HIST 102 B / Lecture 5

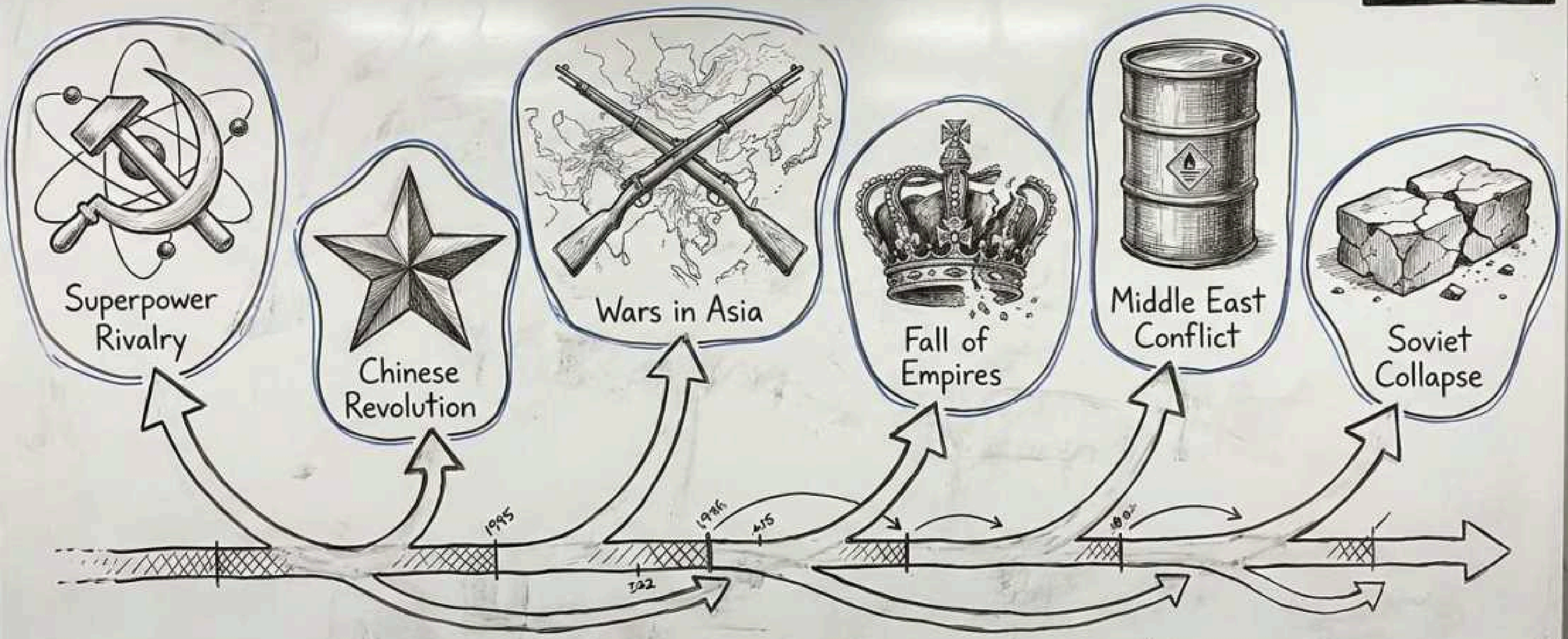
¶ 5.1



Welcome to Lecture 5

THE COLD WAR & DECOLONIZATION (1945–1991)

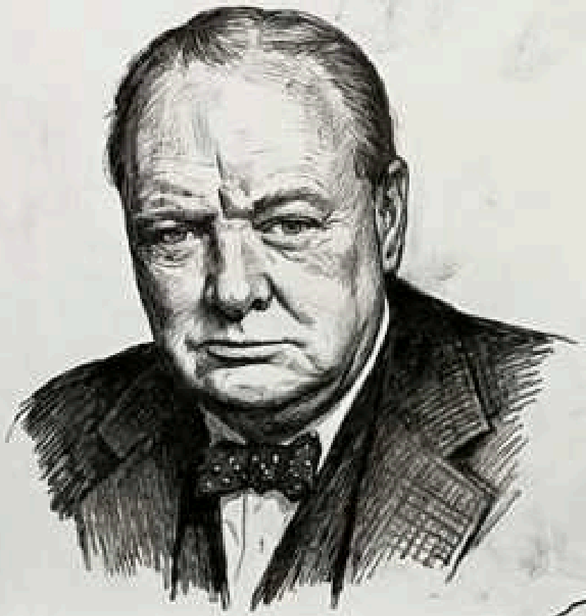
¶ 5.2



1945: A World Divided in Two

¶ 5.3

- Only two great powers remain: US & Soviet Union.
- Former allies turned ideological rivals over Europe's future.
- Soviet armies establish communist governments across Eastern Europe.



SOVIET UNION

"The Iron Curtain"
(Winston Churchill, 1946)

UK

GERMANY

POLAND

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

AUSTRIA

HUNGARY

ROMANIA

FRANCE

YUGOSLAVIA

BULGARIA

ITALY

SPAIN

TURKEY

GREECE

¶5.4

The West (US-Led)

- Truman Doctrine
  (Resisting Communism)

