

# Module 5: Leader of the Free World

| Talk | Title                          | Time Period | Date of Talk  |   |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| 30   | Isolationism interrupted       | 1939-1941   | January 20th  |  |
| 31   | The European War               | 1941-1945   | February 3rd  |  |
| 32   | The Pacific War                | 1941-1945   | February 17th |  |
| 33   | America and the Post War World | 1945-1949   | March 3rd     |   |
| 34   | USA during the 1950's          | 1950-1960   | March 17th    |   |
| 35   | The Cold War                   | 1950-1960   | March 31st    |   |
| 36   | Camelot...the Kennedy Years    | 1961-1963   | April 7th     |   |

# Talk 33 USA and the Post War World (1945-1949)



- Peace & Post War World

- Post war USA

- Birth of Cold War

- ....Intermission

- Trouble in China

- Election of 1948 and the Cold War



Peace

# August 1945 World awaits invasion of Japan



Millions of deaths  
expected

Then this happens

Suddenly, unexpectedly  
...there is Peace

# New York VJ Day Celebrations



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Credit: Photo 12

# London VJ Celebrations



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Credit: Keystone

# Japan: Emperor Hirohito on route to new boss Douglas MacArthur...to be honoured or hanged?



# Potsdam Conference July/August 1945

... "Big 3" meet to design new world order

UK:  
Clement Atlee  
(replaces Churchill  
The prior week!)

USA  
Harry Truman  
Place FDR since April

'USSR  
Joseph Stalin  
Dictator since 1928



# Potsdam perceptions

## Stalin

- Seeks territorial expansion ...Japan, East and Western Europe
- Considers Truman “stock clerk”....dismisses as weak

## Truman

- Prepared to trust Stalin:“I can deal with Stalin. He's honest, but smart as hell”
- Avoid failings at Versailles...stability and prosperity for USA

## Atlee

- Meet British obligations to stabilise Europe by transferring power to USA
- Disengage from world conflicts/ focus on domestic concerns (NHS)

# Potsdam: The New World Order

- “Germany to be de-militarised and de-industrialised”
  - Occupied by 4 powers (including France)
  - Germans in East Europe to be “humanely” relocated to Germany
- Division of Europe East vs West as “zones of control”
  - Free and Fair Elections” in all liberated areas
- Japan to be de-militarised and de-industrialised
  - Occupied by USA (800,000) and token 50,000 British/Australians

Peace to maintained by newly formed United Nations  
No agreement: Financial systems and redevelopment

# United Nations

UN Poster 1943



- ▶ Proposed FDR “Atlantic Charter” 1941
- ▶ Differences to League of Nations
  - ....Security Council of Big 5  
(USA, USSR, UK, France, China)
  - ....Unified Army to intervene (veto)
- ▶ UN meets April 1945 San Francisco
- ▶ First task....humanitarian, process relocation of refugees

# New World Financial Order

- ▶ USA dominant economic power: 70% world gold, 25% trade, .....enormous trade surplus
- ▶ Great Depression caused by protectionism, currency devaluation
- ▶ Bretton Woods Agreement 1944....in place till 1971
  - ▶ New world economy to be based on US \$ convertible to Gold
  - ▶ Fixed Exchange Rates
  - ▶ Managed reduction of tariffs (General Agreement on Tariffs)
  - ▶ International Monetary Fund established to provide loans
- ▶ USSR refuse to join....consider system “Wall Street Racket”  
..remain committed to Command Economy



# Post War World

# The costs of war

| Country            | Population 1939 (m) | Deaths (M) | % Population |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Poland             | 35                  | 6          | 17%          |
| USSR               | 189                 | 26         | 14%          |
| Nazi Germany       | 83                  | 7          | 8%           |
| Japan              | 71                  | 3          | 4%           |
| China              | 518                 | 18         | 3%           |
| India (90% famine) | 377                 | 3          | 1%           |
| United Kingdom     | 48                  | 450,000    | 1%           |
| United States      | 131                 | 407,000    | 0.3%         |

US least impacted  
...: 5 civilian deaths only (after Pearl Harbour)

# Economic Consequences

US economy – 50% total world output.

|         | <b>GDP 1939</b><br>\$Bn (1990) | <b>GDP 1945</b><br>\$Bn (1990) | <b>Change</b> |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| USA     | 869                            | 1,474                          | + 70%         |
| UK      | 287                            | 331                            | +15%          |
| USSR    | 366                            | 343                            | -6%           |
| Germany | 411                            | 322                            | -22%          |
| Japan   | 184                            | 144                            | -22%          |

## Urban devastation

Germany 40% buildings in 50 largest cities destroyed

Poland...30 of housing totally destroyed

Japan..40% housing totally destroyed, 30% urban population homeless

UK 30% of housing stock damaged/destroyed

# Europe on brink of starvation

## Average Daily Calorie Intake

|         | 1939  | 1946  | Change |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|
| Germany | 3,300 | 900   | -72%   |
| Italy   | 2,700 | 1,700 | -38%   |
| France  | 2,500 | 1,700 | -32%   |
| Japan   | 2,100 | 1,300 | -38%   |
| UK      | 3,000 | 2,900 | -3%    |
| USA     | 3,500 | 3,300 | -5%    |

Farming area devastated.....30% land unusable due to mines, destructi

Starvation during war prevented by US funded "Lend Lease"

# Global Refugee crisis

500,000 Concentration camp survivors

- Most want to go to Palestine...but British limit to 75,000

- Quota rules limit immigration to USA

- “Ethnic cleansing” taking place across Europe

- 13m Germans expelled from Eastern Europe. German territory transferred to

- 2m Poles from Russian expansion from Ukraine, Belarus

- 5 million Japanese expelled from China, Korea, Manchuria

- Processed by Armies of Occupation, Charities, United Nations

# Child survivors Auschwitz



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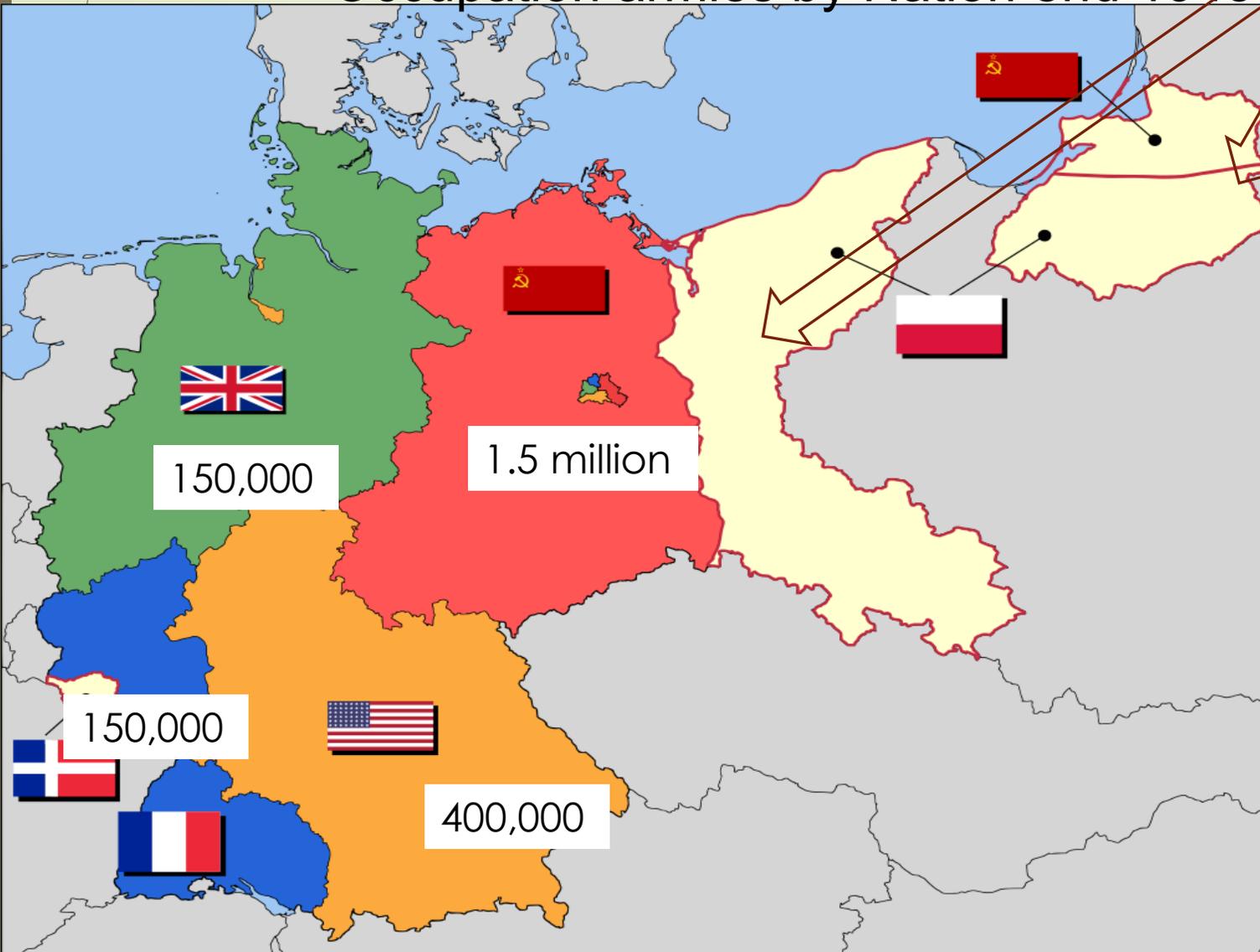
# German refugees returning "home"



