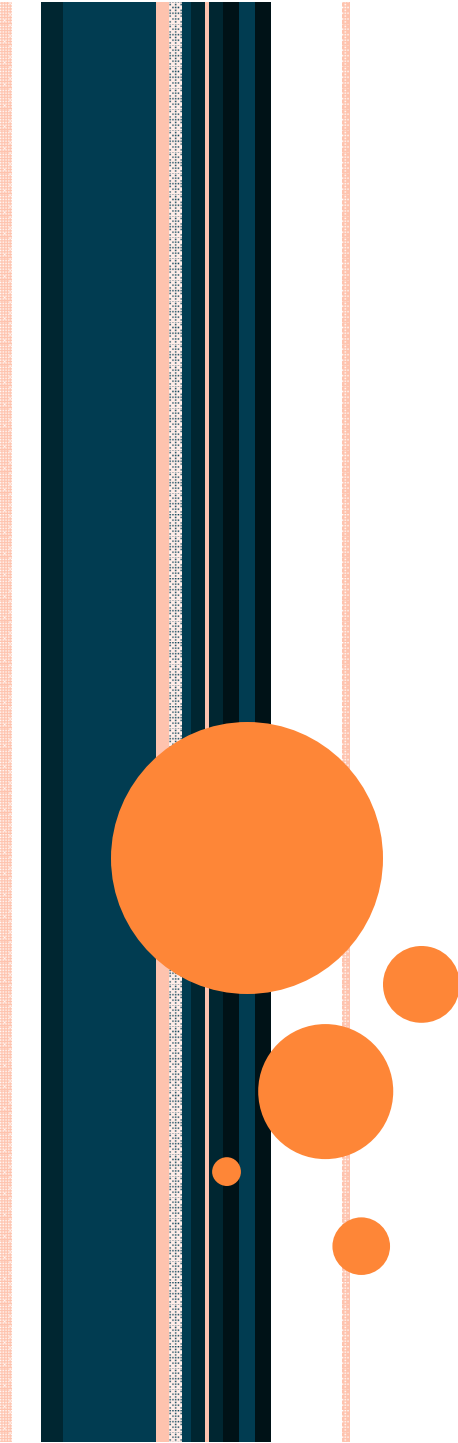
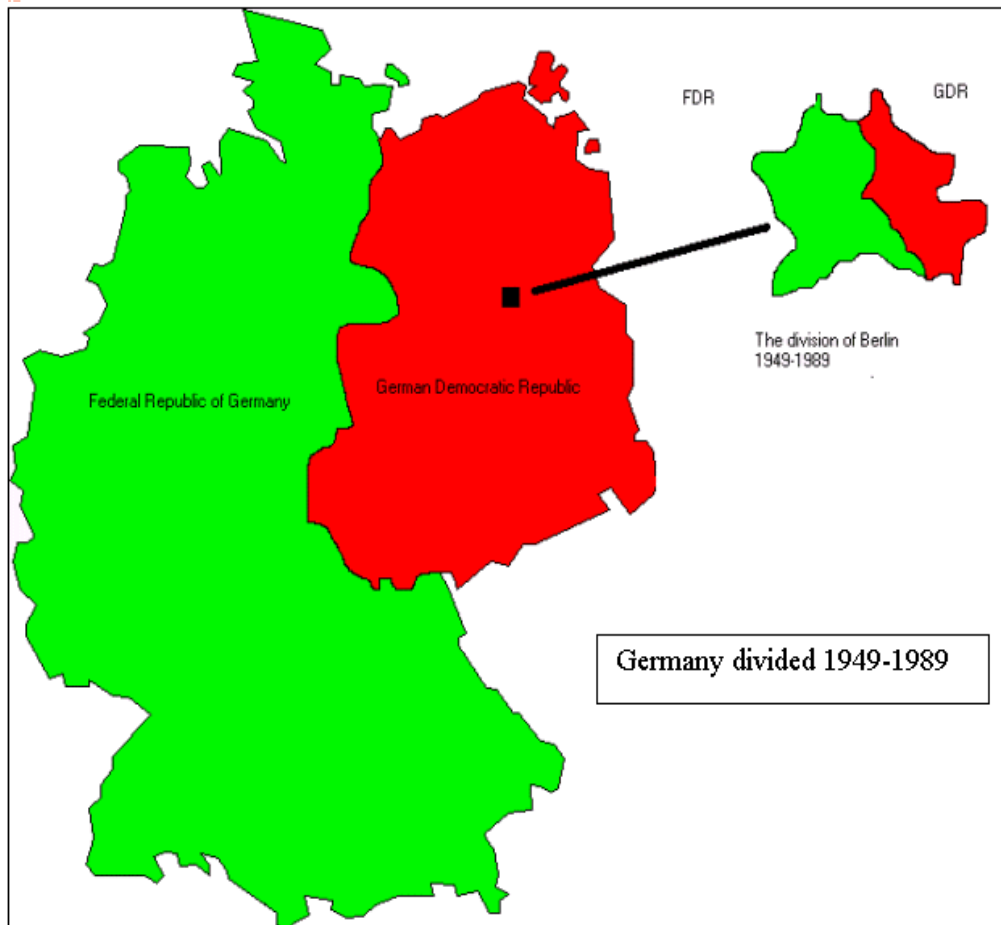




THE EARLY COLD WAR

A Showdown in Berlin!