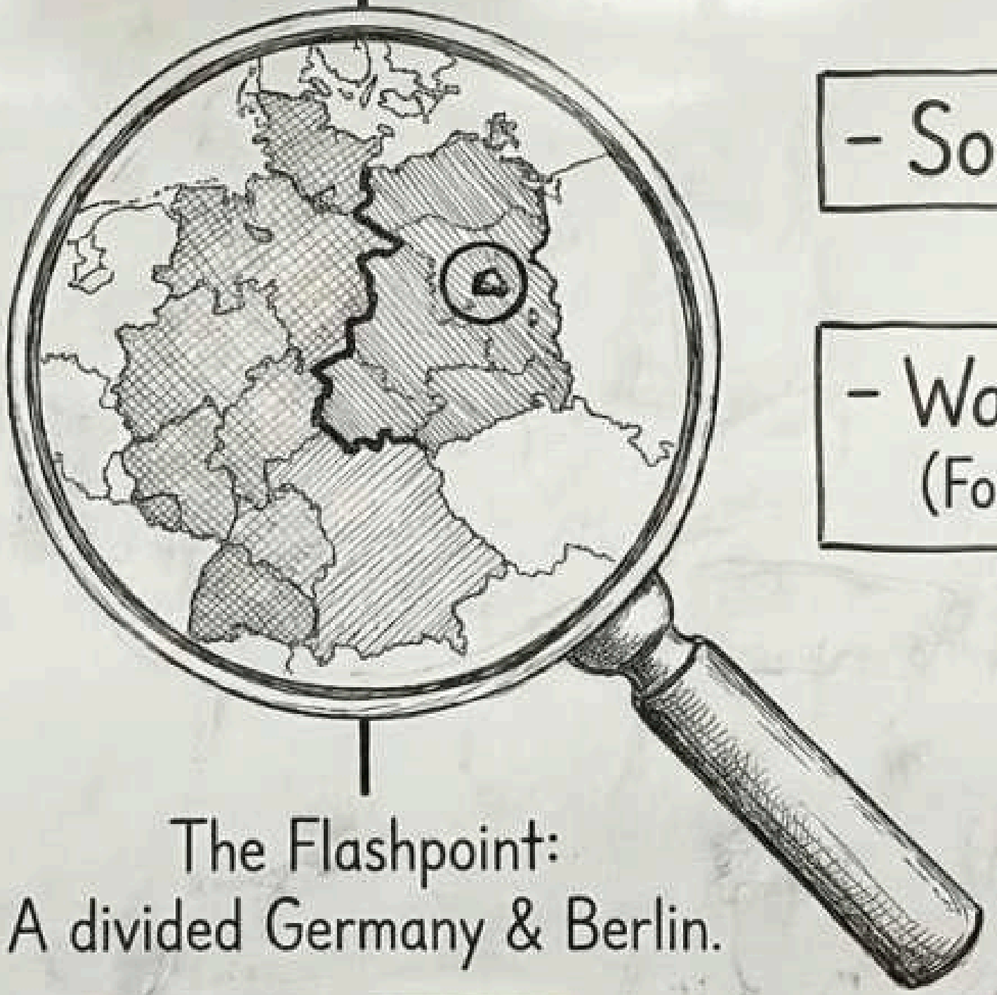
- Marshall Plan
  (Billions to rebuild Europe)

- NATO
  (Formed 1949)

The East (Soviet-Led)

- Soviet Bloc

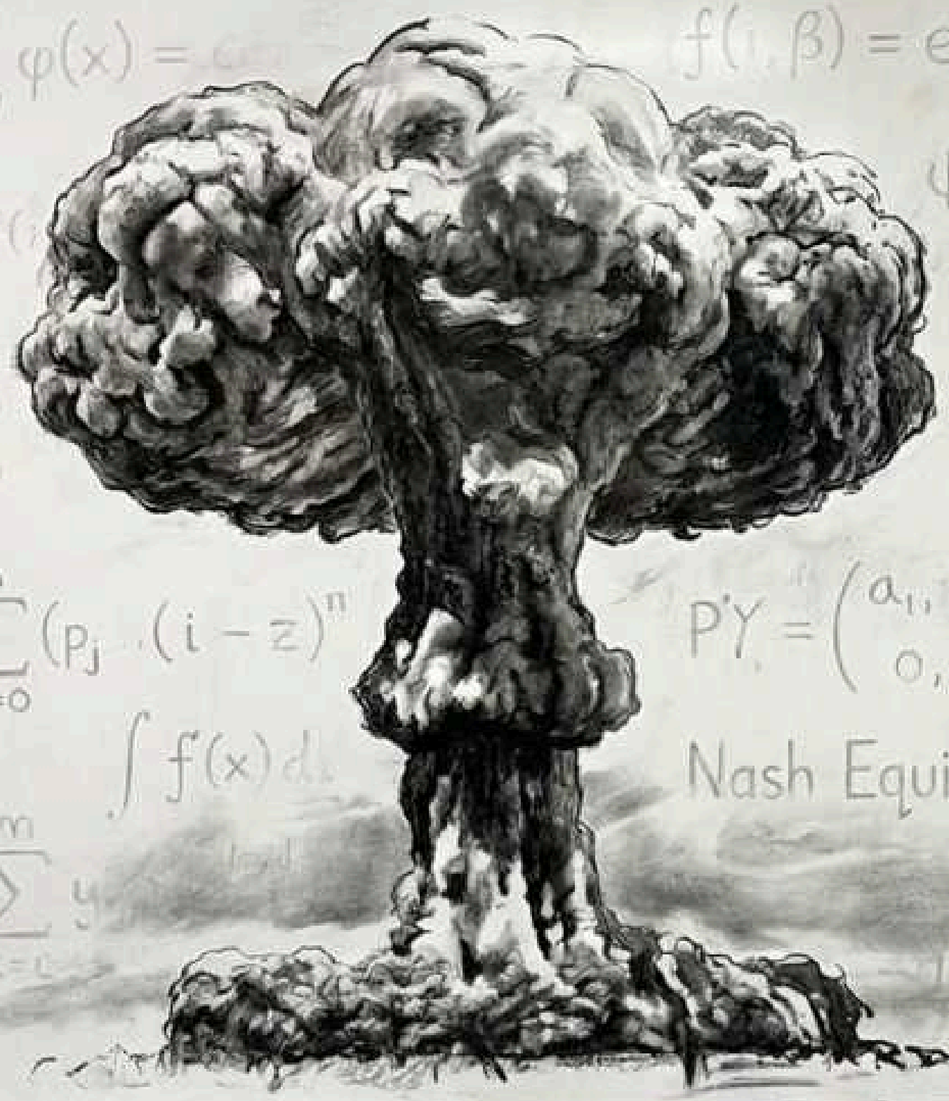
- Warsaw Pact
  (Formed 1955)



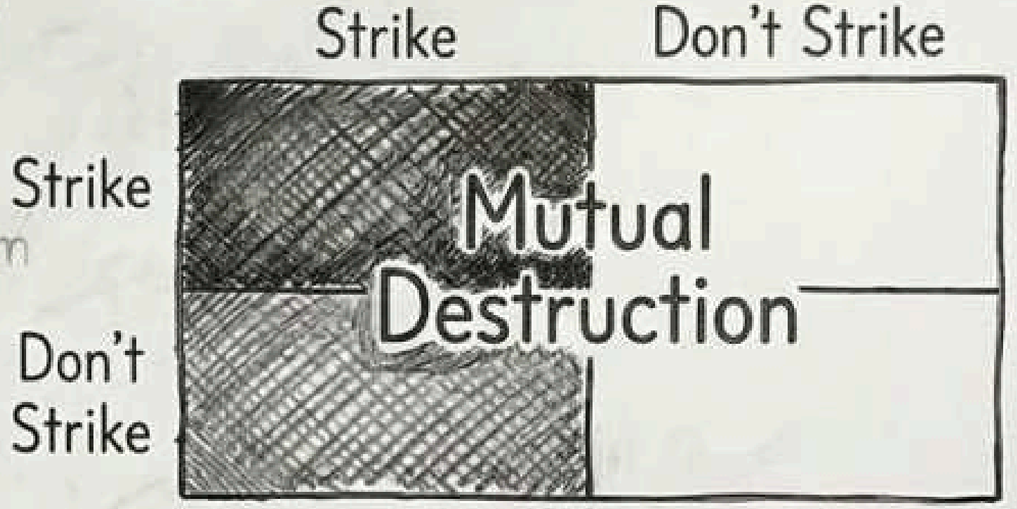
The Flashpoint:
A divided Germany & Berlin.

