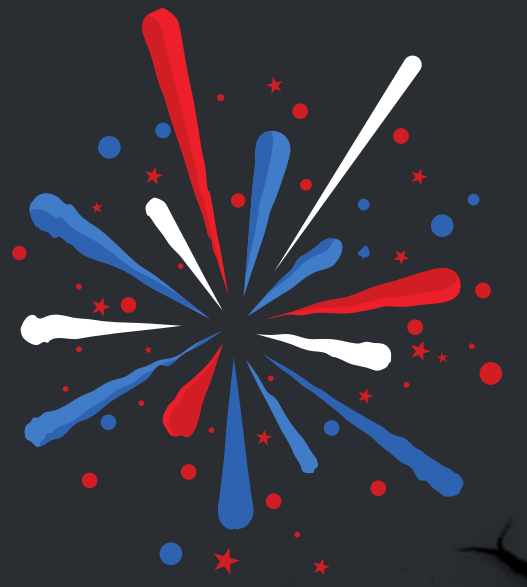




VOL. 2, ISSUE 4



COLD WAR

TWO APPEALING INTERVIEWS BY JONAS JIN

THE STORY FROM 1949 TO 2001 | JULY 11TH, 2023

Joseph Stalin vs. Harry S. Truman

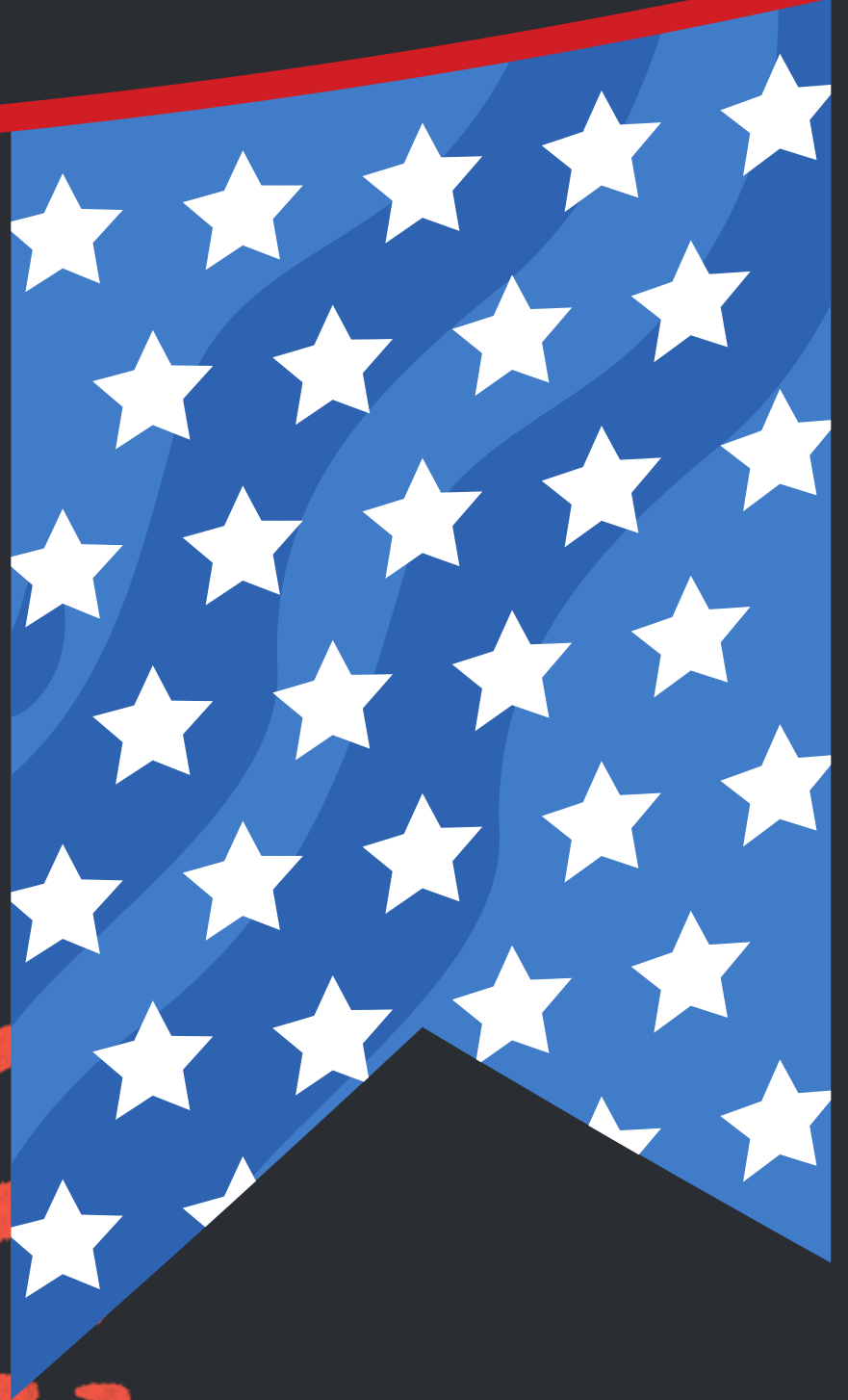
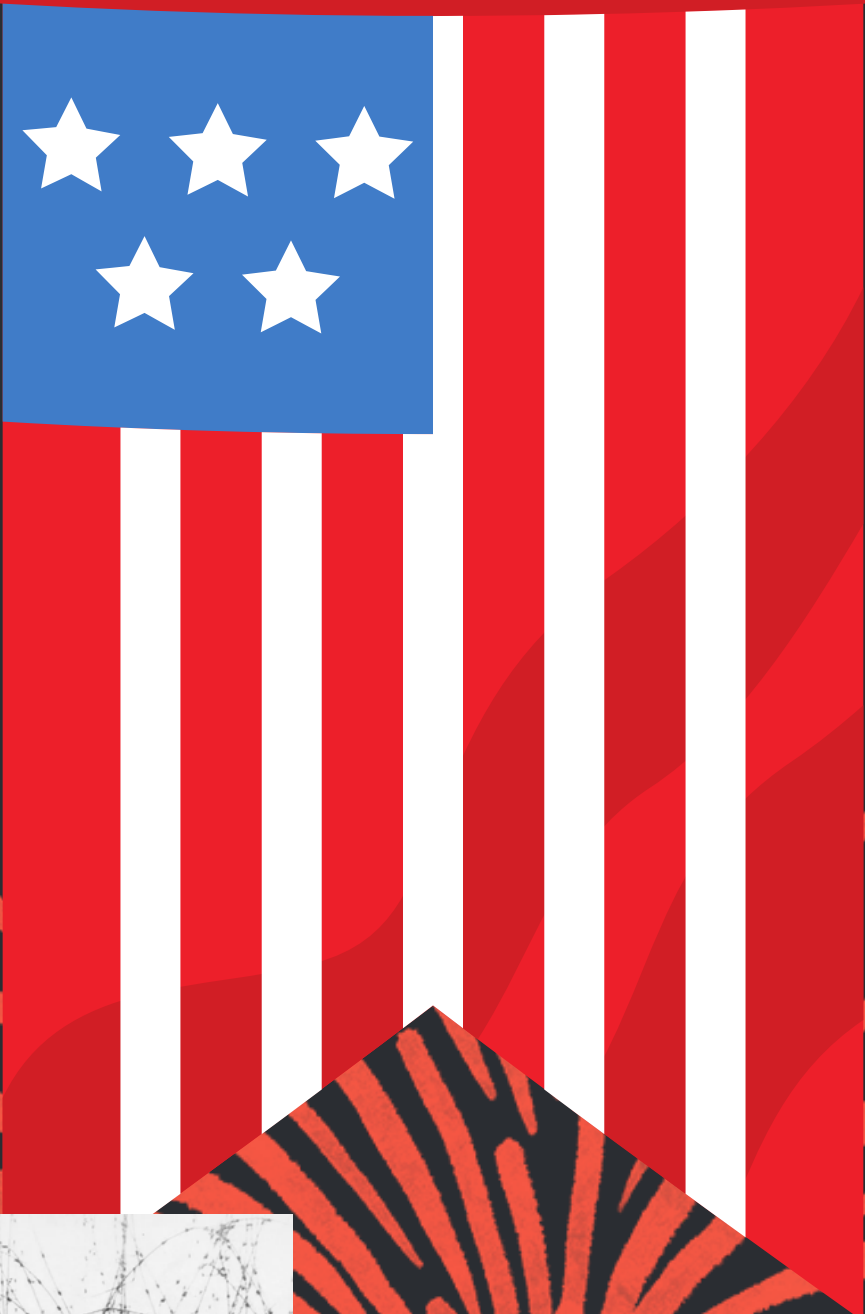


