

U. S. History From A Biblical Perspective

Truman and the Cold War

Study Pack 13

"There is no substitute for victory."

~~ Douglas MacArthur ~~

I. THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM.

Immediately after the defeat of the Nazis, General George Patton wanted to turn the American military against the Soviets, _____ Communism, and _____ The Russian people. The Allies, however, were determined to treat the Communists as full partners.

In a series of meetings during the war FDR had promised Stalin, the Communist dictator, that he had no objection to Soviet Russia's role in Eastern Europe being expanded. FDR seemed convinced that if he could get Stalin to "like" him, Stalin would cooperate with the Allies. He bragged about his friendly relationship with Stalin. In reality, Stalin used the aftermath of World War II to seize _____ Europe, the _____ Part of Korea, and the _____ half of Vietnam. He promised that these would be temporary occupations, but it was soon clear that he intended for it to be permanent. The United States and the Allies had won the war, but clearly, they were losing the _____. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill would write about this period and entitle his book *Triumph and Tragedy*. A totalitarian government, every bit as _____, as the Nazis, was not ruling over millions of new people.

The Soviet government soon forbid anyone to enter or leave these countries without Communist permission. In 1946, Churchill condemned what he called the " _____ " that isolated these countries from the rest of the world.

II. THE UNITED NATIONS.

FDR and several other western leaders had revived faith in world peace _____ by a worldwide organization. The failure of the League of Nations to prevent World War II was blamed on the lack of United States involvement.

On April 25, 1945, representatives of 50 nations met to organize the United Nations. This time there was not the same level of popular opposition to the idea of an international organization. The United States was the first nation to join the United Nations. The Senate ratified the treaty by a vote of 89 to 2.

Liberalism's faith in peace guaranteed by a supranational organization was again seen in full force. The Federal Council of Churches issued the following recommendation of the United Nations:

The charter offers mankind means for the achievement of just and durable peace ... The churches have long held that nations can better serve God's purpose for the world as they are brought into organic relationship with one another for the common weal. The charter signed at San Francisco marks a genuine advance toward this end ... We believe that it is clear duty of our government promptly to ratify the charter and thus to assure cooperation by the United States in the task of making the organization an effective agency for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois said:

"I am convinced that there is the beginning of _____ and _____ peace. And if my prophecy proves to be correct, the Charter will rank among the great documents of history."

Senator McClelland of Arkansas offered this hope during the debate in the Senate:

"It is the ultimate goal, sincere hope, and the highest purpose of the signatory powers and the people they represent to eliminate and forever remove mankind's worst enemy, the scourge of war, from the face of the earth, and thus attain the fulfillment of one of the highest aspirations of all civilized peoples of the world."

III. THE MARSHALL PLAN.

Europe faced a tremendous challenge in recovering from the effects of World War II. Huge numbers of _____, invalids, and refugees needed food and shelter. The _____ and infrastructures of many nations had been devastated.

Truman's Secretary of State, George C. Marshall, devised a plan for rebuilding Europe's economy. Over the next few years, the United States would invest over \$100 billion in mainland _____. The United States provided food, rebuilt infrastructure, made loans to governments, and aided military development. The U. S. aided both allies and _____ enemies. Aid was provided to free nations trying to rebuild their economy and to nations that had just established Communist governments. In Eastern European nations, the people were often told the aid came from Russia. This aid program is often called the Marshall Plan.

The United States began a major demobilization of the Armed Forces. As many soldiers returned to the _____ workforce, _____ production declined drastically. By 1946, the economy was experiencing real problems. Many Americans were upset by large foreign aid expenditures abroad while the economy was suffering at home. Truman's popularity plunged. "To err is Truman" became a common political joke. During the Congressional elections of 1946, the public expressed its frustration by giving Republicans control of Congress for the first time since 1930.

IV. THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE.

Americans became increasingly concerned about the spread of Communism. The United States pressured Russia into withdrawing from Austria. The U. S. aided Greece in battling a Communist-inspired revolution. Truman declared that the United States would not threaten Communism where it was already established, but the United States would not allow Communism to spread by invasion or insurrection. This was called the _____.