1949: Soviet atomic bomb test.

¶ 5.5



Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)



The Cold War — Competition via arms races, spying, propaganda, space, and proxy wars.

Core Logic: Direct war = Mutual Destruction.
Too dangerous to fight directly.

¶5.6



1949: Mao Zedong proclaims the People's Republic of China (Communists win civil war). Nationalists withdraw to Taiwan.

1958–1962: Great Leap Forward.

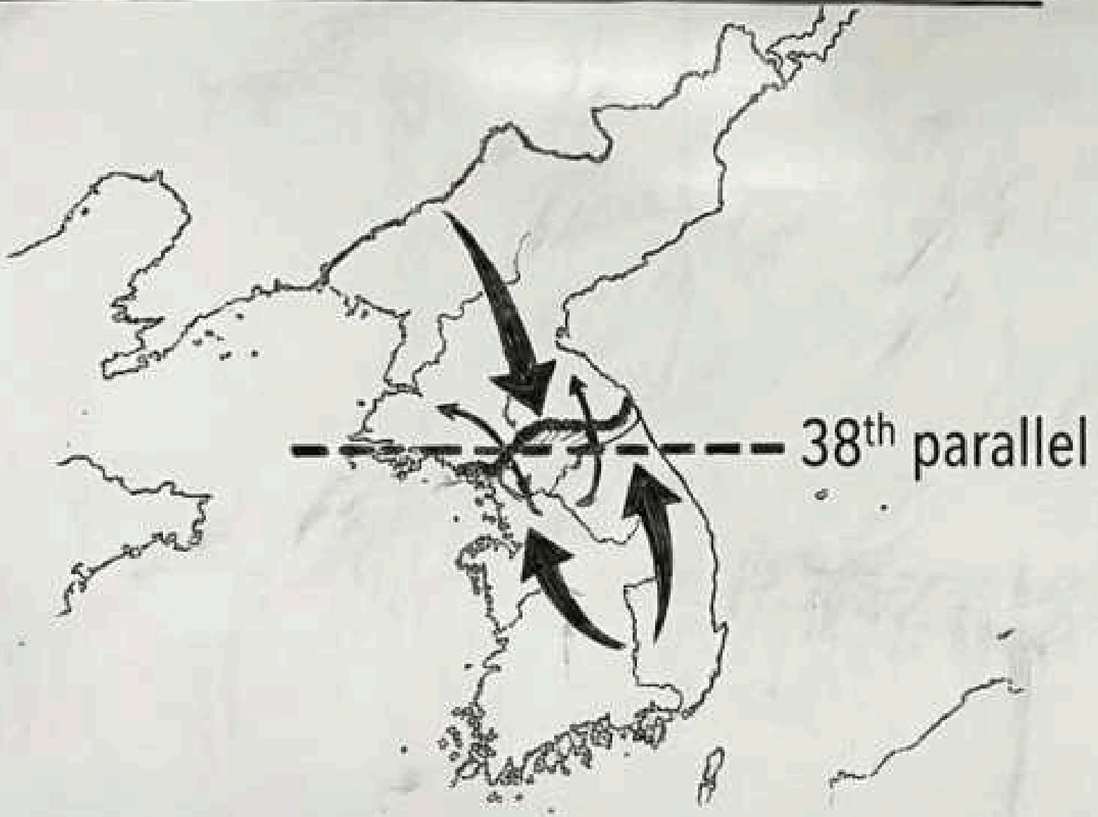
↳ Tens of millions perish in famine

1966+: Cultural Revolution.

↳ Persecution and chaos

The Cold War Turns Hot in Asia

¶ 5.7



Korea (1950–1953)

US/UN forces vs. Chinese troops.
Result: Still divided today.



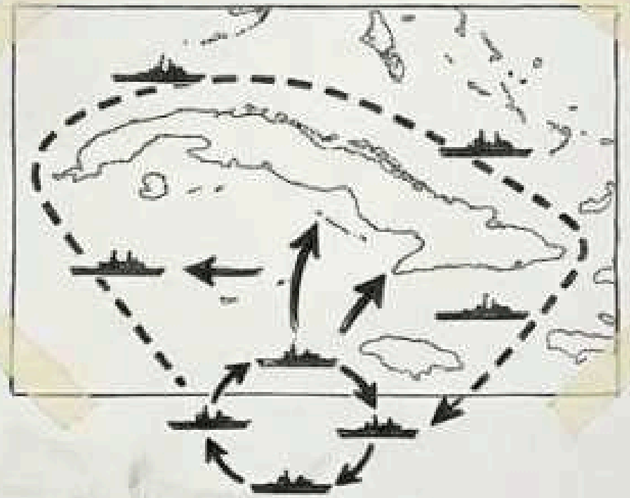
Vietnam

Communist forces vs. France, then US.
Timeline: US withdraws (1973),
Communists take the whole country (1975).

¶5.8







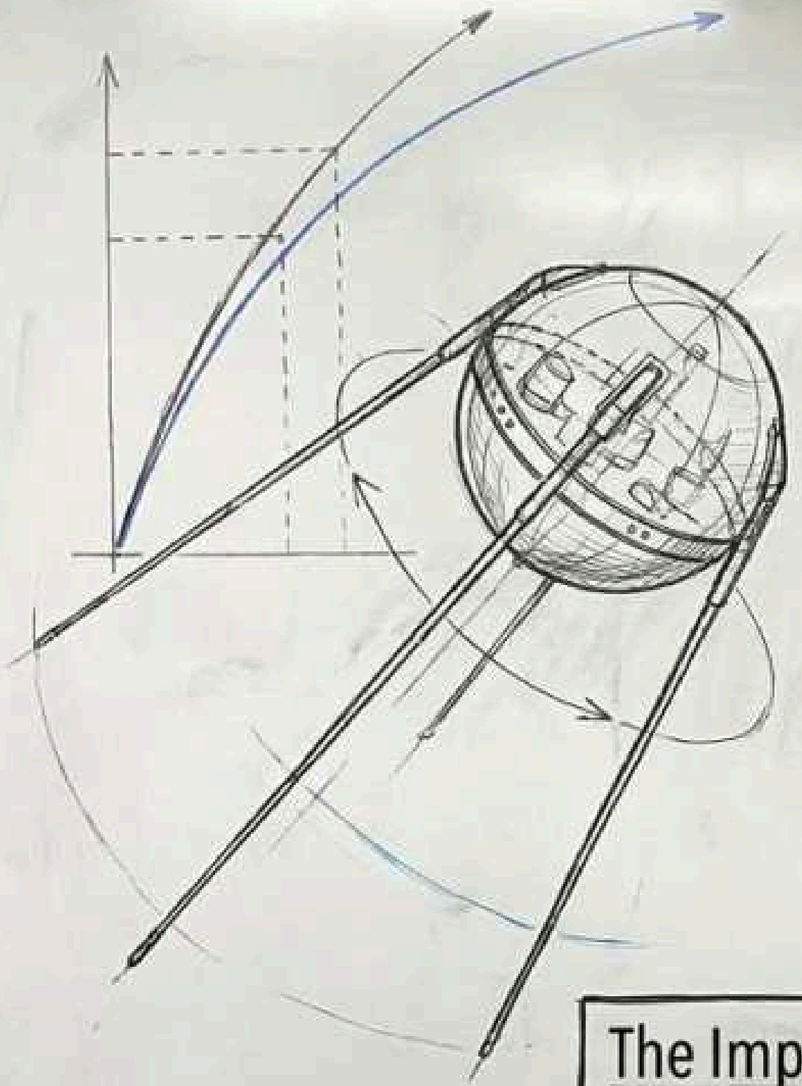
Trigger: US spy planes discover Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba.

