Changing Cold War Policies

Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)
Containment

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)
Massive Retaliation

John F. Kennedy (1961-1964)
Flexible Response vs Brinkmanship
Changing Cold War Policies

• Confronted unprecedented challenges in foreign affairs with the approaching end of World War II

• He inherited the product of the secret Manhattan Project:
  “The most terrible weapon ever known in human history”

• The Atomic Bomb ushered in the new Nuclear Arms Race
Changing Cold War Policies

Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)

- He inherited an uneasy wartime alliance with the Soviet Union.
- Joseph Stalin was difficult to negotiate with concerning Poland.
- The Soviets looked to extend their influence into Turkey and Iran.
- Truman opposed the Soviet intentions through diplomacy and a show of force in the Middle East.

Containment
Changing Cold War Policies

FEB 1946

- U.S. Ambassador named George Kennan outlined the Soviet foreign policy in the “Long Telegram.”

- Winston Churchill’s famous “Iron Curtain” speech in Fulton, MO.

MAR 1947

- Truman announced his “Truman Doctrine” to aid pro-Western Governments (like Turkey & Greece) against the spread of Communism.
Changing Cold War Policies

Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)

- He chose General George C. Marshall as his new Secretary of State in 1947

- Marshall announced aid program to rebuild Europe called the “Marshall Plan”

- Soviets responded by establishing the “Berlin Blockade”

- Truman ordered the “Berlin Airlift” of food and fuel that lasted until May 1949
Changing Cold War Policies

Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)

Containment

SEP 1947

• National Security Act reorganized the Military

• Created the office of Secretary of Defense and the Department of Defense

• Created the Central Intelligence Agency

• Established the National Security Council / Agency
Changing Cold War Policies

APR 1949
- United States joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

JUL 1950
- United States led UN Forces into the Korean Conflict

SPRING 1951
- Gen. Douglas MacArthur suggested using Atomic Bomb on China and was relieved by Truman

Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)

Containment
Changing Cold War Policies

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

Massive Retaliation

- Eisenhower feared the "Domino Effect" due to the potential spread of Communism across Asia
- He and Secretary of State John F. Dulles didn't believe that Containment was enough to stop the spread of communism
Changing Cold War Policies

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

Massive Retaliation

SPRING 1953
- He hinted that he might expand the war in Korea to include the use of nuclear weapons against China

SEP 1954
Taiwan Crisis
- He deployed a Navy Task Force to the Taiwan Straits and hinted to the possible use of nuclear weapons
Changing Cold War Policies

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

- Massive Retaliation
  - Eisenhower wanted “more bang for the buck” by expanding nuclear armament
  - Nuclear weapons and submarines were cheaper than large conventional forces
Changing Cold War Policies

- He supported the use of covert operations to oppose the spread of communism. "The ends justify the means."

1953: CIA led overthrow of Iranian dictator to restore the shah

1954: CIA led overthrow of Leftist Regime in Guatemala

1959: CIA began training anti-Castro Rebels to retake Cuba
Changing Cold War Policies

Attempts at Diplomacy?

- Eisenhower sent U.S. weapons and dollars to aide France in Vietnam
- He later sent aide to help establish the new government of South Vietnam
- His opposition of Gamal Abdel Nasser’s support for China led to the Suez Canal Crisis (1956)
- His opposition of the conflict led to a U.S. sponsored cease-fire

Dwight D. Eisenhower
(1953-1961)

Massive Retaliation
-vs- Diplomacy?
Changing Cold War Policies

Attemps at Détente?

- Eisenhower was very skeptical about Nikita Khrushchev’s “Peaceful Co-existance”
- Khrushchev rejected Eisenhower’s proposal for an “Open Skies” aerial surveillance program

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

Massive Retaliation -vs- Détente?

May 1960

U-2 Spy Plane incident intensified Cold War tensions and embarrassed President
Changing Cold War Policies

1957: Soviet satellite Sputnik orbits the earth

1958: (NASA) National Aeronautics and Space Administration is formed

National Defense Education Act promoted increased education in math & science

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

The Space Race

Explorer 1 Successfully orbits the world
Changing Cold War Policies

A Contradiction of Terms

“The ability to get to the verge without getting into the war is the necessary art...if you are scared to go to the brink, you are lost.”

–John Foster Dulles, 1955

1960: Eisenhower warned Americans against the Military-Industrial Complex that could drain the U.S. economy

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)
Memorable Farewell
Changing Cold War Policies

1960: Kennedy adopted a “Flexible Response” policy

- Increased use of Conventional Forces
- Development of new Special Forces units
- Reduced spending of Defense budget on Nuclear Weapons development
- Decreased levels of diplomacy led to greater deployments of U.S. forces

John F. Kennedy (1961-1964)
Changing Cold War Policies

1961: Kennedy gave final approval for the “Bay of Pigs” Invasion
Operation was a total disaster

Kennedy’s tough stance on the Soviets in Berlin led to the construction of the “Berlin Wall”

John F. Kennedy
(1961-1964)
Flexible Response
Changing Cold War Policies

John F. Kennedy (1961-1964)

Brinkmanship

U.S. Ballistic Missiles placed in Turkey
Changing Cold War Policies

By 1961: Khrushchev challenged Kennedy by placing Nuclear Missiles in Cuba

Oct 1962: Kennedy Responded by ordering a Blockade of Cuba

John F. Kennedy (1961-1964)

Brinkmanship
Changing Cold War Policies

1961: Kennedy agreed to increase U.S. Army Advisors in Vietnam

U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Berets) introduced the Strategic Hamlets Program

1962: Kennedy increased the U.S. Army Advisors in Vietnam to 12,000 and sent 300 U.S. Army Helicopters and Pilots