

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 35 Cold War 1949-1960

- Origins of Cold War
- Korean War
- A Change in Strategy
- Intermission
- Cold War 1953-1959
- US 1960

1946: Conflict inevitable



- Two “New World Powers”

- Vacuum created by collapse of “Old Powers” (Great Britain & France)

- USA and USSR dominant, “new” with “boundaries” unclear

- Incompatible “Missions”

- USA “Exceptional, the chosen Nation, its Destiny to lead future of mankind

- USSR “Scientific History (Marxist Leninist): inevitable Communist victory

- Rise of Nationalism and power vacuum

- Colonialism no longer acceptable to “native peoples”

- Colonial powers lack means and will to impose control



An attempt at Global Order

- Acheson-Lilienthal Report 1946
 - Share atomic knowledge to International organisation operated by UN
 - US to transfer atomic bomb control to UN
- Baruch Plan 1946
 - Bernard Baruch US Financier proposal to UN
 - Transfer knowledge in exchange for commitment not to build weapons
 - UN agency empowered to inspect and enforce rules

The road not taken ...Baruch 1946

“We are here to make a choice between the quick and the dead.
That is our business.

Behind the black portent of the new atomic age lies a hope which,
seized upon with faith, can work our salvation.

If we fail, then we have damned every man to be the slave of fear.
Let us not deceive ourselves; we must elect world peace or (elect) world
destruction.”

USSR rejects plan (vs Inspection, want own bomb...then negotiate

US proceeds to ensure bomb will work

Bikini Atoll test July 1st, 1946



US delivers 2 tests on “fleet”
Of obsolete/ surrendered ships

2 bombs ...comparable to Hiroshima,
Nagasaki (20 MT vs 15 MT)

KGB agents observe
....US demonstration of power
....”unimpressed”.
....A bomb “another weapon”

US builds up stock of A bomb
....50 by end 1946, 100 by 1949)
...starts work on H bomb

Escalation 1946-1950

➤ An ending of “trust” 1946-1948

- USSR rejects “free and fair elections” Poland, Hungary 1946-1947
- Czechoslovakia coup 1948...murder of elected officials
- USSR attempts to seize Berlin 1949...thwarted by Berlin Airlift
- “Red Scare” in US...KGB Spy Rings, Alger Hiss Trial

➤ Communists resurgence 1949-1950

- USSR first bomb test / Chinese communist victory
- USSR interpret US lack of response as weakness
- US will not respond to the first “test”:

First Test: Korea



Korean War

Korea

Autonomous “Tributary State” of China 918-1890

- Acknowledge “over lordship” of either Mongols or Chinese
- Unified government, common language & culture north and south
- Korean “Empire” 1890-1910: Japanese defeat of China: “free”
- Japanese Occupation 1910-1945
 - Colonialism/ slave labour/ ethnic cleansing/ Japanese settlers
 - Korean “rebels” join Chinese CCP in Manchuria to fight Chinese
 - Soviets invade August 1945 agree partition” at 38th with US

Subsistence economy 80% peasants, 15% middle class, 5% Aristocrats

Korea 1945-1950



“Joint Administration US and USSR”

.. US/ USSR “agree election...unify Korea
..” ..both claim victory over all Korea

North (Republic of Korea)...population 9m,
Communist. Dictatorship Kim Il

...Leader of Korean resistance to Japan via Ch
...Reliant on China (Mao Zedong)

South...population 20m, dictator Syngman
Rhee. English Speaker, Christian, aristocrat,
anti communist, exile in US 1915-1945,
..US withdraws army, power to Rhee

Civil war in South 1948-1949

....communist revolt..ROK “Agents” +
“socialists” 10,000’s executed rest-- Prison

The Invasion



▶ Stalin USSR

- ▶ US weak, do not see Korea strategic (KGB agents) will not risk war
- ▶ South Korea unstable, civil war, Symon Rhee unpopular, foreign
- ▶ USSR want Communist China to replace “Republic China” on Security Council
- ▶ US vetoes...decision to leave UN

▶ Mao Zedong (China) & Kim il Sung

- ▶ Easy victory....North Korea large army, South...army used only to crush dissent
- ▶ Supplies aircraft, tanks, 70,000 Chinese soldiers into North Korean army

North Korean (ROK) Propaganda



부산으로.러수로.목포로.제주도로!

Invasion

South Koreans rushing south



June 28, 1950 200,000 North Korea (ROK) + 70,000 Chinese attack “to capture and execute bandit traitor Syngman Rhee”

South Korean army of 100,000 not prepared
...no planes, tanks

North captures Seoul
...mass killing gov officials
...South Koreans retreat, mass
Defections/desertion`

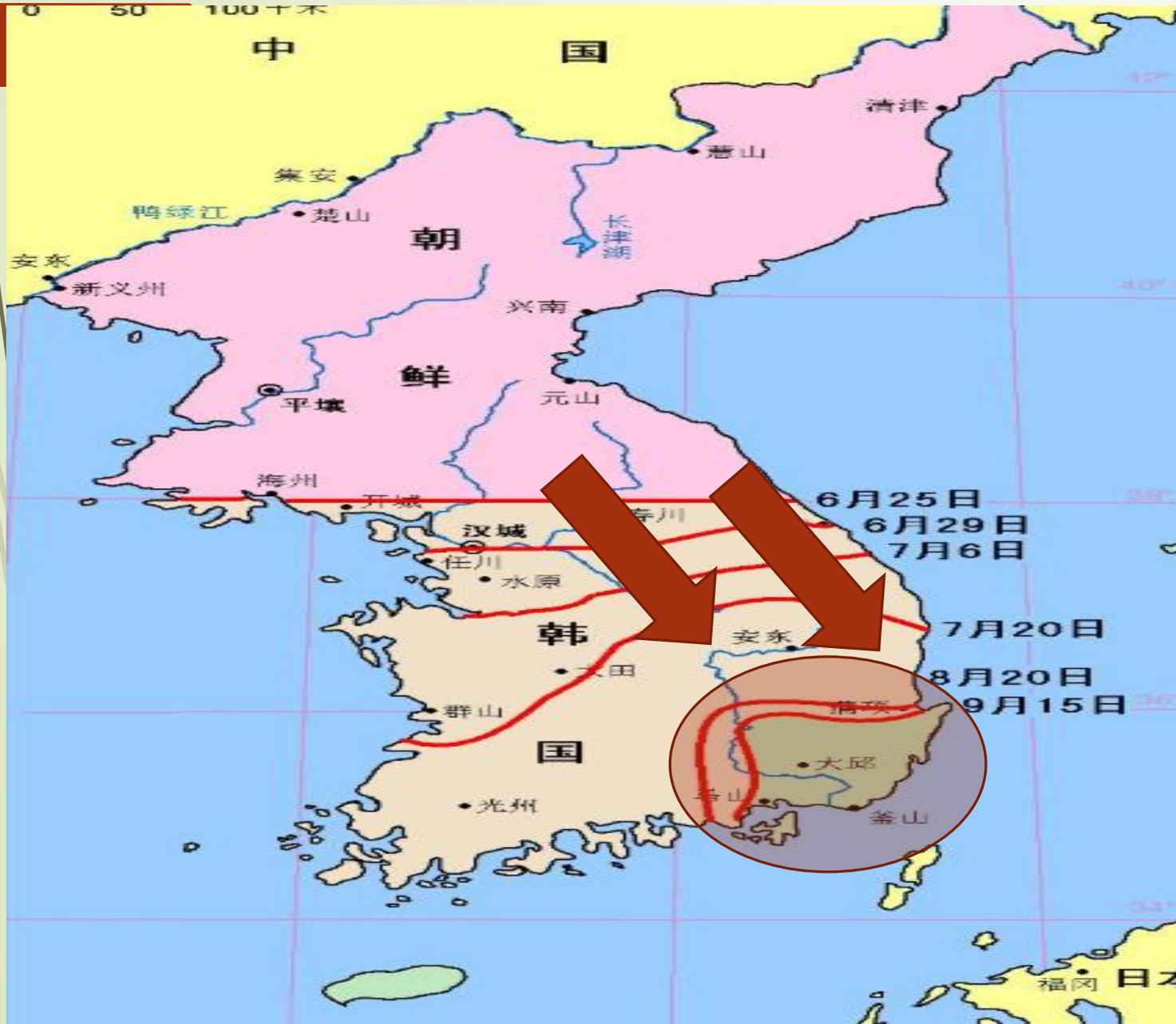
Syngman Rhee executes 30,000
..flees South...appeals to US

US Response

Total Surprise

- CIA had discounted possibility
 - US focused on Western Europe
 - US army downsized/ Shift to reliance on nuclear weapons
 - 200 US soldiers in Korea, 30,000 in Japan under Douglas MacArthur
-
- Invasion must be stopped ...Truman Doctrine
 - No appeasement
 - Atomic bomb should NOT be used....avoid escalation with USSR/
 - Secure UN authorisation (USSR absent from UN)..
 - Allied support from British, Turks, Australians, French

Korean war June-July 1950



ROK advance South...murder civil
South Korean civil servants

South Korean army disintegrates

South Koreans reach Pusan
...McArthur despatches army
from Japan + air force, navy

US sends army navy+airforce
....bomb ROK,
....front stabilise
....build South Korean army

