

Class Notes 12:1

Origins of the Cold War



Overview

- The Cold War was a state of economic, diplomatic, and ideological discord among nations without armed conflict.
- Cold War “battles” occur in Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East
- 1945-1991



Background

- Mutual distrust between U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. had been brewing since the 1917 Russian Revolution (when U.S. forces invaded Russia to assist the anti-communist troops)



Background

- Soviet Union and United States united to defeat Hitler in WWII
- Once the war ended, differences became more apparent
- Soviets lost 27 million people and saw mass devastation in the west
- Americans lost just over 400,000 men and suffered no attacks after Pearl Harbor



Post War World

- At the Yalta Conference in 1945, Stalin agreed to self determination for European nations after WWII
- Stalin wanted to ensure security for the Soviet Union (remember their losses)
- He wanted a buffer zone and he wanted to extract reparations from East Germany



Post War World



Post War World

- He installed communists government controlled by Moscow in Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany
- He ignored his promise at Yalta



Post War World

- U.S. established Marshall Plan to help rebuild capitalist Europe and Truman Doctrine to prevent communist groups gaining control in non-communist states



Significant Differences

- While the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. had united in their efforts to defeat Hitler, ideological differences drove them apart after the war
- Both sides wanted their values and economic and political systems to prevail
- Both wanted a sphere of influence
- Both agreed that capitalism and communism could not coexist and that the other system was inherently evil
- Both took a hard line towards the other



The Long Telegram

- George Kennan, 1946
- Soviets needed communism to triumph in order to justify bloody dictatorship
- Led to American idea of **containment** – keep communism within its current borders and eventually more moderate leaders will reform the government



Nuclear Weapons

- Between Yalta and Potsdam conferences, U.S. builds tests first atomic bombs
- U.S. hoped to regulate nuclear arms after WWII - and the U.S. clearly held the advantage
- Soviets refused to participate, test their own atomic bomb in 1949

