

The

COLD WAR

Origins & Consequences

Brain
Wrinkles



Eastern Europe

- Things were different in Eastern Europe because the Soviets did not leave the countries that they freed.
- The Soviet Union continued to occupy and set up Communist governments in many Eastern European nations.
- Western Europe and America were alarmed by the Soviet advances in Eastern Europe.
- Many believed that the Communists were trying to take over the world!





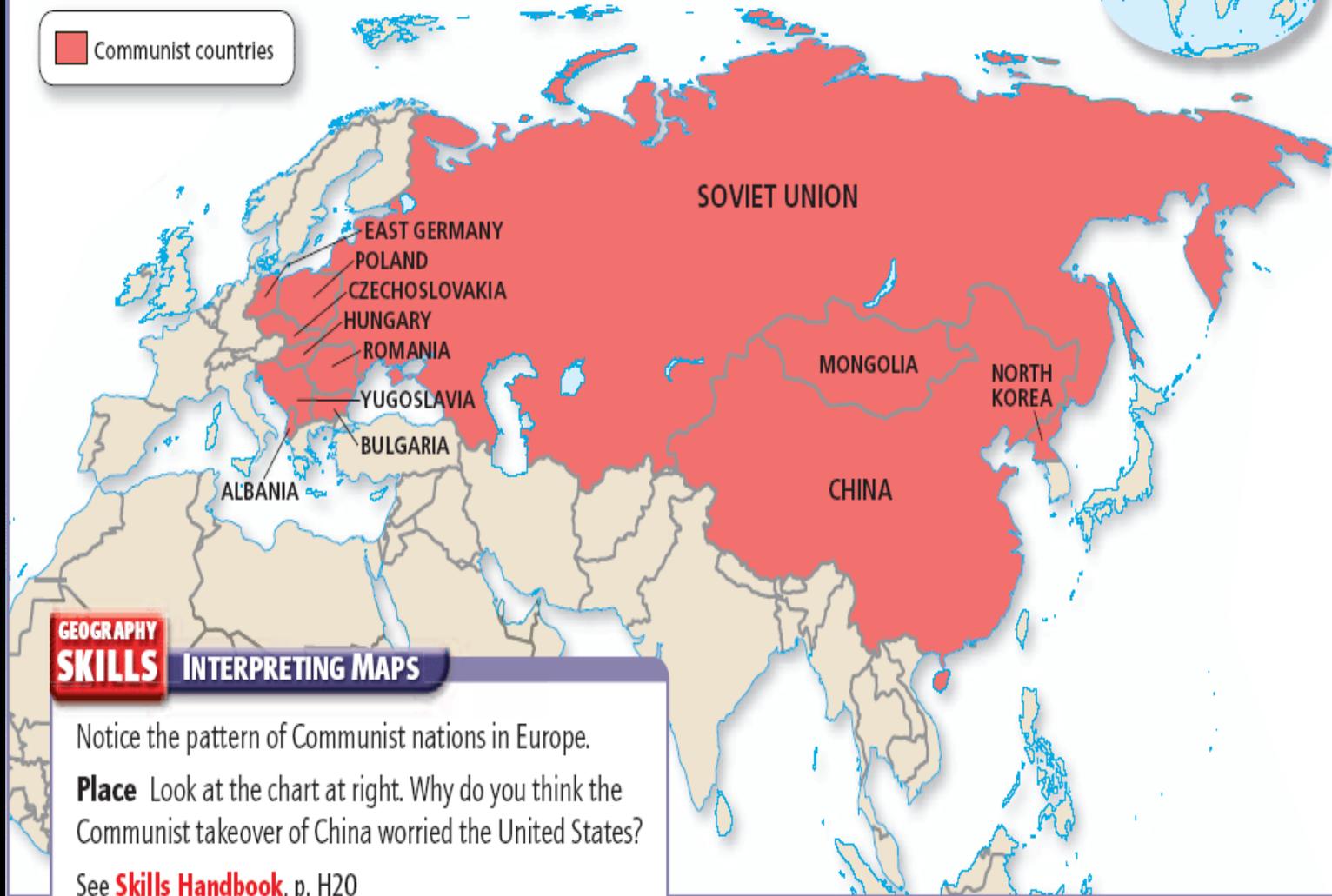
*“From Stettin in the Balkans, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an **iron curtain** has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lies the ancient capitals of Central and Eastern Europe.”*

~ Sir Winston Churchill, 1946

THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM, 1945–1949



Communist countries



GEOGRAPHY
SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Notice the pattern of Communist nations in Europe.