# Germany

German territory transferred  
To Poland & “ethnically cleanse

## Occupation armies by Nation end 1945



No national government  
...currency worthless > barter  
economy..cigarettes/ prostitutes

War continues  
Baltics : “Forest People” till 50’s  
Germany : “Werewolves”

Armies of Occupation operate  
“martial law”...Soviet use army  
to remove anything useful

War crimes Tribunal  
Nuremberg  
...14 Nazi leaders hanged

# Japan

Douglas MacArthur

Emperor Hirohito



US occupies Japan  
400,000 US soldiers  
40,000 British/ Aust

Emperor converted to  
Constitutional monarch  
..absolved...despite  
evidence of involvement  
..Becomes marine biologist  
...MacArthur "Dictator"

War crimes tribunal  
...Tojo hanged

# Japanese Occupation 1945-1949

MacArthur “Dictator of Japan”...Parliament reinstated, submit suggestions

- ▶ Japan to be de-militarised....colonists to be “humanely relocated” from Korea
- ▶ First year...prevent starvation....United Nations, Charities, US Aid (loans)
- ▶ Political prisoners released, Trade Unions allowed, women emancipated
  
- ▶ 1947 Constitutional Convention...Parliament re-established, labour standards...New Deal
  
- ▶ Land Reform...5.8 m acres transferred from Landlords to peasant...
  
- ▶ “Reverse Policy” 1949....Cold War...Japan re-industrialised

Power gradually transferred to Japanese, Occupation ends 1952

US retain bases 200 000 soldiers during 1950's - 30 000 today

# Recreation and Amusement Association

- The problem...440,000 young males armed in defenceless country of starving people
- The solution...Japanese Authorities devised....” And so we unite and go forward to where our beliefs lead us, and through the sacrifice of several thousands of "Okichis of our era" build a breakwater to hold back the raging waves and defend and nurture the purity of our race, becoming as well an invisible underground pillar at the root of the postwar social order... we are but offering ourselves for the defense of the national polity”
- 70,000 Japanese women enticed to join....dancers, entertainers, prostitutes
- Officially illegal but accepted by Occupation forces/ licensing system 1949

# Recreation & Amusement centre 1947



# Instability across Europe

Eastern Europe: USSR rig “free and fair” elections to support Communist regimes

- Greece: Civil war Communists and Conservatives: British army of occupation
- Italy: not occupied, unstable government , strong Communist threat to
- France: unstable coalition led by DeGaulle....Communist vs Conservatives
- British Palestine Mandate:
  - British attempt to regulated flow of Jewish survivors
  - Zionist terrorist groups (former British army veterans)

Everywhere hunger, desolation, uncertainty

# United Kingdom Post War

- ▶ Nation on verge of bankruptcy
  - ▶ Debt has risen 130% to 250% GDP, Deficit to 27% GDP (versus 2.2% December 2024)
  - ▶ Lend Lease programme (no repayment) ends August 1945
  - ▶ £3.5Bn (\$57Bn 2024) loan (2% interest) from US..repaid 2006
- ▶ Global Commitments: Germany, Greece, Palestine, India, Indo China
- ▶ New Labour Government focused on NHS, Nationalisation,



Europe starving, impoverished, political turmoil

...UN no power, no money

...USA celebrating, relying on UN, Bretton Woods, British

...USSR with 2m soldiers deployed, asset stripping,

USSR confident, predatory

... installing pro Soviet Regimes

....confident Europe about to collapse



# USA Post War



# USA home front 1941-1945

Rapid growth. Full employment

- GDP 75% larger in 1945 than 1949...growth at 10% per year
- 1% unemployment (women from 20% to 30% workforce)
- Mass migration blacks from South to North/ Mexicans to SW
- High savings rate rationing, lack of consumer goods (25% income vs 2% 1920's)
- Financial power of world
  - Debt rises from 40% to 120% GDP...but debt held internally
  - Competitors in ruins/ Domestic harmony: No strike laws/patriotic unions/ high trust business

Fears of recession as armed services reduce from 12m to 1.7 m by 1947

# Post war boom

- ▶ Rapid transition from munitions to consumer goods
  - ▶ Economic growth slows but only from 10% to 8%
  - ▶ Spending binge due to 25% average savings during war
  - ▶ Increase in trade (Bretton Woods) increases US trade
- ▶ Consumer boom
  - ▶ Housing boom: soldiers returning home and GI home loans
  - ▶ Emergence new labour intensive industries ...automobiles, radios, televisions, appliances
  - ▶ Baby boom (Marriages rate increase 12 per 19 per 1,000. Babies 19 to 24 per 1,000)
- ▶ Demobilised soldiers to work or college
  - ▶ GI Bill of Rights....education grants, Guaranteed one year income/ home owners
  - ▶ Men replace women in senior/ technical jobs (retian seniority)
  - ▶ Women revert to clerical jobs/ home owners

# A land untouched by war .....Chicago 1940



@sebcolorisation

# New York City 1946



# Fort Worth Texas 1942 (new industries to west plus rise of oil industry)



# Drive in diners, Philadelphia 1943



# Waiting for the bus, Indianapolis 1943



Young couple (back from war ?) Oregon 1945



# Corpus Christi Texas 1943



# Social unrest...internal migration

Detroit housing complex (1942)



4 million blacks migrate from rural South to cities...mostly north

Detroit population increases  
From 1.5m to 2m 1940-1943

Black population increase 150,000  
To 200,000...tensions rise over  
Housing/ preferences vs whites

Rumour white threw black women  
In river...blacks riot...backlash  
50 killed, 6,000 National Guards

Riots in Los Angeles, New York  
Beaumont Texas, Mobile Alabam

# California...influx of “contract labourers

“Zoot suits” Los Angeles 1943



Bracero programme 1942  
...contract labour with  
Mexico...many do not return

Mexican population  
Of Los Angeles increased  
50% 1940-1945...100,000 to  
150,000

Mexican fashion...identity  
Long “zoot suits” ( origins  
Duke of Windsor! ..jazz rhyming

Cloth rationing...US sailors see  
Wearing of suits unpatriotic  
...Mexicans as sign of identity

Sailors attack suit wearers  
..150 injured/no sailor arrested

# “Zoot suiters” after attack by sailors



# Strike Wave 1946 Background

## ➤ New Deal and Trade Unions

- FDR Democrats promote planned prices/ wages/hours

- Wagner Act 1935...closed shop, collective bargaining, National La

- Unskilled and Auto workers break off to form Congress of Industrial Workers..industrial unions...regardless of skill

## ➤ Unions and World War Two

- Support war effort : no strike pledge

- Wage increases offset by high income taxes

- Membership rises to 34% workforce 1945 (vs 55% UK)

# Strike wave of 1946

- ▶ War over...inflation 14%, wae increases 8%...."Deal" collapses
- ▶ Largest strike wave in US history: steel, autos, coal,
- ▶ National rail strike May 1946
  - ▶ 95% transport stopped/ Truman threatens to draft railway workers
  - ▶ Strikers back down... House passes law...Senate vetoes
- ▶ Impact...2<sup>nd</sup> "Red Scare" begins
  - ▶ Media convinced Communists/ Socialist involvement
  - ▶ Evidence Soviet spy rings spreads
  - ▶ Truman "soft of communism"