This policy was carried out rather inconsistently. When the Soviets blockaded West Berlin (which was in Communist East Germany but still controlled by the U. S., Britain, and France), Truman took strong action. The United States and Britain defied the Soviets and flew supplies in daily. During 11 months, 277,264 flights brought in two-and-a-half million tons of supplies. The Berlin airlift sent a message to the people of Western Europe that it was possible to resist the Soviets.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed. The United States, Britain, France, Norway, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, Luxembourg, Denmark, and Portugal signed a mutual defense treaty. They declared “that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.” NATO was clearly designed to provide a united front against Soviet expansion in Western Europe. The U. S. Senate ratified the NATO treaty by an 82 to 13 vote.

The Truman Doctrine was not carried out nearly as effectively in Asia. A Communist revolution had begun in China in the 1920's. The leader, Mao Tse-tung, was supplied and directed by the Communists in Moscow. The Nationalist government led by Chiang Kai-Shek had been successful in resisting this revolution. After the Japanese invasion of China during World War II, the Communists and Nationalists united to fight the Japanese. Near the end of the war, the Communists turned on the Nationalists and started their revolution again.

Members of the Truman State Department approved of the Communist revolution. A tremendous propaganda effort was begun to convince the American people that the government of Chiang Kai-Shek was evil. Atrocities on the part of the Communists were covered up, and corruption among the Nationalists was exaggerated. When the Communists murdered Baptist missionary and war hero John Birch, the _____ told the American people he had been _____ by retreating _____ troops. The true story was not known for years.

Of course, there were examples of corruption in the Nationalist government. There is corruption in every large government. The offenses of the Nationalist government were minor compared to the mass _____ committed by the _____. Chiang Kai-Shek was a Christian. He was educated in America, had a pro-western philosophy, and was dedicated to good government for the Chinese people.

In 1947, President Truman sent General Albert Wedemeyer to China to assess the situation. He recommended a massive increase in aid to the Chinese Nationalists. The State Department opposed such aid.

Eventually, _____ aid to the Nationalists was _____. The Soviets continued to provide massive aid the Communists. The Communists began to win military victories and swept across China in 1948 and 1949. Chiang Kai-Shek moved his army and government to the island of Formosa (Taiwan). The United States finally provided the Nationalists with aid, but it was too little too late. After securing the mainland, Mao Tse-tung declared his allegiance to the Soviet-Union and cut off the citizens of China from foreign contact. The “_____” had dropped.

V. THE TAFT-HARTLEY ACT.

Republicans passed the Taft-Hartley Act over President Truman's veto. This Act was designed to restrain the power of labor unions. This Act forbid _____ (laws which forced employers to hire only union members), forbid unions to make _____ contributions and required unions make annual financial statements public.

This law also allowed the President to get a court injunction delaying a strike for 80 days if he thought it would hurt the national economy.

During this time, labor leaders like Walter Reuther worked hard to drive American Communists out of the organized labor movement. The labor movement became more popular with the general population. Even though Truman publicly opposed the Taft-Hartley Act and called for its repeal, he used it to halt several strikes.

VI. THE ELECTION OF 1948.

As the 1948 Presidential election approached, Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey was widely expected to win. The Democrats renominated Truman. Two groups of Democrats split from the party. A group of southern conservatives formed the States' Rights Party (also called the Dixie-Crats) and nominated Strom Thurmond as their Presidential candidate. A group of radical New Dealers formed the Progressive Party and nominated Henry A. Wallace as President. The Progressives called for _____ of New Deal programs, praised the "advances" of Soviet Russia and _____ peace.

Truman was at his best during a "rough-and-tumble" political campaign. He attacked the Republican Congress as the “_____.” He promised a new economic policy called the “_____”. Truman surprised the political pundits by winning 303 electoral votes. Dewey took 189, Thurmond 39, and Wallace 0.

