

Cold War

Day 1

The Iron Curtain

Europe
1946



"Iron Curtain" was coined by
Winston Churchill

imaginary line dividing communist
and non-communist countries



IRON CURTAIN

End of WWII

- At the end of World War II, the Allies freed all of the Western European countries that had been conquered by Germany.
- The Allies also gave the nations money to rebuild and helped them form democratic governments before returning to their own countries.

Eastern Europe

- Things were different in Eastern Europe because the Soviets did not leave the countries that they freed.
- The Soviet Union continued to occupy and set up Communist governments in many Eastern European nations.
- Western Europe and America were alarmed by the Soviet advances in Eastern Europe.
- Many believed that the Communists were trying to take over the world!



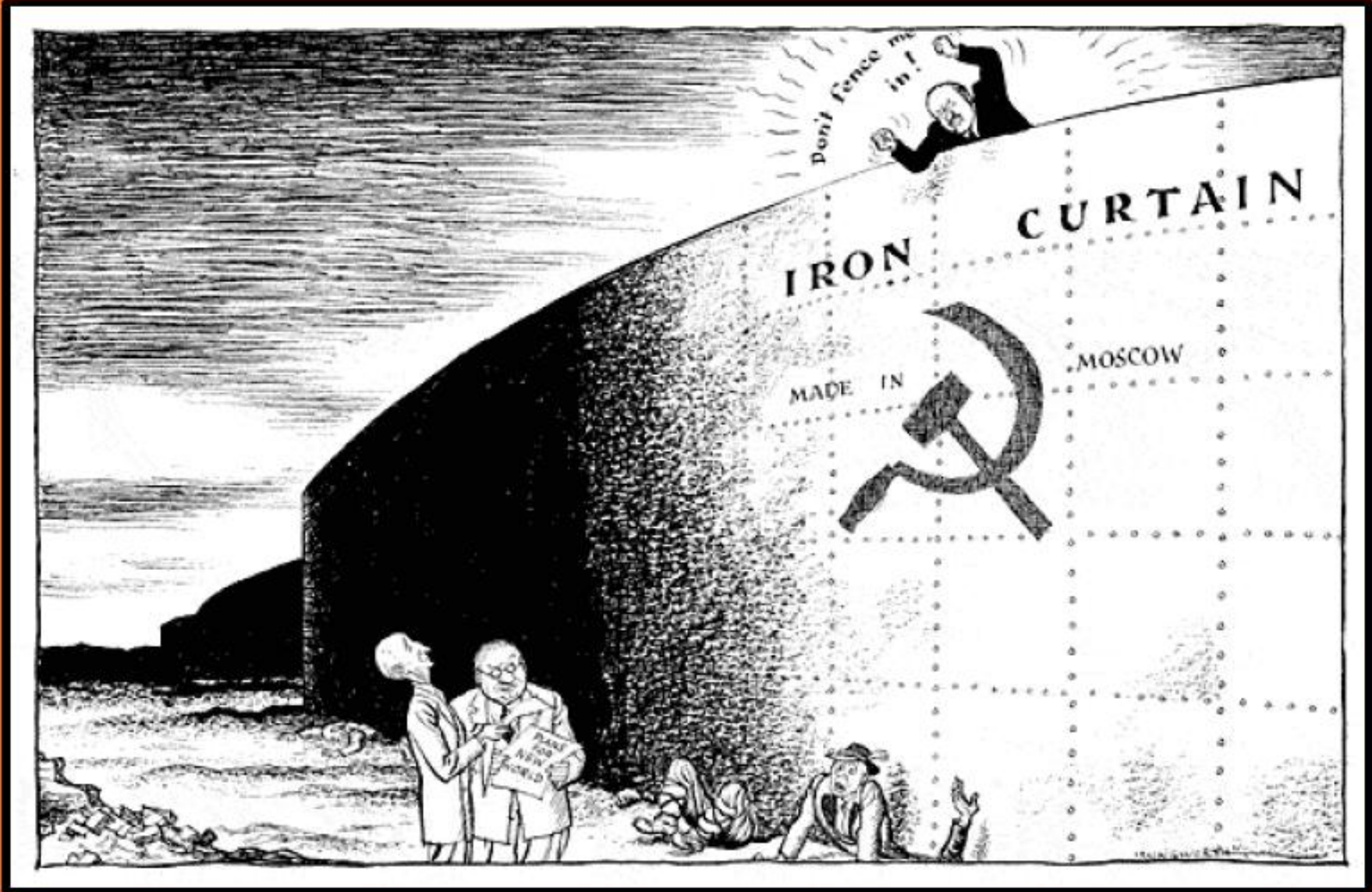
Iron Curtain

- In March 1946, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill warned that an **Iron Curtain** of Soviet totalitarianism had fallen across Europe.
- Churchill meant that a dividing line now existed between the democratic countries in Western Europe and the Communist countries in Eastern Europe.
- The term “iron curtain” was a symbol that represented the tensions between Communist and democratic countries in Europe.



"From Stettin in the Balkans, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lies the ancient capitals of Central and Eastern Europe."

~Sir Winston Churchill, 1946



Eastern Bloc

- The Soviets managed to set up communist governments throughout Eastern Europe.
- The government outlawed political parties or newspapers that opposed the communists.
- The Soviets jailed or killed some political opponents.
- They also rigged elections to ensure the success of communists.

THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM, 1945-1949

Communist countries



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Notice the pattern of Communist nations in Europe.

Place Look at the chart at right. Why do you think the Communist takeover of China worried the United States?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20



Constructed Response

What was the “iron curtain” & how did it impact the mood of Europe after WWII?

Restate the question

Answer the question

Cite evidence from your notes

Explain what the evidence means

Re-read your response for errors

Summarize the response with a concluding sentence