Place Look at the chart at right. Why do you think the Communist takeover of China worried the United States?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20



Superpowers

- 1945 was the beginning of a long period of distrust and misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and the United States.
- Both countries emerged as the world's two “superpowers” because they had the political strength and military power to influence countries around the world.

Cold War

- The Cold War was a time of indirect conflict that lasted until 1991.
- Both countries worried that the other would become more powerful and spread its economic and political views to other countries.
- This tension is called a “cold” war because neither side ever fired a shot.
- However, many feared the rivalry between Democracy and Communism would lead to a nuclear war.

Distrust

- Each side thought the other was trying to rule the world.
- Neither side would give up, and people lived in fear that another world war would erupt.
- This time it could be a nuclear war, which could destroy the entire planet.

Germany

- At the end of WWII, the Allies divided Germany into 4 sections to keep it from regaining power.
- US, Great Britain, France, & Soviet Union each controlled a section.
- In 1948, the Western Allies wanted to reunite Germany, but the Soviets disagreed.
- The Soviet section became “East Germany” and the reunited sections became “West Germany”.



Berlin

- During the Cold war, there were many “hot spots” (areas of extreme tension).
 - The earliest hot spot was Berlin.
- The Soviets controlled the eastern part of Germany, and the western countries controlled the western part of Germany.
- The capital, Berlin, deep within Soviet-controlled territory, was also divided into four occupation zones.



Blockade

- In June 1948, the Soviets blockaded all land and water traffic into western Berlin hoping to make Britain, France, and America leave the city.
 - (Remember Berlin was in East Germany which the USSR occupied.)
- In response, the United States and Great Britain began an airlift.



Now What?

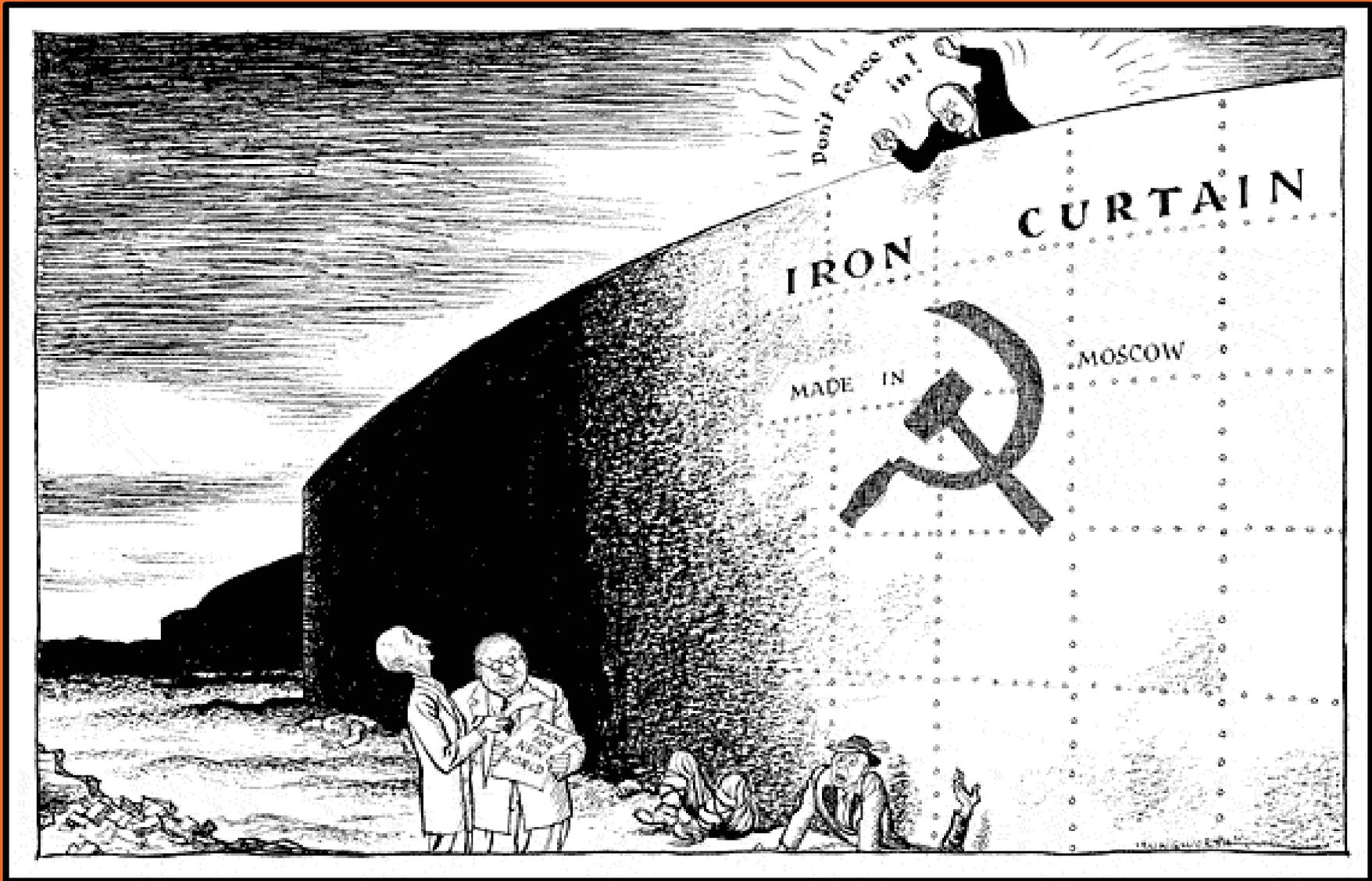
- Germany officially becomes two countries with two governments.
- Bonn becomes the capital of West Germany.
- East Berlin becomes the capital of East Germany.
- West Berlin remains a democratic stronghold, surrounded by communism.