The Soviet Union vs. The United States



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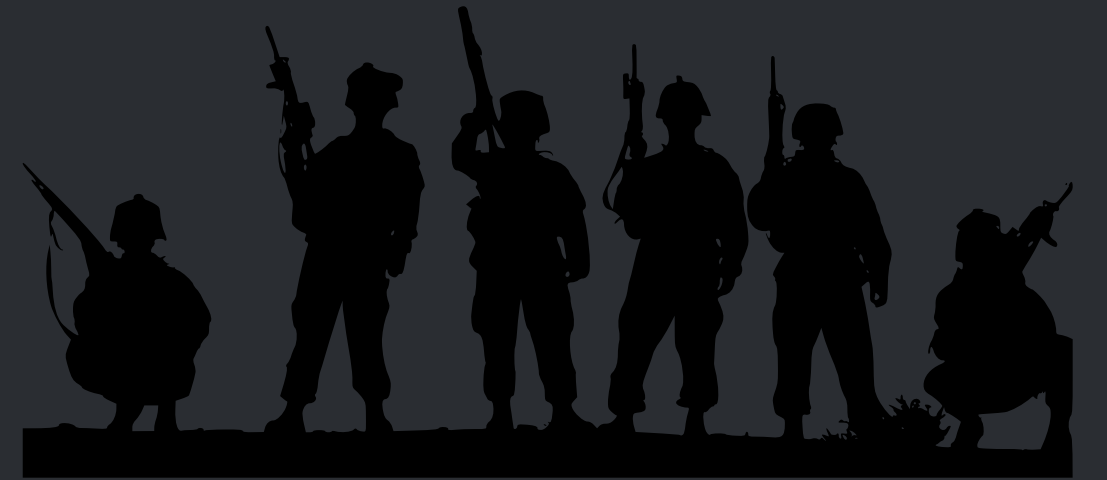
Jonas



Ms' Aguilera's comment to the war



"I was afraid to war."



Her name is Nancy Aguilera, she is 75 years old, and she is my neighbor. She lived through the Cold War and World War II and it had a big impact on the neighbor's family history. She knew that Russian troops would not leave East Germany when World War II ended, so they built the Berlin Wall to divide the country in half. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill therefore stated that "the Iron Curtain has descended on the entire European continent"! This was the beginning of the "Cold War" that lasted until 1987!

When she was a child, on June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan gave a speech at the Berlin Wall where he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall"! And, it was taken down! These are exciting times for Germany and the world. By the way, Reagan and Gorbachev became good friends and Gorbachev even visited Reagan's ranch in California!

My neighbor recounted in great detail what she knew about the Berlin Wall during the Cold War, when she begged not to start a war. This fit perfectly with what we had learned about the Berlin Wall in class, and she described her joy at hearing that the Soviet Union had opened the Wall.

She also remembers the Cuban Missile Crisis, when President John F. Kennedy prepared to go to war if the Russian Navy dared to come near the waters of Florida and Cuba. The Russians are retreating! Very emotional and scary for America! But the final result allowed her family to live a stable life, because a country without war is very reassuring, and it can be regarded as a positive point in her family history.



Life of Turner

During the War



"In the face of fear and uncertainty, let us be guided not by the divisions that separate us, but by the common humanity that unites us."

My name is Elizabeth Turner. Growing up during the Cold War, it was hard not to be aware of the intense geopolitical rivalry and ideological tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. The constant threat of nuclear war and the prevailing climate of doubt and fear shaped my understanding of the world. I learned about the arms race, space race, and proxy wars of that era. The news is filled with stories of political standoffs, espionage and ideological clashes. While I may not have understood the intricacies of diplomatic negotiations or intelligence operations in my youth, I was acutely aware that the world was divided into two opposing camps.

