

The Cold War

- Conflict between the USA and USSR between 1945-1947: USSR occupied many eastern European countries.

- The Eastern Bloc emerged: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, East Germany, and Hungary.

- By 1948, these were communist governments.

- “Iron Curtain”: division between free and Communist societies in Europe.

- Marshall Plan (1947): program of loans that were designed to aid Western nations rebuilding from WWII’s devastation and help to prevent Communist expansion into those regions.

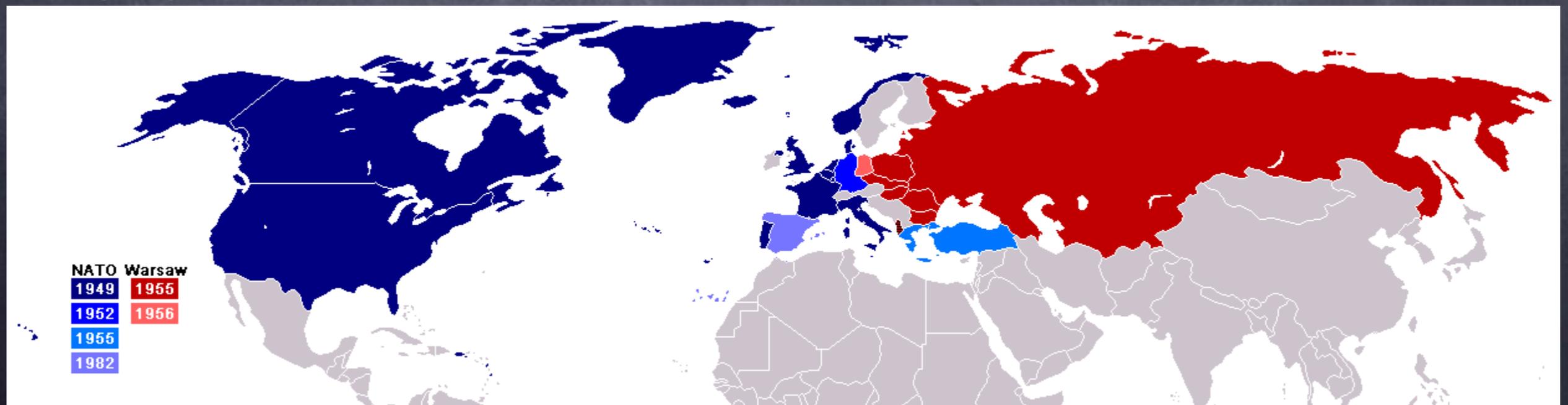
- After WWII, Germany divided into 4 zones; occupied by US, Britain, France and USSR.

- 1946: Merging of US, British, and French zones built a unified West Germany (federal republic)



NATO vs. Warsaw Pact

- 1947: USSR blockaded Western attempts to stabilize the German currency; USSR tried to occupy Berlin.
 - For 11 months, US and Britain undergo massive airlifts to keep the city supplied.
- 1949: NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) created as defense alliance against possible Soviet aggression.
- 1955: USSR established the Warsaw Pact with its eastern European satellite countries and created a new communist empire.
- Post-1949: USSR and US began stock-piling nuclear weapons.
 - USSR never engaged in direct warfare but maintained a high level of preparedness.