Action: President Kennedy orders naval blockade; world fears nuclear war.

Resolution: Soviets withdraw missiles; US quietly promises no invasion & removes missiles from Turkey.

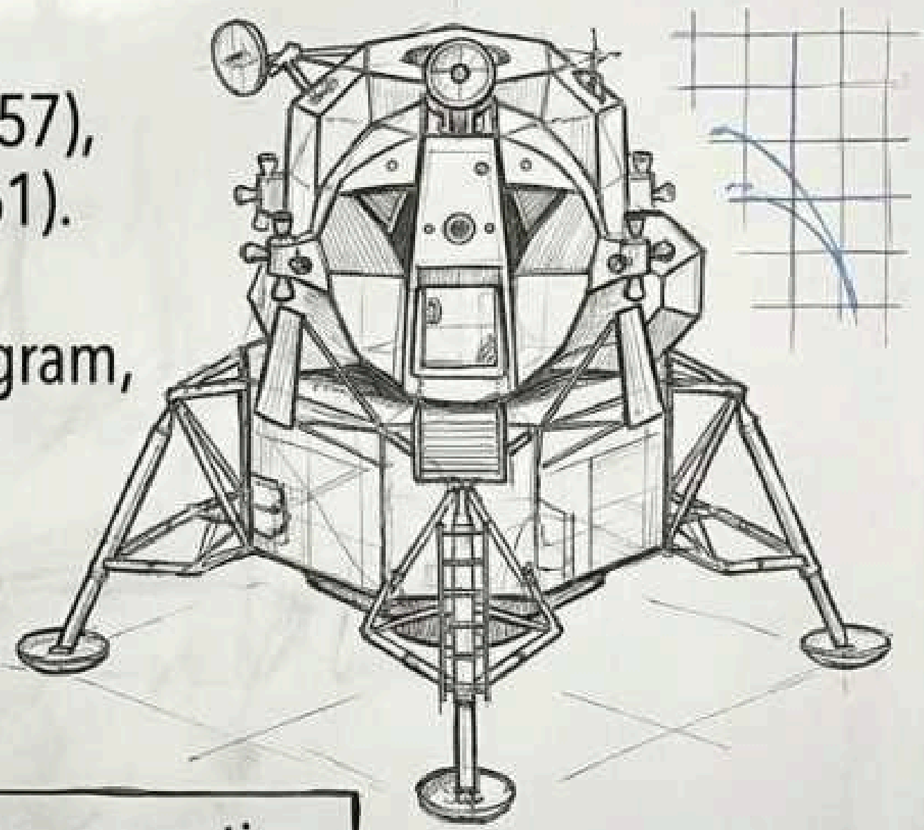
¶ 5.9

$$F = G\frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$



Soviet Firsts: Sputnik (1957), Yuri Gagarin in orbit (1961).

US Response: Apollo Program, Neil Armstrong walks on the Moon (1969).

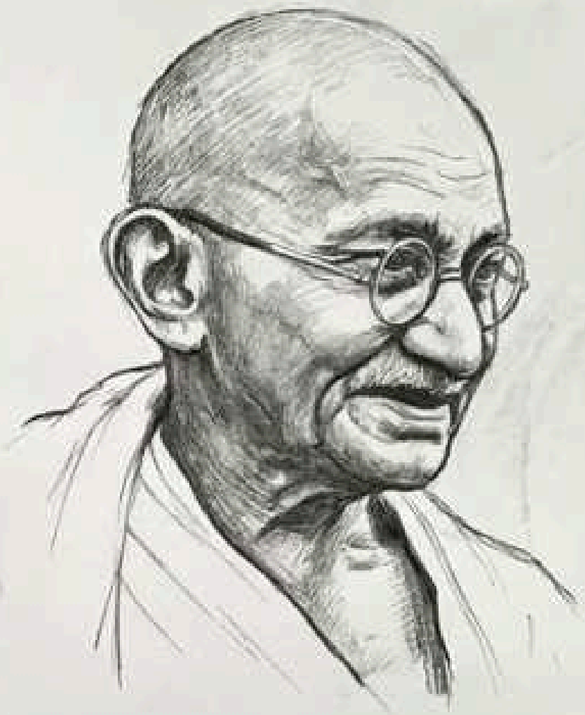


$$F = G\frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

The Impact: Drove advances in rockets, computing, and materials. Science serving national power.

