

THE COLD WAR BEGINS

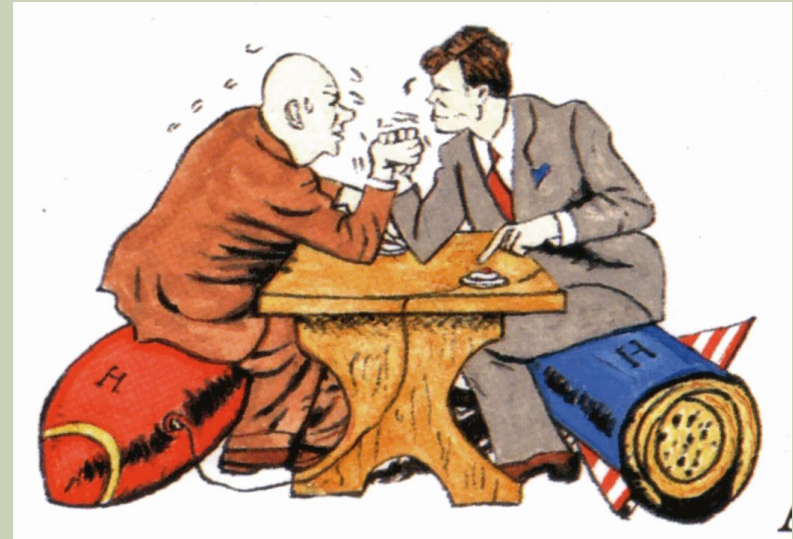
April 28th

CRASH COURSE: COLD WAR



THE BASIC FACTS

- Historians can't always agree on the dates of the Cold War. The dates in the textbook are 1945-1989.
- A cold war refers to unfriendly relations between nations using alternative methods (for example espionage) to fight undeclared battles.
- While it was mostly cold, there were a few hot spots that occurred. However, they were not fought on the land of either of the main superpowers.



THE BEGINNING

- When World War Two ended, tensions between the USA and the USSR surfaced.
- A main issue was the difference in their political and economic systems.
- The USSR was communist.
- The United States and most Western countries were capitalist.
- Western countries were suspicious of communism because they were scared that communists planned to overthrow Western societies.
- The USSR on the other hand was suspicious that the Western countries were planning on invading Soviet Territory through Europe.

CONTINUED

- The USSR had taken over the countries of Eastern Europe post World War Two, and made them communist.
- So rather than peace, hostility and tension in between the USSR and USA followed in the post war period.
- But it wasn't a hot conflict, it was a Cold War.
- Both sides were building up giant stockpiles of weapons, including nuclear weapons.
- As Canadians, we aligned ourselves closely to the United States. However, we also tried to remain true to our goals and values.

AT HOME

- Igor Gouzenko was a clerk at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa in 1945.
- In September he went to the Ottawa Journal with documents proving that a Soviet spy ring had infiltrated and was operating within the Canadian government. No one believed him.
- So he went to the RCMP, Department of Justice and the prime minister with his pregnant wife and child in tow. No one believed him.
- But then Soviet agents broke into his apartment, he was finally believed and finally given protection.
- The Canadian government told British and American governments about the ring. In Feb 1946 some arrests were made.