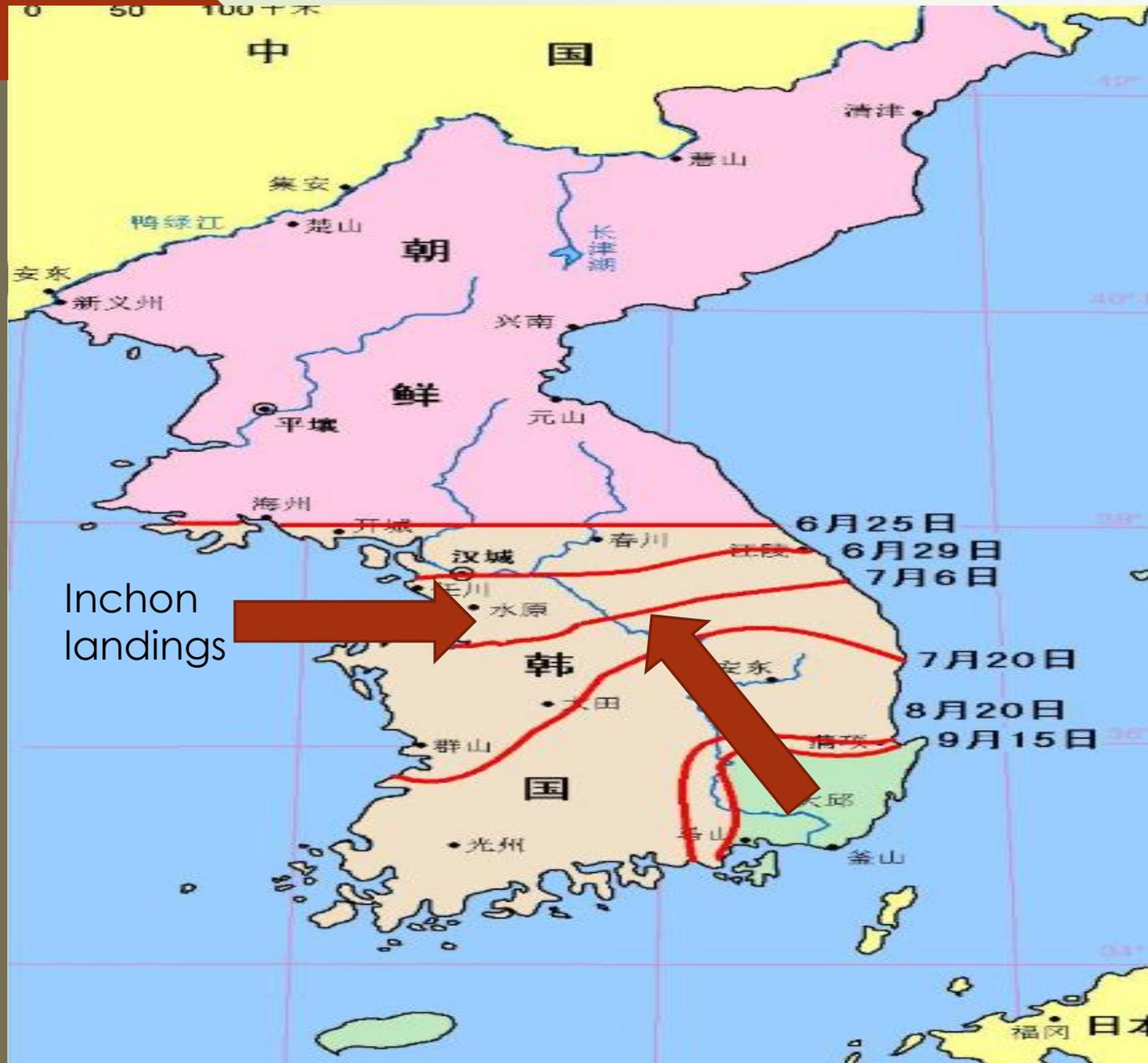
Reinforcements arriving at Pusan



US Army stabilises Posan perimeter August 1950



Korea War September- October 1950



MacArthur decision to
Annihilate ROK army
.... "surprise attack" at Inchon
...60,000 US troops at Inchon

Coordinated with "break-out" from Posan
....US Army 100,000
+ 10,000 Allies (2,000 UK)

ROK army disintegrates
...mass surrender/ defections
UN moves North ..recapture Seoul
back to 38th parallel

What to do next?

Inchon Landings ..organised, done in two months...40,000 marines 250 ships ...



Inchon Landings



Truman and MacArthur Wake Island January 1951



McArthur hero of hour

McArthur agrees to meet
“half way” ..Wake Island”

Truman asked if use of bomb
..military decision, not his
...British.....disturbed

MacArthur given ok to go No
....avoid war with China

McArthur
...China not puppet of USSR
...will not dare respond

The Drive North



UN Army (200,000 US
+100,000 Koreans invade
North Korea

McArthur "Home by Xmas"

ROK Army destroyed...less
Than 20,000

US Victory assured
....expand front
.....weather deteriorates

Chinese decide to act
....mass army of 700,000

Chinese army massing for attack



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Credit: Pictures from History

Mass Chinese offensive...November 1950 –
January 1951. 700,000 Chinese ...UN retreats



Warfare in open places



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Credit: Interim Archives

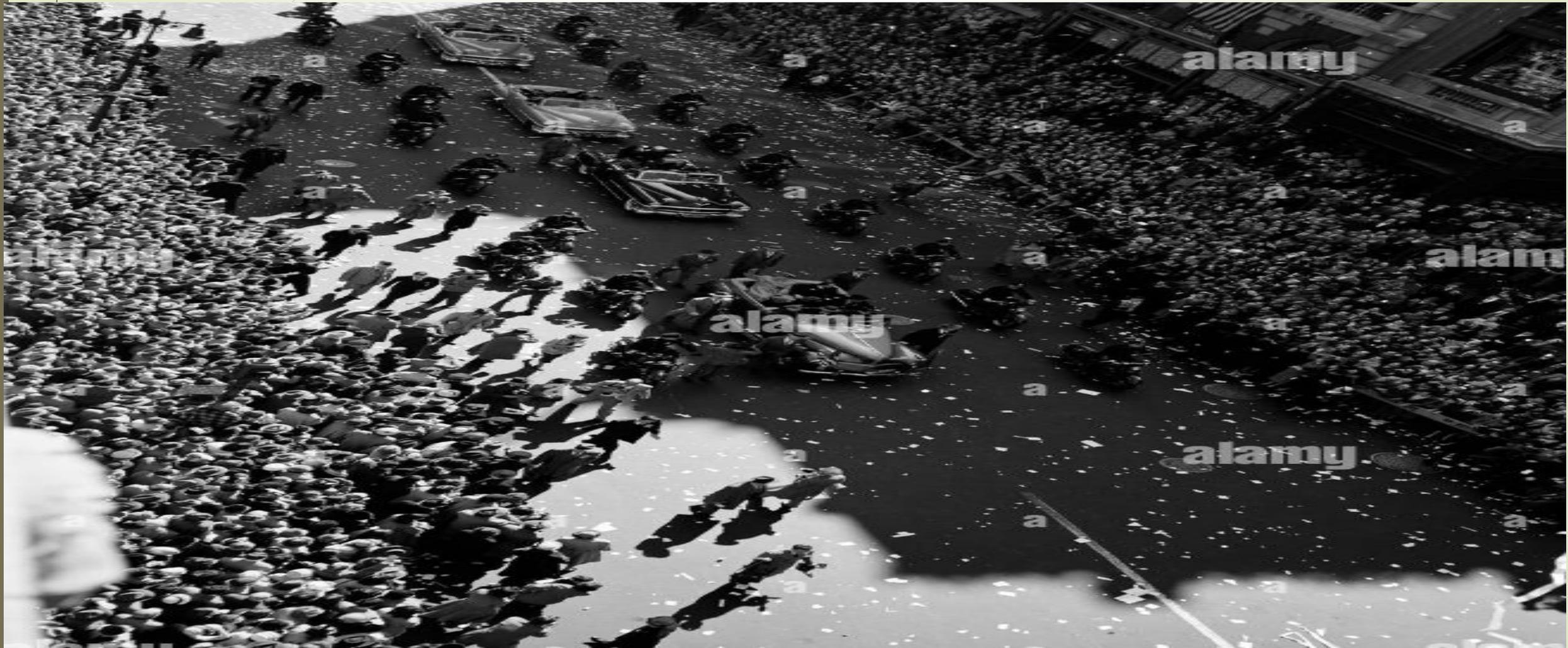
Korean War Jan-March 1951

- Front stabilised
 - US army increased to 300,000, 100,000 UN (50,000 British)
 - ROK army recover/ retrain
 - Intensive Aerial/ naval bombardment
- The “revised” McArthur plan
 - War in Korea can be won...but only by defeating China
 - Authorises army to return to North, bomb Chinese bridges
 - Orders advance north....without discussion with Truman

Truman fires McArthur: Assert authority and avoid escalation of war
...Truman Doctrine :“Containment”not escalation

Exit of MacArthur

Returns home War Hero.....Invited to Speak to Congress,
.....given “ticket tape parade” New York 1951



Korean War 1951-1953



Mass Chinese attacks continue
....Imajin River...
"Glorious Gloucester's"

Chinese attacks fail

UN push Chinese back to
38th parallel and beyond

3 years Attritional warfare
...barren, mountainous, human wave attacks



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Credit: Keystone

US Army integrated for first time



Arial War/ Bombing campaign

- ▶ United Nations ..complete control of the air by 1951
 - ▶ North Korean air-force obliterated first year 1,000 Migs shot down
 - ▶ Chinese & Russian pilots engaged...war by proxy
- ▶ Bombing campaign intensified after Chinese entry:

McArthur: "Burn it if you so desire. Not only that, Strat, but burn and destroy as a lesson to any other of those towns that you consider of military value to the enemy."

Air force general: "Every installation, facility, and village in North Korea now becomes a military and tactical target."