Soviet Union as Superpower

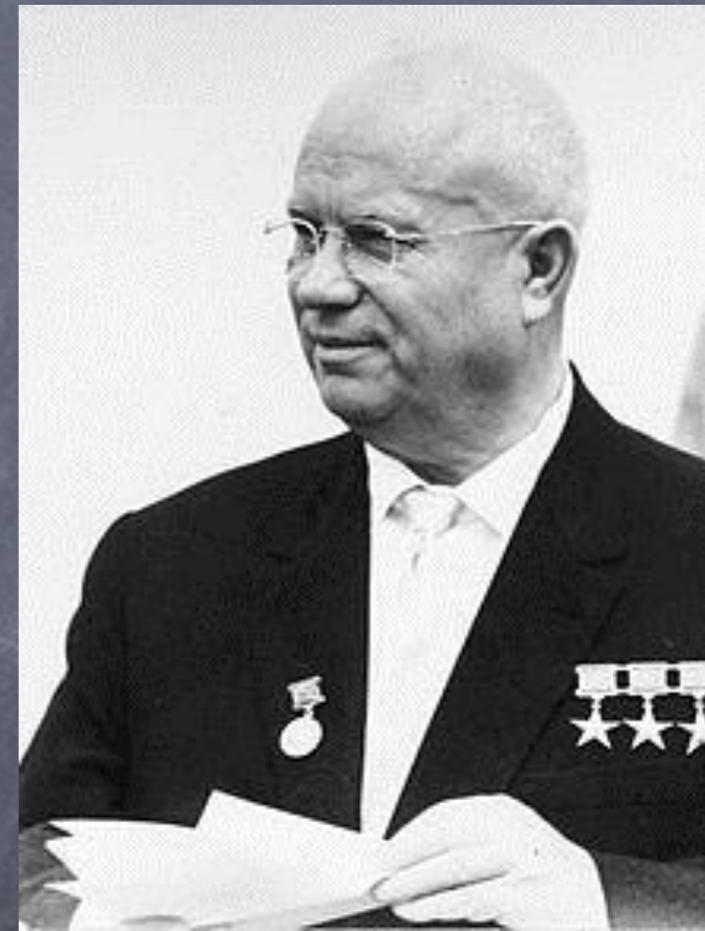
- The Soviet Union was able to build its status as a world power from 1945-1970s by:
 1. Pushing westward and regaining much of its tsarist-era territory through the Eastern Bloc
 2. Concentrating on heavy industry and weapons development (esp. for brinkmanship tensions)
 - a) Development of hydrogen and atomic bombs
 3. Aiding other Communists
 - a) establishing a protectorate over communist North Korea
 - b) aiding the Communist party in China

Quick Review Question

1. What does the term “Iron Curtain” indicate about US-USSR relations?
2. What is the Marshall Plan?
3. What is the USSR version of NATO?

Khrushchev (1956-1964)

- 1953: After Stalin's death, a ruling committee continued Stalin's policies until Nikita Khrushchev rose to power in the USSR.
- De-Stalinization: easing up on Stalin's policies and the creation of a more tolerant political climate in the USSR.
 - Little concrete institutional reform occurred, but regime becomes slightly less extreme and strict.
- 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis
 - USSR installed missiles in Cuba to taunt the United States.
 - Tension between US (Kennedy) and USSR
 - Brinkmanship: being on the edge of war without engaging in battle to force opponent to back down
- Space Race: Sputnik, first space satellite, was sent into space in 1957 by USSR.
 - 1969: US lands astronauts on moon



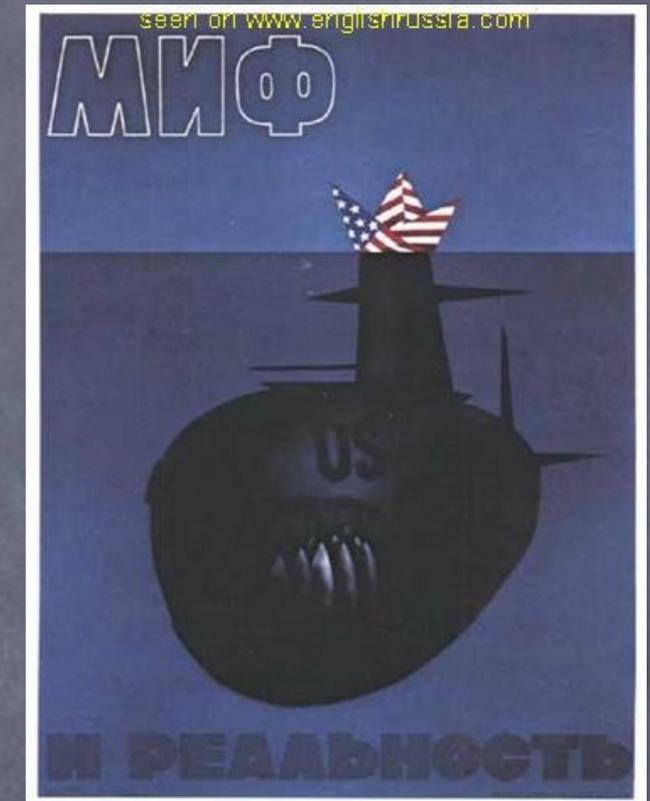
The Soviet Empire in Eastern Europe and Korea

- 1961: The Soviets built the Berlin Wall to halt the widespread exodus from East Berlin to West Berlin.
 - Nov. 9, 1989: Berlin Wall brought down
- 1968: Prague Spring (Czechoslovakia stands up to USSR; USSR invades)
 - Brezhnev Doctrine: SU can invade in any socialist country when there is a need
- Soviet control over Eastern Europe loosened over the years, but the USSR still maintained considerable influence over Europe.
- Korean War (1950-1953)
 - North Koreans invade South Korea
 - North backed by USSR and Communist China
 - South backed by US and UN
 - War ends; boundaries kept essentially along original line (38th parallel)



