



Canada and the Cold War:

INTRODUCTION TO CANADA AND THE COLD WAR

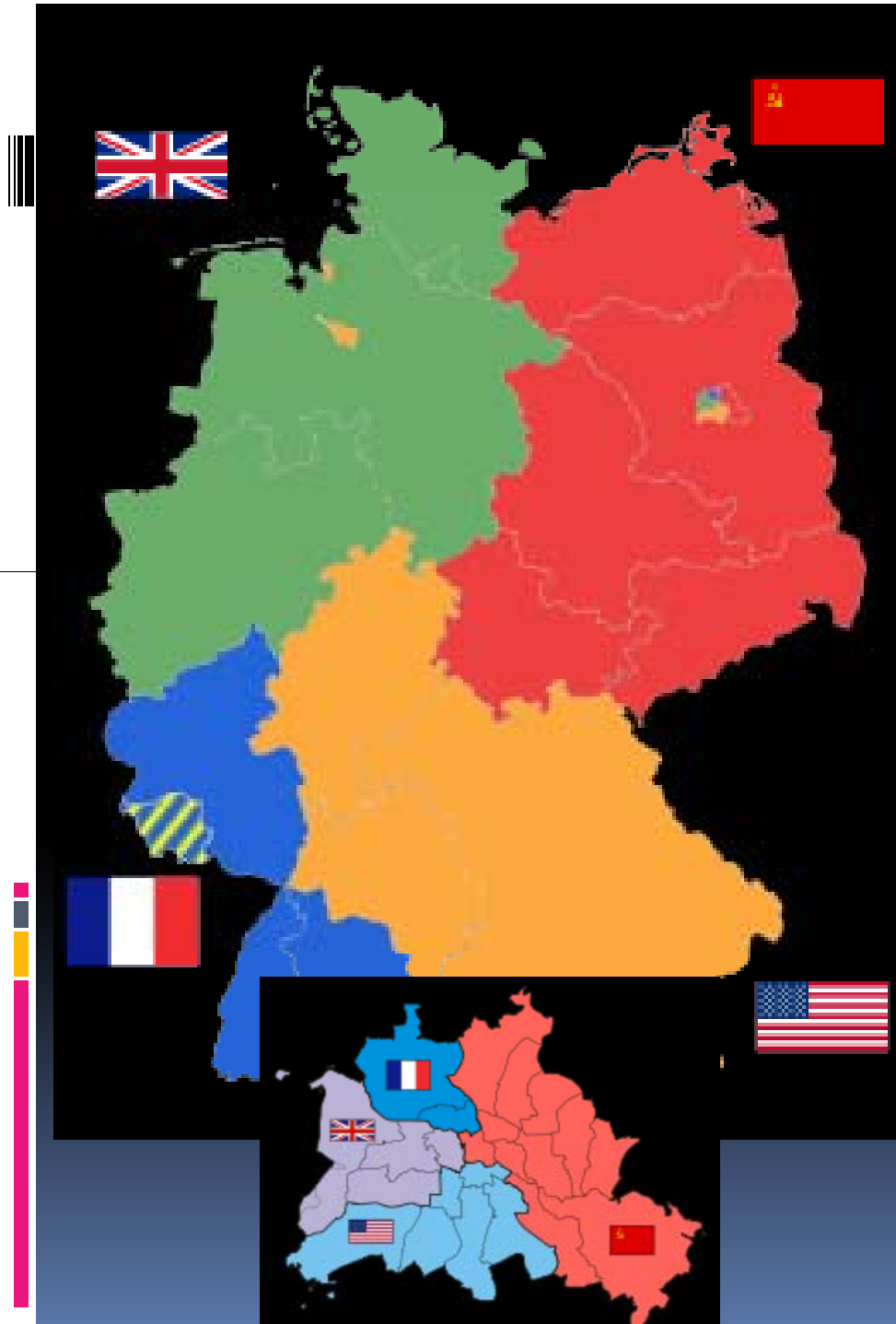
A. Background

- - the “Cold War” refers to decades of economic, political and military conflict between 1945 to 1991
- 2 Sides –
 - United States and its allies (the Democratic-Capitalist West)
 - Soviet Union and its allies (the Communist East)