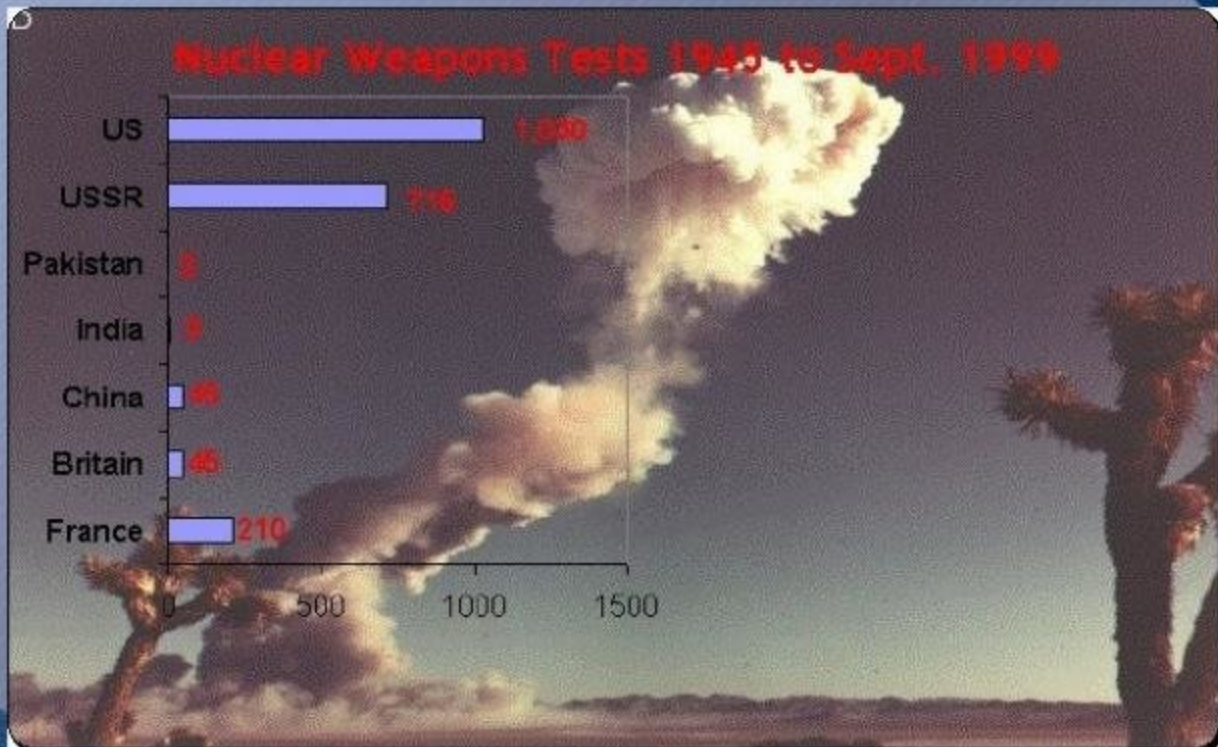


Nuclear Weapons

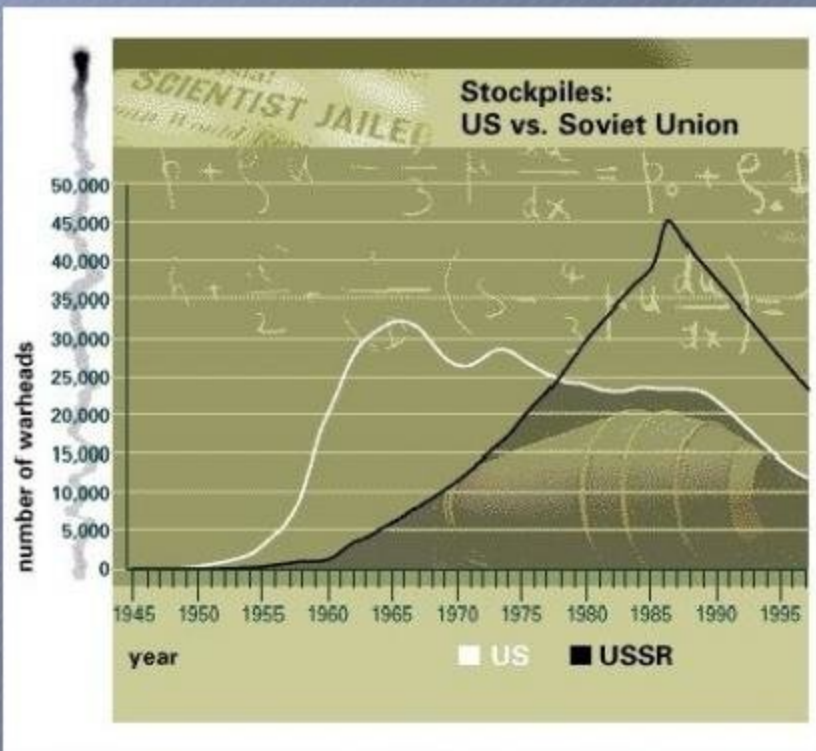
- Raised stakes even higher
- Started arms race, both nations would build enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over