Bombing Campaign: the result

B26 Releasing bombs



Master of skies
...minimal resistance

Inaccurate: 200 bombs
needed to hit object 20 ft.
target

630,000 tons explosive
(1.6m WW2)

400,000 civilians killed, N Korea
...95% of buildings destroyed

Ending the war

- ▶ China/ North Korea ask for Armistice July 1951
 - ▶ Death of Stalin...USSR withdraw support
 - ▶ Mao Zedong....offensive met goals, South not feasible
- ▶ 2 years of discussions....arguments vs prisoners, boundary
- ▶ Armistice agreed Jul 1953....still in effect

Ending as a the beginning. July 1953



Korean War aftermath

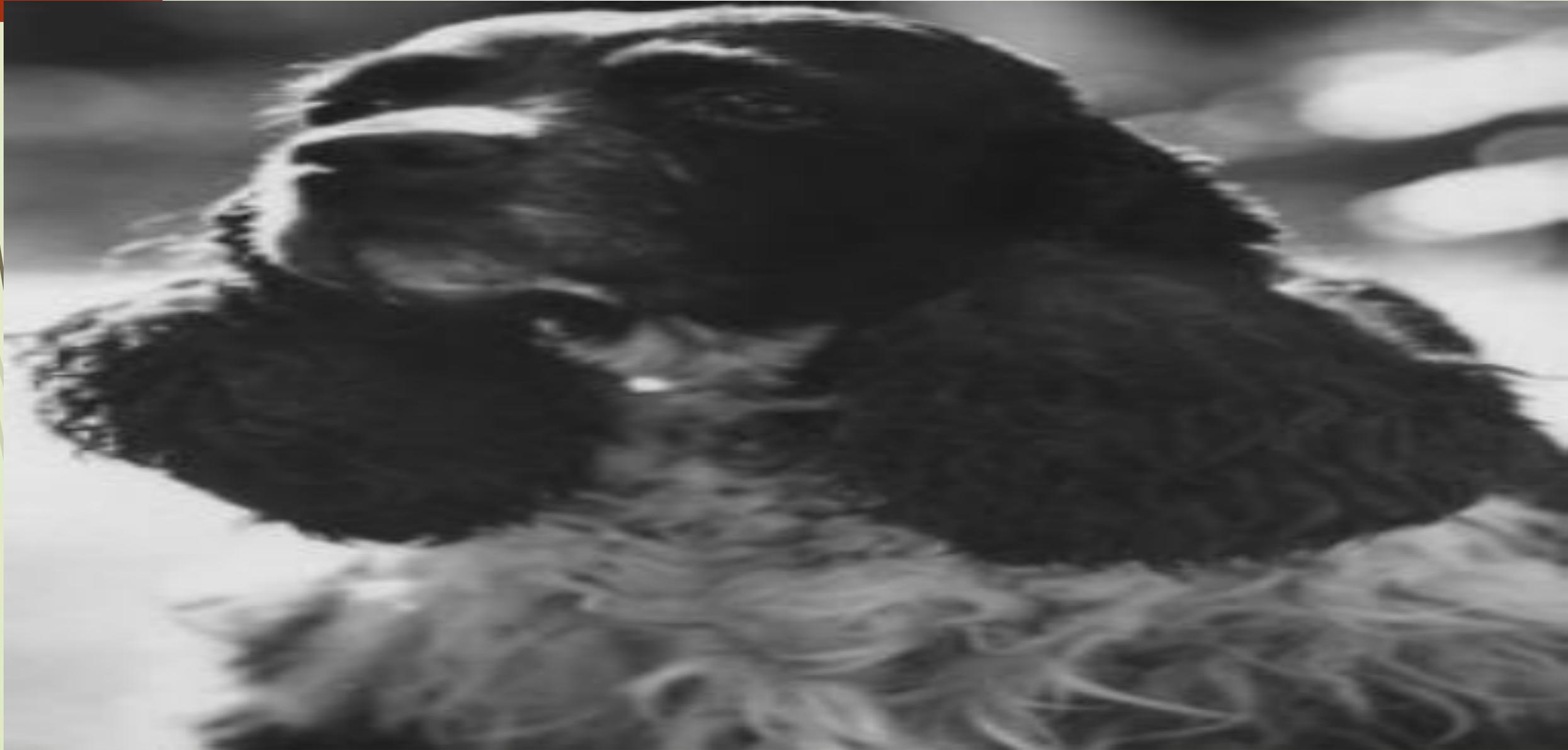


Cost of war: 2 million
Koreans, 38,000 US soldiers,
1,500 British
North & South devastated

North :communist dictatorship
South...military dictatorship
till 1980...US investment

US attention shifts from
.....Europe to Asia
.....Containment works

Checkers: most famous dog in US



Checkers speech (September 1952)

Nixon on TV giving “Checkers Speech”



1952 first TV subject to live TV

Nixon Senator from California
Famous for Pumpkin Patch, McCarthy Hearings...modest means, law practice

Campaigns as “man of integrity”
...removes campaign chairman for Taking funds

‘Secret Fund’ set up to run campaign
...\$16,000 (\$200,000 today)
...Release to papers by competitor
Press attacks...one contributor told
“Nixon needs bigger house/maid”
..Nixon...attacks from communists

Eisenhower tells Nixon to go on tv
...appeal to public/ or resign

Checkers speech

Nixon publicity (paid by Fund)

EISENHOWER & NIXON ★ REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES



SENATOR
DICK NIXON

1952
Campaign
Tour

Nixon...details expenses....wife does not have Mink Coat..
...good Republican “cloth coat”...then

“we did get something—a gift—after the election. A man down in Texas heard Pat on the radio mention the fact that our two youngsters would like to have a dog. And, believe it or not, the day before we left on this campaign trip we got a message from Union Station in Baltimore saying they had a package for us. You know what it was? It was a little cocker spaniel dog in a crate that he'd sent all the way from Texas. Black and white spotted. And our little girl—Tricia, the 6-year-old—named it Checkers. And you know, the kids, like all kids, love the dog and I just want to say this right now, that regardless of what they say about it, we're gonna keep it!

Response overwhelming positive...Nixon remains VP candidate
...and forever known as “Tricky Dick”

Democrat candidate Adlai Stevenson



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Credit: Fox Photos

Democrat Candidate...no chance vs war hero

- About Nixon “was the kind of politician who would cut down a redwood tree, and then mount the stump and make a speech for [tree] conservation”.
- “Uncomfortable with the carnival side of elections, Stevenson tried to be a man for the people, not of them; a man of reason talking sense, not manipulation or sentiment
- “egghead ”speech “eggheads of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your yolks!”
- Attacks McCarthy, defends Alger Hiss ...accused of being “soft on Communism” and gays
- A gentleman: Declines release letter from Eisenhower to Marshall in 1944 wanting to divorce his wife and marry Kate Summerville....(Marshall rejected)

US politics....no room for gentlemen

Adlai Stevenson poster...New Deal forever

WHICH will be **SAFER** for **YOU?**

THE PARTY OF HOOVER

THE PARTY OF ROOSEVELT

1932

1952

BREAD LINES

HIGHER WAGES

HOMELESS

BETTER HOMES

BANKS CLOSED

SOCIAL SECURITY



STEVENSON

Labor's Committee for Stevenson and Sparkman

GEORGE M. HARRISON, Chairman E. L. OLIVER, Secretary-Treasurer
1621 K Street, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

STEVENSON

NO MORE CLOWNS, CUT-UPS OR CHARACTERS!



Put
REAL MEN
IN GOVERNMENT!



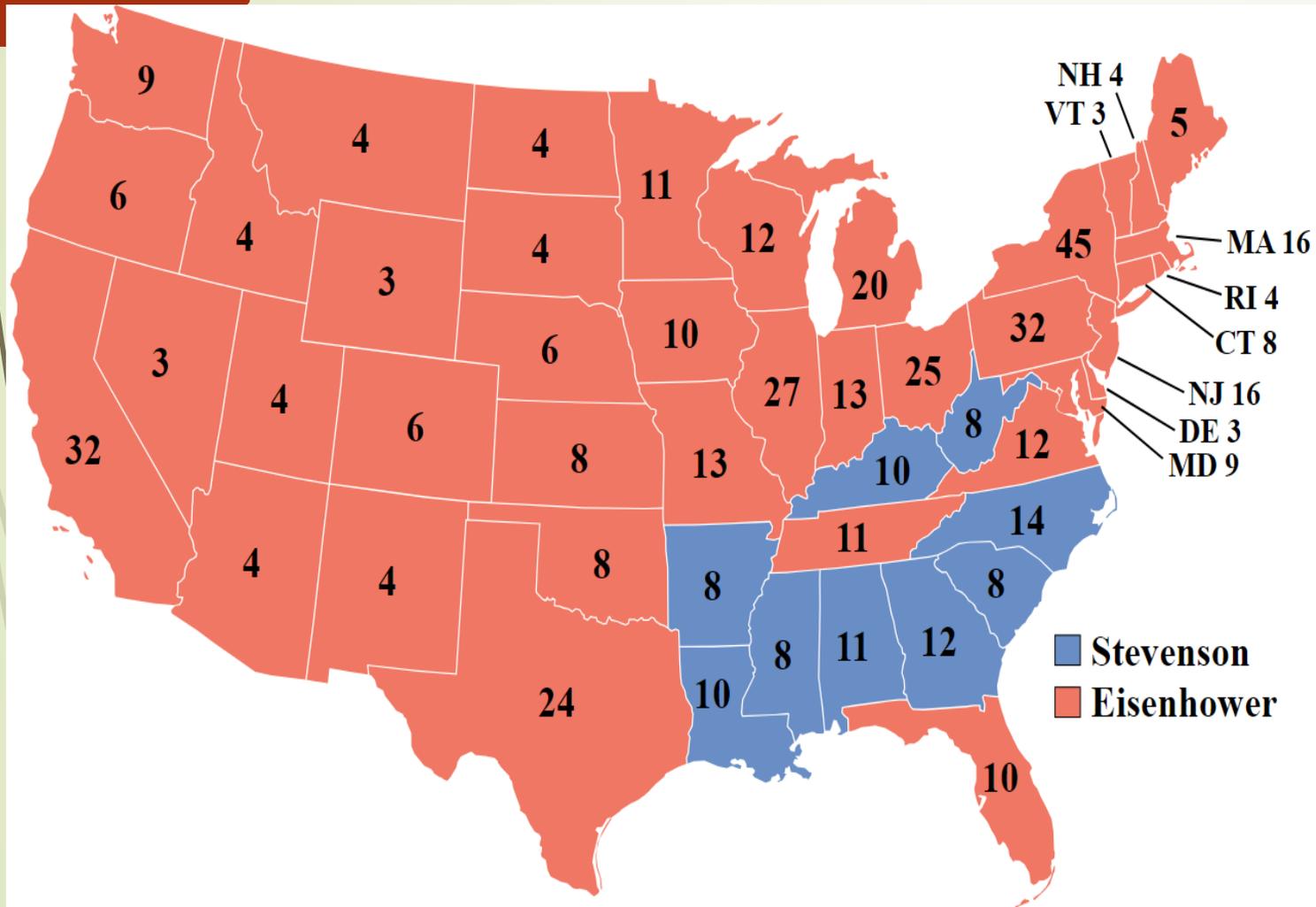
HONEST MEN WHO LOOK YOU IN THE EYE...TALK STRAIGHT...

