

British Foreign & Defence Policy, 1945 onwards – key points/ checklist.

Cold War – Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” Speech, Fulton, Missouri, 1946. Developing “Cold War” context...

Britain & NATO, 1949...key role of Ernie Bevin, Brit For Sec, in estab NATO...

Britain & the USA – “Special Relationship”?! (Delusion or reality?)

Britain & Europe – attitudes, & interests... What did Churchill think? (Zurich Speech, 1946) Labour & Conservative Party views? American attitudes? (pragmatic “realpolitik”)

Britain & The Balkans – the Greek Civil War, 1946/ why was Britain involved?

Stalin/ USSR – E Europe, esp Poland & Czechoslovakia, Berlin etc 1947-9. Soviet A- Bomb, 1949 – implications for UK/ W Europe?

The Bomb: Britain’s Bomb (H-Bomb developed by 1957) – why?! Opposition – CND etc..

Truman Doctrine/ “Containment”/ Marshall Plan & Aid/ establishment of W European defence treaty – creation of NATO to (one Foreign Office wag noted) “Keep the Americans in, the Germans down, and the Russians out!”

Mao/ P Repub China, 1949 – why did this cause concern in the West? Malayan “Emergency”, 1948-62.

Korean War, 1950-53: Cold War went “hot”. Impact, esp on UK domestic affairs – conscription increased/ maintained/ defence spending up; prescript charges; split in Labour Party (Bevanites)... consequences domestically?

Suez, 1956 (“Op Musketeer”) and... Hungary, 1956 (West unable to act) - ramifications/ implications?

Defence White Paper, 1957 (Sandys) – future options/ defence strategy? Nuc Det/ NATO focus/ East of Suez commitment to end. Prof Armed Forces (Nat Serv ended 1960)

T Rome, 1957 – EEC. Why didn’t UK join at start? Reasons for changed attitude by early 1960s? When did UK join the EEC/ why? Changing contexts/ shifting attitudes... in France as much as in UK!

Decolonisation – end of Empire – inevitable? Views of historians – eg Kennedy, Barnett, Chalmers. Palestine, India/ Pakistan, Malayan Emergency, Kenya (Mau Mau), Cypress (EOKA). (Era of “Savage Wars of Peace” – means?)

Africa & Asia – Gold Coast et al... “Winds of Change” (Macmillan, Cape Town, 1960) – implications?

Nassau Conf, 1962 – Brit to obtain “Polaris”...symbolising?! Significance, esp to French?!

Rhodesia – UDI, 1965... Britain & Republic S Africa – Cold War context... Rhodesian “Bush War”, 1970s – Lancaster House Agreement, 1980... Black majority rule in Rhodesia/ Zimbabwe... End of Apartheid, S Africa – Nelson Mandela et al 1990s.

Borneo “Confrontation”, 1962-66 – Britain’s Vietnam! But...not – a great success. Why did Britain/ Commonwealth confront Indonesia over British Borneo? Outcome? Lessons?

Aden – out by 1967... de facto end thereafter of Britain’s active role East of Suez – Singapore base closed early 1970s.

Wilson’s refusal to commit Brit forces to Vietnam, 1968 – low point of post ’45 Brit-American relats...

“Troubles” in N Ireland – Brit Army sent in 1969 (Op Banner)... extended “Dirty War” in Britain’s back yard. “Peace Process” 1990s...

Oman/ Dhofar War, early 1970s (Op Jaguar)– secret war. Why? What was at stake?

Increasing importance of Arab World/ Middle East – oil! Complexities of Arab-Israeli Conflict, & its ramifications – terror etc. Retreat from “East of Suez”: Foreign & Defence policies increasingly focused on Europe, & Britain as leading member of NATO. Britain & the EEC/ European Union. Thatcher’s Foreign policy, esp re Europe, and the USSR/ Cold War.

Afghanistan – 1980s – Brit, Fr, US covert ops V USSR... longer term ramifications of W support for Islamic “freedom fighters”?! (NB one of whom was a young Osama Bin Laden)

Falklands War, 1982 (Op Corporate) – ramifications... (“The Empire Strikes Back!”)

Collapse of USSR 1980s – Gorbachev/ Thatcher/ Reagan... key role of M Thatcher as “enabler” of talks b/wteen Reagan & Gorb..., and also as champion of freedom for E Europe.

Gulf War, 1990-91 – Bush (elder) & Major – Saddam Hussein/ Kuwait – oil! On-going/ continuing problems in the Gulf – militant Islamism, Iraq- Iran, Saudi Arabia etc...

Breakdown of order in Balkans post collapse Sov Union, Yugoslavia etc early/ mid 1990s – Bosnian crisis/ Serb “Ethnic cleansing” of Muslims etc. NATO intervention (after failure of “Europe” to act effectively!). Blair’s ethical interventionism (Bosnia, Kosovo etc), and also in Africa, eg Sierra Leone, 1990s.

World Trade Center Attack 9/11 – “Global War On Terror” under American Leadership (George W Bush) – Afghanistan, Iraq etc... Blair’s support... consequences? Esp Iraq Invasion, 2003, and subsequent counter-insurgency campaign there. The Afghan War...

Changing European Contexts – freeing of central/ E Europe from Soviet control early 1990s... inexorable movement towards enlargement & “ever closer union”. Maastricht Treaty and beyond – British attitudes/ issues... Major, Blair, Brown, Cameron... issues flagged up since Thatcher’s premiership had not really gone away – indeed, core issues of “sovereignty”, democratic accountability, budget contributions etc intensified... Brexit, 2016!?

Emerging “BRIC” economies from 1990s – implications. Fundamental shift in Global Power Balance – tilting toward Asia/ Pacific etc... away from Europe/ N America/ Atlantic axes – (NB Obama’s strategic “pivot” ...)

Massive long-term implications not just for Britain, W Europe, but also Russia, which is feeling increasingly vulnerable, paranoid etc – hence “Putinism”, ultra -Russian nationalism etc.

Challenging economic and strategic waters for British govts to navigate!