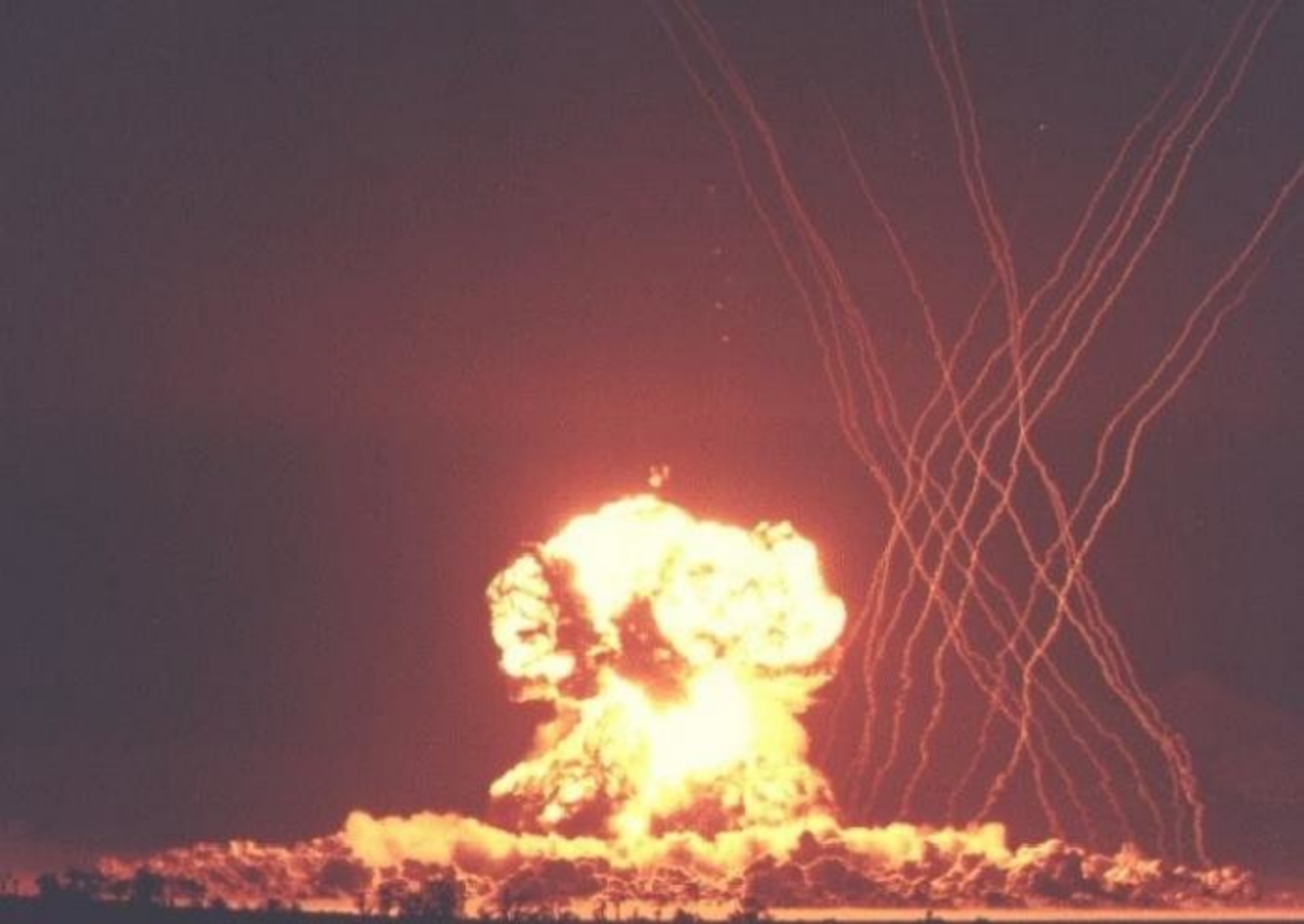


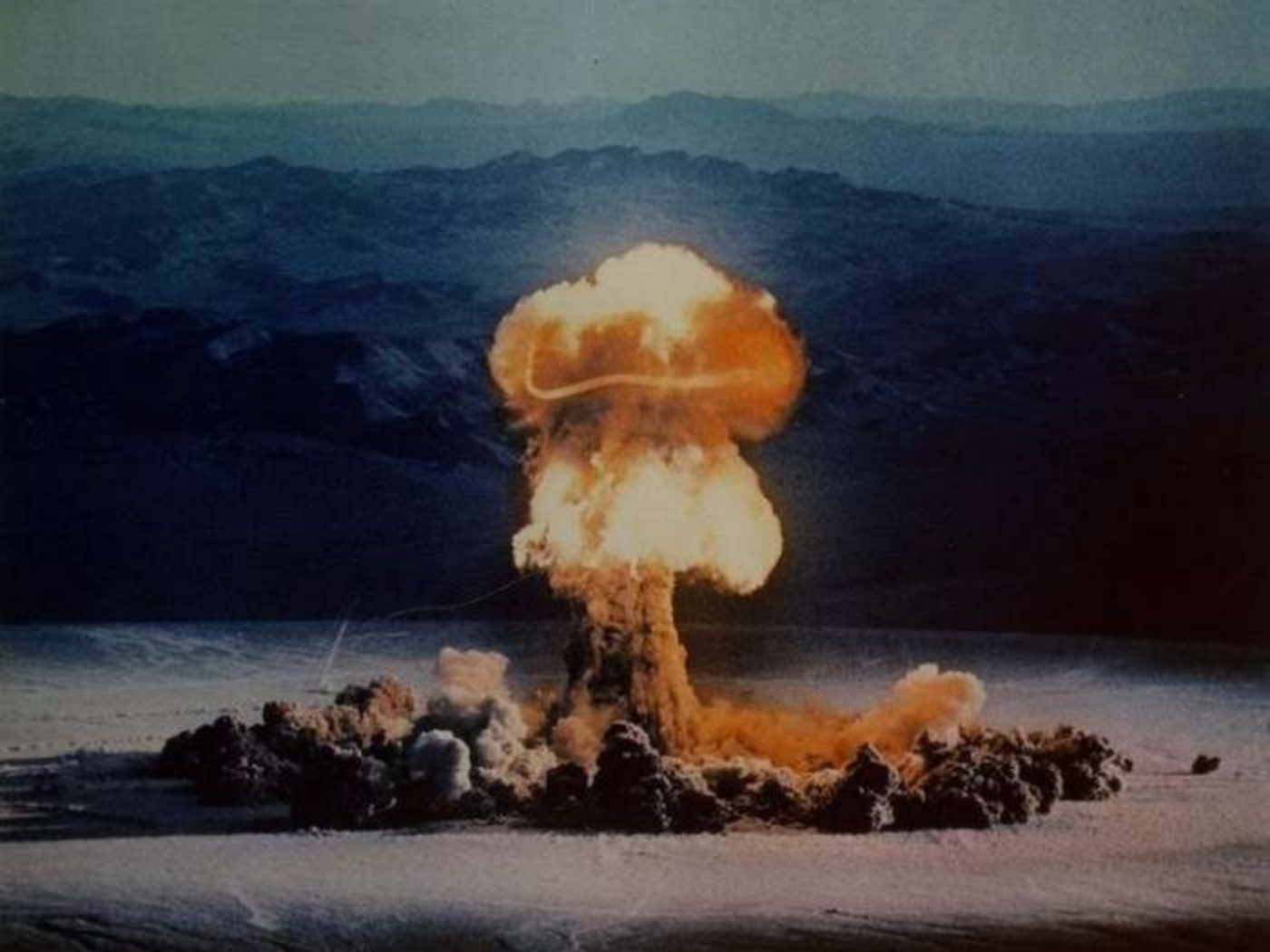
Nuclear Testing



Nuclear Weapons









What's at stake?

- Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) -
The present situation in which the superpowers have the ability to inflict an unacceptable degree of damage upon each other even after absorbing a first strike; a condition which deters both sides from initiating hostilities



What's at stake?

- Nuclear Winter - A potential consequence of nuclear war, where smoke from burning cities would cause a severe worldwide drop in temperatures, lasting for weeks or months with large scale ecological impacts



What's at stake?

- If a 25 megaton bomb was dropped on downtown San Diego the following would be the result



What's at stake?

12 psi

- Radius: 6.5 miles
- Some building foundations left
- 98% of the population within this area are dead



What's at stake?

5 psi

- Radius: 10.7 miles
- Virtually everything is destroyed
- All single family homes are gone
- 50% of population is dead, 40% is injured



What's at stake?

2 psi

- Radius: 20 miles
- Single family homes not destroyed are seriously damaged
- Windows and walls blown out of businesses
- Everything on 2nd stories blown out
- 5% of population dead, 45% injured



What's at stake?

1 psi

- Radius: 30.4 miles
- Residences moderately damaged
- 25% of population injured from flying debris and thermal radiation



What's at stake?

Long Term

- Infrastructure destroyed
- Fallout
- Water and food contaminated