East Berlin

- Berliners hated living under communism.
- Luckily, West Berlin and freedom were just across the street.
- About 3 million people fled to West Berlin looking for political freedom and better lives.
- The East German government wanted it to stop.

Berlin Wall

- In August 1961, East Germany built a 103 mile wall between East and West Berlin.
- Guarded by Soviet troops, it became a powerful symbol of the separation between western and eastern Europe.









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ВЫ ВЪЕЗЖАЕТЕ В АМЕРИКАНСКИЙ СЕКТОР
НОСИТЬ ОРУЖИЕ ЗАПРЕШЕНО В НЕСЛУЖЕБНОЕ ВРЕМЯ
ПОВИНУЙТЕСЬ ДОРОЖНЫМ ПРАВИЛАМ

VOUS ENTREZ DANS LE SECTEUR AMÉRICAIN
DEFENSE DE PORTER DES ARMES EN DEHORS DU SERVICE
OBÉISSEZ AUX REGLES DE CIRCULATION

SIE BETRETEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEKTOR

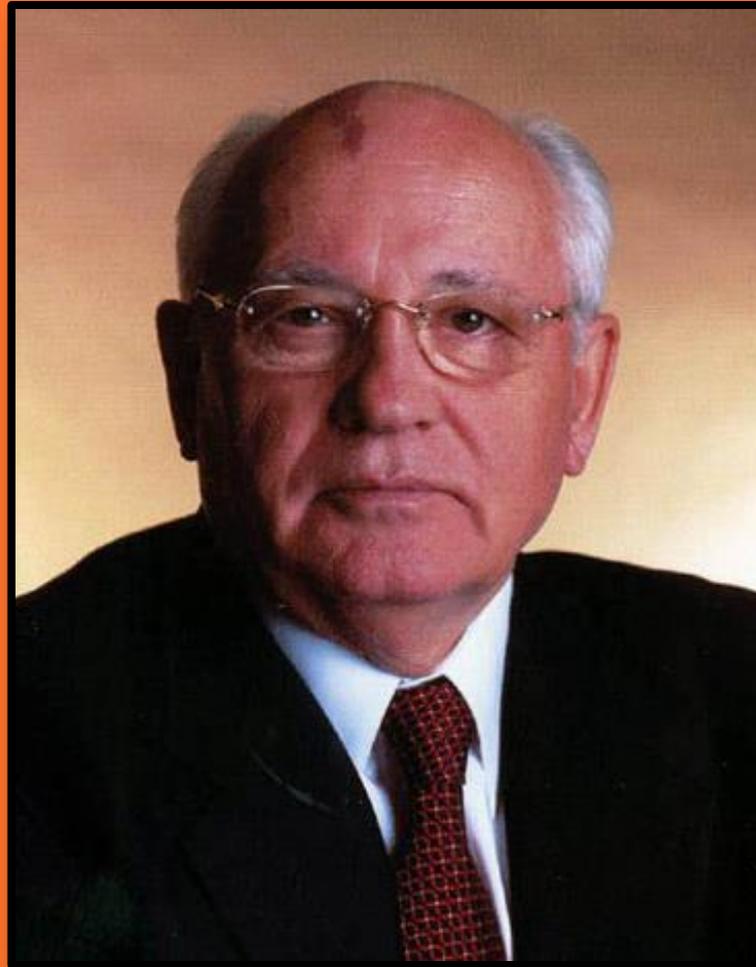
US

ARMY



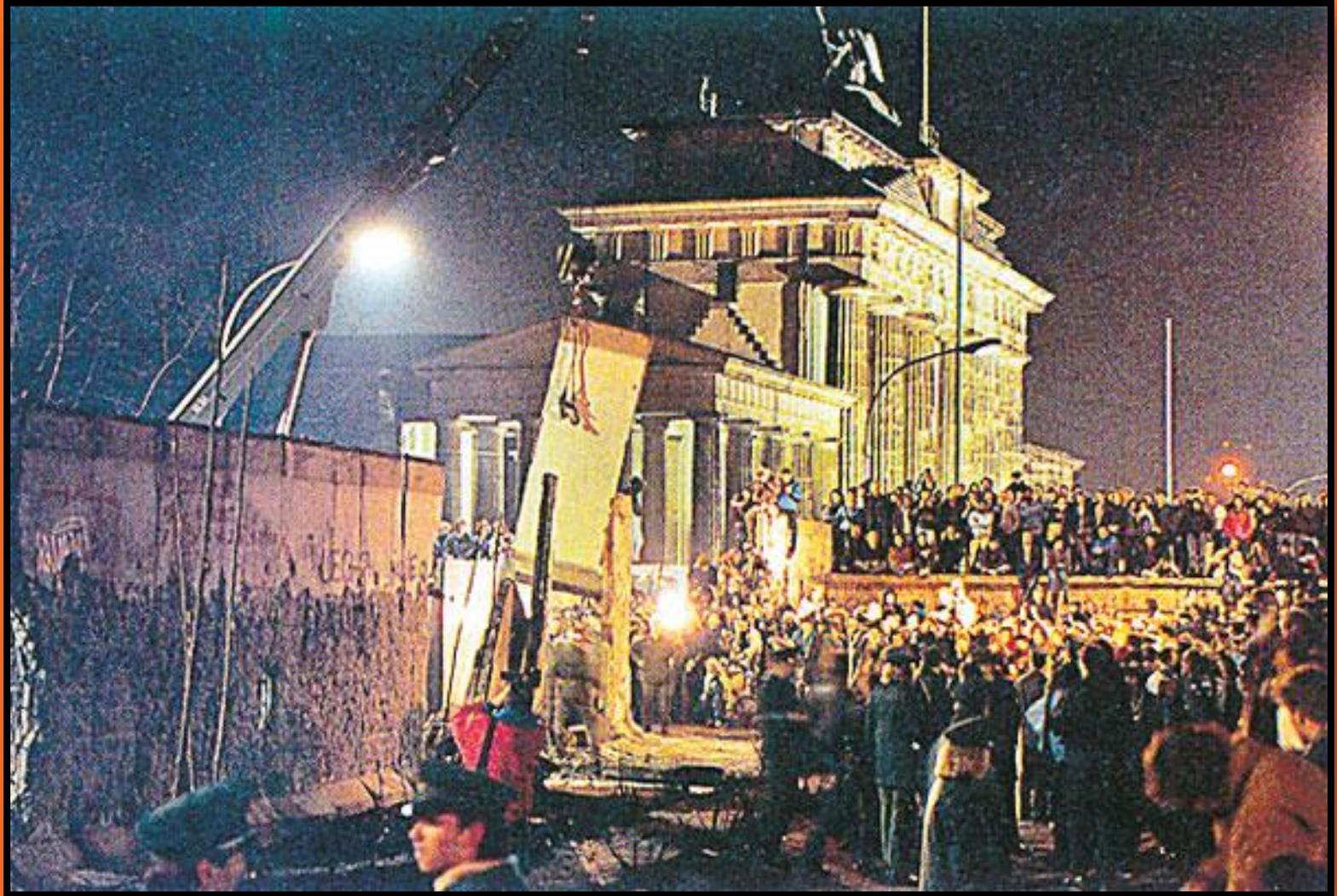
Change

- The people demanded freedom from Communist rule.
- The Soviet Union was spending tons of money putting down revolts, protecting its borders, and keeping up with the US in the arms race.
- In 1985, the economy was so unstable that Mikhail Gorbachev, head of USSR, reduced government control of business and increased the freedoms for all citizens.



Wall Falls

- Demonstrations in East Berlin forced Germany's Communist government to give up its power.
- When the announcement was made, East and West Berliners climbed the Berlin Wall and celebrated.
- Citizens immediately began tearing down the wall.
- Nov. 9th 1989: the Berlin Wall, a symbol of communism, was destroyed.





Reunification

- After nearly 30 years, Germany was reunited.
- In 1990, Germans voted to make the countries of East Germany and West Germany reunited as one country.
- Today, Germany is a free democracy with a mixed-market economy.

War Ends

- After Germany was reunified, the Soviet republics that had once been separate countries began seeking their independence also.
- Between 1989 and 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War finally ends.
- 15 independent countries were created; Russia was the largest.