laden](#) without being shown proof that he was responsible for September 11 attacks. This policy implied that any nation refusing to cooperate with American efforts to attack

Mujahideen

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mujahideen>

Literally translates from [Arabic](#) as "struggler", someone who engages in [jihad](#), or "struggle", but is often translated as "holy warrior". In the late twentieth century, the term "mujahideen" became popular in the [media](#) to describe various armed fighters who subscribe to [Islamic](#) ideologies, although there is not always an explicit "holy" or "warrior" meaning within the word.

The most well-known, and feared, mujahideen were the various loosely-aligned opposition groups that fought against the [Soviet invasion of Afghanistan](#) between [1979](#) and [1989](#), and then fought against each other in the following civil war. These mujahideen were significantly financed, armed, and trained by the [United States](#) (under the presidencies of [Jimmy Carter](#) and [Ronald Reagan](#)), [Pakistan](#), and [Saudi Arabia](#).

Reagan referred to these mujahideen as "freedom fighters ... defending principles of independence and freedom that form the basis of global security and stability."

After the Soviets withdrew, the mujahideen broke into two loosely-aligned opposing factions, the [Northern Alliance](#) and the [Taliban](#), which then engaged in civil war for control of Afghanistan.

A wealthy Saudi named [Osama bin Laden](#) was a prominent mujahideen organizer and financier; his [Maktab al-Khadamat](#) (MAK) (*Office of Order*) funneled money, arms, and Muslim fighters from around the world into Afghanistan, with the assistance and support of the American, Pakistani, and Saudi governments. In [1988](#), bin Laden broke away from the MAK with some of its more militant members to form [Al-Qaida](#), to expand the anti-Soviet resistance effort into a worldwide [Islamic fundamentalist](#) movement.

Dominionism

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominionism>

Christians have an **obligation**, a **mandate**, a **commission**, a **holy responsibility** to reclaim the land for Jesus Christ -- to have dominion in civil structures, just as in every other aspect of life and godliness.