The End of Empires: The Subcontinent

¶5.10

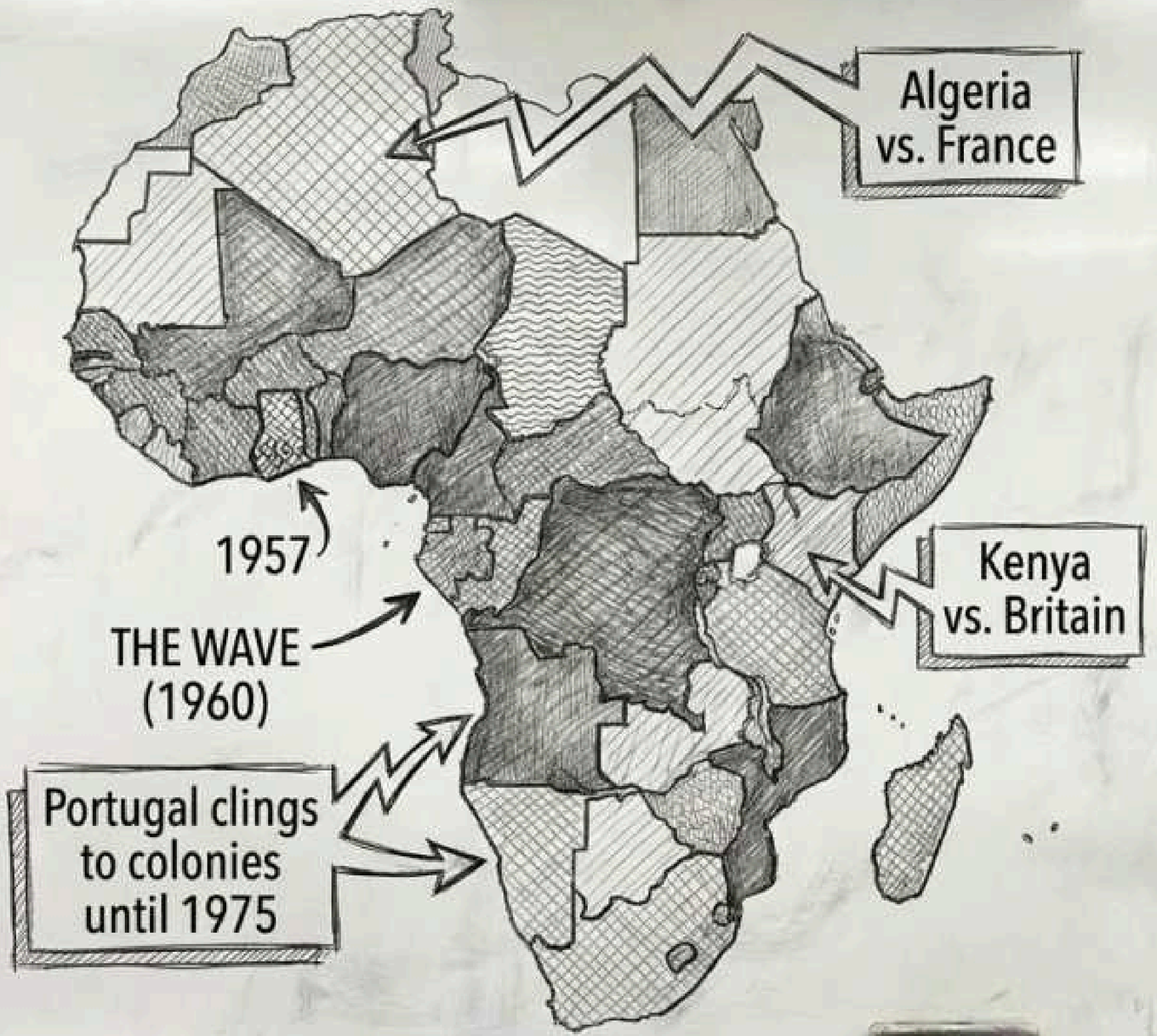






- 1947: India & Pakistan win independence from Britain after a long movement.
- <u>The Cost of Partition</u>: ~15 million uprooted, ~1 million dead in violence.
- (Sub-note: Indonesia, Vietnam, and others also fought for independence during this era).

¶5.11



The Wave:

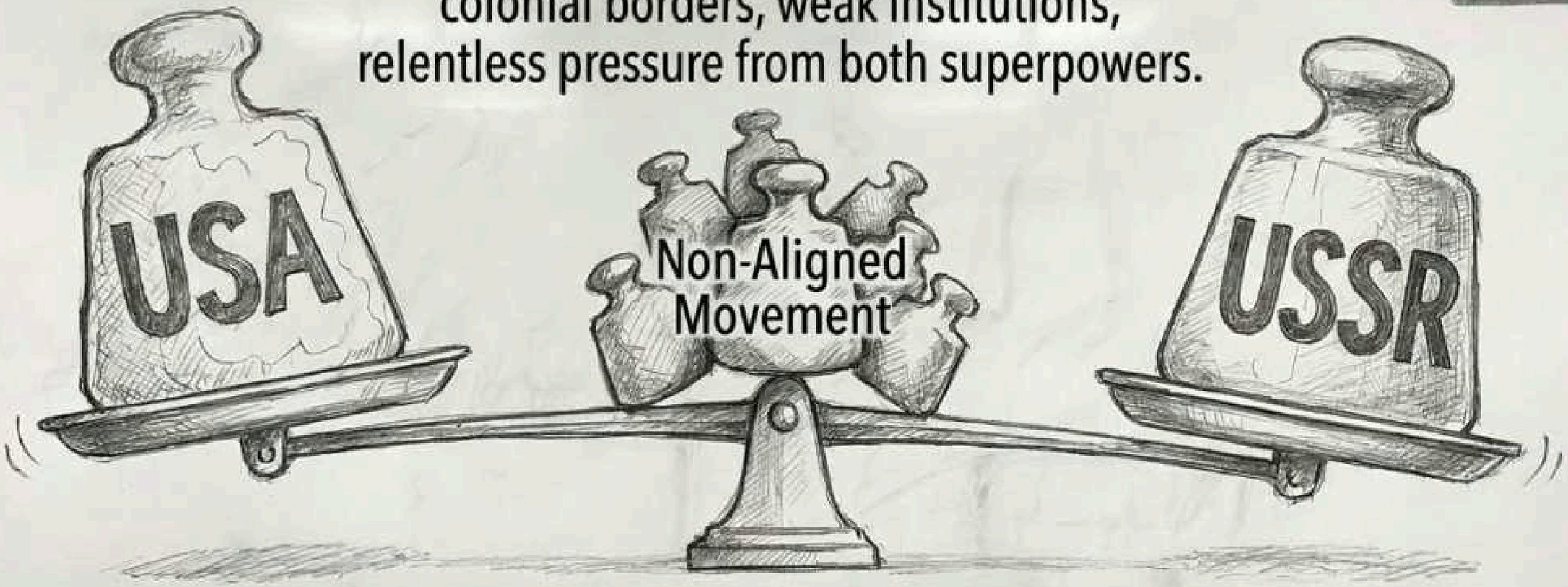
- Ghana (Kwame Nkrumah) becomes independent in 1957.
- In 1960 alone, 17 African countries gain independence.

Pathways to Sovereignty:

- Peaceful transitions vs. Brutal wars.

¶5.12

Post-Colonial Challenges: Poverty, arbitrary colonial borders, weak institutions, relentless pressure from both superpowers.



The Strategy: Bandung Conference (Indonesia, 1955)
– Leaders seek a path of Non-Alignment.

Outcomes: Ranged widely from emerging dictatorships to stable, rapidly growing democracies.