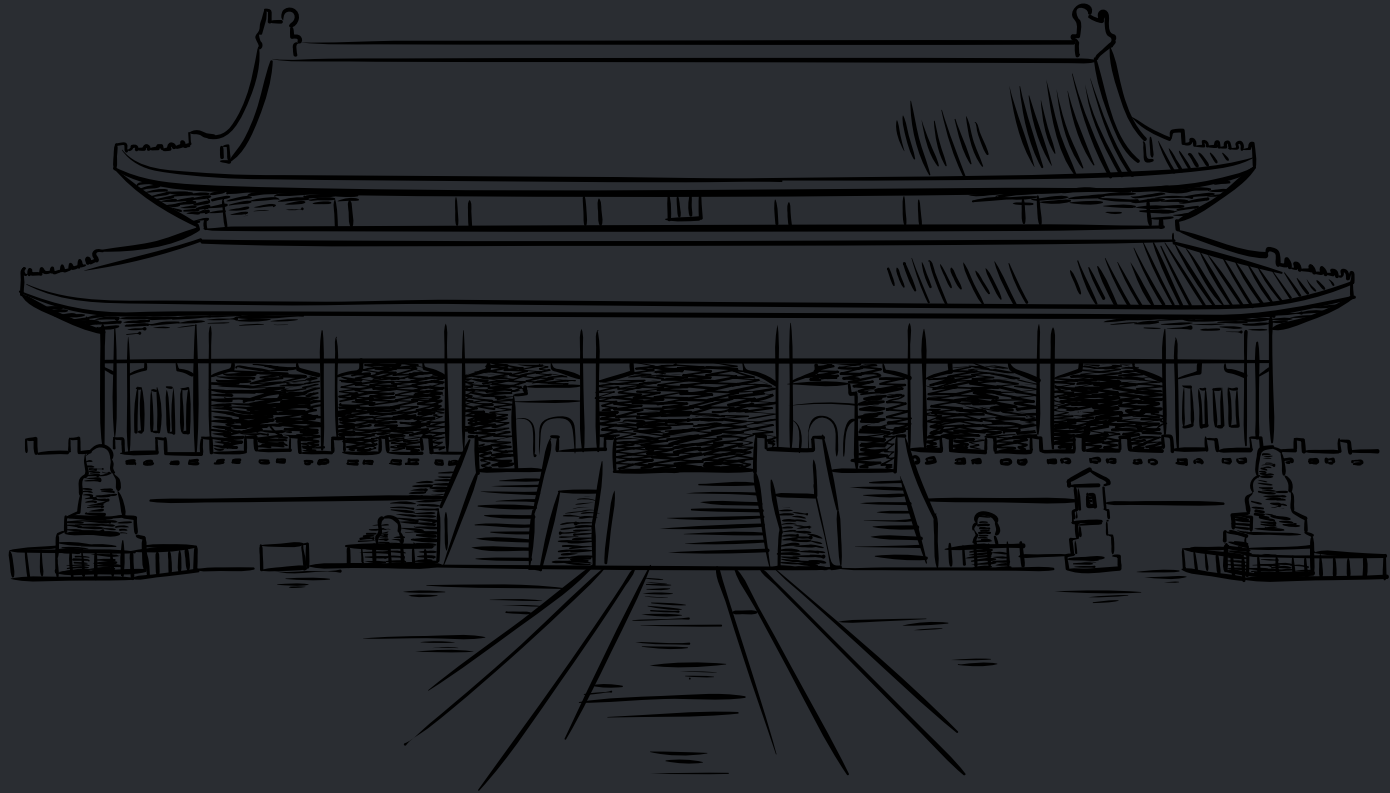
My upbringing during this period was filled with the specter of conflict and the need to remain vigilant. I remember during air raid drills at school, we practiced hiding under our desks, as if that would protect us from a nuclear blast. I remember the fear our community felt during the Cuban Missile Crisis, when nuclear war seemed imminent at any moment. These events instilled in me a sense of urgency and awareness of the fragility of peace. It also sparks curiosity about politics, international relations, and the importance of dialogue in preventing catastrophic conflict.

The Cold War had a major impact on my life and the lives of those around me. Ongoing tensions and the possibility of war shape our priorities and shape our choices. Advocating for peace and understanding was important to me growing up. I became involved in activism and peaceful protest movements, reaching out to others who shared the same concerns about the dangers of the Cold War. While it didn't require me to risk my life or overcome significant personal obstacles, it inspired me to take a stand, even in small ways, against the persistence of divisive rhetoric and the arms race.

The most far-reaching impact of this period was the realization that the fate of the world depended on the decisions of world leaders. Realizing that our lives could be forever changed by the actions of those in power is both daunting and empowering. It fosters a sense of responsibility and a desire to work towards a more peaceful and just world. The Cold War era taught me the importance of diplomacy, dialogue, and the pursuit of common ground, and those lessons have stayed with me my entire life.

In sum, my Cold War upbringing was marked by an awareness of global tensions, a fear of nuclear war, and a drive to advocate for peace. While I faced no major risks or obstacles personally, it affected my worldview, priorities, and responsibilities. The most far-reaching impact is the recognition that we all have a role to play in shaping the world, and that the pursuit of peace and understanding is essential to a better future.

