Review: 1945-1949

- Dominant Threat
  - Economy

- National Security Strategy
  - Military demobilization
  - Economic aid to threatened interests
    - Truman Doctrine
      - Political-economic containment of communism
Entering the 1950s

- Berlin Crisis
  - first serious Military Confrontation between US & USSR Military Forces
- Soviet A Bomb
- Communism in China
- Eastern Europe Solidifying in Communism
- Colonial Empires Continue to Crumble
- New technology of A-Bomb/H Bomb better appreciated
National Security Issues

- Hardening of the 2 blocs
  - West v. East
- Avoiding war while defending vital interests
- Rebuilding American military power in wake of public apathy
NSC-68

Militarizing U.S. National Security Policy
Origins of NSC-68

- Why was NSC-68 commissioned?
  - Need for a comprehensive assessment of national security policy
  - Belief that US was not doing enough to counter Soviet threat
  - Belief that economic constraints on US national security were too great
Origins of NSC-68

- Where did NSC-68 come from?
- What would the bureaucratic model of policy making predict in this case?
  - What actually happened?
  - Why?
How Did NSC-68 Portray the US National Security Environment?

- Threat to US VITAL INTERESTS In EUROPE
  - Secondarily Mediterranean and Middle East
  - No mention of Asia
- Soviet Communism expanding via military power
  - Soviets: 50-60 divisions (~12,000 men each)
    - Could be doubled in a few months
  - NATO: 7 divisions
- Soviet nuclear capability
  - H-bomb program (test in 1953)
  - US INTELL Forecasts 1954 as Year of Maximum Danger of USSR attack
- Risk of surprise attack
How Did NSC-68 Portray the US National Security Environment?

- Military Capabilities matter & Military power disparities matter
  - US needs to stay more powerful than USSR
- “Psychological insecurity”
  - countries falling under Soviet control like dominoes if everything is not defended
- Perceptions of balance of power as important as actual balance of power
What did NSC-68 Prescribe?

- Remilitarization of U.S. National Security Policy
  - $40 billion/year for 10 years
  - Mix of offensive forces, air defense forces, civil defense
- Internal security
- US government spending on defense would stimulate economy and pay for itself
How did National Security Thinking Differ from the Proceeding Period?

- Military power replaces economic and political power as basis for U.S. national security policy
- *Kennan’s “strong point” defense replaced by total perimeter defense concept*
How did National Security Thinking Differ from the Proceeding Period?

- *US Interests are Whatever Soviets Threaten*
  - EVERYTHING, therefore, becomes a manifestation of a VITAL interest that the Soviets Challenge!
  - Cedes control of US Nat Sec policy to USSR
    - JCS oppose perimeter defense – believe US does not have strength to fight everywhere; State Dept./NSC-68 push for perimeter defense ➔ Opposite bureaucratic model?
Korean War
Korean War

- US providing $60-$100 million for S. Korea defense
  - To protect Japan (vital interest)
- June 25, 1950 N. Korean troops cross 38th Parallel
  - Is this the Real War?
- US assumes Soviet Union initiated “proxy” war
  - Is it a trap to lure US forces from Europe?
  - Is it to push US to waste nuclear weapons?
- Soviet Security Council walkout ➔ UN (US) Intervention
Korean War

17.471 American National Security Policy

- N. Korean Forces: 9/1950
- UN Forces: 11/1950
- Chinese Forces: 1/1951
- Armistice Line: 7/1953
- N. Korean Forces: 9/1950
- UN Forces: 11/1950
- Chinese Forces: 1/1951

Map of Korea with major cities and regions.
China Enters the Korean War

- Initial US Goal: restore 38th Parallel
  - Following Military Success Changes to Freeing Korea
- Provoking China’s Entry: Why did we fail to Deter China?
  - Deterrence failure
  - 1 million Chinese troops cross the Yalu River
- US mobilization in first year of war
  - 650,000 reservists & national guard
  - 585,000 drafted
- Deployment: ~250,000 -300,000 by 1953
Korean War Issues

- Deterrence in national security policy
- limiting war & crisis control
- civil military relations
Events 1950-1952

- 1950: NSC-68
- 1950: U.S. H-bomb program
- 1950: USSR-PRC Friendship Treaty
- 1950: Korean War
- 1951: ANZUS Treaty
- 1951: Project Charles