CANADA & THE WORLD

1. The Early Cold War: Crisis & Response
By the end of WW2, only the US & USSR still had vast resources & military strength.

The US & USSR were **ideologically opposed** (*Democracy & Capitalism* vs. *Communism*)

Political, military and economic suspicions fueled tensions as both powers competed allies & influence.

International affairs had become polarized; the world was dominated by 2 ideologically opposed **superpowers**.

This led to a dangerous arms race, but never a direct war between the two: **A COLD WAR**.
The Iron Curtain

- In 1946, Churchill warned of Soviet influence in Eastern Europe in a speech to a US university.
- "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent."
- This is seen by many as the start of the Cold War.
- The competition for influence meant they often supported opposite sides in conflicts.
- For the next 45 years, many civil wars & conflicts became part of the Cold War.
Igor Gouzenko

- In late 1945, Igor Gouzenko, a Soviet embassy clerk in Ottawa defected to Canada and revealed a Soviet spy ring in Canada.
- This was a shock for Canadians, and a wake up call for all western nations.
- Our WW2 ally was actively working against us.

Igor Gouzenko interviewed on television in 1966, 20 years after his defection from the Soviet embassy. Right up to his death in 1982, Gouzenko would hide his face every time he made a public appearance without an alias.

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The Berlin Airlift

- After the war, the US, UK, France & the USSR shared Berlin.
- In 1948 the Soviets blocked all road & rail access to Berlin to try to force the western powers to leave.
- Determined to keep Berlin free, the US & UK supplied the city by air (4,700 tons a day!).
- For almost a year, planes flew 24/7, landing every 3 minutes.
- Some Canadian pilots flew in the blockade
**UN & NATO**

**United Nations:** This international organization was created in 1945. Canada was a founding member. (it will be discussed in detail next lesson)

**NATO:** The UN was not always effective because the US & USSR deadlocked many resolutions. In 1949, western countries created a defensive alliance to help contain the USSR & protect Western Europe from Soviet attack; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
KOREAN WAR (1)

- June 1950: North Korea invaded South Korea
- The UN Security Council agreed to defend S. Korea, *(USSR was boycotting the Security Council over China)*.
- Within 2 months PM Louis St. Laurent placed 3 destroyers & a brigade of soldiers under UN command.
KOREAN WAR

- Canada worked hard to moderate risky US strategies.
- The US ignored Can. & proceeded to invade N. Korea.
- China saw this as provocation, and 300,000 Chinese forces streamed into N. Korea, forcing a UN retreat.
- UN forces fought back to a stalemate near the original border.
- Fighting ended in 1953, with a cease-fire; the war has NOT yet ended.
- Over 26,000 Canadians served in Korea, 516 died.
KOREAN WAR (3)

- This was the 1st time an international organization & multi-national force successfully acted against aggression.

- BUT- our diplomatic efforts weren’t effective; they strained Canada-US relations.

- U.S. Sec. of State Acheson would later describe Canada as "the stern daughter of the voice of God."

- External Affairs Minister Pearson said that the age of "easy and automatic relations" with the US was over.
In 1956, Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal Company, a British company. The UK feared losing control over a vital trade route. In a secret deal with the UK, Israel invaded Egypt, and the UK quickly seized the Canal. The world was shocked by the obvious manipulation by the UK. The USSR threatened to bomb Paris & London. The US threatened a counter attack. This crisis threatened a world war.
Many Canadians wanted to support Britain, but PM St. Laurent refused to support them.

External Affairs Minister, Lester Pearson proposed a UN Peace Keeping Force to monitor a cease fire while a solution was worked out.

This was a new idea; different from the role the UN played in Korea, as a fighting force.

The UN peacekeeping force helped all sides save face.

Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in ending the Suez Crisis.
DEW LINE

O Long-range bombers, meant any war between the US & USSR would take place over Canada
O Canada became part of America’s frontline defenses
O 1950-57, the US built 3 lines of radar stations across Canada, manned with US servicemen.
O The most important was in the arctic, the Distant Early Warning Line (DEW Line).
O Canadians accepted the loss of sovereignty.
1957 - Canada & the US formed NORAD (North American Air Defense)

NORAD placed radar, (later satellite), fighter, bomber & missile resources of Can & US under a single command.

This integrated our defense policy & resources.

Could Canada be an equal partner in this alliance?

What does Canada get out of this?

What does the US get out of this?

What problems might arise?