Republicans gain control of Congress November mid terms



# Birth of the Cold War

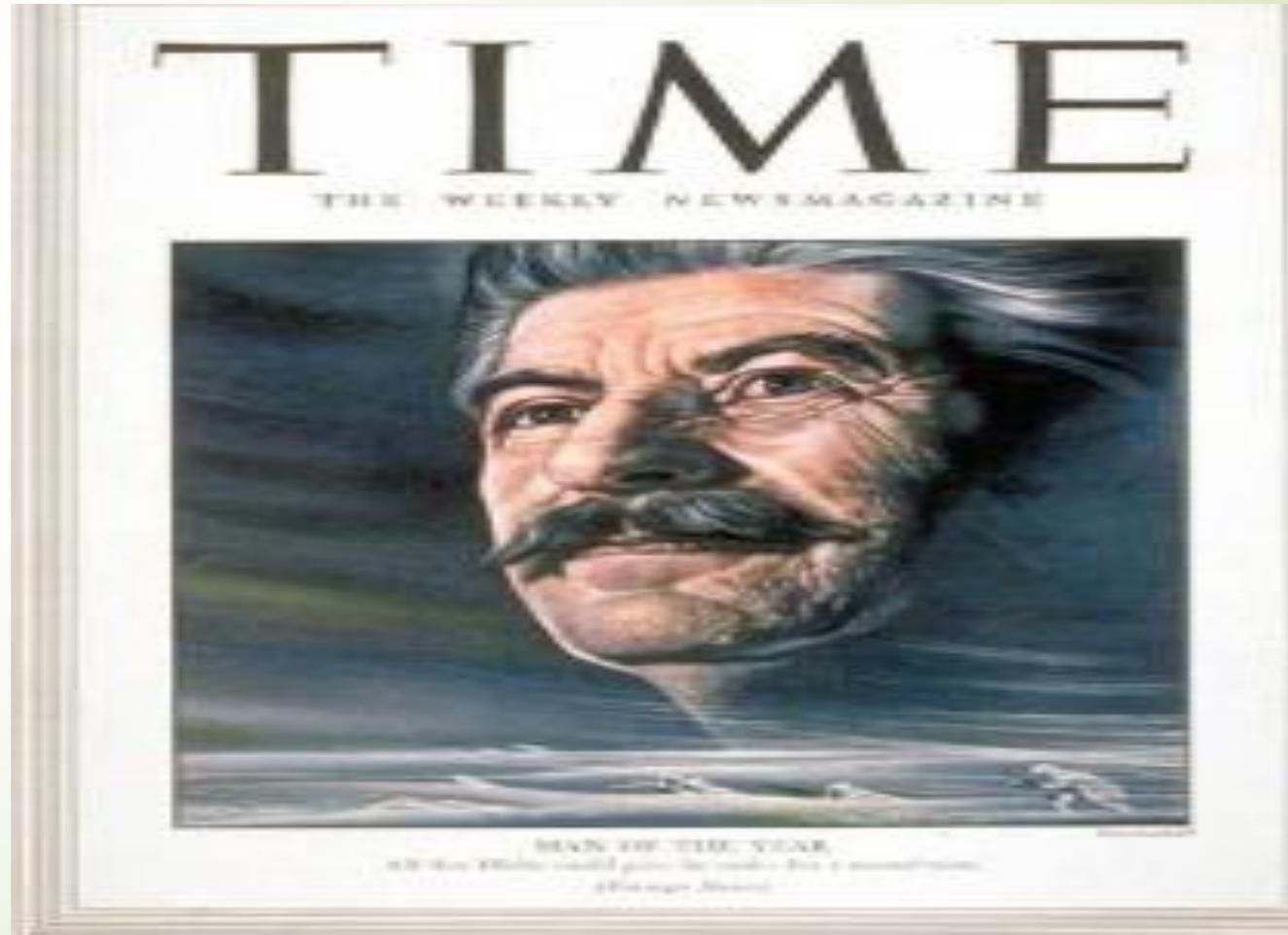


# USA USSR Relations World War Two

Pro Russian propaganda...patriotic  
And heroic Russian soldiers....legacy  
Of suspicion, overcome



Stalin "Uncle Jo" ....control of US media ..no  
mention Camps, Katyn Massacre 1939  
.....Times "Man of Year" 1943



# USSR Spy Ring discovered 1946



➤ USA disbands overseas intelligence 1945  
...no network of agents within USSR

- Canadian/ USA team funded to decipher codes (“Venoma Project”)
  - Nazi codes 1943-1945
  - Intercept Soviet codes 1945-46
  - Multiple KGB Agents identified

Truman needs key speaker to pivot” US Policy: USSR no longer a friend

# Churchill Westminster College Missouri Speech

Churchill and Truman Fulton  
Missouri February 1947



Churchill...out of office, greatly Respected...huge crowd puller ...media magnet

Iron Curtain Speech

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. “

Speech profound impact: unites Republicans and Democrats

The Cold War has begun

# Demonstrations across Europe

.....German demonstrations “we want bread”



# A collapse of trust

Potsdam Treaty Broken...."free and fair elections" commitment

- Rigged elections Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria 1946
- Murders of opposition candidates/ disappearances
- Stalin Bolshoi Ballet Speech February 1946:
  - "Under the present capitalist conditions of world economic development another World War is inevitable. The United States and Great Britain will eventually clash over their imperial ambitions. And after they do, they'll try to take out the Soviet Union".....calls for rearmament, sacrifices, inevitable victory of Marxist Leninism

Lands like "hand grenade in US State Department: US Diplomat John Kennan ..... produces "Long Telegram"

# Exit the British

- ▶ Britain and Greek Civil War
  - ▶ British invasion 1944/ German retreat/ communists Resistance seek power
  - ▶ British support “discredited” monarchy/ conservatives civil war 1946-1948
  - ▶ Turkey demands equal aid...threatens to join USSR
- ▶ British financial crisis 1947: announces withdrawal, aid cut off
  - ▶ Global commitments....debts/ diminished resources, use of British Indian Army
  - ▶ Bankruptcy avoided by US loan...but commitment t NHS , nationalisation
- ▶ Implications to USA: Europe will be “lost” to Communists unless USA acts

**Something must be done or gains from war vs Totalitarianism  
will be lost**



# Intermission

# Long Telegram George Kennan 1946

- ▶ USSR expansionist power with no intention of reconciling with West
- ▶ Will never give up Eastern Europe, will attempt take over Western Europe
- ▶ USSR risk averse, rely on third parties, infiltration of institutions and propaganda
- ▶ Direct military confrontation unnecessary: policy of containment
- ▶ USSR will eventually collapse due to economy and division
- ▶ US success dependent on strong successful allies under US leadership

Truman studies and agrees : sets US foreign policy 1946-2025

# The response: Truman Doctrine

## Truman Joint Session of Congress March 12, 1947

“At the present time in world history nearly every nation must choose between two alternative ways of life. The choice is not a free one.

One way of life is based on the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression.

The second way of life is based on the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies on terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed election, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressure.

I believe that we must assist free people to work out their own destinies in their own ways. I believe our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability.”

# George Marshall US Secretary of State

George Marshall 1880-1959...as  
Chairman Joint Chief of Staff



Career soldier@ Phillipines  
War WW1...assigned to  
China...fluent in Mandarin

Rises up ranks 1930's.  
.....supporter of New Deal

Chief of staff WW2....antagonist of  
MacArthur, supports Eisenhower

Special Envoy China...attempt  
to broker peace CCP & KMT

Secretary of State...ruman to develop  
US European strategy

# Marshall Plan 1947-1952

Europe to collapse to USSR unless hunger/ poverty solved

- ▶ “natural recovery” to take up to 10 years....too late/slow

- ▶ Marshall Plan

- ▶ 185 \$Bn (\$2024 value) provided to buy US goods and food

- ▶ Includes plan to re-industrialise Germany

- ▶ Abolition of trade barriers across Europe

- ▶ Offered to all European countries....including USSR and Eastern Europe

- ▶ USSR response

- ▶ Rejects...capitalist trap/ but has to move beyond “looting”

- ▶ Develops alternative “Comintern Plan”

# Marshall Plan sails through Congress ...Bi Partisan Support

STEP ON IT, DOC!