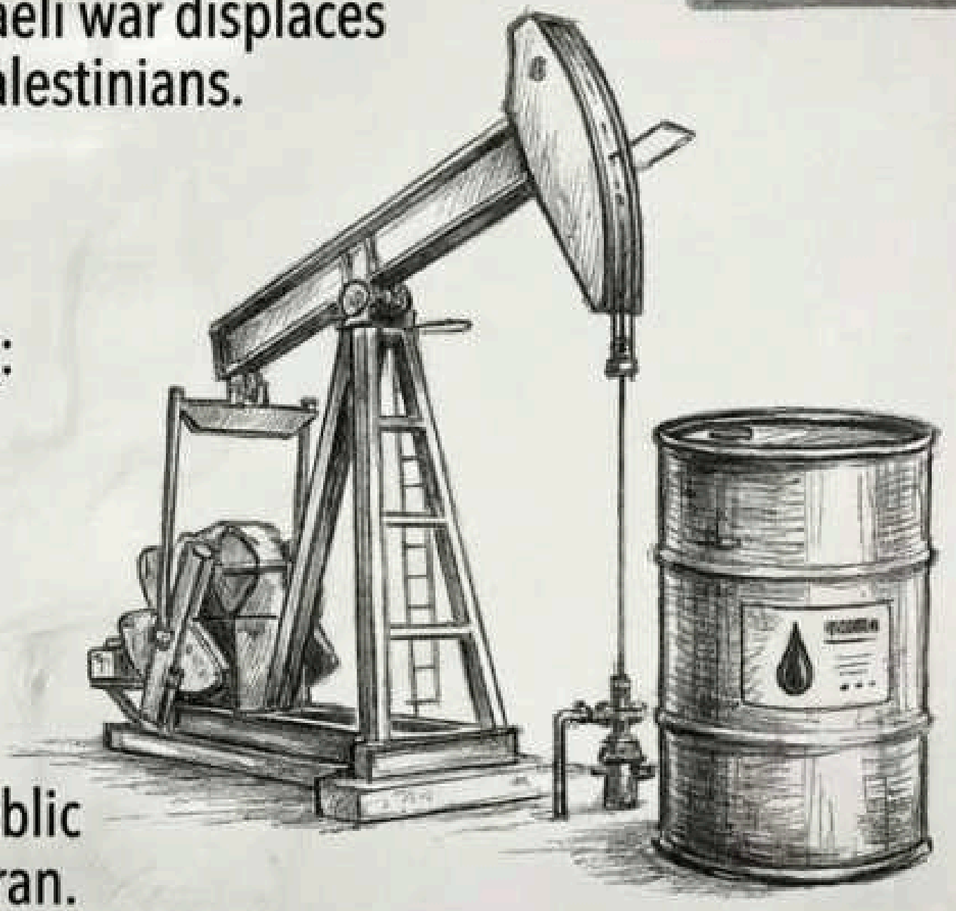
¶5.13



1948: Israel declares independence; first Arab-Israeli war displaces ~700,000 Palestinians.

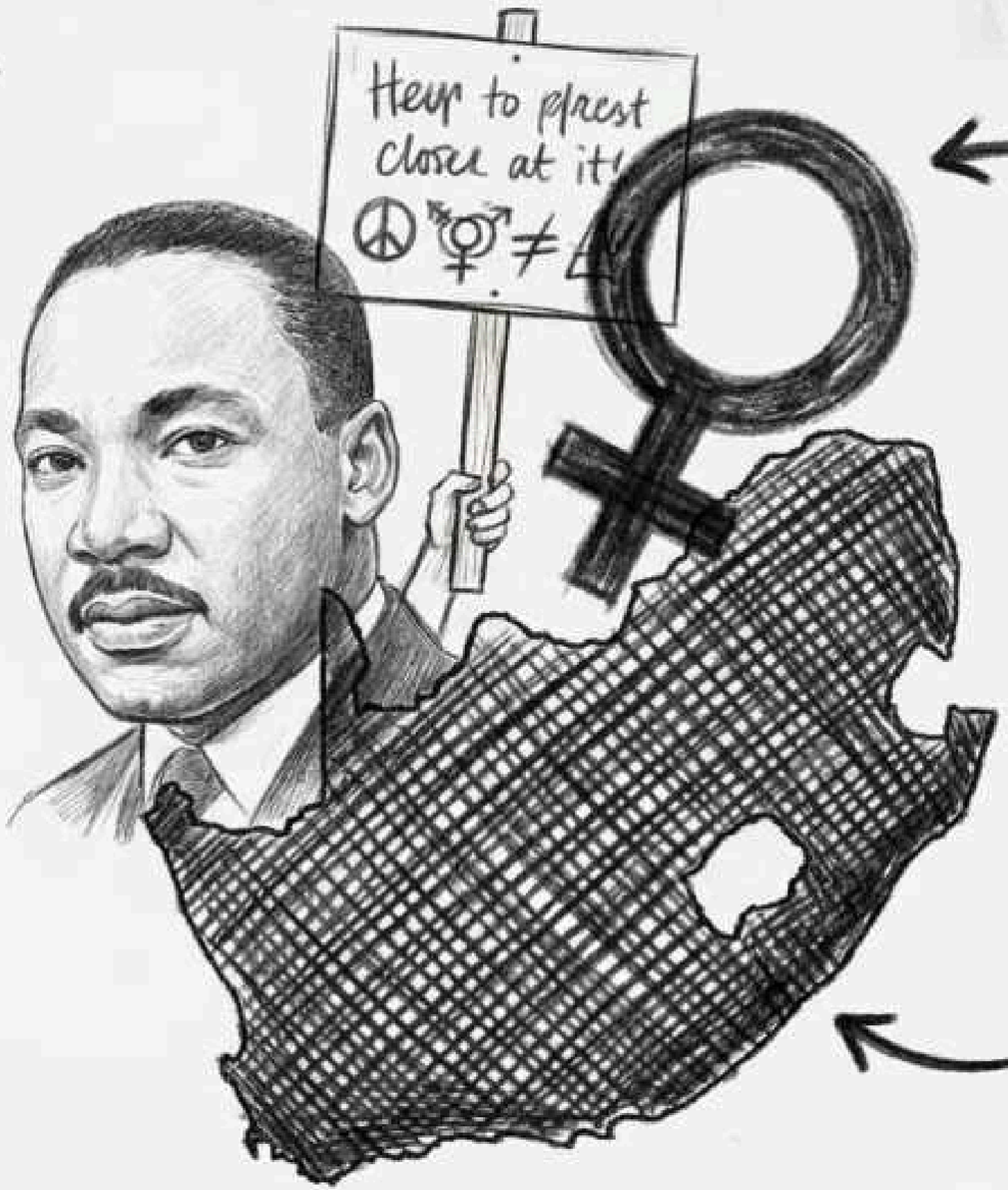
Further Wars: 1956, 1967, and 1973.

