# Origins of the
# COLD WAR
# and Consequences

# STANDARDS:

**SS5H5 Discuss the origins and consequences of the Cold War.**

a.    Explain the origin and meaning of the term "Iron Curtain."

b.    Explain how the United States sought to stop the spread of communism through the Berlin airlift, the Korean War, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

c.    Identify Joseph McCarthy and Nikita Khrushchev.

d.    Discuss the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War.

# End of WWII

- At the end of World War II, the Allies freed all of the Western European countries that had been conquered by Germany.

- The Allies also gave the nations money to rebuild and helped them form democratic governments before returning to their own countries.

# Eastern Europe

- Things were different in Eastern Europe because the Soviets did not leave the countries that they freed.

- The Soviet Union continued to occupy and set up Communist governments in many Eastern European nations.

- Western Europe and America were alarmed by the Soviet advances in Eastern Europe.

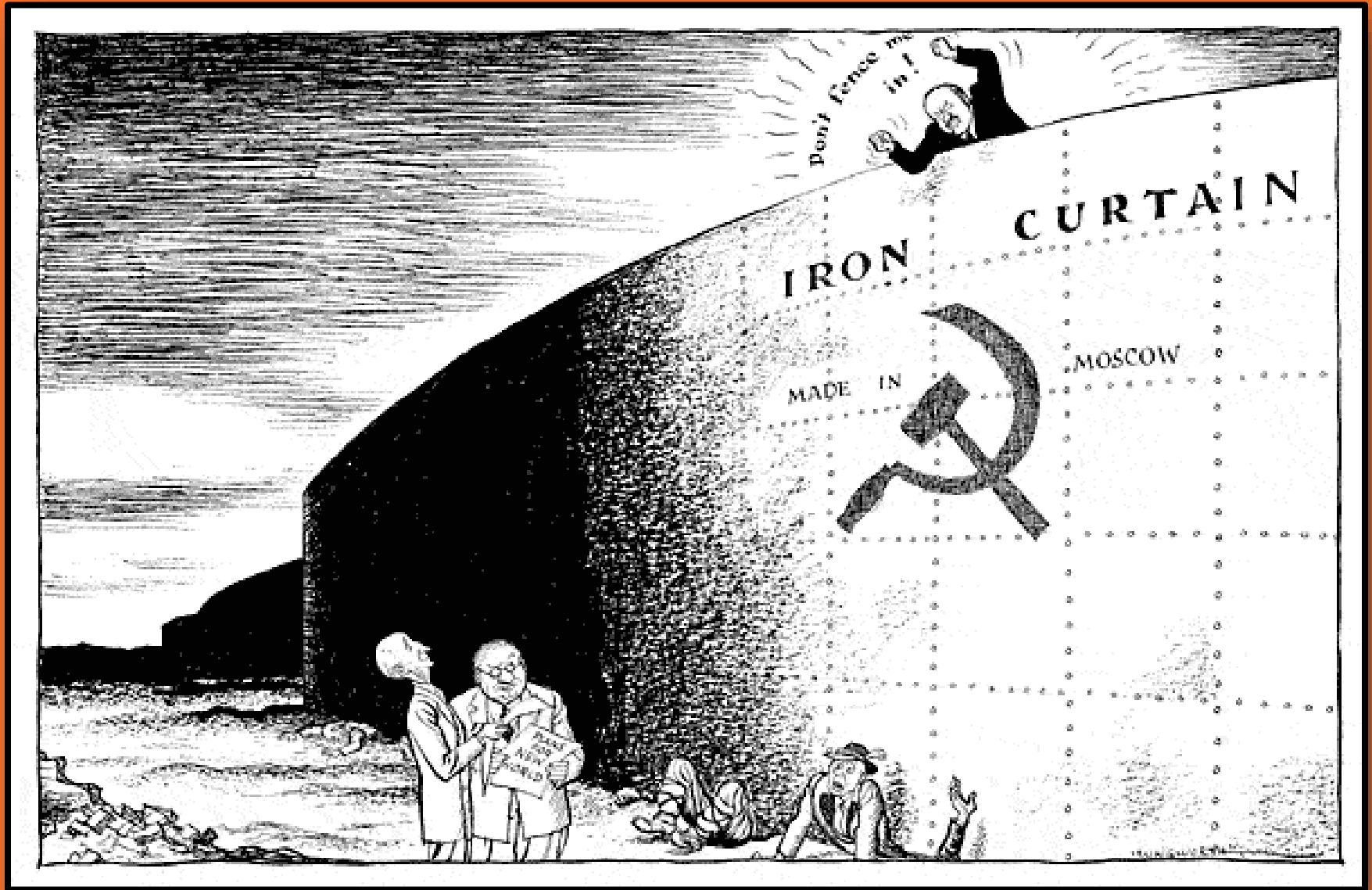- Many believed that the Communists were trying to take over the world!

# Iron Curtain

- In March 1946, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill warned that an **Iron Curtain** of Soviet totalitarianism had fallen across Europe.

- Churchill meant that a dividing line now existed between the democratic countries in Western Europe and the Communist countries in Eastern Europe.

- The term "iron curtain" was a symbol that represented the tensions between Communist and democratic countries in Europe.

*"From Stettin in the Balkans, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lies the ancient capitals of Central and Eastern Europe."*

*~Sir Winston Churchill, 1946*

# Eastern Bloc

- The Soviets managed to set up communist governments throughout Eastern Europe.

- The government outlawed political parties or newspapers that opposed the communists.

- The Soviets jailed or killed some political opponents.

- They also rigged elections to ensure the success of communists.

THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM, 1945–1949

Communist countries

EAST GERMANY
POLAND
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
HUNGARY
ROMANIA
YUGOSLAVIA
BULGARIA
ALBANIA

SOVIET UNION

MONGOLIA

NORTH KOREA

CHINA

**GEOGRAPHY SKILLS** **INTERPRETING MAPS**

Notice the pattern of Communist nations in Europe.

**Place**  Look at the chart at right. Why do you think the Communist takeover of China worried the United States?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20

# Superpowers

- 1945 was the beginning of a long period of distrust and misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and the United States.

- Both countries emerged as the world's two "superpowers" because they had the political strength and military power to influence countries around the world.

# Opposing Views

- The two countries had opposing views about government and economics.

- The Soviet Union believed that a powerful central government should control the economy as well as the government (Communism).

- The US believed that businesses should be privately owned (Capitalism).

- Disagreements between the two became a long period of tension and rivalry known as the Cold War.

# Cold War

- The Cold War was a time of indirect conflict that lasted until 1991.

- Both countries worried that the other would become more powerful and spread its economic and political views to other countries.

- This tension is called a "cold" war because neither side ever fired a shot.

- However, many feared the rivalry between Democracy and Communism would lead to a nuclear war.

# Arms Race

- The United States and Soviet Union competed with one another for political influence and military power.

- Both countries built stockpiles of weapons, including nuclear bombs, in case the war turned physical.

- This build up of weapons was called the "arms race".

# Space Race

- During the Cold War, the United States and Soviet Union also competed to have the most advanced science and technology.

- Both countries competed to be the first to put a man in space and to land on the moon.

- This competition for science superiority was called the "space race".

# Distrust

- Each side thought the other was trying to rule the world.

- Neither side would give up, and people lived in fear that another world war would erupt.

- This time it could be a nuclear war, which could destroy the entire planet.