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Credit: Star Tribune via Getty Images

# An easy sell



THE WAY BACK

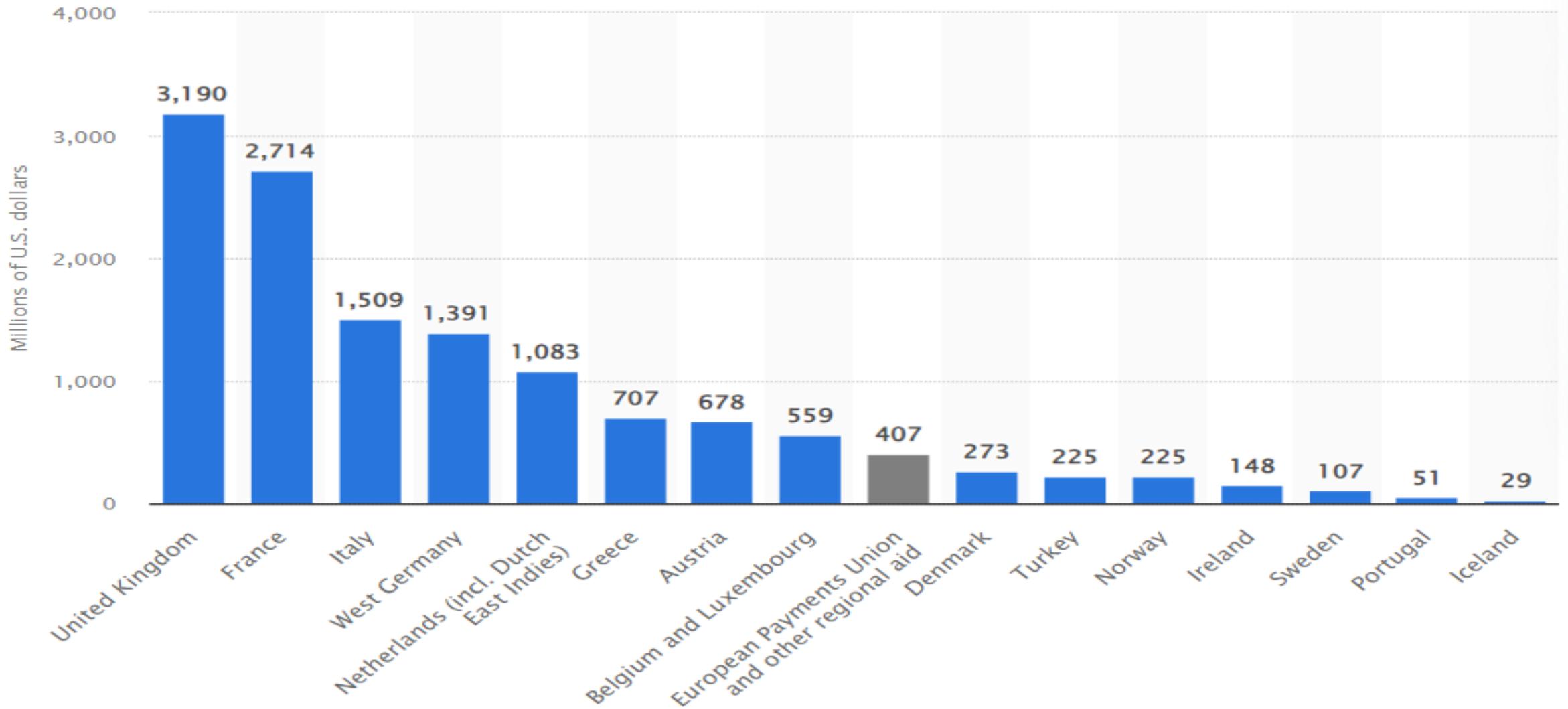
# Selling the plan...anti communist



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Credit: Fototeca Storica Nazionale.

# Marshall aid deployed across

## Marshall Plan Aid 1949-1952



# Marshall Aid: Sugar for Britain



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Credit: Hulton Deutsch



# Diesel manufacturing facility: Netherlands



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# Mules (size issue) ...and food to Greece



Plan included funding of anti communist propaganda & Christian Democrat Parties



# Greek anti communists propaganda



# Impact of Marshall Plan

## Western Europe

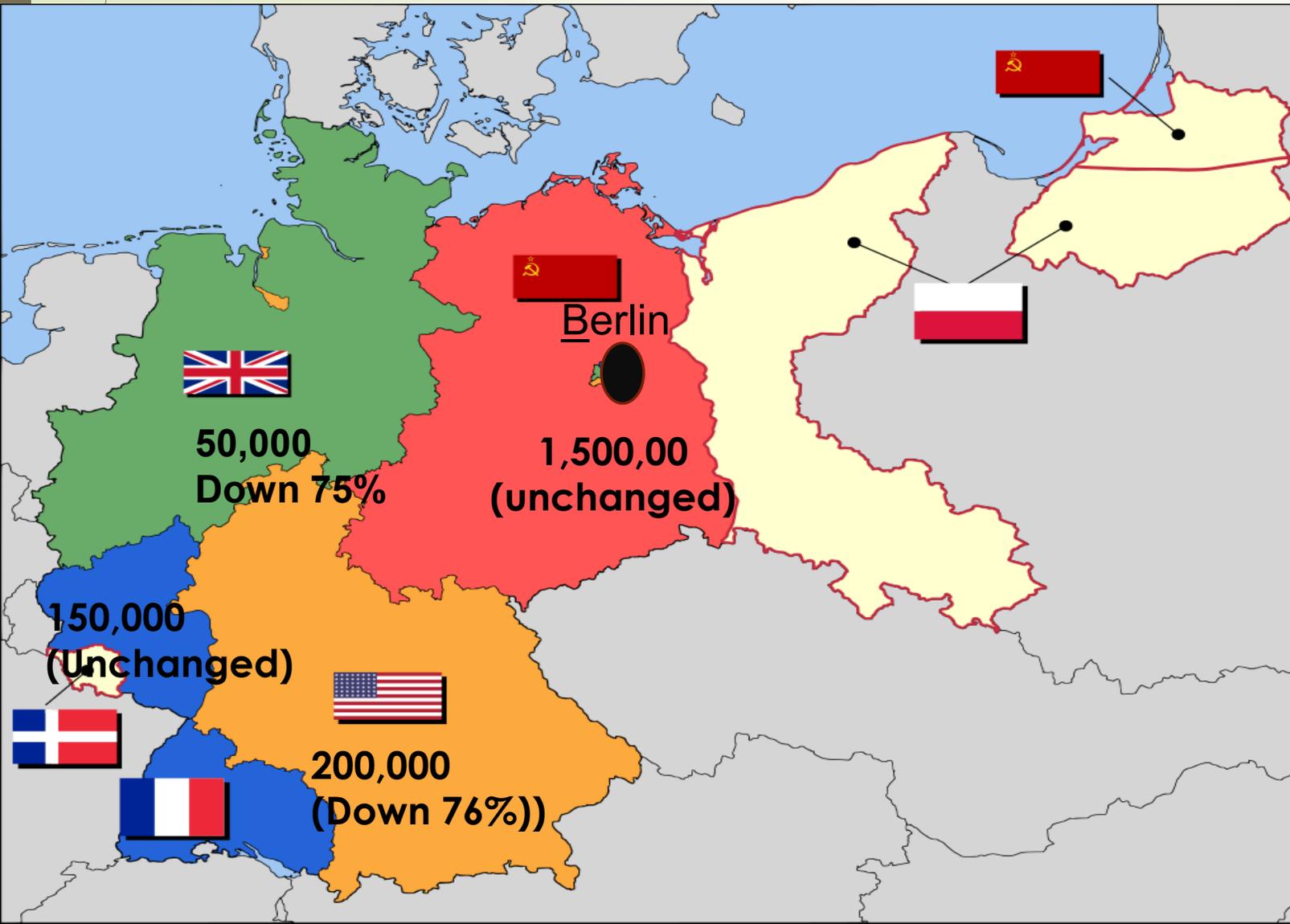
- Risk of starvation, hunger eliminated fast.....confidence returned
- Communists lose elections Greece & Italy
- French Communists excluded from coalition
- Economies recovery accelerates.