1979: Islamic Republic declared in Iran.



The Catalyst: Decolonization + Oil wealth makes the region central to world politics.

¶ 5.14

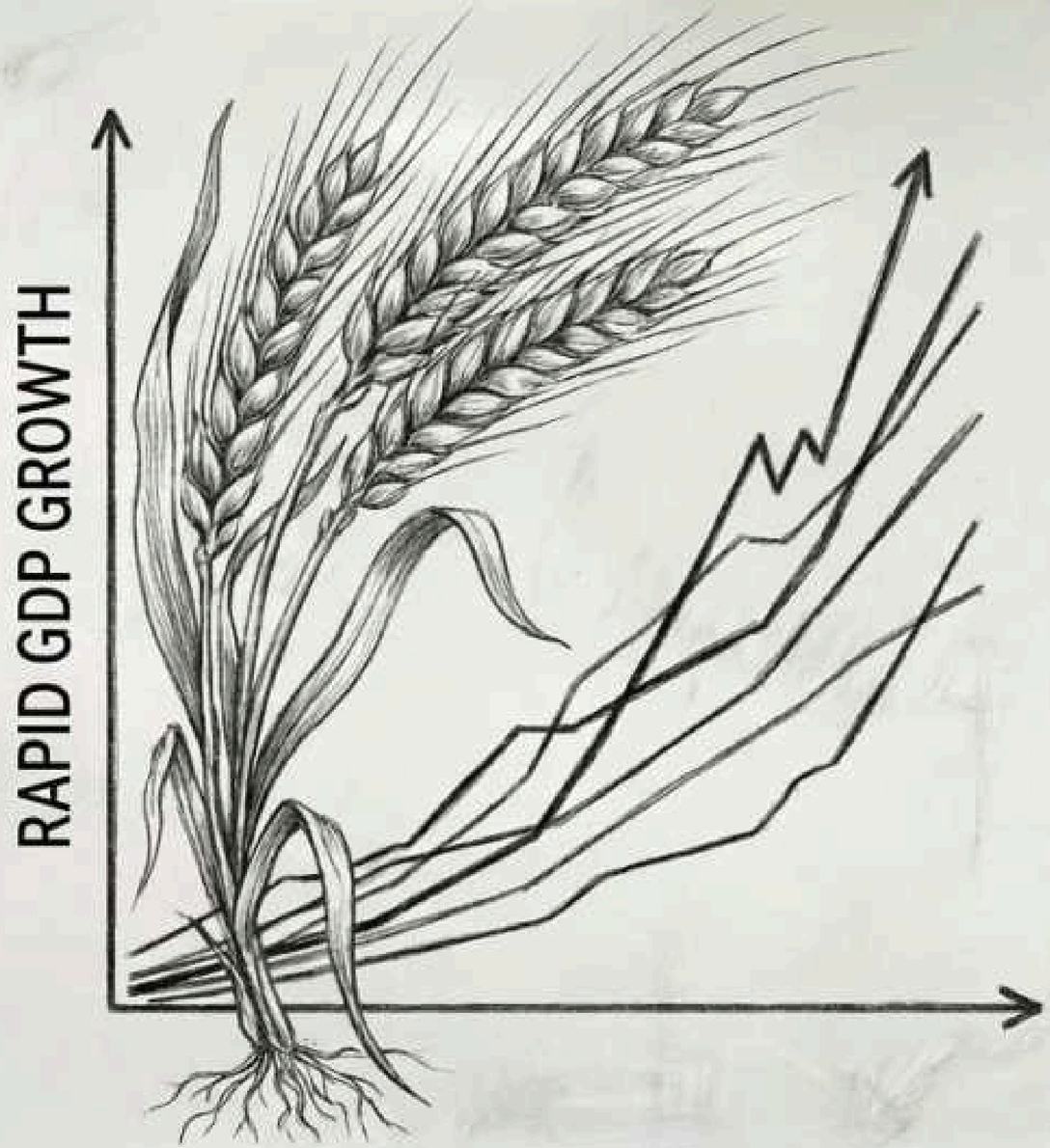


US Civil Rights (1960s): Led by MLK Jr., movement ends legal segregation.

Global Spread: Women's movements, student protests, and environmental campaigns.

South Africa: Apartheid (a system of legal racial separation) endures until the early 1990s.

¶ 5.15



The West & Japan:
Rapid postwar economic growth.

1957: European Economic Community (EEC) forms to integrate Western Europe.

The Asian Tigers: South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong grow rapidly via manufactured exports.

The Green Revolution: Raises crop yields dramatically in parts of Asia.

¶ 5.16

The Baseline: Soviet economy is rigid, overspent on arms, stagnating with common shortages.



1985: Gorbachev takes leadership.

Glasnost (Openness)

Perestroika (Restructuring)

The Result: Instead of saving the system, reforms release pent-up demands for change.

¶ 5.17



1989: Communist governments fall across Eastern Europe; Berlin Wall opens (November).

1990: Germany is reunited.

1991: Attempted coup fails; republics leave the union.

Dec 26, 1991: The Soviet Union officially dissolves.

Conclusion: The Cold War is over.

Historiography: Why did it end?

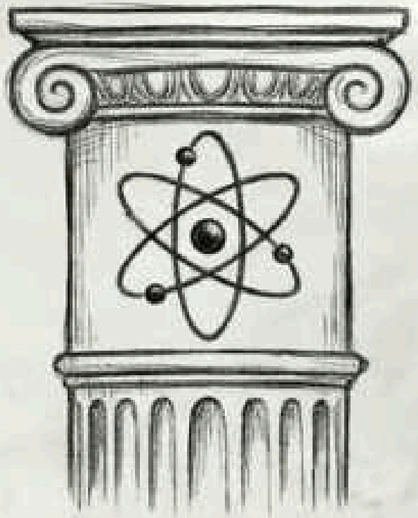
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Takeaway: Reality is a combination of causes. The debate evolves as new archives continue to open.