AND SINCERELY WANT TO SERVE ALL THE PEOPLE!

VOTE REPUBLICAN ⊗ NOVEMBER 4TH!



Republican Landslide



Eisenhower 55% vote, vs 45%
442 electoral votes vs 89

Votes for Ike...not Republicans
Republicans 1 seat majority Sena
20 majority House

Consensus for maintaining
New Deal, high income taxes,
Social Security

Ends 20 year Democrat Control

Same candidate, same result
1956...Ike at 57% vote

Eisenhower Presidency (1952-1960)

- Main interest and focus Foreign Affairs (more in Talk 35)
 - Committed to burying isolationist thought
 - Ending Korean War
 - Use superior missile technology to offset USSR manpower
 - Missile attack preparedness"duck and cover"
- "Progressive Republican"
 - Maintain New Deal basics while support business
 - Reduce government oversight/ control expenditure
- Presidential Style
 - Commander in Chief...President to execute (not create) law, adhere to courts
 - Social Change...job of Courts and Congress
 - His role: live by example, news conferences, inspire trust

Major initiative: US highway network

Eisenhower quotes

This world of ours... must avoid becoming a community of dreadful fear and hate, and be, instead, a proud confederation of mutual trust and respect.

If a political party does not have its foundation in the determination to advance a cause that is right and that is moral, then it is not a political party; it is merely a conspiracy to seize power.

Leadership consists of nothing but taking responsibility for everything that goes wrong and giving your subordinates credit for everything that goes well.

People talk about the middle of the road as though it were unacceptable. Actually, all human problems, excepting morals, come into the grey areas. Things are not all black and white. . There have to be compromises. The middle of the road is all of the usable surface. The extremes, right and left, are in the gutters.

US Highways Act 1956

No national highway system

- 1921 Highways Act: State responsibility

- Mostly two way highway “toll roads”

- Eisenhower and highway system

- Cross road trip “motor convoy” 1919/ German autobahn

- Highway system for defence/ mass relocation

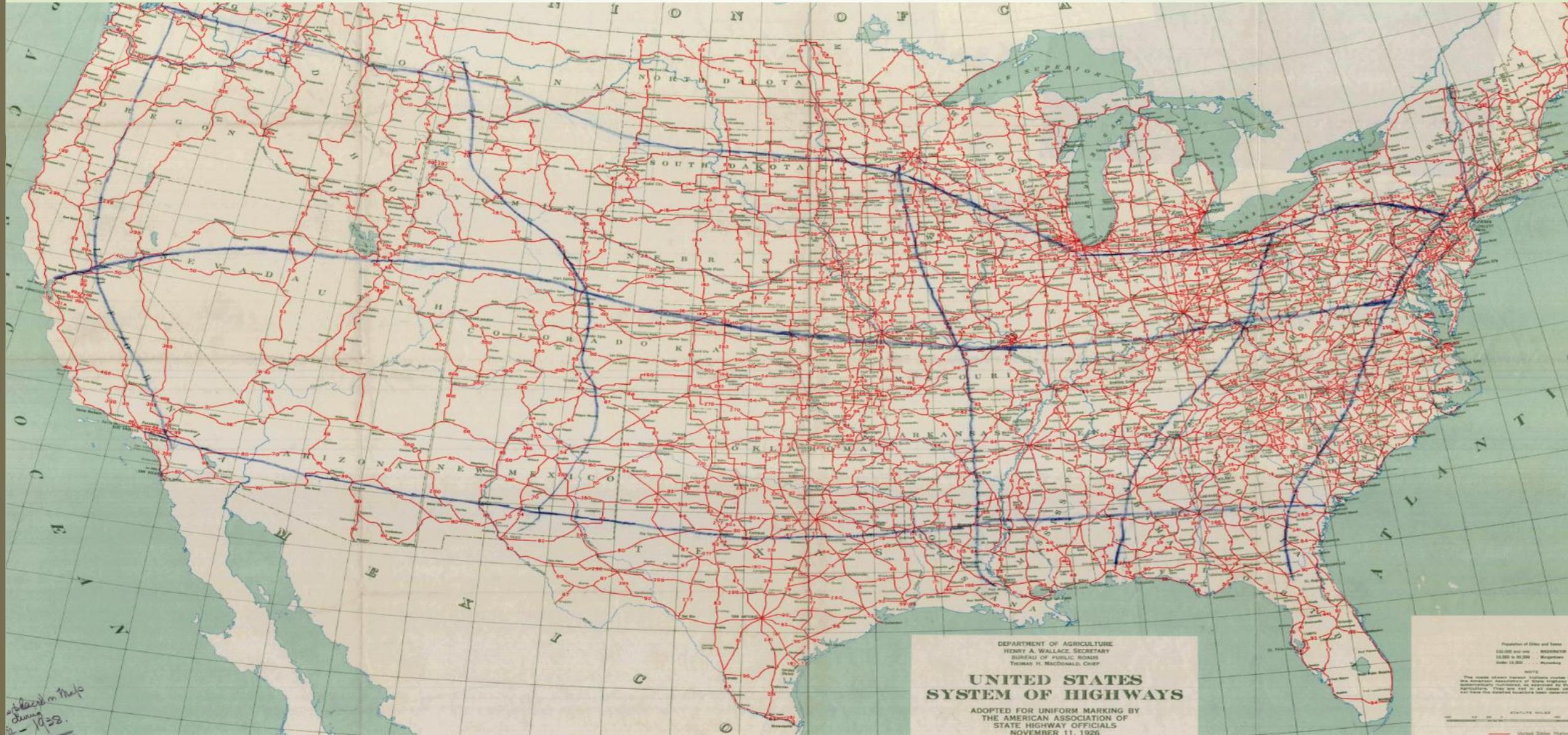
- Public works project needed as Korean War ends

- Initial cost estimate \$25Bn over 13 years,...actual £114Bn over 35 years

- Paid by fuel taxes (19c a gallon since 1992)

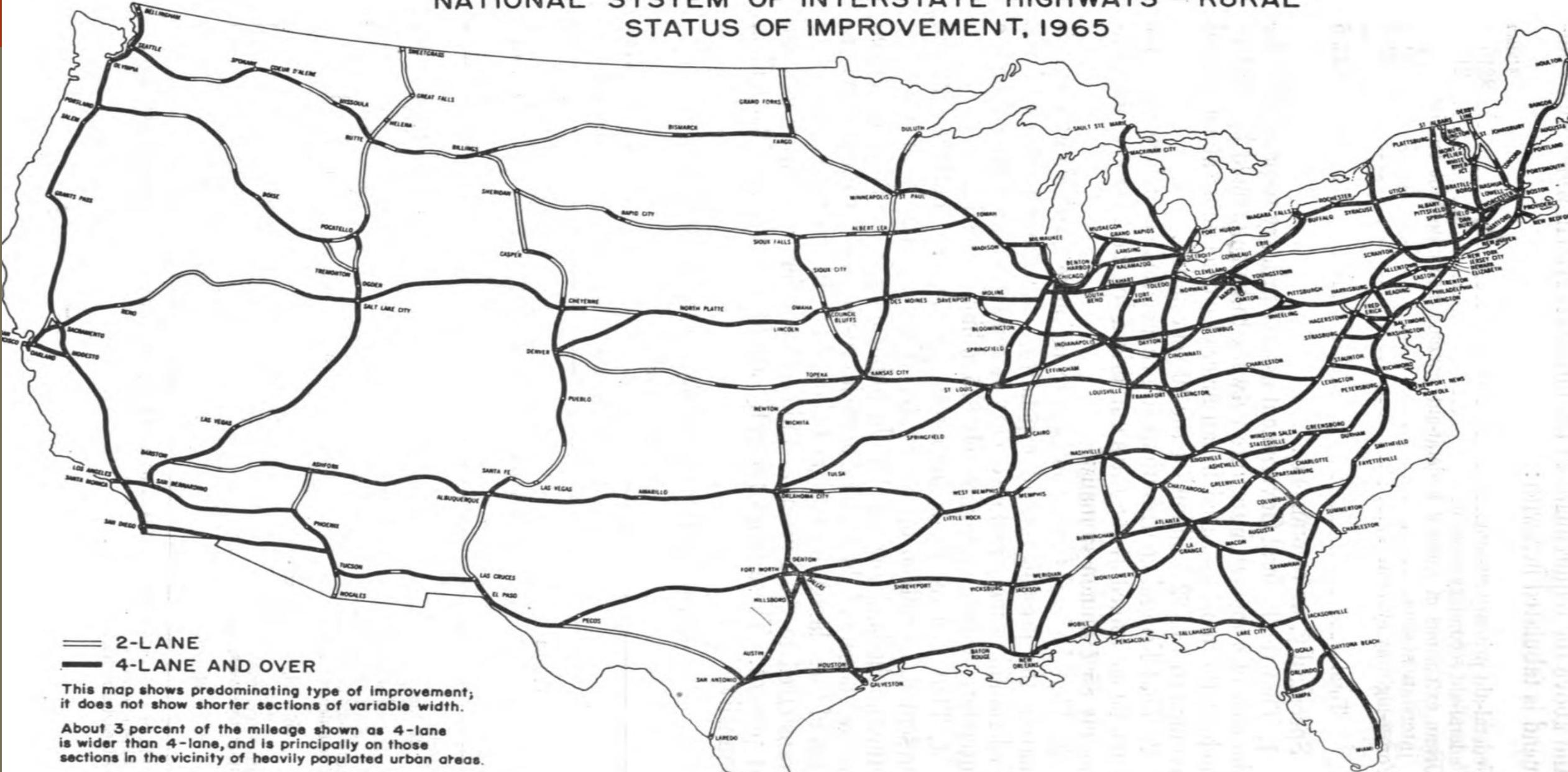
- 42,000 miles...in process roads “grandfathered toll roads”