VII. ISRAEL AS A NATION.

In the aftermath of World War II, many Jews moved to the area of Palestine. The United Nations called for a Jewish nation-state in Palestine. The United States and Britain cooperated and the nation of Israel was declared in May, 1948.

Immediately, several Arab nations attacked the new nation. Israel stunned the world with its ability to defend itself. The U. S. aided Israel and became known as a _____ partner of Israel. Many Palestinians had been displaced during the creation of Israel. These Palestinians and their Arab and Moslem allies considered the United States the enemy. Israel successfully resisted Arab attacks in _____, _____, and _____. Each time, Israel received American support Palestinians began a war of _____ against Israeli interests and sometimes against the United States.

VII. THE KOREAN WAR.

Also following World War II, the Soviet Russians seized the northern half of the Korean peninsula. An independent Korean government was established south of the Thirty-Eighth Parallel. On January 12, 1950, Secretary of State Dean Acheson declared publicly that it was not in the interests of the United States to defend Korea.

Six months later, the North Korean army invaded South Korea. Truman responded by sending U. S. troops to defend South Korea and called for United Nations intervention.

The United Nations voted to endorse a military campaign to expel the North Koreans from South Korea. The United Nations began a major military effort and the United States contributed the majority of the forces. The United States did not _____ war; the conflict was fought as a " _____ " under United Nations authorization."

Former World War II commander Douglas MacArthur assumed command of the UN forces. The North Koreans swept across most of the Korean Peninsula. MacArthur reversed the situation by landing the American Marines behind North Korean lines. This amphibious landing at the city of Inchon disrupted North Korean supply lines. The North Korean army collapsed and, within a month, U. S., South Korean, and UN forces had crossed the Thirty- Eighth Parallel. MacArthur was on the verge of _____ North Korea from Communism.

On October 3, 1950, the Communist Chinese army invaded North Korea in order to rescue the Communist government and the North Korean army.

The Chinese used waves of unarmed troops to overrun UN positions. They sent thousands of these drafted peasants at UN troops until the UN troops had killed so many that they ran out of ammunition. Then, trained armed Chinese troops attacked, and UN troops were forced to retreat. MacArthur regrouped the UN forces in South Korea. Chinese and American forces clashed with heavy casualties on both sides. The two armies were stalemated.

General MacArthur wanted to bomb Chinese army supply bases in _____. Truman refused to allow MacArthur to do so, fearing it would widen the war. MacArthur openly criticized the President for his decision, and Truman _____ him to the United States. When MacArthur returned to New York, he received the largest ticker tape _____ ever. More than seven million people attended. He was invited to address Congress, and there was talk of impeaching Truman. In many towns there were anti-Truman demonstrations.

VIII. COMMUNIST SPIES.

Growing concern gripped the American people about the role that Communist spies, infiltrators, and sympathizers played in the United States government. A Communist spy ring smuggled the _____ of the atomic bomb to the Soviets who developed their bomb. Several Americans were convicted of aiding this plot and two, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were _____ for treason. Former Soviet spies Elizabeth Bentley and Whitaker Chambers began to reveal the depth of the Soviet spy network. Chambers identified Alger Hiss, the number two person at the State Department and the organizer of the United Nations, as a Soviet spy. President Truman did not believe him and defended Hiss. Congressman Richard Nixon made such an issue of the accusations against Hiss that it became a national debate. Hiss continued to protest his innocence but was convicted of perjury. After the fall of Communism in the 1990's, Soviet records were released that proved that Hiss received financial payments from the Soviet Communists.

The Justice Department tried 11 top leaders of the Communist Party and won convictions.

Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin began a national campaign to expose Communists within the Truman administration. Rather than investigating McCarthy's charges, the Truman administration and many in Congress and the media began to attack McCarthy. Undoubtedly McCarthy made some mistakes, but it is now clear that a number of the people he named received cash _____ from the Soviet Government.

Other Soviet records released in the 1990's show that payments were made to New Deal administrators Harry Hopkins and Harry Dexter White.