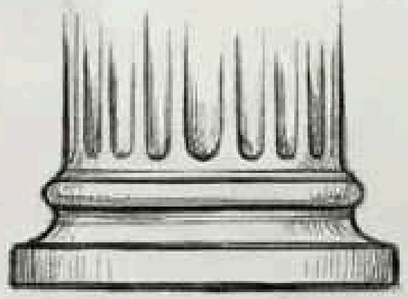
Lecture 5 Recap

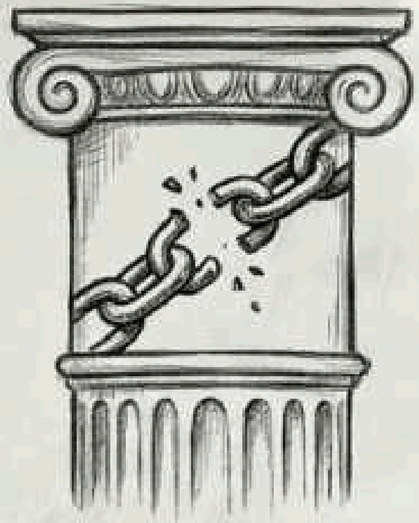
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1. Superpower Competition

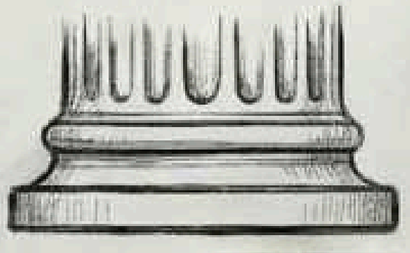
US vs. USSR; nuclear weapons made direct war too dangerous.

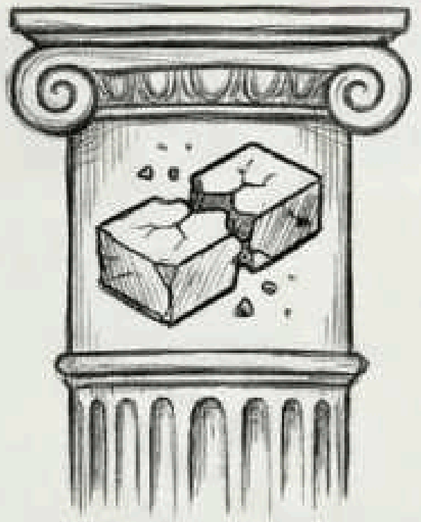




2. Decolonization

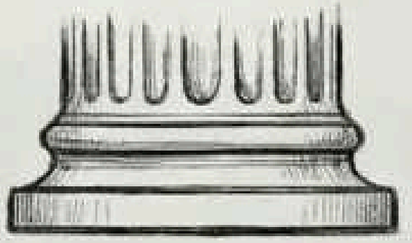
Colonial empires ended; dozens of new independent states emerged across Asia and Africa.





3. Soviet Collapse

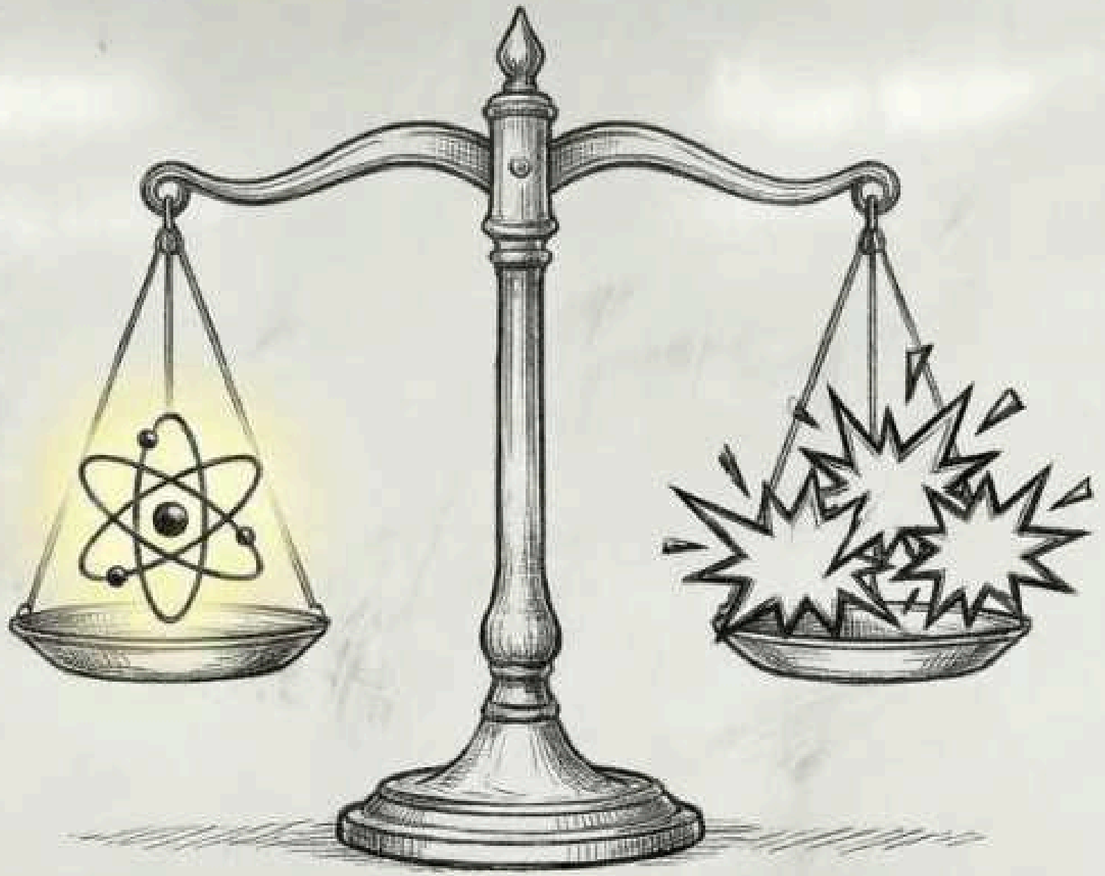
1991 brings the dissolution of Soviet communism and the end of the Cold War.



A Question to Take Away

¶5.20

The Peace:
Nuclear weapons prevented great powers from fighting each other.

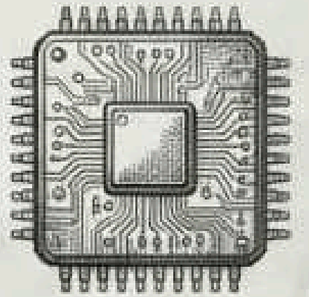


The Price:
Proxy wars raged globally, and 1962 almost brought disaster.

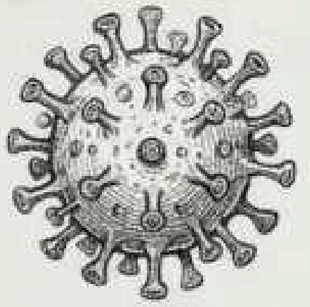
Did deterrence bring safety, or did it simply move the danger somewhere else?

Next Time: Our Own Era

¶ 5.21







Globalization, the Rise of China, the Digital Revolution, Climate Change, and the Pandemic.

Stepping back — How do historians think?