B. The Yalta Conference Shapes the Post-War World

- **Yalta Conference** (south USSR) Conference- Feb. 1945... Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin (the “Big Three”)





- Germany – was to be temporarily divided into four occupation zones
 - UK, USA, Fr and USSR.
- Berlin - deep in Soviet zone, also divided into 4 zones.
 - - free elections were to be held in Eastern Europe
- - all agree to support setting up of the United Nations

C. Potsdam Conference

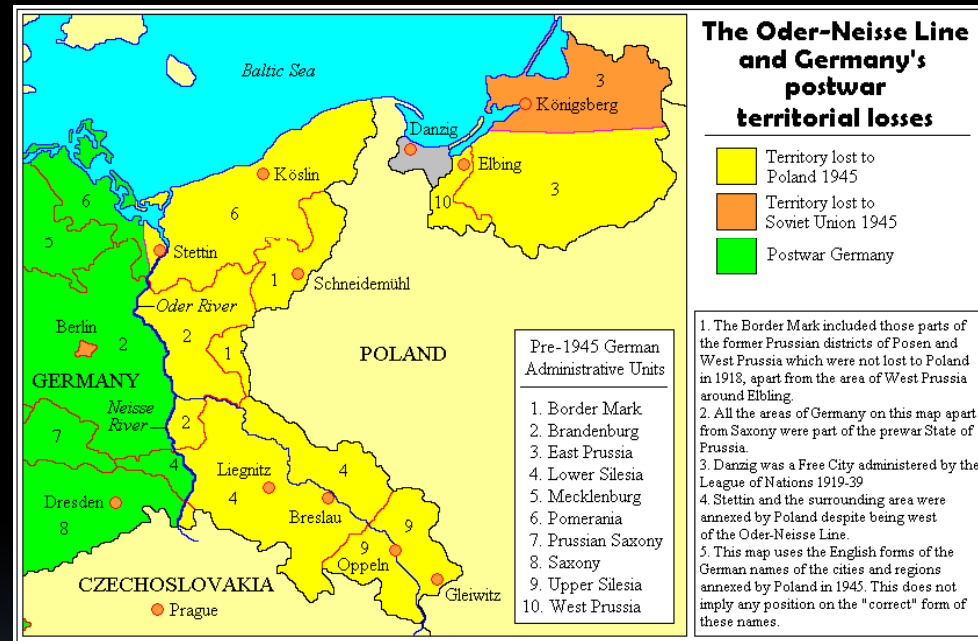
- July 17 to Aug. 2 1945, Potsdam, suburb of Berlin

Churchill & Clement Attlee (UK), Truman (USA) and Stalin

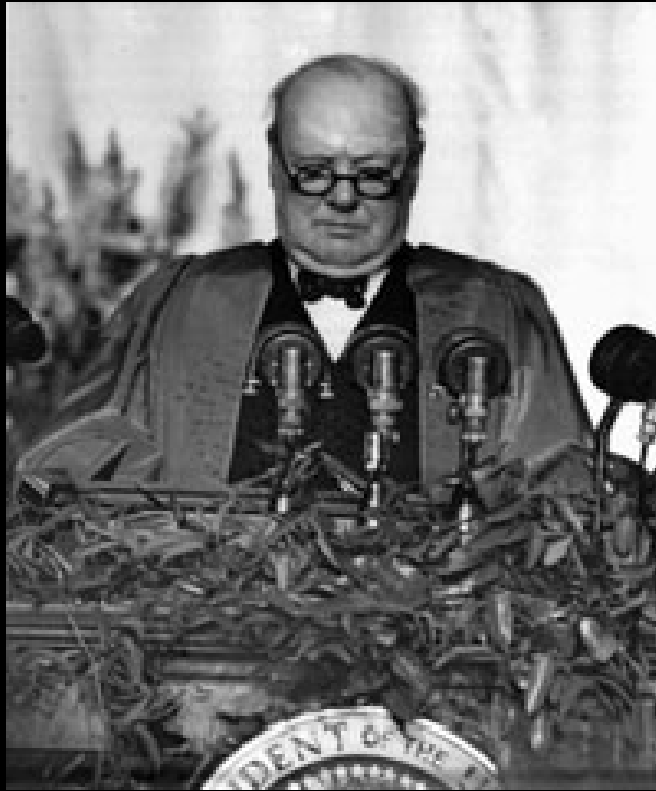


Photo # USA C-1860 "Big Three" & Foreign Ministers at Potsdam, ca. July 1945

- Stalin declares he couldn't prevent the Poles from taking over the territory up to the Oder - Neisse rivers... western allies either go to war or accept it