USSR's Policies and Culture

- The USSR encouraged nationalism and communist loyalty against the evil and distorted US.
- Remained isolated in terms of access to media, travel
- USSR criticized religion and Russian Orthodox Church as mythical and preposterous.
- Great emphasis on sciences; Western art and literature criticized.
- Consumerism was not seen in the USSR like it was in the West.
- The USSR rebuilt following World War II and maintained strong government authority.
- The bureaucracy expanded in terms of education, welfare and police operations.
- The communist system did not resolve problems with agriculture.
- Welfare services for sick and aged
- Industrialization: heavy factory goods > consumer goods

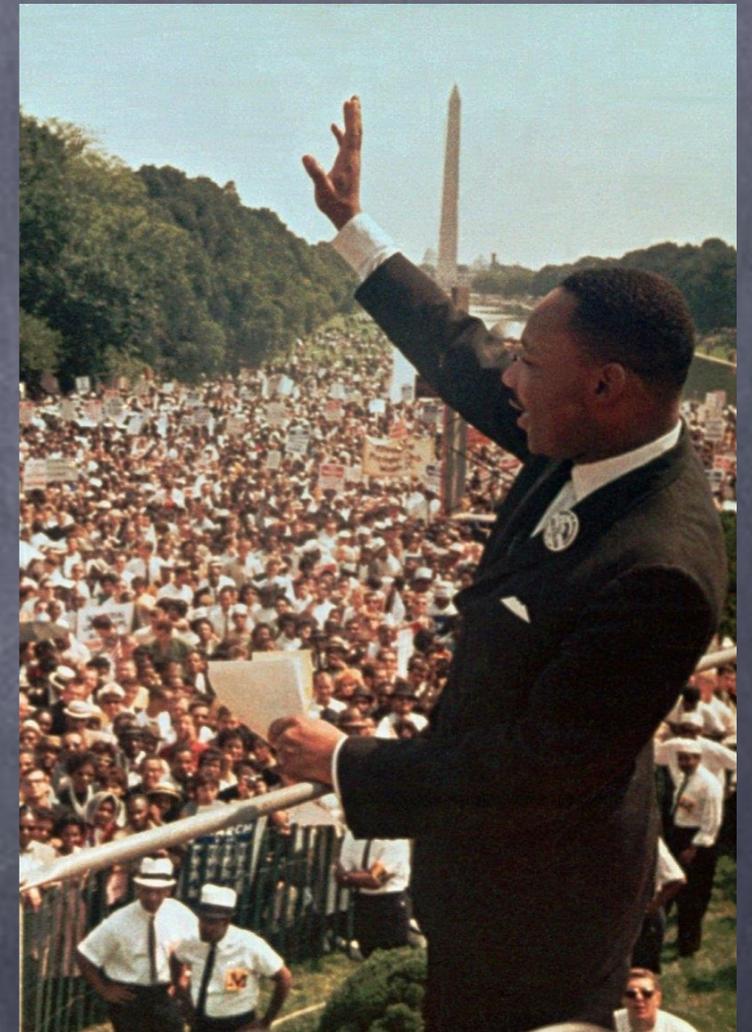


Quick Review Question

1. Describe De-Stalinization.
2. How was the Korean War an extension of the Cold War?

Liberalism in the 1960s and 1970s

- WWII showed failures of fascist movements
→ increase in democratic interests and social reforms
 - Italy established a constitutional democracy.
- Western Europe saw a movement toward welfare states by 1948 (incredibly expensive; rely on taxes)
- 1975: Helsinki Accords (attempt to improve relations between Eastern Bloc and the West)
- U.S. civil rights movements in the 1960's.
 - Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcom X, Black Power
- Green Movements (1970s): a rise in environmental issues and initiatives to lead to increased agricultural production.



The “U.S. Century”

- The US became the world’s leading defender of democratic and capitalistic values.
 - Red Scare: period of intense concern for communist conspiracies.
- Truman Doctrine (1947): provide military and financial aid to Greece and Turkey to prevent them from falling into Soviet Sphere
 - Domino Theory: if one country becomes communist, others will follow
 - Policy of containment
 - 1) arrange alliances with countries that surrounded the USSR to prevent the spread of Communism
 - 2) Stage military overthrows/coups
- US military spending increased dramatically.
- Vietnam War (1956-1975)
 - US began bombing communist North Vietnam.
 - Domestic pressure mounted esp. on college campuses
 - US withdrew in 1975 and all of Vietnam was communist.



