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Contemporary World Affairs
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Cold war

- Began after WWII (most powerful US and Soviet Union)
- We define world by their structure of power
- The US and Japan formed a treaty.
- The US and the Soviet Union as a reigning power.
- Warsaw Pact v the United states and nato
- The class of soviet union - the berlin wall (1945-1991)
- The union no longer exists
- Once the soviet let the berlin wall came down they let most of their power go
- Stalin took over the eastern european countries
- Stalin was a very communist leader
- We have a bipolar world (two forms of power)

Afghanistan (1979)

- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 (soviet put in a puppet government)
- Afghanistan is a highly tribal society- they have a history of being warrior people
- People aren't responding well to the new government
- There wasn't direct fighting between the soviet union and the US
- The enemy of my enemy is my friend
- The new friend is not a state (enemy of an enemy)
- The CIA becomes very important
- Communist believe in no religion
- The US made loans to their enemies
- Kuwait has a mass load of oil
- The US was trying to balance Soviet power

Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya "Win"

- Non state actors can not inflict more damage than a state actor; however, are more unpredictable
- Non state actors complicated geopolitics (very diffused)
- Libya was fundamentally different than Afghanistan
- The US was not interested in balancing the power of the state
- The US won in Libya because their leader was removed of their power (Qaddafi)
- Qaddafi was a very brutal dictator (had uprising and killed civilians who threatened his power)
- Qaddafi gets killed (however, libya is still a mess)
- Libya has two governments (one in most of the east and the other in most of the west)
- Libya has a lot of oil

Extra credit. Submit Notes on 9/5 Class Session: Sean Doughty

- The cold war started right after WW2
- The top two countries after WW2 was the USA and the Soviet Union
- US foreign policy was to give the Soviet's a sphere of influence, USA= West (Europe) USSR= East (Europe)
- Most of the USA's allies are in the west most of the USSR's allies are in the east
- USA reps. one pole of power, USSR reps. another pole of power
- Warsaw Pact= USSR, North Atlantic Treaty= USA
- Collapse of Soviet Union was the end of the Cold War
- Fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the severe decline in power of the Soviet Union
- USSR-USA WW2 alliance fell apart due to the fall of Hitler's Germany
- USSR and USA were only allied to beat a common foe
- When the USA pledged not to put any troops into eastern Europe the Soviets decided to prop up communist dictators in every eastern European countries
- The 1960s was the high of the Cold War, both sides (USSR and USA) almost destroyed the world with nuclear fire
- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
- Sponsored rebellion to take over
- Trying to set up more puppets along Soviet borders
- Afghanistan is a very tribal country
- Have a history of being a warrior people
- Soviets find out that the Afghan people do not like the government they have set up
- "Afghanistan is Russian for Vietnam"
- The Afghanistan fighting (Civil War) is the first time where the USA had supported a non state actor
- The CIA is closely involved in training the tribe we are supporting
- The Communist Soviet Union was openly Atheist and this caught the focus of a lot of some muslim extremists such as Bin Laden
- Bin Laden was originally supported by the USA to fight the USSR before turning to fight the USA
- Bin Laden and the USA had a shared enemy at the time of the USA assistance
- Once the common enemy disappeared we no longer needed to be allies
- Afghanistan became a breeding ground for Islamic Extremists
- Non State actors cant do as much damage as state actors however they are much more unpredictable
- The reason for American involvement in Lybia was to prevent another Afghanistan like hot bed for Islamic Extremist
- Two governments in Lybia right now
- They are fighting a Civil War over oil
- One side is Officially reconginized by the UN- General National Congress
- Side thats not reconginized is the House of Reps. they are more of an Islamic extremist group

Extra credit. Submit Notes on 9/5 Class Session:

Matthew Dresselhouse

Class Notes for 9/5:

- Cold War = Started right after World War II, Roosevelt allowed for the Soviets to have an influence in Eastern Europe. The United States and Soviets were dominate, it lead to two poles in the world. The United States and NATO was created and the Soviets and Warsaw Pact was created (Bipolar World).
- Collapse of the Soviets - Claim was when the Berlin Wall fell in 1991 (The wall that really did divide East from West).
- Why did the Cold War start? After the end of World War II, there was no more need for an alliance. The United States was not going to challenge Eastern Europe, no military on their borders. Stalin took this opportunity to take over the Eastern European countries because they would be unchallenged. Stalin took the smart route by propping up Communist leaders in the Eastern Europe rather than annexing/conquering them (would have been way too obvious), and made them sign a treaty.
- Afghanistan in 1979 = Soviets invade Afghanistan and establish a puppet government through supporting a rebellion. The Afghanis do not like the puppet government. "Afghanistan is Russian for Vietnam". Realists = Soviets are expanding and there needs to be a stop to it. Carter boycotts the United States in the Olympics in Moscow 1980. Mujahideen (Non-State Actor) is supported by the United States to topple the puppet government. A very powerful Islamic tribe that the CIA gave weapons to, eventually caused the Soviets pulled out.
- Osama was one of the leaders of the Mujahideen and was a warrior for them. Super rich family in Saudi Arabia and goes to Afghanistan to fight the Soviets because the Soviets are atheists. After the Soviets collapsed, the Mujahideen turned their hatred towards the United States out of pure convenience.
- Iraq (Saddam) fought the Communist supported Iran for 10 years, needed to sell oil for war costs. Kuwait sells oil for cheap, so Iraq invades for the oil, results in United States in the first Gulf War (1991).
- Taliban created, resulted in al-Qaeda.
- Libya in 2011 = The United States was interested in making sure Libya would not becoming another Iraq where terrorists could flourish. Removing Gaddafi was considered wise by world leaders to remove him. Adversary to the United States but was cooperating. Was a cruel dictator and would slay any opposition. Currently Libya has two governments, one in the east and one in the west trying to rule over all of the oil there (House of Representatives versus General National Congress, GNC is recognized by the US and UN as the government). But both are really Non-State Actors.

Extra credit. Submit Notes on 9/5 Class Session: Noah Johnson

Cold War 1945-1991

- S. vs Soviets
- Rival Super Powers

After WWII, Allies decided Soviets would have sphere of influence in Eastern Europe

Even after these events, we formed alliances-

- Negotiations with Japan
- NATO

Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact vs U.S. and allies

Soviet Union and U.S. form two major poles of power – **Bipolar**

Collapse of **Berlin Wall** marks end of conflicts

- Berlin Wall divided West from East

When Soviets let the Berlin Wall collapse, it almost resonates as a loosening of power on the Soviets side

Our situation with the Soviets during the war

- Mostly allies out of convenience
- We were allied due to a common enemy (Nazi Germany)
- Democratic Germany becomes our ally, alliance with Russia somewhat ends

Alta Conference

- Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin all meet to discuss end of War situations
- Concessions were made by all three parties
- One of the U.S. concessions says that we won't threaten Soviets on their borders
- S. keeps troops out of Eastern Europe

By pledging NOT to have troops in Eastern Europe, Stalin took this as an open invitation to expand his influence and take over the countries we had no presence in

1960's

- Very high point of the conflict
- Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, and Nuclear threats

1979

- Soviets invade Afghanistan
- Put in puppet government and sponsor rebellion and unrest
- Afghanistan was different than Poland and Czechoslovakia – very tribal, different people that don't respond well to the government
- **Patterns in history** – propping up friendly governments isn't always popular, Vietnam and Iraq are examples
- **Afghanistan is Russian for Vietnam** – similar structure

Afghanistan

- Islamic Extremism
- Very Tribal
- Soviets are having trouble pulling out of Afghanistan, decide to send more troops

U.S. doesn't like Soviet Russia presence, and they decide they need to put a stop to it

- S. boycotts Olympics in Moscow, 1980
- These kinds of diplomatic actions were what the Cold War was about, not necessarily violence

Mujahideen

- Islamists – infused with a very strong breed of Islamic Extremism
- We back/support Mujahideen because they are against the Soviet-corrupt Afghan Government
- The Mujahideen are a **Non-State Actor**, who we formed an alliance with in a new territory we don't know much about
- Support for Mujahideen starts with Carter, and is continued by Reagan
- Great fighters and are very impassioned
- We help train them to fight on our side

C.I.A. is very helpful in furnishing Mujahideen with weapons and skills they need to repel the Afghan government and Soviet forces