US Highway System 1935



US interstate freeway system 1965

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS - RURAL STATUS OF IMPROVEMENT, 1965



Interstate 5, Glendale California 1957



Impact of Highway System

Decline of Railroad System

- Rise of Trucking industry...and Teamster Union
- Fossil fuel dependency....Middle East interest
- Urban restructuring
 - Growth of suburbs
 - Destruction inner city neighbourhoods
 - Urban segregation by race/ class
 - Outlet shopping...mall culture

US becomes an “automobile society”



The affluent Society

Population 1950- 1960

Population increases 20% from 151m to 179m

- No significant change to mix of race (Whites 88% 1950, 84% 1960),
- Population moving West California 48% increase (from 11m to 15m), Florida 78%
- "middle class" becomes dominant social group (from 30% 1930 to 60% 1960)
- High birth rate (50% from 2.9 births per 1,000 to 3.8 per 1000 women)
- Low level of immigration (1m less per year) due to quota system), foreign born population declines from 10% to 5% of population
- Accelerated migration blacks from South to North
 - Black population in South declines form 29% to 25%
 - New York increases from 10% to 14%. Chicago from 14% to 23%

Economy 1950's



	1930	1940	1950	1960
GDP	\$91Bn	\$101Bn	\$293Bn	\$542 Bn
US Debt	\$16Bn	\$43Bn	£257Bn	\$286Bn
Debt %	17%	42%	87%	53%

Economy did not recover from Depression till 1939

Inequality reduced by high taxes (top rate 91%)

1% owned 45% wealth 1930, 25% 1960 (40% now)

Growth 190% 1940-1950 then 87% during 1950s

Debt remained high (Cold War/ Infrastructure/Marshall Plan) at \$280Bm
.....but no problem due to growth (from 150% GDP to 40%)

1950's....The Golden Age (white males)

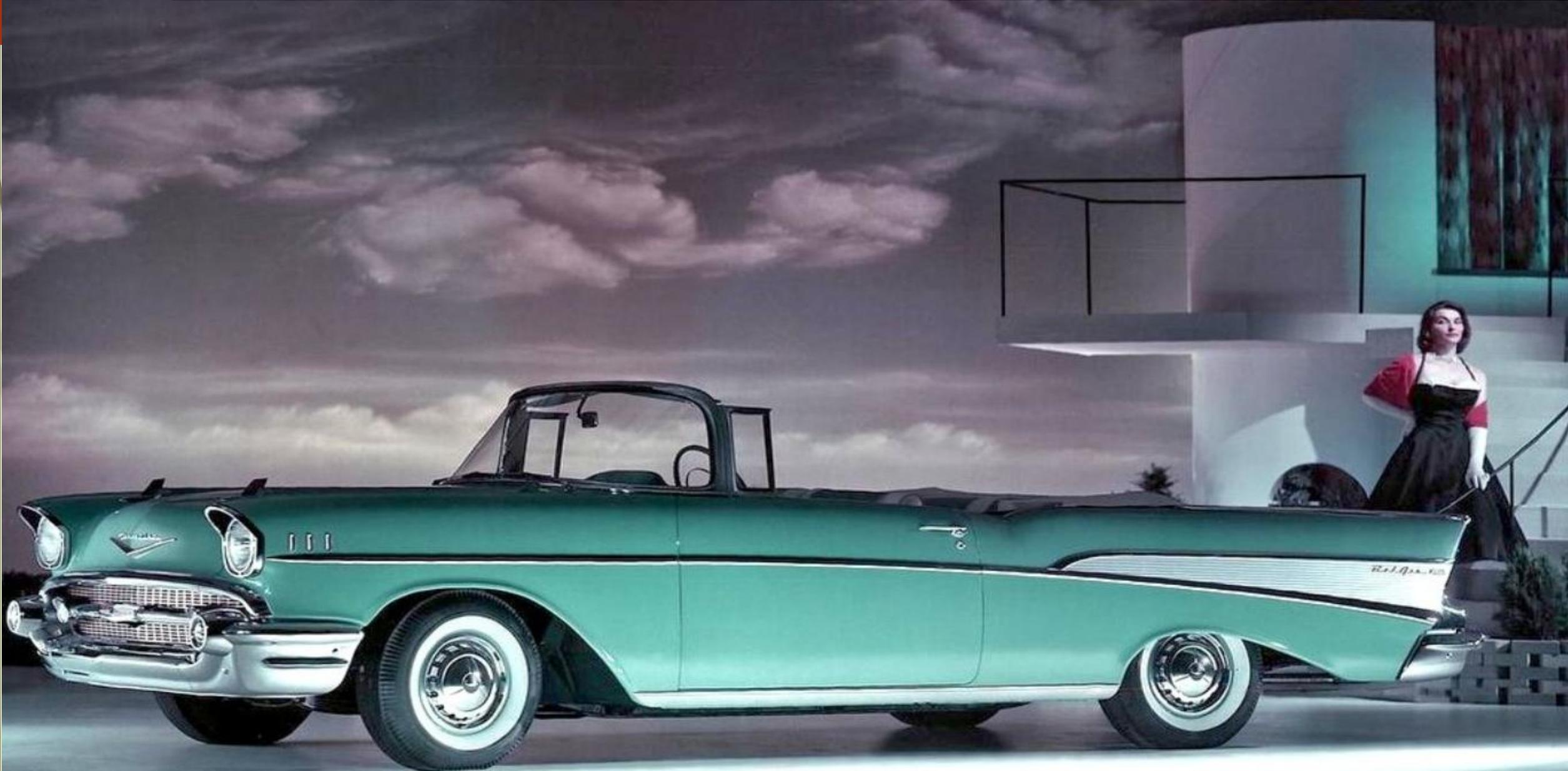
- ▶ “Real purchasing power increased by 30%
 - ▶ Car/steel wages increase 65% £20 hour (2024), teacher 40% to £40K year
 - ▶ Car ownership rises from 40% to 65%, home ownership 40% (1940) to 60%
 - ▶ New technologies at lower prices (9% owned tv 1950,90% 1960..average cost decreased from \$300 to £200 (£2,500 to £1,900 in 2025£)
- ▶ Government expenditure Rising incomes, steady employment
 - ▶ GI Bill public Education/ funded School Systems
 - ▶ New Deal programmes continue (FHA, TVA, Social Security expanded)

the “automotive society” is born...bigger, safer, more elaborate
....but no more economical (10 miles per gal)

1957 De Soto Firelite



1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible



1959 Cadillac Biarritz



Patti Page (1952)

How much is that doggie in the window?
The one with the waggly tail
How much is that doggie in the window?
I do hope that doggie's for sale

I must take a trip to California
And leave my poor sweetheart alone
If he has a dog, he won't be lonesome
And the doggie will have a good home

How much is that doggie in the window?
The one with the waggly tail
How much is that doggie in the window?
I do hope that doggie's for sale