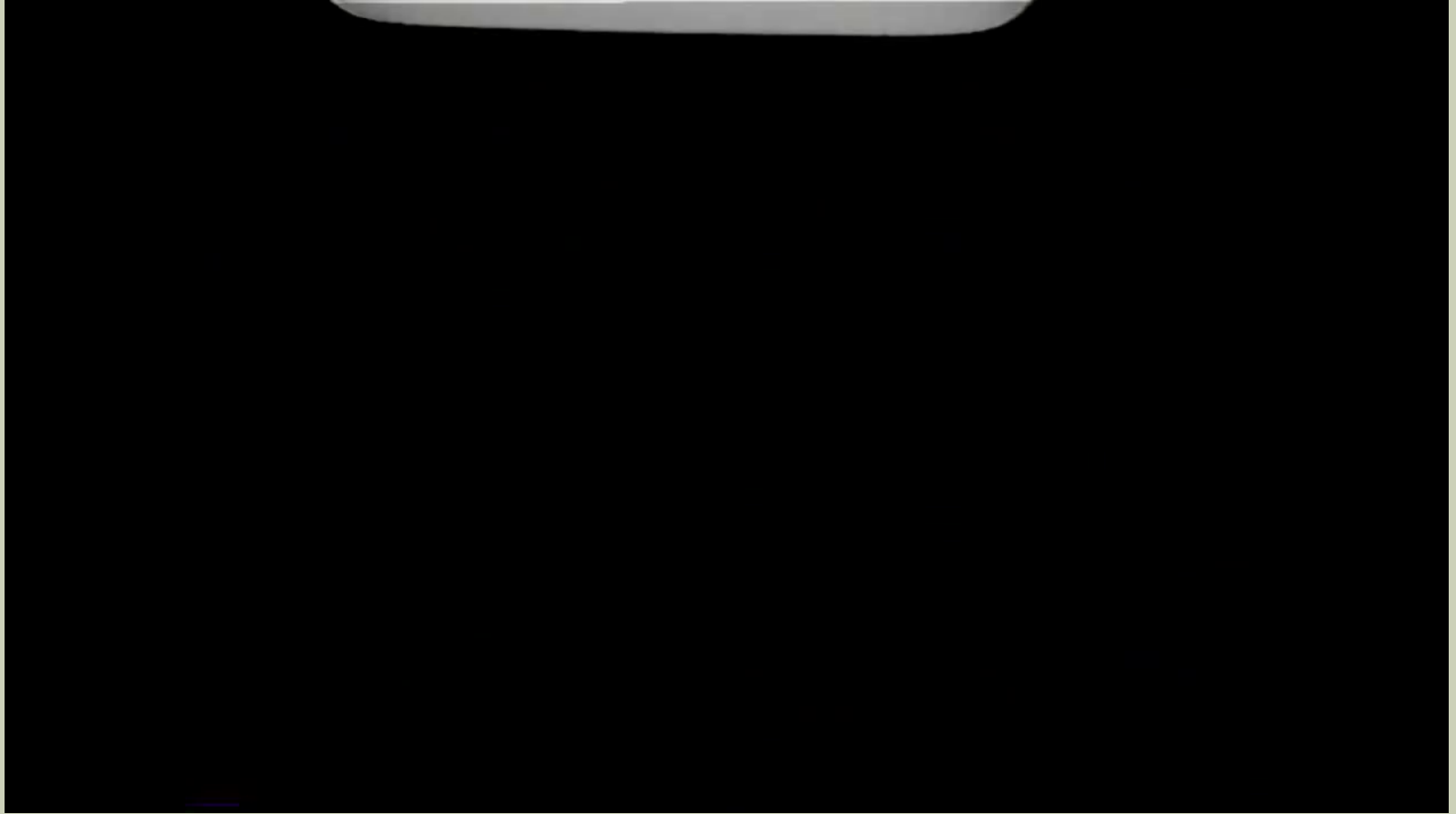
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- When the story hit the media, many Canadians were shocked.
- They feared, during the early years of the Cold War, that open war would end with nuclear bombs and missiles hitting Canada.
- The government developed civil defence plans to protect their citizens. They built shelters.
- If an attack happened there would be an alarm sounded. Schools ran duck and cover drills or to lie in ditches.

Igor Gouzenko →



DUCK AND COVER



ALLIANCES

- In the opinion of PM St. Laurent, Canada was a middle power. He also saw that though we were close in our relations with Britain and the US, we would act independently.
- In 1949, Canada joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It was a military alliance with the US, Britain and other Western European nations.
- As the most powerful member, NATO often catered to American policy before others.
- When NATO added West Germany, the USSR began the Warsaw Pact, which was a military alliance between Eastern communist countries.
- This left the northern hemisphere divided into two hostile camps. Armies practiced and weapon arsenals grew.

WHAT DID NATO MEAN FOR CANADA?