Mikael Gorbachev pulled out all troops in Afghanistan in around 1987

Osama Bin Laden

- Very respected member of the Mujahideen
- Wanted to be a warrior
- Avowedly, the Soviet Union was atheist, Bin Laden leaves Saudi Arabia to defend the faith and fight against their ideals
- After common enemies disappear, alliances break down and new enemies form

1980-89

- Iraq and Iran fight ten year war, weakening Iranian forces
- War drains Iraq's economy
- Iraq wants to sell oil for high prices, while Kuwait wants to keep the price low
- Iraq decides to go into Iran to take the oil, U.S. goes on notice, and thus begins the first Gulf War

Back to Afghanistan

- After Soviets leave Afghanistan, Islamic believers take over the country
- They become the **Taliban**
- Afghanistan became a very fertile ground for Islamic Extremism
- Taliban gave birth to Al Qaeda, Bin Laden's organization

Non-State Actors can't inflict the kind of damage that a State Actor can

- Very diffuse, our paradigms aren't used to focusing on them

Libya

- Fundamentally different than Afghanistan
- We had a reason to send troops into Afghanistan, trying to drive out Soviet Influence
- There were no powers to balance in Libya
- We were more worried about Libya becoming a center for Civil War
- S., Italy and France win in Libya, they remove Ghaddafi from power
- Even with Ghaddafi gone, Libya is still a mess

The situation in Libya

- Two governments, one more towards the East, and one based in the West
- They both are at odds
- The House of Representatives and The General National Congress
- THOR – Not officially recognized by the UN
- TGNC – More secular
- Each government has their own tribes
- On top of that, Libya contains armed war lords and their own troops/militia

Extra credit. Submit Notes on 9/5 Class Session:

Harrison Rego

- Cold war begins right after world war 2
- US and soviets were most victorious
- Roosevelt and Truman gave soviets a sphere of control
- we define worlds by dominant superpowers
- soviet union and Warsaw Pact vs US and NATO
- Bipolar world is when there are two major powers which others revolve
- Collapse of soviet union/Berlin wall fall 45-91
- once soviets allowed wall to fall they lost their grip on the east
- US and Russian relations diminished because of Stalin
- "the adversary of my adversary is my ally"
- after Nazi Germany disappeared and democratic Germany became an ally to US, an alliance between soviets and US was no longer needed
- we conceded to Soviets that there would be no military presence on your borders and out of eastern Europe as a whole
- Stalin took that as a license to expand his influence
- a leader like Stalin, an expansionist creating puppet states was a downfall for the relations between the two countries.
- in the 60s was the peak of the cold war, where the two polar powers almost waged full out war -1979 soviet invades Afghanistan while expanding south and put in place a puppet leader.
- Afghanistan is a highly tribal society, with a history of being warrior people.
- people do not respond well to the government
- "Afghanistan is Russia for Vietnam"
- guerrilla warfare gets soviets stuck
- US sees further expansion of soviet power
- creation of Mujaheddin was important because they are Islamics and helped the US indirectly attack soviets.

- unlike nazi germany the ally of convenience was a non state actor
- This was all about balancing power
- cia is very involved in furnishing Mujahedin
- Soviet union was atheist which enraged bin laden
- our common enemies disappeared causing bin laden to turn
- oil is power and the power must be balanced
- taliban becomes large organization
- People like bin laden were treated like kings in afghanistan
- taliban creates Al Qaeda
- Mujahedin becomes a major key in the war on terror
- afghanistan, iraq, libya “wins”
- non state actors can't do as much damage as state actors, but are much harder to predict
- libya is fundamentally different from afghanistan
- US was not interested in balancing power, but wanted to prevent extremists from taking advantage
- objective of removing kahdaffi was completed
- pledged not to focus on development of nuclear weapons
- kahdaffi killed lots of his own people, being one of the most brutal dictators
- libya is now under more strife
- two governments of libya now, one in the east one in the west
- fighting over oil
- another tribal society, each side has loyal tribes
- more and more state actors begin to come into play
- Libyan warlords/militias and terrorist groups (Ansar al-Sharia, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Libya Shield 1., Rafallah al-Sahati Brigade, Abu Salim Martyrs Brigade) and rival govts (House of Reps and General National Congress - tribal lines); Iraq - Sunni and Shia distrust - Islamic Stat