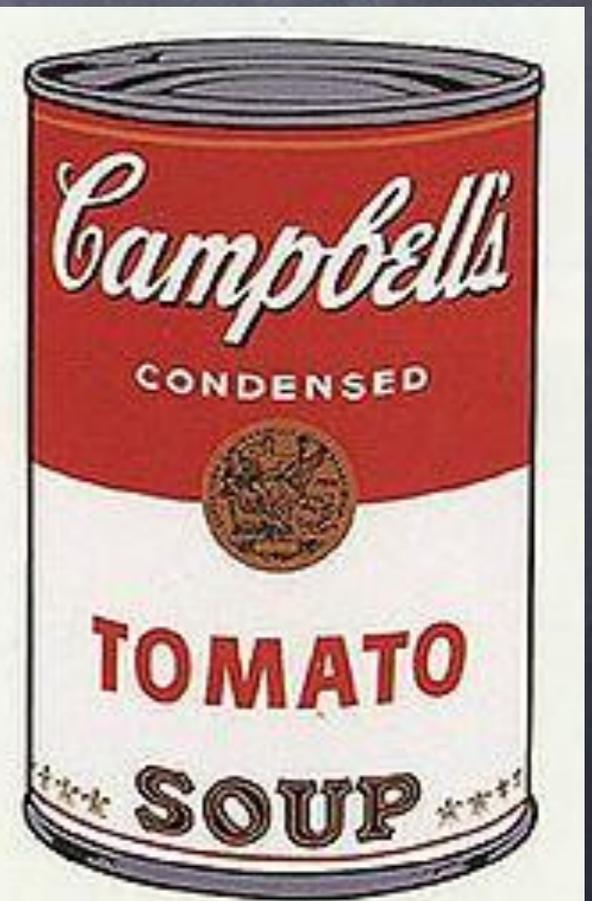
Second-Wave Feminism (1960s-1980s)

- 1950s: number of working women increased
- Family rights increased (access to divorce, abortion laws, birth control, day care).
 - Birth rates declined steadily after the 1960s with accessible birth control.
- 1966: National Organization for Women (NOW) introduced to advocate for women's rights
- 1970's: women had 44% of total jobs in Western countries; divorce increases as family roles adjusted to women working
- 1970s: Second-wave feminism emerged; emphasized equality between men and women; downplayed domestic roles; advocated for women's sexual/reproductive rights (Roe v. Wade, protects abortion rights)



Western Pop Culture

- Abstract Expressionism: spontaneous, subconscious art-making
- “Pop” artists bridged the gap between art and mass culture (Andy Warhol).
- Early 1950s: “Crooners” (Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Judy Garland)
- Mid-1950s: Rock-n-Roll (Elvis Presley)
- 1960s: Folk music; Woodstock Festival; hippies
- In Europe, “Coca-Cola-nization” was seen (interest in American pop culture)
 - US soft drinks, blue jeans, chewing gum, TV, and Hollywood film became increasingly common.
- European pop culture had its own power in the US: the most celebrated figures of the 1960’s were The Beatles.



Quick Review Question

1. What did the Truman Doctrine promise to do for the European community?
2. What was the relationship between the Domino Theory and the policy of containment?
3. Describe the goals of second-wave feminism.