A. BACKGROUND: SUPERPOWERS STRUGGLE OVER GERMANY



At the end of the war, Germany was divided among the Allies into four zones for the purpose of occupation

Now the superpowers were occupying an area right next to each other – problems were bound to occur

Soviets wanted West Berlin to become part of the communist sphere but

Communists were defeated in Berlin elections

- the Marshall Aid plan was implemented in Germany without Stalin's consent (supposedly the divided Germany to be jointly administered by a Control Council)



- then in June, 1948, the allies introduce a new currency into West Germany and West Berlin (the Deutschmark to replace the Reichsmark) without consulting Soviets.

Soviets brought in a currency of their own in East Germany. Soviets angry when Deutschmark introduced into West Berlin, said the Americans, British and French had no business interfering with the economy of the Soviet sector



- it seemed to Stalin that the west wanted to create a separate West German state (note- a violation of Yalta where it had been agreed that Germany would be reunited as soon as possible.)



B. THE SOVIET REACTION

June 24, 1948, Stalin cuts off all rail and road links between Berlin and West Germany

- (likely hoping that the western powers would hand over Berlin to the Soviets, after all had abandoned 7 million Germans when Poland moved its border west)

Berlin was 100 miles inside the Russian sector. West Berlin - 2.5 million people. What to do?? What options were open to the US and allies?

- American General Clay considered force to break the blockade, but risking war and losing as the Soviets had more ground forces in the area.



General Lucius Dubignon Clay (April 23, 1897 – April 16, 1978), governor in Germany



C. THE WEST STRIKES BACK - BERLIN AIRLIFT - 1948

West Berlin had only enough food for five weeks, resulting in a dire situation

- West Berlin needed about 4000 tons per day of supplies and fuel



Like the whole of Germany, the city of Berlin was divided into four zones

AMERICA & BRITAIN AIRLIFT SUPPLIES TO WEST BERLIN



Not wanting to invade and start a war with the Soviets, America and Britain started the Berlin airlift to fly supplies into West Berlin

- B-29s were stationed, possibly with nukes, in Britain to prevent Soviets from shooting down planes

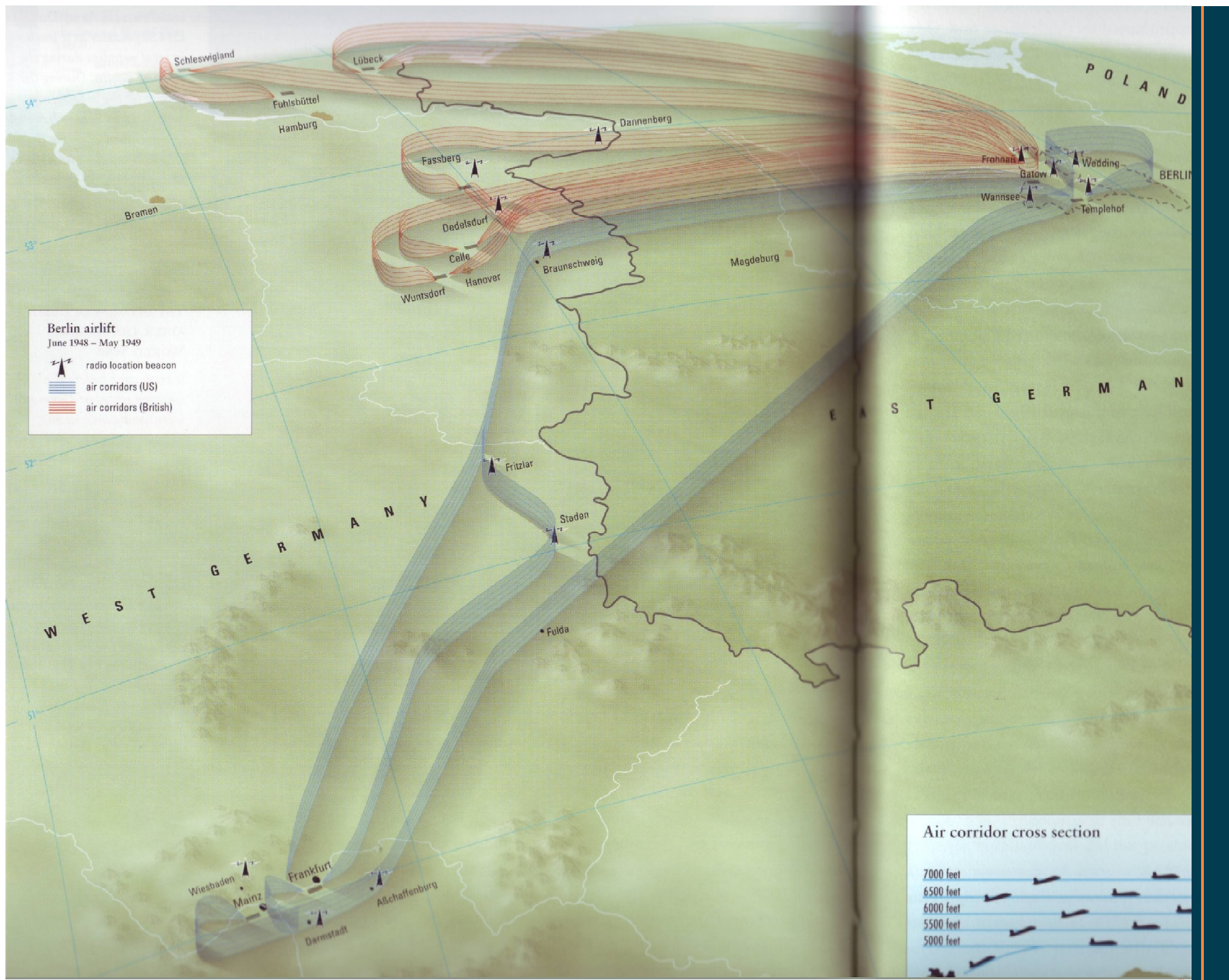
For 318 days, planes took off and landed every few minutes, around the clock

