* They divided Germany into 4 zones of occupation: France, Russia, United States, and Great Britain.
* Stalin promised to have free elections in the countries taken over by the Red Army (communists) in its drive through Europe. This promise was not kept.

The Cold War

* Began in 1945
* A period of distrust between the Soviet Union and its former allies (particularly the U.S.).
* The Soviet Union was a communist country that believed a powerful central government should control the economy as well as the government.
* The U.S. believed that business should be privately owned.
* After WWII, Joseph Stalin (Soviet dictator) placed most of the Eastern European countries under communist control. These countries were known as the Eastern Bloc.
* The U.S. led the Western Bloc countries of Western Europe. The line that separated them was the “Iron Curtain”.
* After WWII, Germany was separated into 4 sections to keep it from regaining power. The U.S., Great Britain, France, and Soviet Union each controlled a section.
* In 1948, the U.S., France, and Great Britain wanted to reunite Germany. The Soviet Union refused and called their section East Germany. The other sections were united and called West Germany.
* Berlin was divided into East Berlin and West Berlin. In 1961, communist leader built the Berlin Wall to separate the communist section from the free sections.
* The Soviet Union used military force to keep its “satellite” countries under their control.
* Because each side of the cold war felt the other was trying to take over the world, tensions were high. Many people worried a nuclear war would break out.

Alliances were formed by countries to protect themselves. In 1949, the U.S., Canada, and the western European countries form NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). The Eastern Bloc formed the Warsaw Pact.

**Operation Overlord**

* Operation Overlord was the code name for the cross-channel invasion of France. This was the largest amphibious (land to sea) operation in history.
* June 6, 1944- the invasion of Normandy (D-Day). Paratroopers dropped behind enemy lines the night before the invasion. By nightfall, the beaches were taken.
* August 25, 1944- Paris was liberated.
* September 15, 1944- the second invasion of southern France.
* September, 1944- allied forces had reached the Rhine River.

Review Questions

1. What was Normandy called?
2. When was Paris liberated?
3. When was the second invasion of France?

**The Battle of the Bulge**

* In December, 1944, Hitler made one last desperate attempt to stop allied advances in Belgium.
* This battle occurred at Bastogne, Belgium and the German forces were turned back. The allied forces then advanced on Berlin.

Important Dates:

* April 30, 1945- Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, commit suicide in an underground bunker.
* May 7, 1945- Germany surrenders
* May 8, 1945- VE day (Victory in Europe)

**Yalta Conference**:

* This was the second “big three” conference held on the Crimean peninsula called Yalta.
* The “big three” were Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin.
* They divided Germany into 4 zones of occupation: France, Russia, United States, and Great Britain.
* Stalin promised to have free elections in the countries taken over by the Red Army (communists) in its drive through Europe. This promise was not kept.