At the end of the war, Austria and Germany had been divided into 4 military occupation zones, each assigned to one of the Big Four powers (France, Britain, America, and the USSR). The iron curtain, an impenetrable barrier to communication or information especially as imposed by rigid censorship and secrecy aka eastern germany taken over by soviet russia. The NATO pact marked a dramatic departure from American diplomatic convention, a gigantic boost for European unification, and a significant step in the militarization of the Cold War. MacArthur-dictated constitution. 1946 - renounced militarism and introduced western-style democratic government in Japan. Mao Zedong. Leader of the Chinese Communist Party (1927-1976). Postwar Challenges a. The Cold War Erupts b. The United Nations c. Containment and the Marshall Plan d. The Berlin Airlift and NATO e. The Korean War f. Domestic Challenges 53. The 1950s: Happy Days a. McCarthyism b. Suburban Growth c. Land of Television d. America Rocks and Rolls e. The Cold War Continues f. Voices against Conformity 54. When Mikhail Gorbachev assumed the reins of power in the Soviet Union in 1985, no one predicted the revolution he would bring. A dedicated reformer, Gorbachev introduced the policies of glasnost and perestroika to the USSR. No serious discourse on any diplomatic levels in the USSR addressed the likelihood of a Soviet collapse. Republicans were quick to claim credit for winning the Cold War. Even before the end of the Second World War, the Soviet Union had gradually extended her influence in Europe. As the war was drawing to a close in May 1945, the Soviet Union quickly solidified her control of Eastern Europe. The Red Army began by influencing the post-war elections. Although the non-communists could still gain some votes, most of the votes went to the communists as the elections were neither free nor fair. Many politicians in the United States had high hopes of America working with the Soviet Union after the war and did not advocate strong resistance against Russian expansion, b... This ensued even after the war ended as various historians argued their different points of view. Russian View. Most accounts concentrate on the role of the United States and look at these events through the bipolar prism of Soviet-American relations. His research field is French foreign and security policy, transatlantic relations and Cold War history. …more. Get A Copy. Amazon.