## ➤ Eastern Europe

- Left behind...countries seek to join...USSR compels rejection
- Czechoslovakia (last) free election ....attempt to join Marshall plan
- USSR response....coup of 1948
- Czech leadership imprisoned or murdered

Stalin decides on power play: force Allies to evacuate Berlin

# Occupied Germany 1948 and Berlin



British/ US reduced armies  
...cooperation between zones  
...local gov returned  
...marshall plan begun

Russian.  
...army control/ punishment  
main focus  
...policy of "loot"

Berlin:  
US. UK/ French/ USSR zones  
Free travel within  
one highway in/ out

# Berlin Blockade (April 1948-May 1949)

## Triggers

- ▶ New currency / economic recovery
- ▶ Anti communist elections 1946
  
- ▶ USSR decision
  - ▶ Stalin “as goes Berlin, goes Germany, goes Europe”
  - ▶ Close Highway/ Railroads/ cut off water ..June 1948
  
- ▶ Allied Dilemma:
  - ▶ 10,000 troops Berlin vs 100,000 Russians..30 days supply of food
  - ▶ Berlin not worth a war...options considered: attack, use atomic bomb

**US/UK decide to feed city of 2 million by air..no matter cost, time**

# Children watch plane arrival



# Berlin survival...allotments in tramways



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Credit: FPG

Flights increase to 1,500 per day..4,500 tons of cargo.....one plane every 90 seconds...great success,



# “Little Vittles”

Gail Holvorsen



Hands out candy to  
German children

Children share, not grab  
Candies..children ask when w  
He return...will wiggle wings

Children send letters to USA  
...”Mr Wiggle Wings”

Publicity spread

US children send candy bars

# Berlin Airlift Aftermath

- ▶ Berlin saved
    - ▶ City survives...residents fed, heated, clothed
    - ▶ Communists/ USSR discredited
  - ▶ USSR
    - ▶ Cannot risk war
    - ▶ Ridicules airlift till feasibility proven
    - ▶ Abandons blockade May 1949
  - ▶ Allies decide to form German government and end Occupation of American, French and British zones
- Cold War “victory” in Berlin offset by events in China



# Trouble in China



# China 1900-1937

## Collapse of Central Authority 1840-1911: “unequal treaties”

- Revolution and chaos 1911-1932
  - Qing Dynasty overthrown/ Republic established
  - No united government :
    - National Government (Chiang Kai -Shek): KMT
    - Communists (Mao Zedong) : CCP
    - Multiple warlords ( and Japanese puppets)
- Japanese invasions: Manchuria 1932/ Coast and Eastern China 1937
- KMT & CCP “unite” 1937 vs Japan....distrust and duplicity continues thru war

# US and China

## US self image as “honest broker”

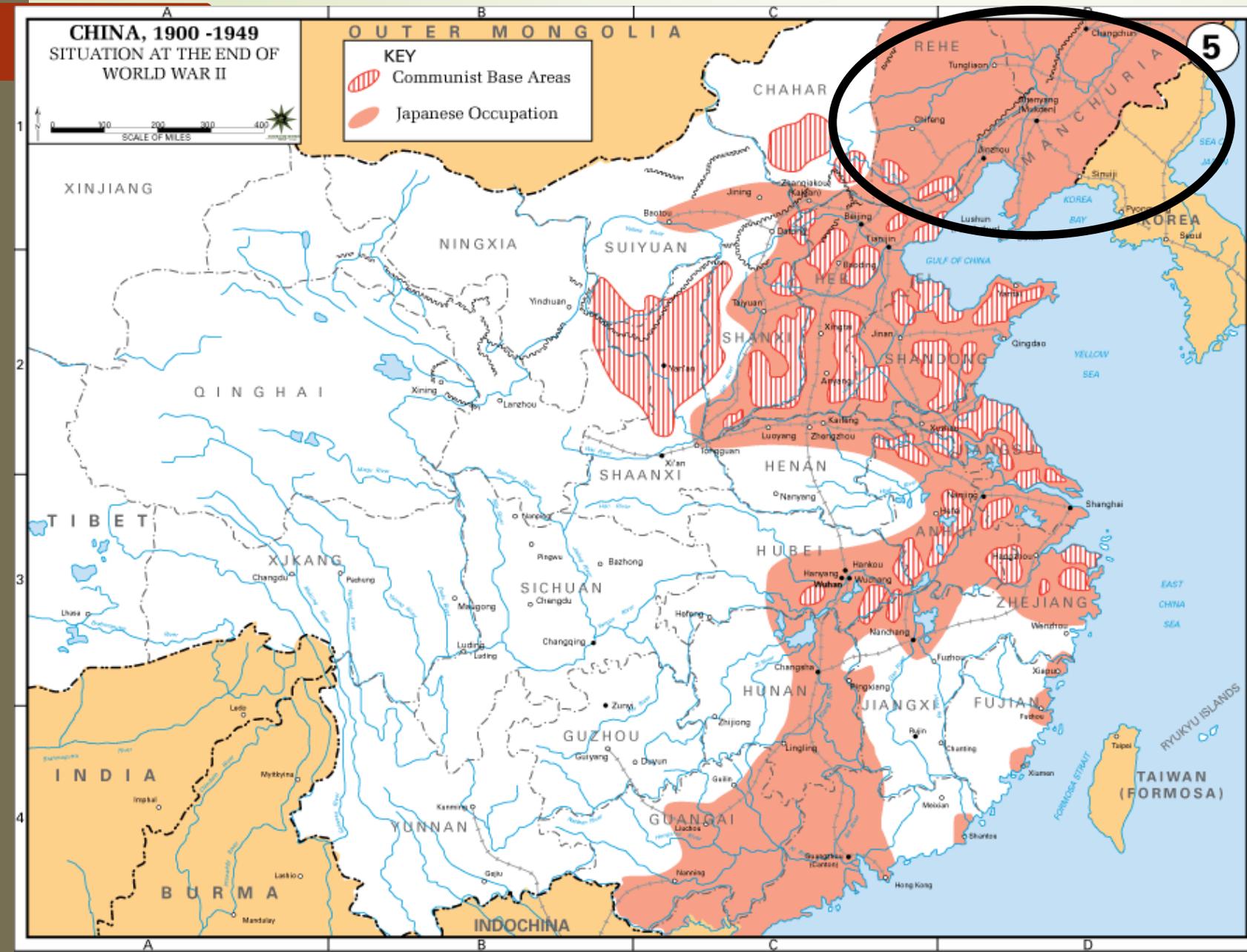


PUTTING HIS FOOT DOWN.

UNCLE SAM (to the Powers).—Gentlemen, you may cut up this map as much as you like; but remember that I'm here to stay, and that you can't divide me up into spheres of influence!

- China ...future for US trade
- “Open Door Policy” no one nation to dominate
- US self image “Protector” China, its markets a “prize” for its Mastery of Pacific”

# China at end of World War Two



Stalemate: ...Japanese control North coast...1944 offensive fails  
....move troops to mainland

USA delivers aid to KMT, via Burma  
...throughout war...USSR no support  
...treaty with Japan

KMT control inland, army of 5m  
Supplied by USA and USSR  
Army mix of ex warlords, conscripts

CCP control mountains, countryside  
Army 1m but highly motivated

USSR invades North, Japanese  
Army of 600K surrender to USSR  
gives arms to CCP

China 1945: US/ UK recognise Chiang Kai -Shek

.....China seat on UN Security Council

.....US view: "China saved"



# China 1945

Widespread devastation...18 million deaths, starvation:

- US sends 50,000 army to support KMT/ repatriate Japanese prisoners
- Civil war resumes fight to control land abandoned by Japan
- Government unstable, unpopular
  - Chaing Kai- Shek not seen as “victor”...war won by USA and USSR
  - Rampant corruption “Cash my Check)...deals with ex warlords

FDR/ Truman sends Sec of Defense Marshall to establish “Unity Government”

# Peace Conference 1945

Chiang Kai - Shek

Mao Zedong



Marshall seeks  
Chaing Agreements  
...land reforms  
...free elections  
...coalition government" ..

Marshall loses faith In Chaing  
...cuts US aid/ withdraws army  
....no progress Mao (USSR

Civil War resumes

# Chinese Civil War 1945-1949

KMT and CCP rush to occupy land occupied by Japanese

- ▶ USSR support Mao Zedong/ US reduces aid to Chiang
- ▶ Nationalist support (KMT) collapses
  - ▶ Inflation/ Corruption
  - ▶ Desertion...army reduced to 1m by 1949
- ▶ CCP rises in popularity and power
  - ▶ Gains support of peasants: Land reform (80% of Chinese peasants)
  - ▶ Army grows to 5m plus
- ▶ KMT defeated by 1949, retreat to Taiwan...protected by US fleet

Truman blamed for “losing China”...“soft on communism”  
.....US Politics shaped for next decade



# 1948 Election and Cold War

# 1948 election

Harry Truman 1882-1972

From Missouri Grandparents  
slave owners

Kansas City 'machine' politics  
elections..competitive thuggery

No personal enrichment  
...father in- law foreclosure

Voracious reader/ good pianist

No International background  
...and yet ..decision to use  
bomb..Marshall Plan/ Berlin Airlift

New Deal reformer...use  
government to help the people



# Truman quotes

- ▶ My choice early in life was either to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. To tell the truth, there's hardly a difference.
- ▶ I can remember when a good politician had to be 75 percent ability and 25 percent actor, but I can well see the day when the reverse could be true.
- ▶ A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties
- ▶ We must face the fact that peace must be built on power, as well as upon good will and good deeds.