Germany to be administered by an Allied Control Council of the 4 military commanders of the occupied zones



Winston Churchill gave a speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, March 5, 1946, that in a single phrase defined the Soviet influence over Eastern Europe when he said an "Iron Curtain" had fallen across Europe.
(© AP/WWP)

- - in March, 1946, Churchill spoke of an **"iron curtain"** descending across Europe
- by 1948, a 2000 mile "curtain" of barbed wire and armed guards had formed along the borders of communist Eastern European countries and "the west"

COLD WAR EUROPE, 1946-1990



D. The Truman Doctrine

- March 1947,
- President Truman
- pledges military and financial assistance for any country having "totalitarian regimes" (ie. communism) forced upon them
- Public "anti- communist " position



E. The Marshall Plan 1948

- George Marshall - US Secretary of State
- Plan to help rebuild western Europe
- money and goods are sent
- Plan to reduce the appeal of communism
- good for the US economy
- Good for Canada economy



- **Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan**

- U.S. foreign policy aimed at stopping the spread of communism – containment

- - superpowers compete for spheres of influence

- **Affects the whole world**

- wherever these spheres touched
 - military conflict or a close call
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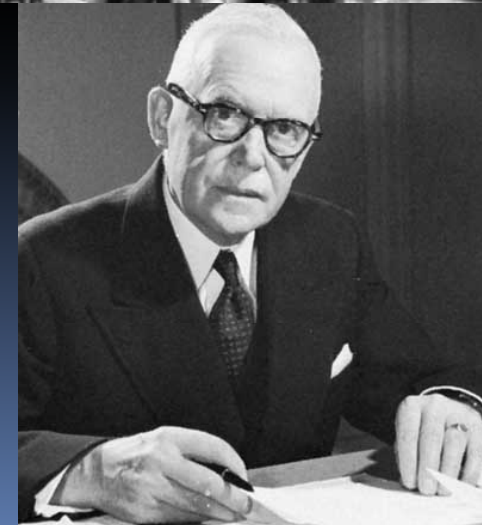
F. Canada and the “Red Menace”

- -September 1945, Igor Gouzenko, a Russian clerk at the Soviet embassy in Ottawa
- Proved that a Soviet spy ring was operating inside the Canadian Government
- The Gouzenko affair woke Canadians up to the new world reality
- <http://archives.cbc.ca/dossier.asp?page=1&IDDossier=72&IDCat=332&IDCatPa=260>
- <http://archives.cbc.ca/dossier.asp?page=1&IDDossier=69&IDCat=332&IDCatPa=260>



Igor Gouzenko on television, 1966. Over half of the convictions under the Official Secrets Act were a result of Gouzenko's defection (courtesy NAC/PA-129625).

- post-war tensions between the two superpowers
- Canada to align closely with US interests
 - threatening our young sovereignty
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- by 1949,
 - Soviet spies were successful in acquiring the technology to build atomic bombs
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- Canadians began to fear “the red menace”
- U.S. was embroiled in the communist witch-hunts of Senator McCarthy
- Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent refused to outlaw communists
 - felt totalitarian gov’t did things like that



- an unofficial communist blacklisting took place
 - union leaders were suspected
 - defense industries sent lists of their employees to Ottawa for screening
 - suspected communists were often sacked without reason or warning
 - the RCMP special branch began to watch people who or who could become "a security risk"
- Quebec Premier Maurice Duplessis
 - strong anti-communist
 - police raided homes and offices looking for evidence
 - "Padlock Law" - used to shut down suspect organizations and newspapers