THE FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE RISE OF CHINA



"We failed. White bandits and capitalists rode us again. If you want to follow that red star, go east. Across the Dnieper River, over the Ural Mountains, the end of the Siberian plain, where the stars still burn fire. (China)"

My father's name is Steven Jin, he was born in China in 1980. Growing up amidst the disintegration of the Soviet Union was a time of profound change and transformation. As a young child, he witnessed the dismantling of a political and ideological system that had shaped the world for decades. The collapse of the Soviet Union brought both hope and uncertainty, and it was a period of great introspection and reflection for our family.

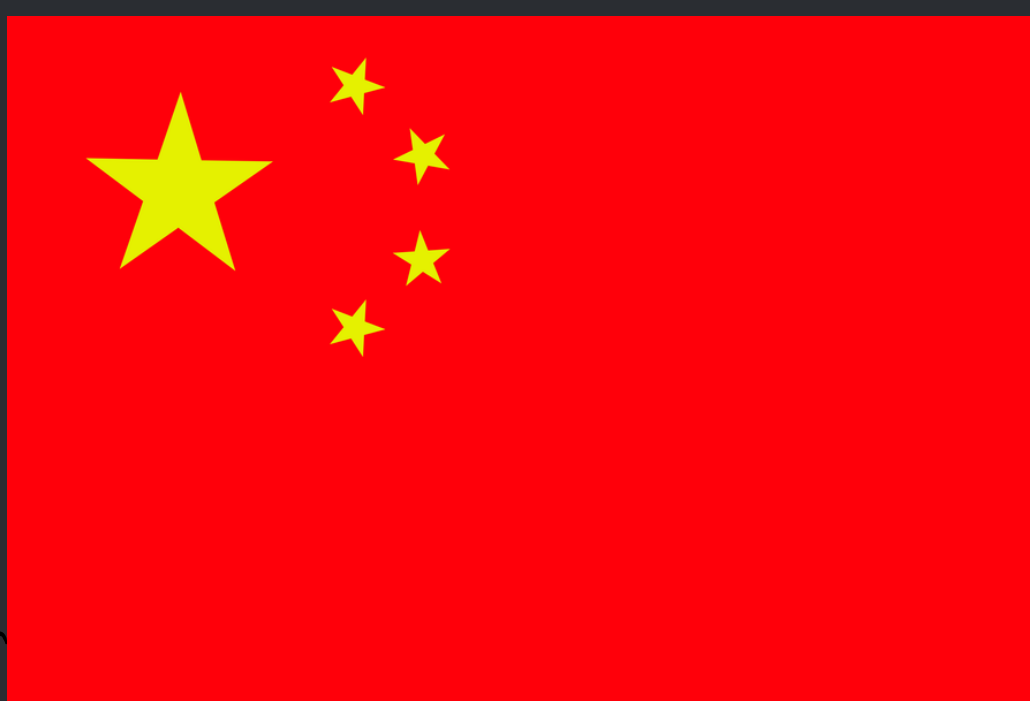


In relation to the material we learn in class, the disintegration of the Soviet Union resonates deeply. It represents a significant turning point in global history, marking the end of the Cold War and the emergence of a new world order. Exploring the disintegration of the Soviet Union allows us to analyze the causes and consequences of major historical shifts and reflect on the complexities of political and social change.



In his own words, growing up amidst the disintegration of the Soviet Union was a time of both excitement and uncertainty for our history family. The collapse of the Soviet Union brought about significant changes in his lives, as we faced economic challenges, job losses, and societal shifts. However, it also opened up new opportunities and freedoms, allowing us to embrace the possibilities of a new era.

The bear of the north has fallen, and the dragon of the east is awakening.



He guards the crumbling Russia, just like guarding his hometown that he can't go back to

What Have I Learned?



My first interviewee told me the story of her father and her uncle. They participated in World War II and other wars, but after returning from the war, they all showed obvious changes in personality. She thinks no one wants to remember the war, and neither do I. War is cruel to the common people, but it is the pursuit of their desires by those warlords and senior officials. But the common people don't care about the differences in the beliefs of friends at all. Everyone should have the freedom of their own beliefs. We should understand and tolerate each other instead of conquering each other. People yearn for peace and live together on the earth, we should cherish all resources instead of killing for hatred or lust. A harmonious society is the life that everyone longs for, rather than worrying about competing with others all day long.



SO...

CAPITALIZM OR COMMUNISM?



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