# Truman and race

- ▶ As 27 year old farmer ““I think one man is just as good as another so long as he’s honest and decent and not a nigger or a Chinaman... I am strongly of the opinion that negros (sic) ought to be in Africa, yellow men in Asia and white men in Europe and America.”
- ▶ Remains white supremacist/ uses racist words but views change
- ▶ At 65...as President after lynching of black GI’s in uniform ““My stomach turned over when I learned that Negro soldiers, just back from overseas, were being dumped out of army trucks in Mississippi and beaten,” Truman said. “Whatever my inclinations as a native of Missouri might have been, as president I know this is bad. I shall fight to end evils like this.”

Executive Order 9981..ending discrimination in military  
..1948....army resists...not in effect till 1954



# Election campaign

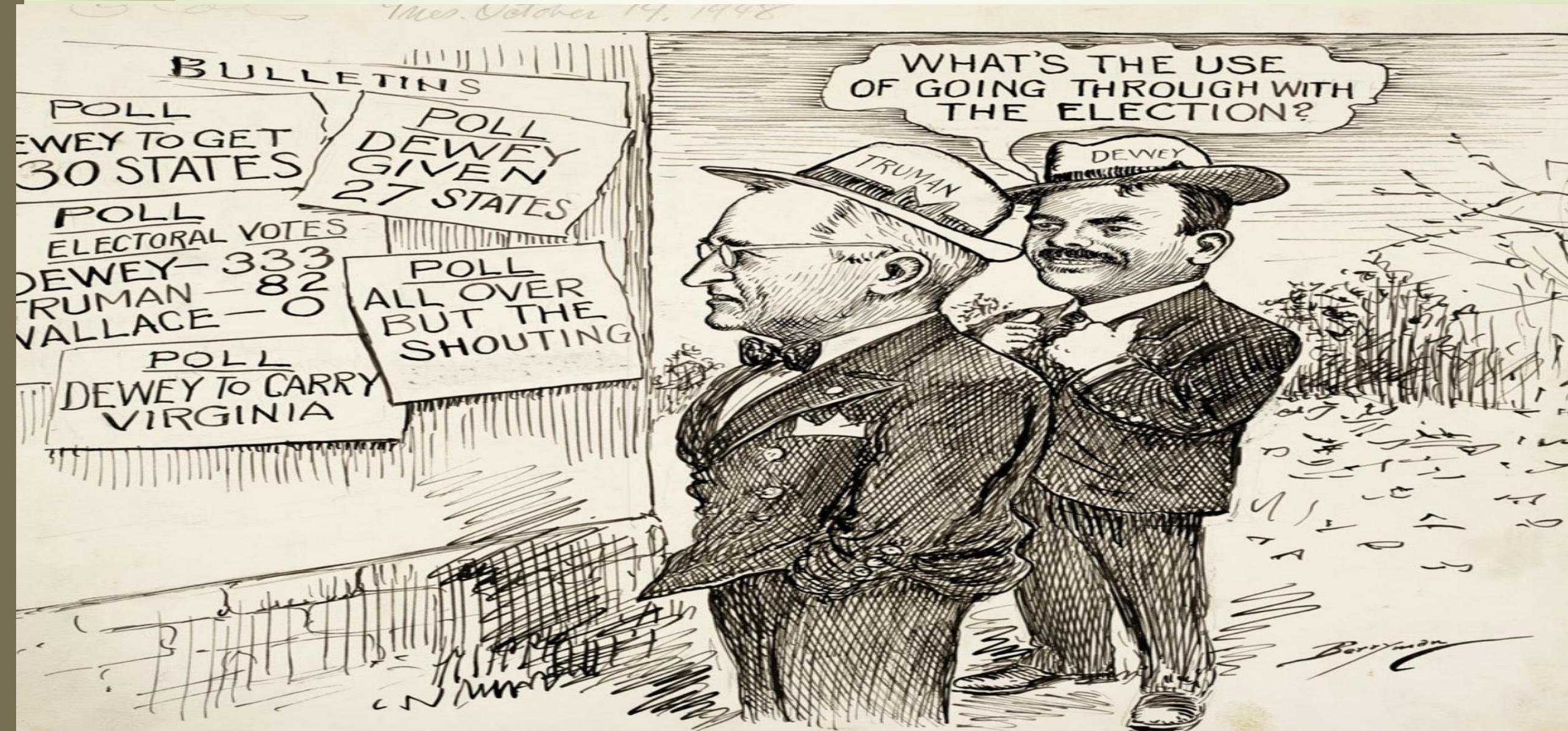
Truman seeks second (full) term

- ▶ offers “Fair Deal”: the politics of abundance
- ▶ Compulsory national health insurance plan/ guaranteed jobs scheme
- ▶ Seeks minority support: Northern blacks...Civil Rights/ Jews ..new state of Israel
- ▶ Fear of communism drives election
  - ▶ Truman introduces Loyalty Oath....all Federal employees...3,000 out of 1 million terminated
  - ▶ Sets up Central Intelligence:
- ▶ Democratic Party splits over civil rights and anti communism
  - ▶ Dixiecrats (White Supremacists) ....replace Democrats in South: no “Solid South”
  - ▶ Progressive Party ...splits northern vote..liberal

# Truman appears doomed

- ▶ Republicans pick Thomas Dewey
  - .....Progressive Conservative
  - .....Election result obvious...say nothing but platitudes
  - ....."You know your future is still ahead of you" !
- ▶ Republican feed off strikes of 1946: pass anti union "Taft Hartley" law
  - ▶ Bans closed shops
  - ▶ Allows Right to Work (i.e. no union) States
  - ▶ Truman vetoes bill but Senate overrides
- ▶ Truman... "the man who lost China", Marshal/ FDR Russian "dupe", pro union

# The campaign: a forgone conclusion



# Truman “road show”: Bess and Margaret

Margaret Truman 1924-2008)



Truman a family man: “Three things ruin a man: power, money, and women. I never wanted power. I never had any money, and the only woman in my life is up at the house right now.” .. married 55 years!

Margaret only daughter

...opera singer career

...Truman promotes to major opera houses

...considered good, not great

Truman 1948 aggressive campaign:

...Speech by Harry “Give em Hell Harry”

...song by Margaret/ ...duet Harry & Margaret

...then “meet the Boss” ..Bess

Margaret marries....successful writer of Murder mysteries (“murder in Havana” “murder at CIA...murder at Pentagon, Murder at Congress”