- Even so, calorie consumption dropped to about 1600 per day

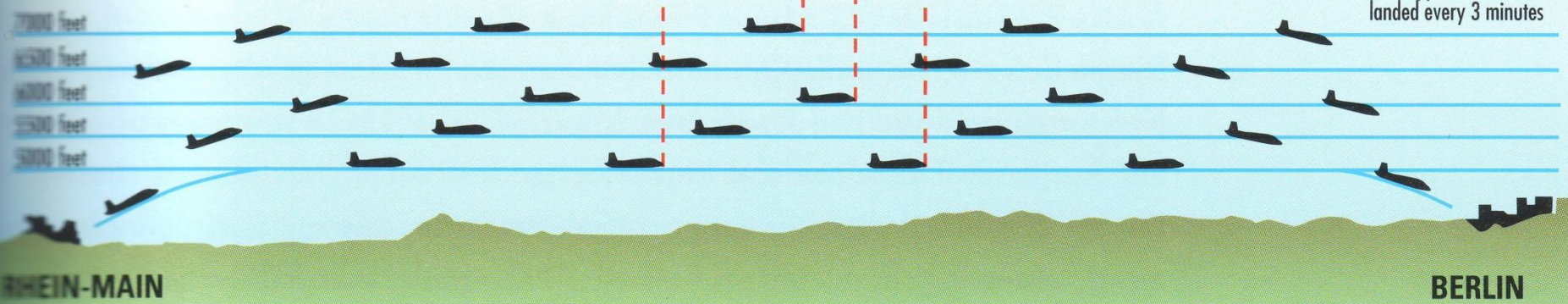
In 277,000 flights, they brought in 1.5 million tons of food, fuel and medicine to the West Berliners







Air corridor cross section







SOVIETS LIFT BLOCKADE

Realizing they were beaten and suffering a public relations nightmare, the Soviets lifted their blockade on May 12, 1949

- West felt it had won a "moral" victory – good for politics back home!



On Christmas 1948, the plane crews brought gifts to West Berlin

D. POST BERLIN AIRLIFT DEVELOPMENTS

- West decides upon NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), a military alliance April 1949, 12 nations agreed to assist any member attacked by an aggressor (ie. USSR) this was ratified by US Congress in July
 - 1949 members: - USA, Canada, Britain, Norway, Iceland, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Luxemburg, Portugal, France, Italy
 - 1952- Greece, Turkey
 - 1953- Spanish bases
 - 1955- West Germany
 - 1966- French forces withdrawn
- May 1949, German Federal Republic established (West Germany) with a capital in Bonn
- Oct. 1949 - Soviet controlled German Democratic Republic - East Germany, established
 - The division of Germany was made permanent somewhat



- September 22, 1949, Truman announces that the Soviets had successfully tested an atomic bomb...anti-communist feelings reach new heights in USA...McCarthyism..."reds under the beds scare"...

- 1955 Warsaw Pact set up- (note: this occurred just after West Germany joined NATO) USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania (Albania withdraws, 1962)

