

4. When America Began to Change Into What It Is: World War I (1914-19)

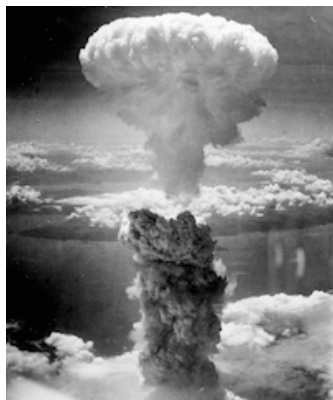
- a) In 1914, yet another great European war began.
- b) At first president Woodrow Wilson said the war was one “*with which we have nothing to do, whose causes cannot touch us.*”
- c) Following the Monroe Doctrine, the United States stayed neutral from 1914 to 1917.
- d) President Wilson was even re-elected on the slogan, “*He has kept us out of war.*”
- e) And yet America entered World War I in 1917.
- f) President Wilson explained that in his view, “*the world must be made safe for democracy.*” The United States is the country that it is today, because it first accepted this responsibility in World War I, and accepts this responsibility as normal today.



President Woodrow Wilson articulated a new basis for America's relationship to the world: the mission of making the world “safe for democracy.”

5. Saving The World A Second Time: World War II (1939-45)

- a) 117,000 Americans died in World War I.
- b) Americans were very upset and rejected Wilson's concept of making the world safe. They chose a new president, Warren Harding, who promised a “return to normalcy”—which meant a return to the “normal” policy of political separation.
- c) So when World War II arrived, the United States remained apart. It did not join World War II from 1939 to 1941.
- d) Then Japan launched a sneak attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, with the goal of crippling America's navy.
- e) The attack failed to achieve the desired outcome. United States entered the war and played the decisive role in defeating Japan and its ally Nazi Germany.

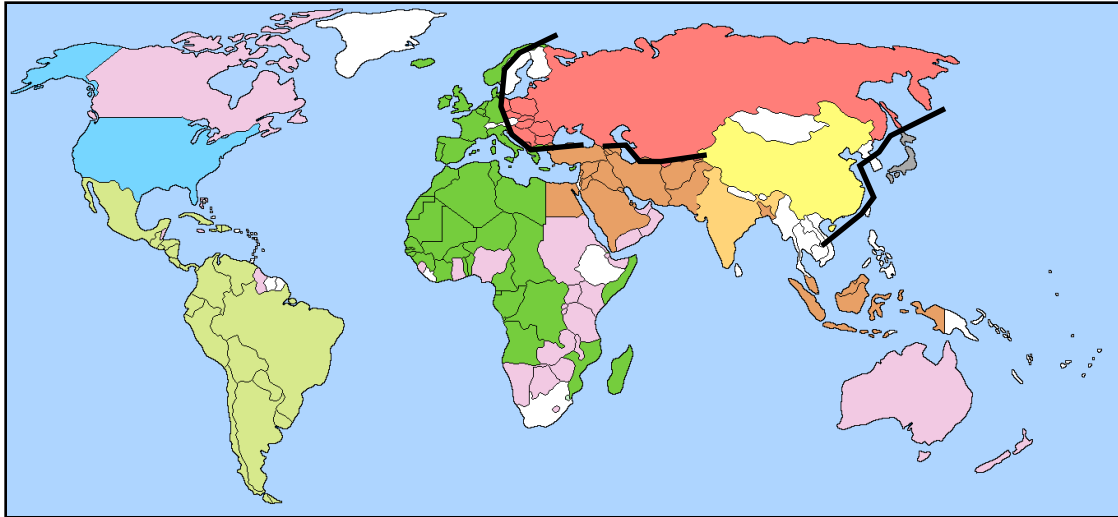


The explosion that destroyed Nagasaki is captured in this photograph. Atomic bombs are so powerful that a single bomb can destroy an entire city. The explosion produces a huge, characteristic “mushroom cloud” that extends far up into the atmosphere.

6. The World Police Power Emerges Once and For All: 1947

- a) After World War II, the United States found itself with a new enemy and its leader Harry Truman decided *police* the world.

- b) To fight Japan and its ally Nazi Germany, the United States had made an alliance with Russia. Russia had a form of government called “*communism*,” where individuals have no right to the “pursuit of happiness.”
- c) The United States had liberated western Europe; but instead of liberating eastern Europe, Russia conquered it and forced its people to accept communist governments.
- g) President Harry Truman decided that America’s military would begin a new mission: to police the world to stop communism.



This map of the major cultural blocks of the world at the end of World War II, shows the new reality in Europe at the time of Truman Doctrine (1947). The countries of eastern Europe are shown in red, because they became a part of a Russian communist cultural block. (This includes the country that was temporarily known as “East Germany.”) Neutral countries in Europe are shown in white. The three thick black lines represent the three segments of a cordon erected to contain communism. The United States intended to protect 1) Western Europe, 2) the Far East, and 3) the Middle East.

7. The Final Peace of the Puzzle

- a) TWWLi is one in which the United States no longer has to police the planet to stop communism. Russia has abandoned that form of government, and although China is a partly communist country, it does not seek to impose communism elsewhere. The main threat to world peace today is the threat of Islamic terrorism.
- b) The transition from policing the world to stop the spread of communism to policing the world against terrorism occurred because the United States became entangled in the politics of the Islamic Middle East (the region between Africa and Asia) after 1947.
- c) America wished to prevent the spread of communism there, and it also wished to protect the democracy of Israel and secured access to the oil of the region.
- d) As the world police power, America controls much of what happens in the Islamic Middle East. Some people do appreciate America’s actions, while others disagree and protest. The key to modern history is the revival of “jihad” (holy war) by those who hate the idea of the world being run by America instead of Islamic culture.