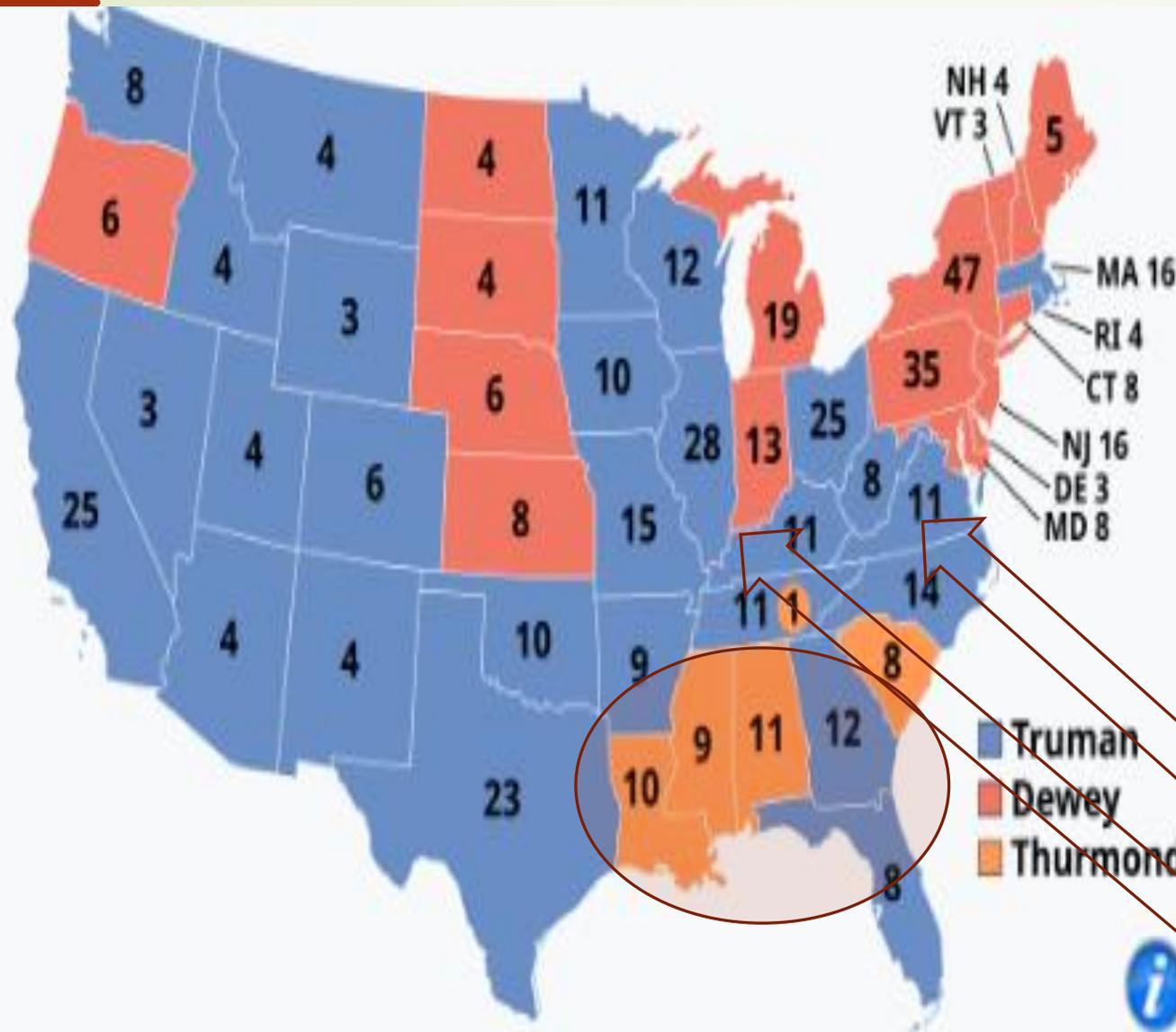
# The joys of beating the polls



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Credit: Underwood Archives

# Result....biggest surprise till Trump



Truman wins college  
Dem 303, Rep 189, Dixicrats 39

Wins popular vote by 2m  
...49% vote vs 45%

Democrats lose "Solid South"  
First time since civil war  
....due to civil rights initiatives

Dems lose NY...8% vote to Prog

Win Detroit (Michigan)  
Chicago, Illinois

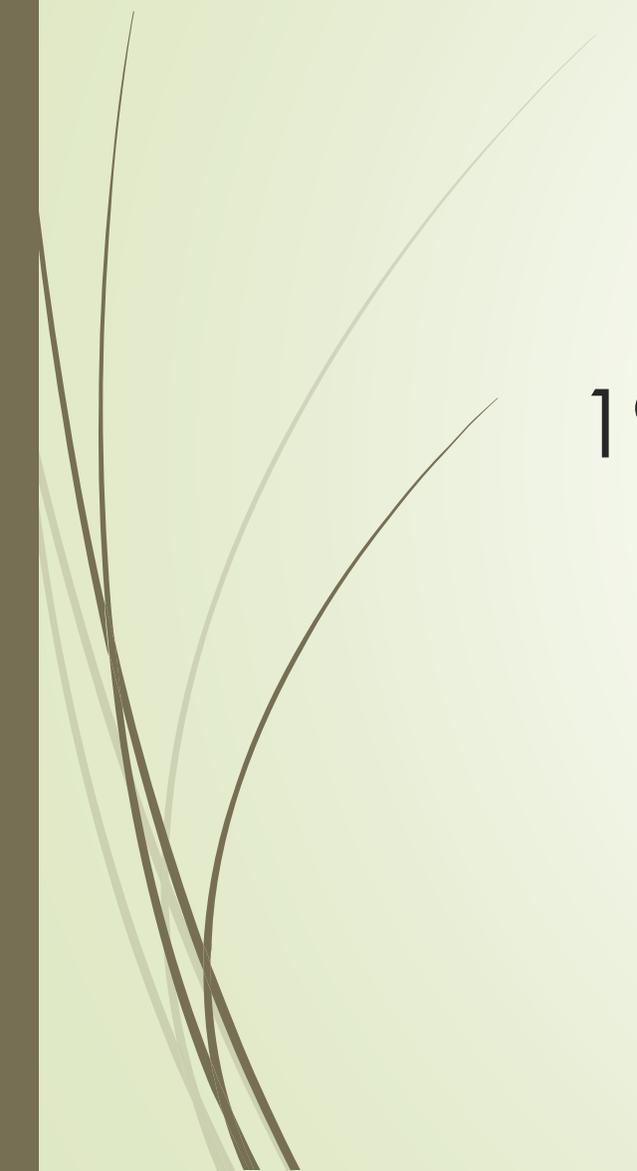
# Election aftermath

- ▶ Democrats regain control of house, Republicans the Senate
- ▶ “Fair Deal” dies in committee
- ▶ Cold war intensifies
  - ▶ US/UK agree to create “West Germany”
  - ▶ Japan and West Germany to be reindustrialised
  - ▶ Nato established April 1949 military alliance
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Then on August 29<sup>th</sup> 1949 something completely unexpected

# Russian Atomic bomb





# 1948 Election and Cold War

# 1948 election

Harry Truman 1882-1972

From Missouri Grandparents  
slave owners

Kansas City 'machine' politics  
elections..competitive thuggery

No personal enrichment  
...father in- law foreclosure

Voracious reader/ good pianist

No International background  
...and yet ..decision to use  
bomb..Marshall Plan/ Berlin Airlift

New Deal reformer...use  
government to help the people



# Truman quotes

- ▶ My choice early in life was either to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. To tell the truth, there's hardly a difference.
- ▶ I can remember when a good politician had to be 75 percent ability and 25 percent actor, but I can well see the day when the reverse could be true.
- ▶ A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties
- ▶ We must face the fact that peace must be built on power, as well as upon good will and good deeds.

# Truman and race

- ▶ As 27 year old farmer ““I think one man is just as good as another so long as he’s honest and decent and not a nigger or a Chinaman... I am strongly of the opinion that negros (sic) ought to be in Africa, yellow men in Asia and white men in Europe and America.”
- ▶ Remains white supremacist/ uses racist words but views change
- ▶ At 65...as President after lynching of black GI’s in uniform ““My stomach turned over when I learned that Negro soldiers, just back from overseas, were being dumped out of army trucks in Mississippi and beaten,” Truman said. “Whatever my inclinations as a native of Missouri might have been, as president I know this is bad. I shall fight to end evils like this.”

Executive Order 9981..ending discrimination in military  
..1948....army resists...not in effect till 1954