Indo china

Indochina

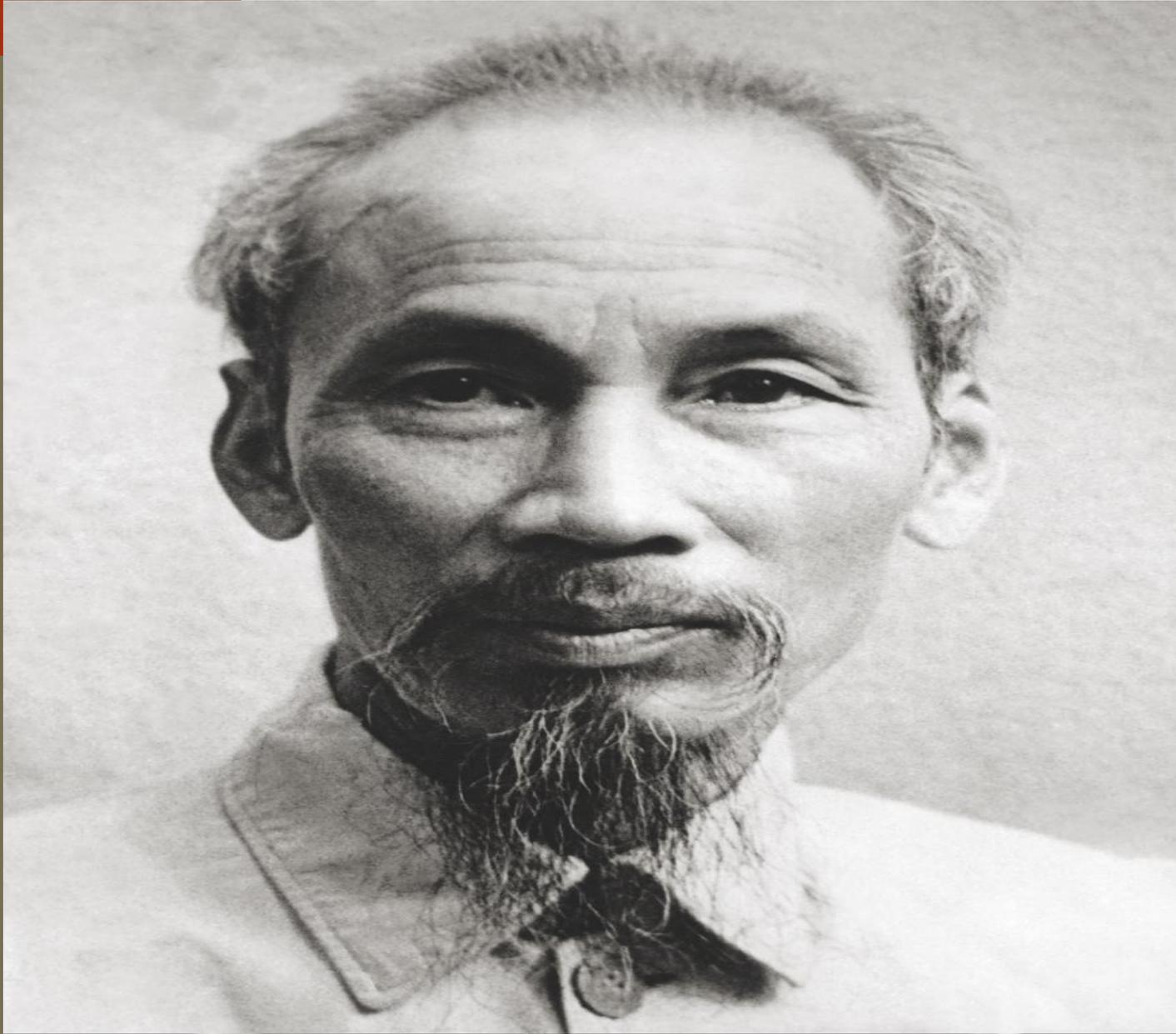


Indochina Overview

Multiple kingdoms....unified/ independent.China dominance...as in Korea

- ▶ “Created by French 1860...merging kingdoms Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia
- ▶ Rise of Nationalism 1920's
 - ▶ North Ho Chi Min ..Communist Party. CCP, USSR, pro Chinese, Buddhists
 - ▶ South/fragmented.. nationalists....pro west, Catholic elite, anti Chinese/
- ▶ World War Two 1941-1945 Joint occupation Japanese/ Vichy French
 - ▶ Ho Chi Minh...leads anti Japanese from China
 - ▶ South minimal resistance
- ▶ Post War Settlement
 - ▶ Japanese/ British reoccupy....hand over to returning French army

Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969)



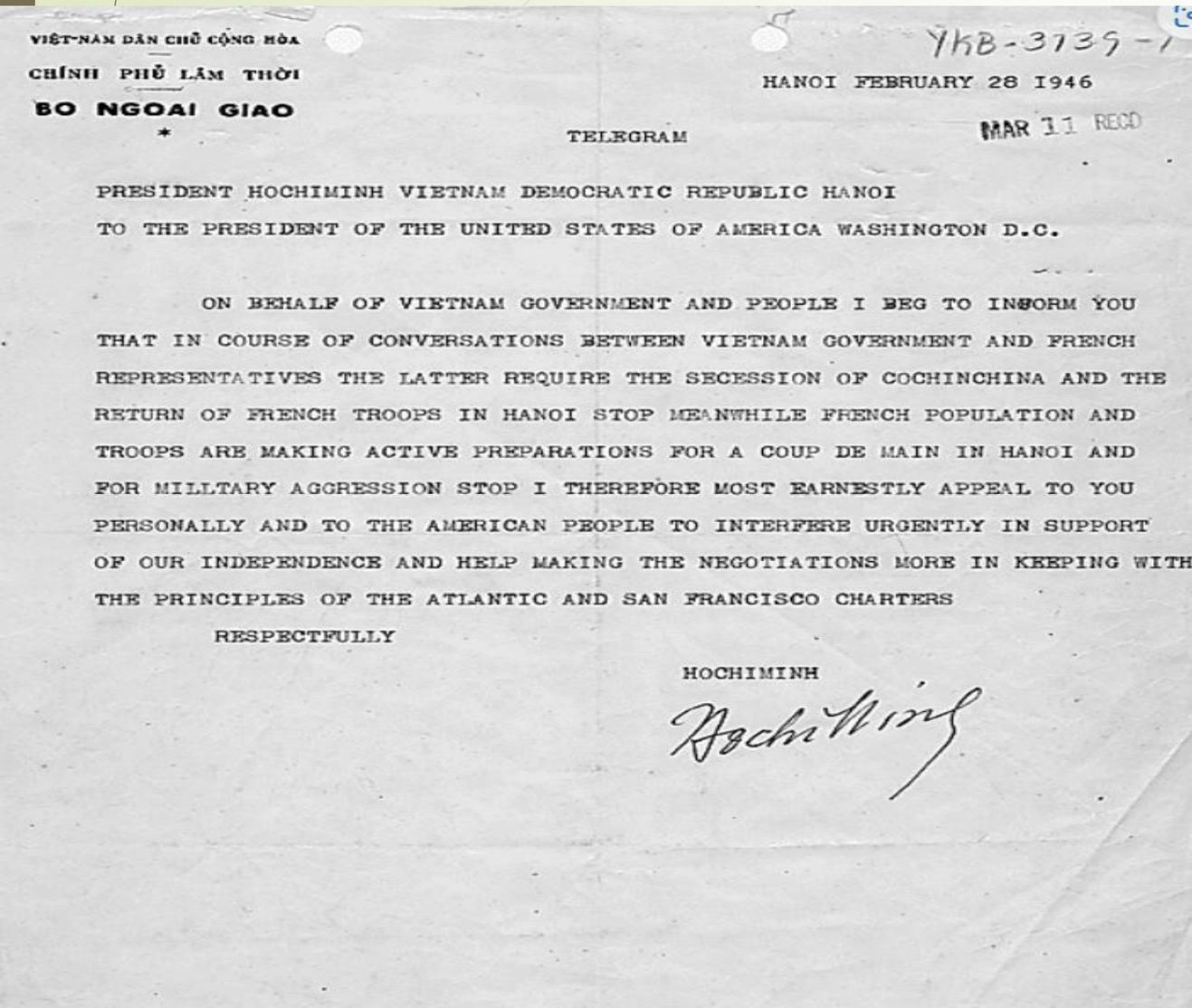
Father Confucian priest
...French school Vietnam
... Attend college Paris
...no money, work on ships

Settles France...1917..studies
Communism...to USSR
Nationalist...joins Vietnamese
Independence movement
...Wilson refuses to meet him1919
...moves to USSR/then China

Joins Indochina Communists. Writer
...famous

To Vietnam 1941...leads Viet Minh

Ho Chi Min telegram to Truman



1945-46 Ho Chi Min launches campaign of terrorism/murder vs "Nationalists". Other Accommodating French/ Japan

Supported by US OSS (CIA)
...liberator...vacuum as Japanese surrendered

Telegram to Truman....independence

US reject. Ho "communist" support French return... "Republic of Vietnam"...

Vietminh....revolt...expand to South
French determine to unify/ destroy
Communists...Viet Minh

First Indo China War 1946-1954



French deploy 200,000, 150,000 Vietnamese ... US provide funding ... Vietnam ... parallel to Korea

Vietminh.. 175,000 + 200,000 Vietnamese

French control cities... lose countryside

French "Forward plan 1954

... Army of 20,000 to Dien Bien Phu

... air attack, supply

... combine assault with Negotiations

Army trapped..... French ask U.S

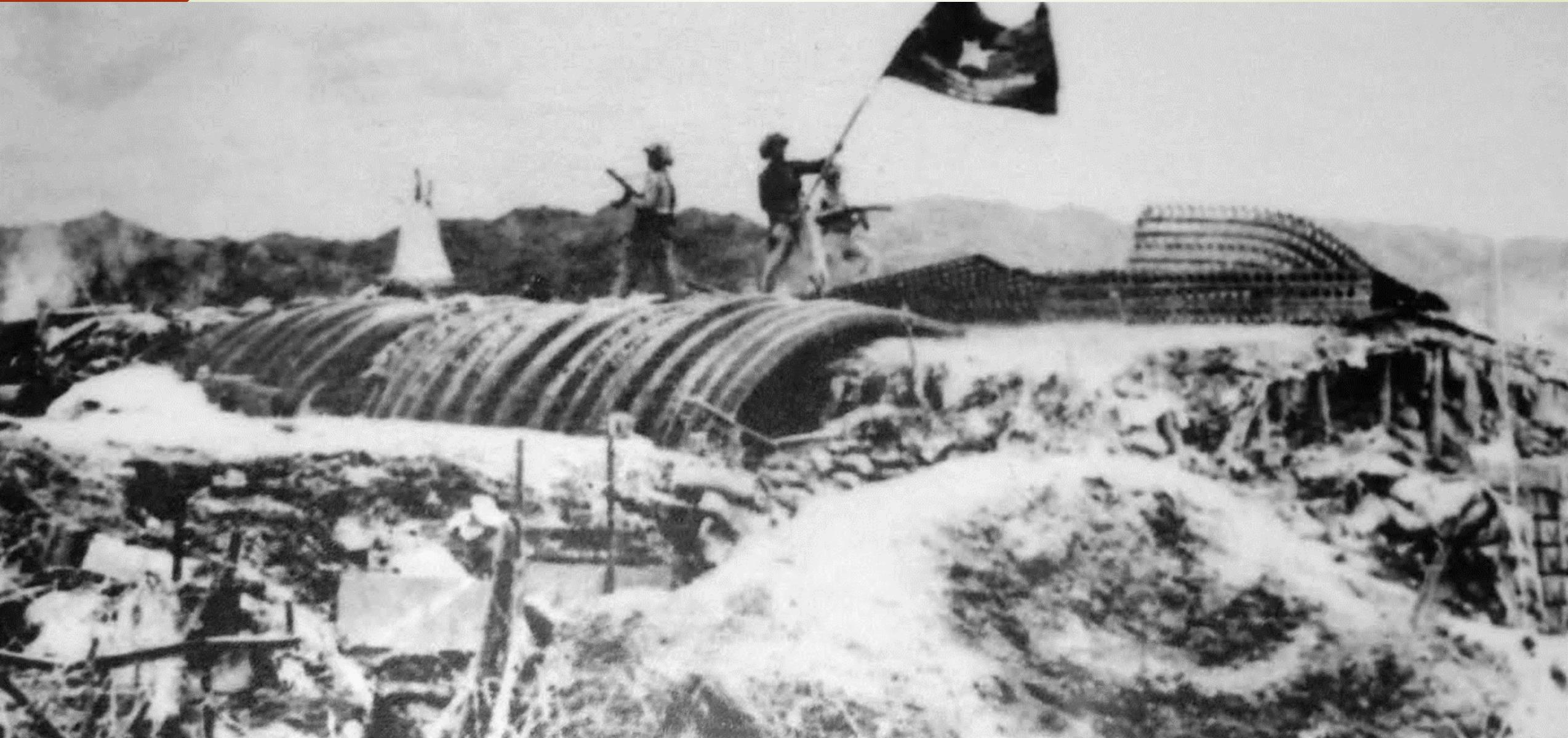
for help... use of atomic bombs

US Response

- Discussion on use of atomic bomb....over-ruled by Eisenhower
- Vs land war Asia. Only intervene with British support
- British reject...French problem...supporting failed model
- Let French army fall....negotiate partition ...as in Korea

