Planting the Flag

- Three elements of Post-WWII US Foreign policy
  - Structure
  - Strife
  - Stability
Structure

- The world is divided up into two systems
  - “irreconcilable differences”
- The Situation after World War II
  - Kennan Letter from “Mr. X”
  - Truman Doctrine: aid anti-communists (Greece, Korea, Latin America, Iran, Laos)
- John Foster Dulles --> containment
Structure II

- 1947 National Security Act
  - No tradition of peacetime military (well...)
  - Establishes the DoD, CIA

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
  - Bulwark of U.S. containment strategy
  - Resurrect Germany, Japan
Strife

- Cold War
  - Nuclear Stalemate
  - Proxy wars
  - Economic competition
  - “Soft power” strategies
Strife

• Parallels between Vietnam and Iraq
  • Grand strategy
  • Strategy
  • Tactics
• Differences
  • Iraq is “last war of Cold War”
Strife II

- Detente
  - Nixon’s grand strategy (Kissinger)
  - Defuse proxy wars (Middle East / Vietnam)
- Open up to Russia
- Open up to China
- Play each off against the other

Monday, July 9, 2012
Policy Ebb and Flow

• US policy in the Cold War is basically static
  • But varies by administration
    • Variation driven more by personality and circumstances than by partisanship
      • Reagan Doctrine = Truman Doctrine
      • Nixon more moderate than Kennedy
      • Carter Doctrine extends US into M. East
Stability

• Strategic Cold War “triangle”
  • USSR / US / China
  • Nixon (Kissinger) upsets the triangle
  • Sino-US rapprochement threatens USSR
    • Soviets consider more desperate options
      • War with the United States
      • Radical reduction of Cold War tensions
Stability

• End of the Cold War

• Economic (Command economy is inefficient, Soviet defense spending 33% of GDP)

• Political (Stress of military competition is a “wedge,” choice between moderate hard line)

• Andropov faction wins, then loses (dies)

• Gorbachev: perestroika, glasnost.