# Election campaign

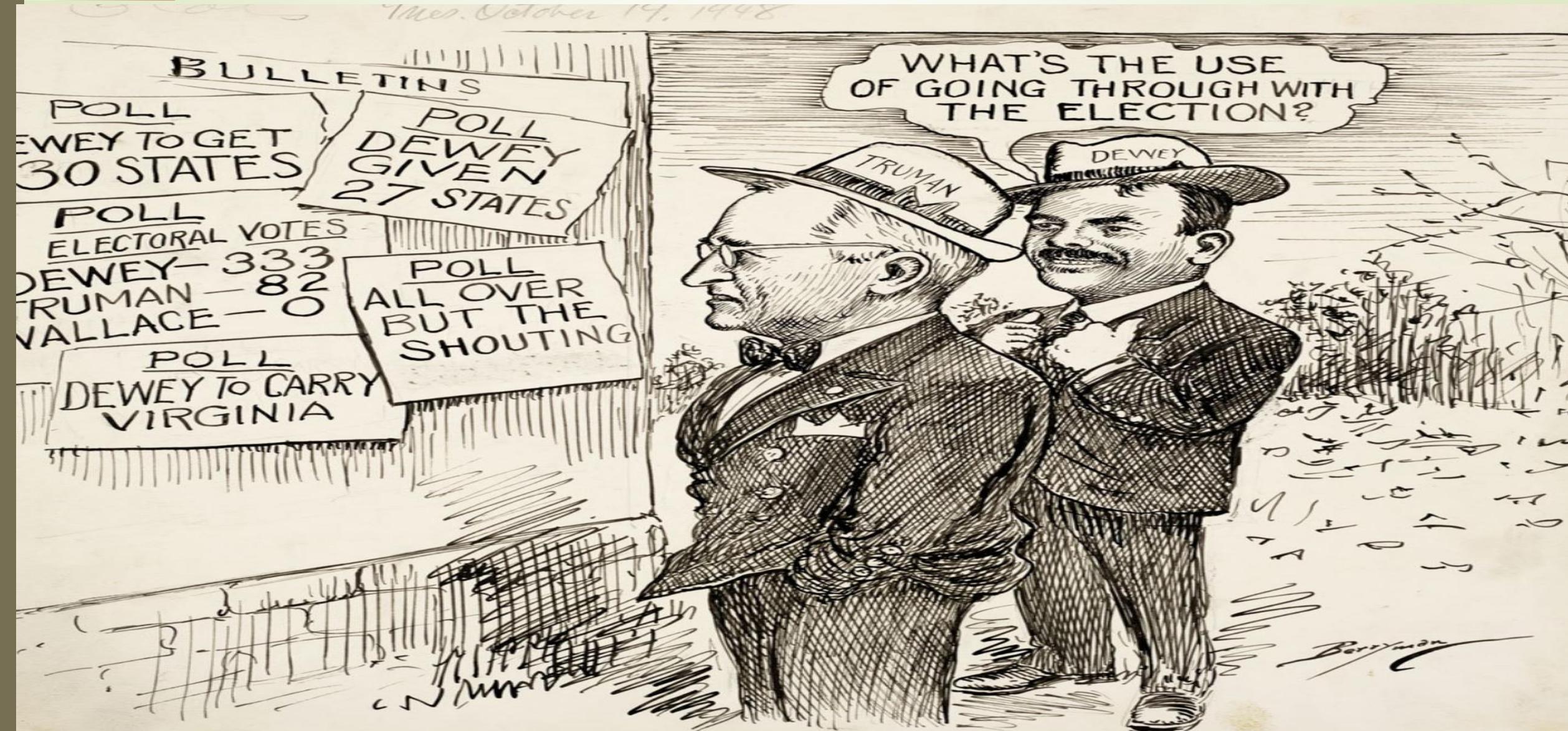
Truman seeks second (full) term

- ▶ offers “Fair Deal”: the politics of abundance
- ▶ Compulsory national health insurance plan/ guaranteed jobs scheme
- ▶ Seeks minority support: Northern blacks...Civil Rights/ Jews ..new state of Israel
- ▶ Fear of communism drives election
  - ▶ Truman introduces Loyalty Oath....all Federal employees...3,000 out of 1 million terminated
  - ▶ Sets up Central Intelligence:
- ▶ Democratic Party splits over civil rights and anti communism
  - ▶ Dixiecrats (White Supremacists) ....replace Democrats in South: no “Solid South”
  - ▶ Progressive Party ...splits northern vote..liberal

# Truman appears doomed

- ▶ Republicans pick Thomas Dewey
  - .....Progressive Conservative
  - .....Election result obvious...say nothing but platitudes
  - ....."You know your future is still ahead of you" !
- ▶ Republican feed off strikes of 1946: pass anti union "Taft Hartley" law
  - ▶ Bans closed shops
  - ▶ Allows Right to Work (i.e. no union) States
  - ▶ Truman vetoes bill but Senate overrides
- ▶ Truman... "the man who lost China", Marshal/ FDR Russian "dupe", pro union

# The campaign: a forgone conclusion



# Truman “road show”: Bess and Margaret

Margaret Truman 1924-2008)



Truman a family man: “Three things ruin a man: power, money, and women. I never wanted power. I never had any money, and the only woman in my life is up at the house right now.” .. married 55 years!

Margaret only daughter

...opera singer career

...Truman promotes to major opera houses

...considered good, not great

Truman 1948 aggressive campaign:

...Speech by Harry “Give em Hell Harry”

...song by Margaret/ ...duet Harry & Margaret

...then “meet the Boss” ..Bess

Margaret marries....successful writer of Murder mysteries (“murder in Havana” “murder at CIA...murder at Pentagon, Murder at Congress”

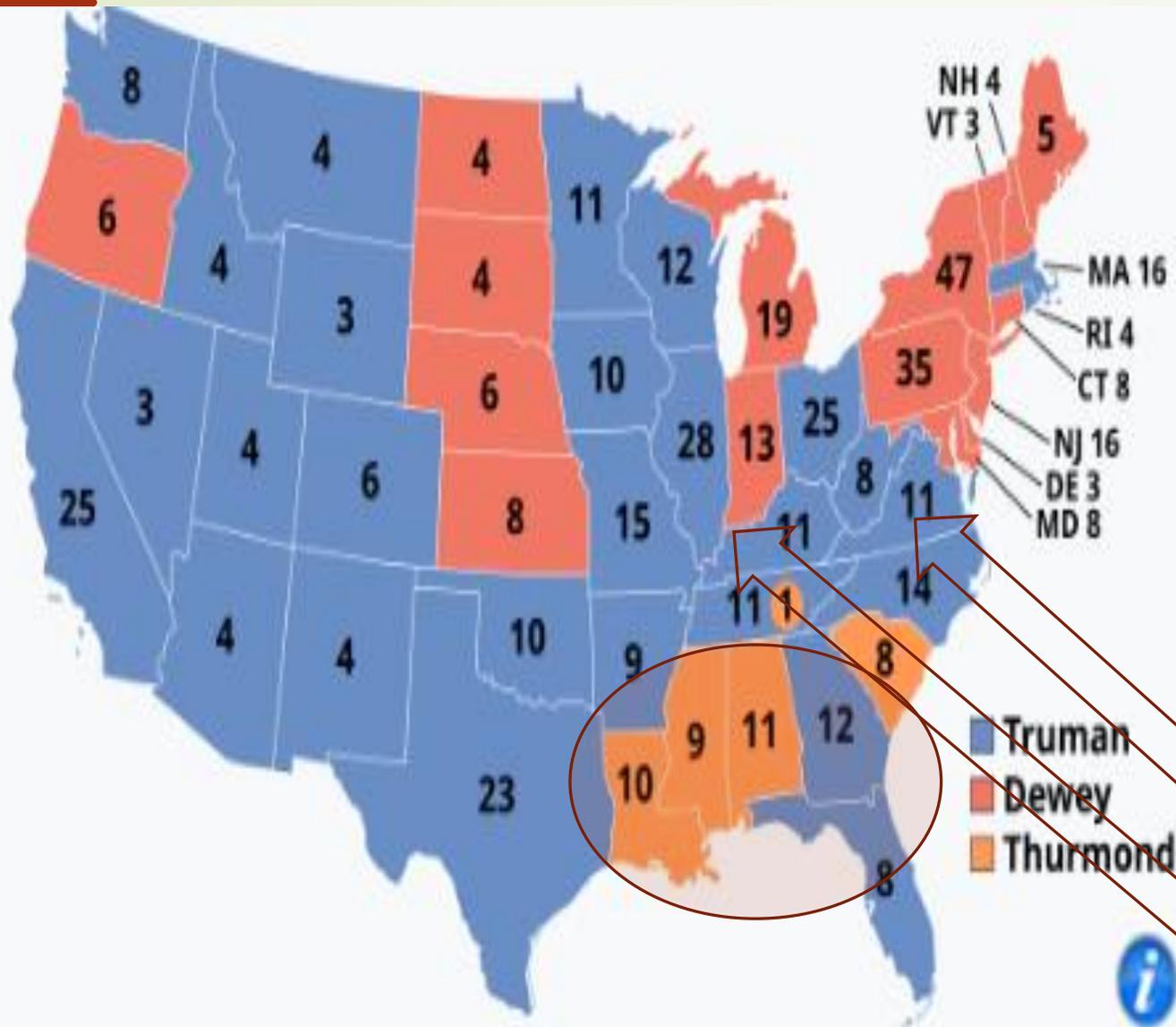
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Next talk34: USA during the 1950's.. March 17th

Then Talk 35: The cold war during the 1950's