Dien Phen Phu 1954

...French army surrender 12,000 prisoners



Indochina: the deal

- ▶ French withdraw
 - ▶ Viet Minh...Ho Chi Minh ...North Vietnam
 - ▶ Nationalists...Bao Dao “King”.. Ngo Diem PM .
- ▶ The idea: “Free and fair elections” across Vietnam then unity
 - ▶ Diem reject....Ho Chi Minh too popular
- ▶ Outcome: two “dictatorships”
 - ▶ South....Diem depose emperor....establish dictatorship
 - ▶ North Ho Chi Minh....build communist state

Peasants revolt South (Viet Cong)civil war.

... Gaining ground despite US \$



Domino Theory

"You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly," he said. "So you could have a beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences."

Communism must be contained
....South Vietnam the first domino

US and SE Asia 1954-1960

Support any Anti Communist “Strong Man”. Ignore “movements”

- Syhmgon Rhee – Korea
- Chaing Kai Shek – Taiwan
- Ngo Diem..Vietnam (“family business”....corrupt...retain land)
-and others Dominica, Philippines, Nicaragua

- Avoid use of land based US armies & direct conflict....Korea/ Indochina

- Use indirect methods:
 - Financial payments/ adopt psychological warfare
 - Ally with elites. Land owners



Mid 1950's Containment Strategy "working"
..... Communism contained
.....Europe, Asia, Central America stable

Then, in 1956 ...the balance is disturbed

The simultaneous revolutions

- ▶ Egypt/ Suez Crisis
 - ▶ Pan Arab Nationalism
 - ▶ Suez Canal takeover
 - ▶ British/French/ Israeli Invasion
 - ▶ US policy of “Containment” at risk in Middle East
- ▶ Hungarian Revolution
 - ▶ Hungarian nationalism
 - ▶ Soviet retreat
 - ▶ Radical pro west regime request for help
 - ▶ Should US take this opportunity to go beyond “Containment”?

Egypt Suez Canal



About Canal

- ...Built 1869 by French/ finance Britain
- ...80% Trade British to India
- ...Seized by Britain 1883..recover debt
- ...1930-1950..prime route oil shipments

Britain and Egypt

- ...Egypt bankrupt
- ...Britain invades 1882
- ... Egypt a “Protectorate”

Anglo Egypt Treaty 1936

- ..Egypt to be “independent” 1952
- ..Britain to occupy & run canal 1956
- ..Remove army 1956/ keep ownership
- ..Install “puppet” King Farooq

Abdul Nasser (1918-1970)



Working class background. Army officer

Arab Nationalist

...anti colonialist

...modernise & unite Arabs

...Incensed by creation of Israel

Leads coup 1952

...Policy of "Non Alignment"

...Modernize & Secularise Egypt

...opposes Muslim Fundamentalists

...Build Aswan Dam/ US to finance

Nationalizes Dam 1956...British army

...Radio broadcasts Arabs to unite.

..US cancels loan

..Nasser secures loan from USSR

The Suez Crisis

- US response
 - “Non alignment” unacceptable: USSR loan = Nasser Communist
 - Need to retain influence Arab nations to secure oil
 - Middle East “British problem”...delegate solution to Britain
- British/ French/ Israel
 - British humiliated, threat to oil supply, investments
 - France: pan Arabism a threat to Algerian colony
 - Israel: Nasser sending is uniting Arabs and dangerous and should be removed

**British/ French/Israel decide to invade & remove Nasser
....without informing US**

Invasion

British and French landings October 29th



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Credit: FPG

British/ French. Israeli deal
...Israel to “invade” Egypt
...Britain/ France to rescue

Operation complete November 4th
...1,000 civilians killed
...Egyptian army crushed

USSR threats:
...missile attack on Britain
...occupation of Berlin

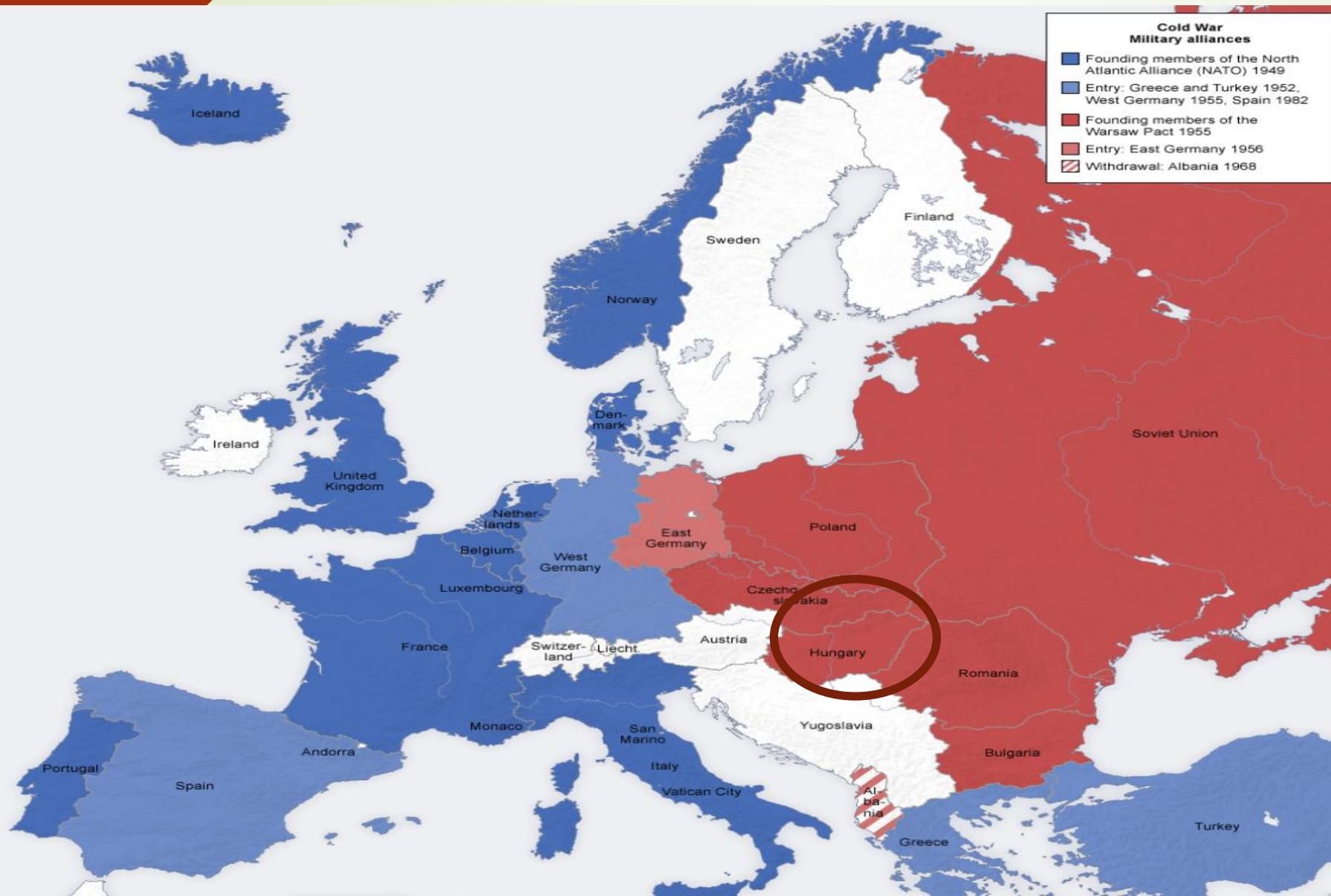
USA incensed
...Britain “gone mad”

USSR sends army to crush revoc
In Hungary November 4th



.....Meanwhile in Hungary

Hungary 1945-1956



German Ally during WW2

“Liberated by USSR 1945

Stalin regime 1945-1956

...One party state

....Opposition in prison

Death of Stalin 1956

...Moderate regime

...Advocate reforms

Mass revolts

Hungarian Revolution October-November 1956

- 'Democrats' seize power
- ...leave Warsaw Pact
- ...eject Russian garrison
- ..open prisons
- ...demand elections

USSR: power vacuum

-indecisive
- ..offer to negotiate

Khrushchev. Change in policy

- ...arrest/ prison/shoot Hungarian
- Negotiators/ sends in army

Rebels beg US for help



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Credit: Photo 12

US Response to “events” of 56

- Suez/ Egypt: Instruct British and French to withdraw/ stop loans
 - Britain humiliated.....PM resigns, finished as major power
 - France...US not a reliable ally...commits to French nuclear programme
 - Nasser emboldened....Arab hero....nationalist but no communist
 - Lebanon crisis 1958...pro West government threatened, US sends marines
- Hungary...non intervention
 - 2,000 killed by Russian troops (700 Russians)
 - Radical leaders arrested –350 shot, 100,000 imprisoned
 - 2 million Hungarian refugees to Austria
 - Khrushchev position secured.
 - No risings in Eastern Europe till 1968



