

The Cold War in a Historical Context

Brief Overview of US-Russian Relations

- a. always ideological differences
- b. yet, Russia favored Am. independence
- c. trade relations estab. by Jefferson
- d. US purchase of Alaska 1867 (\$7.2 million)
- e. developing hostility after 1867- Manchuria
- f. anti-autocratic ideas in US 1880s
- g. Communist revolution (out of WWI) 1917
- h. Russian civil war- US aids anti-communists
- i. Soviet Union ignored 1919 - 1939
- j. no US recognition until 1933

Issues in World War II--> what were the issues?

Yalta Conference (Feb. 1945)

- a. Poland and Eastern Europe
 - "friendly" neighbors or free elections?
 - location of Red Army
 - Soviet border security or dem. principles?
- b. disarmament of Germany / occupation zones
- c. preliminary plans for UN
- d. Soviets agree to enter war v. Japan

Critique of FDR at Yalta- realist or sell-out? Dilemma:

- a. fight for US ideals ---> destroy alliance
- b. keep Soviets in alliance ---> undercut ideals
- c. each nation into war for own reasons
- d. each nation has own vision of post-war world
- e. presence of army---> they impose their will

Overall, the Cold War as a result of

- a. hostile ideologies and philosophies
- b. history- including WW II issues
- c. different defs. of "legitimate" security needs
- d. territorial disputes
- e. technological issues ---> Baruch Plan
- f. personality issues ---> no more Hitlers