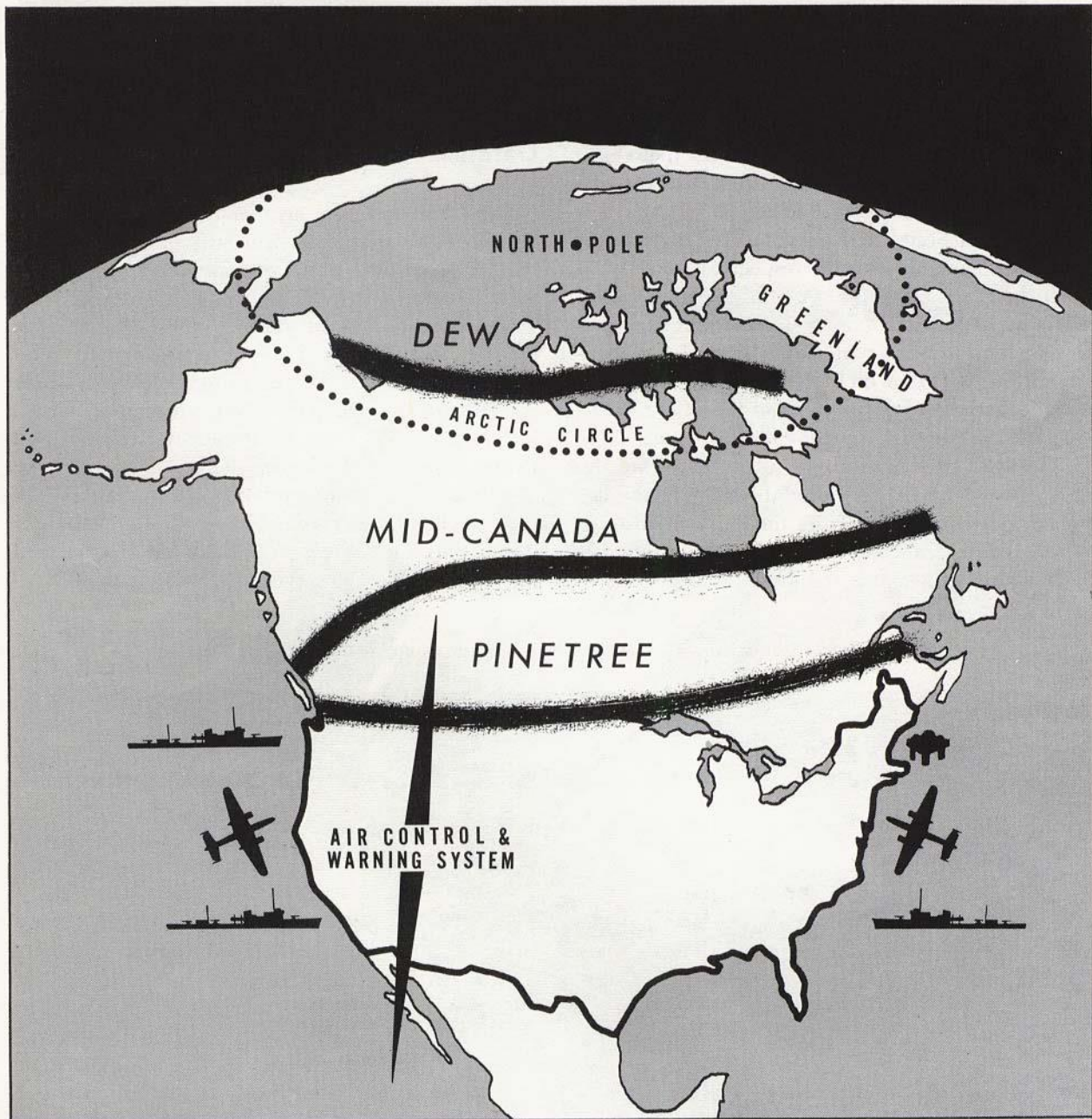
- Keeping a full army brigade and several air squadrons in Europe.
- Build and supply overseas military bases.
- Tracking Soviet submarines.
- Participating in military exercises with Canada's allies.
- Adapt defence policies to match allies.



US Minister of Foreign Affairs signs the NATO treaty.

NORAD

- 1958: PM Diefenbaker signed an agreement with the US which committed Canada to the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD).
- Fighter forces, missile bases and air defence radar from both sides were controlled from a command station in the Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado. There was a Canadian command post (under joint control) in tunnels in North Bay, Ontario.
- At the start of the Cold War, it seemed that Europe would once again be the battlefield. But long range bombers made North America vulnerable.
- So the US built three lines of radar stations over Canada to warn them: the Pinetree Line, the Mid-Canada Line, and the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line.



CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY?

- It was the first time that US military personnel was stationed in Canada, which worried many Canadians.
- In order to even visit the DEW Line, Canadian government officials and journalists had to visit New York to get clearance.
- But some Canadians were not bothered by this, as it had been sold as the price of added security. However with the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles that could be armed with nuclear warheads the radar stations became less effective.
- Missiles launched from the USSR could reach North American cities within 30 minutes.