...meanwhile “Containment” under
threat closer to home....Cuba

Cuba

90 miles from Florida



Cuba and USA

Cuba Spanish colony 1519-1898

- ▶ US invasion 1898-1902
 - ▶ Platt Amendment...retain “right to intervene” if US interest
 - ▶ Re-invade 1906-1909 and 1912
 - ▶ Military dictatorships/ upper class elites funded by US
- ▶ Cuba 1950
 - ▶ GDP per capita above Latin America, 10% of USA (\$2,200 vs \$23,000 in 1950\$)
 - ▶ Mixed race 70% “White” 20% black, 10% mixed race
 - ▶ Economy: sugar, tobacco and tourism
 - ▶ High level of inequality /large middle class/ foreign ownership
 - ▶ Upper class 2%, Middle class 25%, Workers and peasants 73%%

To the US Cuba a source of business....and playground

Cuba: \$40-\$100 for weeks holiday from US in 1950's



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Credit: Jim Heimann Collection

CUBA *A ideal vacation land*

Havana: mecca for organized crime

... "Sloppy Joe's Bar" ... Mafia money laundering

... multiple Casino ... Las Vegas on water



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Credit: Print Collector

A Colonial Economy

US economic dominance

- 90% Cuban mines nickel, copper, zinc)
- 80% Public utilities/ 50% Railroads40% Sugar factories
- 40% Cuban land US owned

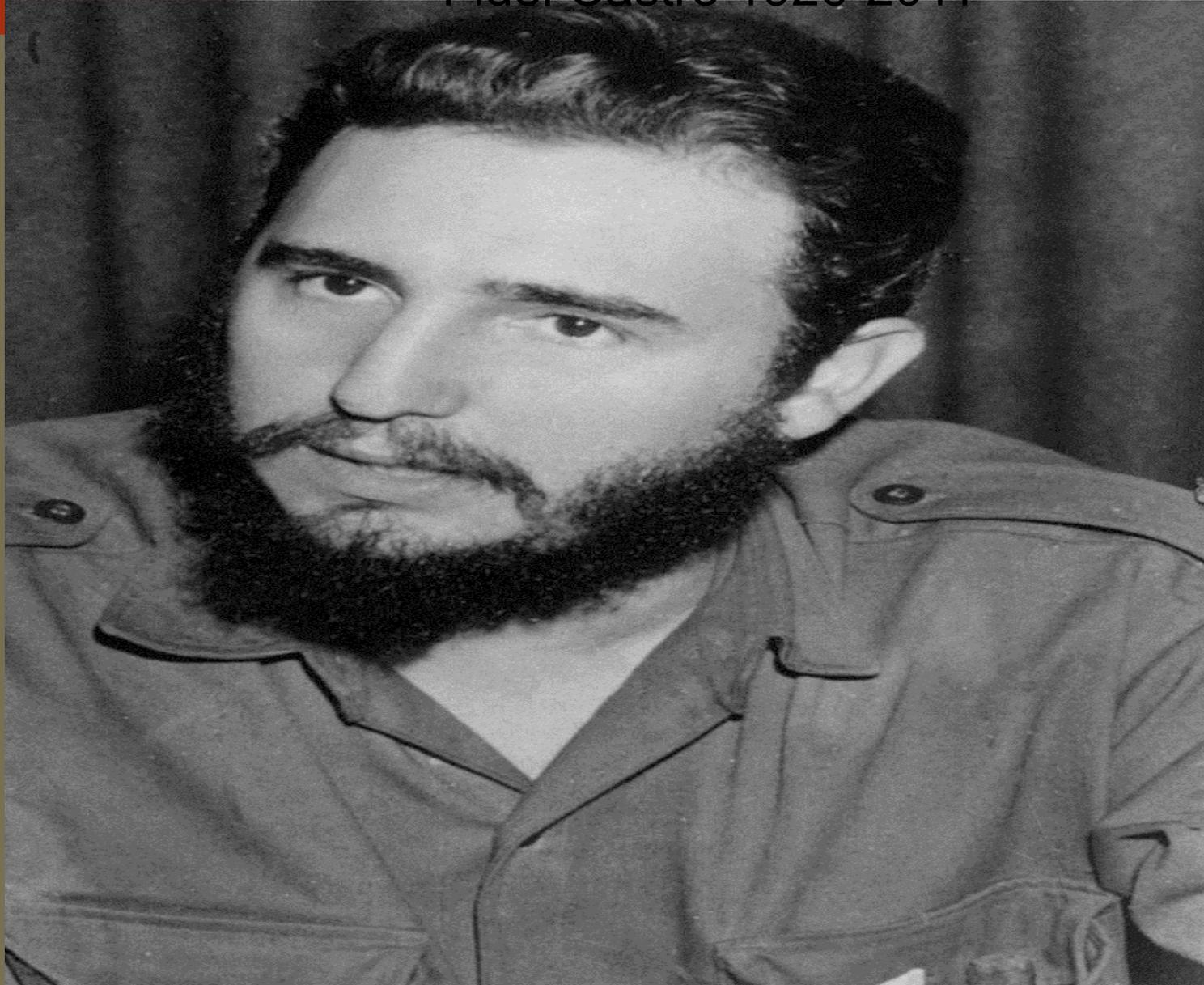
- Wealth retained by US English speaking elite (2% owned 60% nation's wealth)

- Racial segregation black's illiterate, segregated,

- Culture of humiliation and oppression “ Daily life had developed into a relentless degradation,” writes Louis Perez in his 1999 book *On Becoming Cuban*, "with the complicity of political leaders and public officials who operated at the behest of American interests.". Louis Perez “On Becoming Cuban” 1999

Cuban Revolution 1952-1959 January 1

Fidel Castro 1926-2011



From wealthy 2%
...visited US. Try out for baseball
Lawyer/ journalist...nationalist

Leads coalition of revolutionaries
..not Communist...advisors (Raul)
...Che Guevara are

Establishes guerrilla army (2,000)
Controls Radio...charismatic
Other revolts across Cuba unite
...accept Castro leadership

National army of 200,000
Collapses...joins Castro
Occupies Havana, Batista
Flees with cash

“Revolutionary Justice”

....Public trials...3 judges...1000's shot

... Regime had killed 20,000 Cubans to retain power



...The Perils of losing in Latin America



Mauldin—St. Louis Post-Dispatch
“THINK WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO
YOU IF WE WEREN'T IDEALISTS!”



US Response

- Batista discredited by corruption....links to organized crime
- Castro claims to be nationalist....not Communist
 - Influenced by brother Raul and Che Guevara (Argentine)
- US dilemma: another military dictator or revolutionary
 - Eliminate....lose “leader of free world” role, alienate growing Non Aligned Group
 - Support... US business/ influence at risk

Eisenhower invites Castro to visit US

Media star...mixes with public



With students Missouri. Popular everywhere



Viewing Lincoln Memorial



Meets Nixon.... (Vice President)

...Eisenhower will not meet

...Nixon convinced Castro communist



Castro in power 1960-1962

- ▶ Land Reform: land seized, distributed to peasant
 - ▶ “partial” compensation to US business/ land owners...bonds
- ▶ Nationalises Industry...large firms nationalised, US business to Cubans
- ▶ Labour reforms....minimum wage, salary raises for poor, reductions professionals
 - ▶ Expropriation of most private business
 - ▶ Middle class impoverished
 - ▶ Abolishes discrimination/ literacy programme/ health care
- ▶ Political parties and elections abolished/ opponents exiled or shot
- ▶ USSR replaces US ...oil, food, armaments/ Castro's announces he is Communist

Castro to Moscow 1961



Cuban Revolution Impact

- Eisenhower Administration determine to “get rid of Castro”
 - Pass Cuban Claims Act....demand full compensation
 - Trade Embargo
 - CIA assassination plots : Operation Mongoose
- Exodus of Cuban middle class
 - 250,000 1960-1961, 2 million refugees by 1970..400,000 plus in Florida
 - Florida becomes base for Republican ...”Hard Right”
- Cold War intensified:
 - Russian proxy active in West
 - USSR emboldened...threats to Berlin



US and Cold War 1960

Arms Race 1950-1960

Nuclear warheads atomic & thermo nuclear
(from Chat GBT...numbers secret till 1990's)

	USA	USSR	UK
1950	50	5	0
1955	1,000	200	45
1960	18,000	1,600	125

French systems still under development

US has vast superiority

....and missiles/ aircraft deployed in Turkey, Italy, NL, Belgium

USSR has sufficient forces to annihilate USA

....maintain high security to conceal disparity

What matters.....perception

Sputnik 1958

...US suddenly vulnerable

.....US media...USSR superior!



Missile Gap Controversy

- Gaither Report 1957
 - USSR technology superior and increasing
 - 100's Intercontinental Missiles deployed
 - US neglecting defence and must increase 5
- Report leaked to public 1958: Eisenhower Admin on defensive
- Eisenhower Response
 - Commissions Air force investigation
 - Spy planes to fly over USSR (U2)...too high for Russian missiles.
 - Agrees summit meeting with Khrushchev to establish arms control

U2 Incident

- ▶ U2 / Investigation reveals Gaither Report grossly overestimate USSR
- ▶ USSR shoots down U-2 & captures pilot during Summit Meeting
- ▶ Eisenhower denies flights taking place
- ▶ Khrushchev introduces pilot to public
- ▶ Summit collapses....no agreement on Arms Control

1960: New Decade, New Time

.....time for someone new

Enter John F Kennedy





Next talk: “Camelot”...the life and
Presidency of John Kennedy

April 7th, the Chancery 10:00 AM