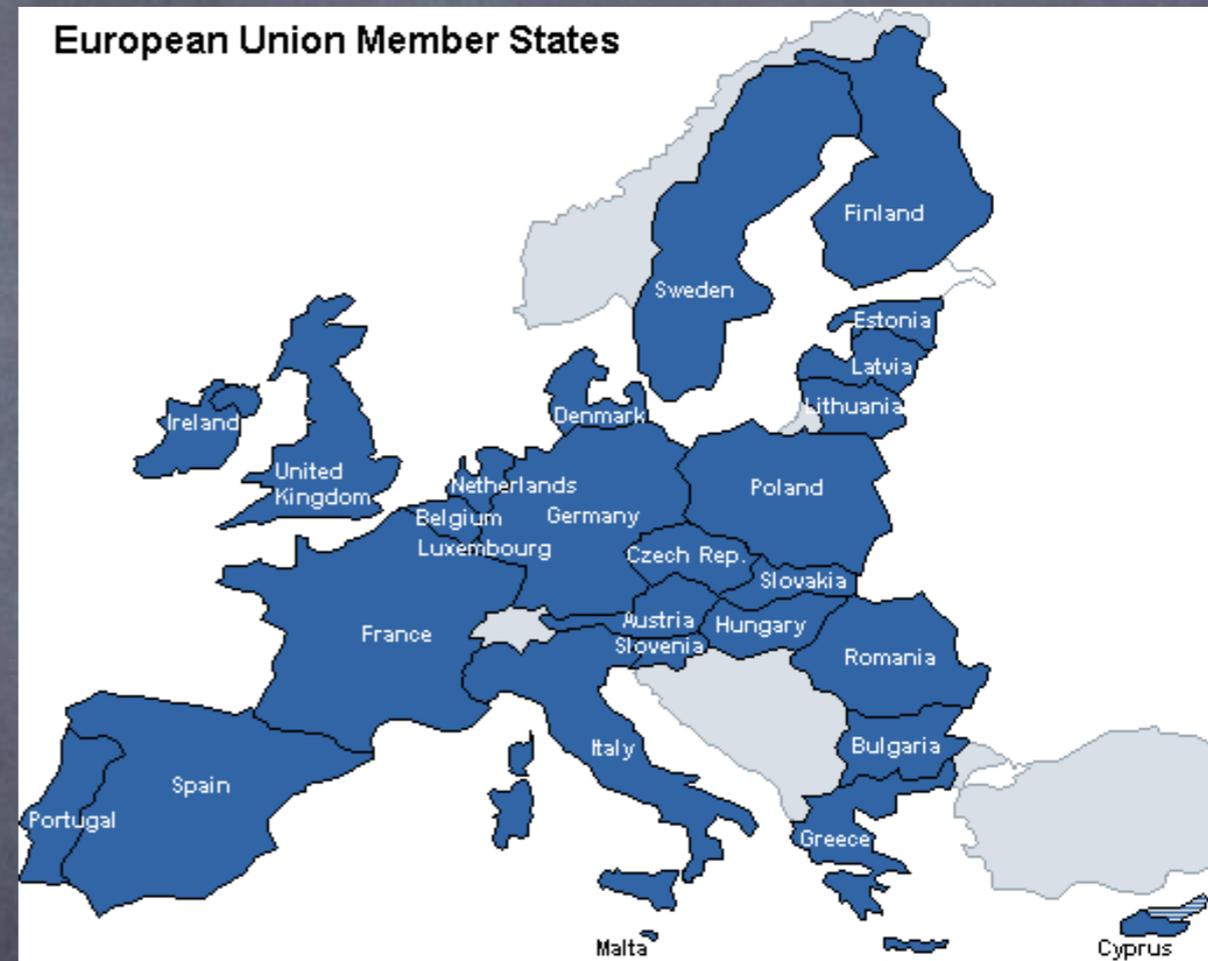
Reagan and Conservative Politics

- Western nations saw economic recessions in the 1970s, causing interest in conservative parties and leaders in the 1980s (Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher).
- 1981-1989: Reagan, US President, sponsored a number of expansive weapons systems and bolstered military spending.
 - Criticized welfare programs
 - Economic growth increased
- The economy of the USSR, attempting to keep pace with the weapons-production of the US, almost collapsed.
- By the early 1990's, the Cold War was virtually over and the US was "the world's only superpower."



European Union (1993 – present)

- 1958: West Ger, Fr, It, Bel, Lux, and Neth) formed European Economic Community (EEC)
- 1993: called European Union (28 member states).
 - 1) foster economic cooperation
 - 2001: the Euro, a single currency for all EU members, was established (not all use).
 - 2) end frequent and bloody wars between neighbors
 - 3) Abolition of border controls between EU countries
 - 4) promote human rights both internally and around the world.
- Attempt to unify Europe (keep own sovereignty, but provides political and economic unity)



Western Economic and Technological Expansion

- Economies in Western Europe expanded in the 1950's.
- Europe saw an influx in immigrant labor from Africa, the Middle East and Asia.
- Ownership of standard consumer goods, like televisions, refrigerators, and cars, expanded widely.
- New seeds increased agricultural yields
- 1950s: Discovery of DNA by British scientists Francis Crick and James Watson → interest in genetics; x-rays, ultrasound, immunizations
- Economic inequality was seen in the 1990's as many immigrants experienced discrimination and low wage employment.



Quick Review Question

1. After the wave of 1970s liberalism, the United States and Great Britain shifted to what kind of political period?
2. What were the goals of the European Union?