



# EUROPE SINCE 1945

# COLD WAR

- The US and the Soviet Union will emerge from World War II as the world's most powerful nations.
- Superpowers --- strong and influential countries.
- Cold War --- a period of tense rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union.
- The US believed in democracy and free enterprise
- The Soviet Union was a Communist country, which individual freedoms were limited.

# COLD WAR

- After World War II the Allies divided Germany into 4 parts. US, France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union each got a part.
- Their job was to rebuild their section so they could reunite Germany.
- 1948 the US, Great Britain, and France reunited their sections of Germany under a democratic government. While the Soviet Union refused and kept their section which had established a communist state.
- As a result two Germany's were created: West Germany and East Germany.
- Also divided was Germany's capital of Berlin.
- Berlin Wall was created to prevent any East Germans from fleeing to the West.

# COLD WAR

- New alliances
  - NATO --- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
  - Warsaw Pact
- Western European countries prospered
- Eastern European countries failed to develop
- Space Race
- Arms Race – A competition between countries to build superior weapons.
- The high cost of the arms race eventually damaged the Soviet economy. In addition to a war gone wrong in Afghanistan.
- The Soviet Union's economy will crash and they will pull their reach back. In response countries like Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany will gain their independence.
- With this collapse the Cold War is over. 1989

# COLD WAR

- Czechoslovakia will break up peacefully into two countries.
- The break up of Yugoslavia was not peaceful.

# EUROPEAN COOPERATION

- In the 1950's six countries joined to create a united economic community. (Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and West Germany)
  - The organization's goal was to form a:
    - Common Market – a group of nations that cooperates to make trade among members easier.
    - Create a new sense of unity.
- This group will turn into the European Union --- an organization that promotes political and economic cooperation in Europe. Today they have 25 member countries.
- European Union has executive, legislative, and judicial branches.
- EU is run by a commission made up of one representative from each member nation.

# EUROPEAN COOPERATION

- Has 2 legislative groups: the Council of European Union and the European Parliament --- they debate and make laws.
- They have a Court of Justice, which resolves disputes and enforce EU laws.
- EU members work together toward common economic goals, so they can compete with countries like the US.
- 1999 Europe created a common currency called the Euro.