The Truman Doctrine is the political expression of the policy of containment, the Marshall Plan was its economic expression, and NATO was its military expression.

The Vietnam War

Before 1941, Vietnam was the French colony Indo-China.

1941 – 1945 : controlled by the Japanese. A resistance movement started under Ho Chi Minh (The Vietcong : National Liberation Front)

French had to face resistance from guerilla fighters. They defeated in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu.

With the Geneva Agreement (1954), Indo-China was divided into four parts : Laos and Cambodia were to be independent.

North Vietnam (communist) should be united with the South (non-communist).

⮡ Elections : who would should rule the country ?

The elections were never held : the USA feared that the communist would win.

The North couldn’t take the South by elections, they decided to send guerillas in the South to encourage a communist revolution. The Vietcong were supplied by the Ho Chi Minh Trail (from North to the South).

⮡ Because the South was ruled by a Catholic dictator, Ngo Dinh Diem, it seemed inevitable South would become communist.

The American were feared Asia become communist, because of the Domino Theory, so they became involved : in Cold War context, communism had to be stopped.

In 1961, Kennedy bought support to the South Vietnam (non communist), but it was only diplomatic means.

1964 : North Vietnamese ships fired American ships in the Gulf of Tonkin

⮡ excuse for Johnson to send troops and start the bombing of North Vietnam

⮡ American used chemical weapons : Napalm to kill Vietcong soldiers in the Ho Chi Minh Trail, but it also damaged villages (and innocent people)

⮡ Zero progress against the Vietcong

January 1968 : at the time of Tet (religious festival), Vietcong made thousands of suicide attacks against American positions.

⮡ in March, Johnson announced he failed, and he started peace talks.

Nixon tried to leave Vietnam without humiliation, and peace talks began in Paris. He tried to convince Russia and China to help him, but they refused.

In 1969, there was a massacre (My Lai), which horrified public opinion.

⮡ Policy of Vietnamisation : leave the country and passing responsibility to the Vietnamese. It failed.

The war continued until 1975, but finally, the North won and captured Saigon (capital of the South)

The United States and the War on terror after 2001

Al Qaeda : global militant islamist organization founded by Osama bin Laden in 1989 (he wanted to liberate Afghanistan from the USSR).

It operates as a network and a radical Sunni movement calling for global Jihad and a strict interpretation of the Sharia Law.

They hate the USA and all the Western countries (their lifestyle, especially).

**/!\** The vast majority of the Muslims reject this

They often use suicide attacks and simultaneous bombings of different targets. The most of the Al Qaeda members had followed a training program in camps in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

09|11 attacks : two main motives to these attacks :

* The presence of US troops in Saudi Arabia (“The Infidels” were on an Islamic soil)
* US support of Israel.

1st attack : five hijackers crashed a plane in the World Trade Center’s North Tower at 8:46 a.m.

2nd attack : another five hijackers crashed another plane in the South Tower at 9:03.

3rd attack : Five hijackers flew into the Pentagon at 9:37.

Another tried (probably) to crash on the Capitol or the White House, but it crashed in Pennsylvania.

There were more than 3.000 people killed, including many non-American and some Muslims.

The American response : War in Afghanistan

At first, G.W. Bush was completely stunned, but the day after, his popularity rating rose. He used the phrase “*The War on Terror*” on the 20th September, and the War in Afghanistan began on 7th October 2001 (he was helped by GB, France, Australia and Afghan United Front). The objective was to dismantle Al Qaeda and remove the Taliban regime.

It was the longest American running war, and it was sanctioned by the UNO.

The Iraq War (2003) : Second Gulf War

G.W. Bush seemed to use the excuse of the 9|11 to “finish his father’s work”.

He used chemical weapons (like in Vietnam), and he achieved to defeat Saddam Hussein.

However, some powerful countries, as France, Germany and Russia warned him not to go on war.

5000 US troops were killed during the conflict and tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians died.

**Globalisation**

Definition : it is the growing economic interdependence among countries as reflected in the increasing cross-border flow of goods, services, capital and know-how.

It is like seeing the world as one single global market.

Causes of globalisation :

* Voyages of Discovery in the 16th century, and the Industrial Revolution in the 19th.
* The growth of capitalism
* Improved air-travel and communication
* Deregulation (Thatcher / Reagan)
* Fall of Berlin Wall and collapse of the Soviet Union : victory of capitalism on communism.
* Internet (“everything is at the touch of the button”, “the world is at your fingertips”)
* The development of international institutions (IMF, WTO, World Bank)

Main territories :

* Tree centers : North America, Europe and Eastern Asia (= TRIAD)

They play a major role politically, ideologically, culturally and scientifically.

* New centers called BRICS : Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Arguments for globalisation :

* It makes the world richer
* The “Third world” countries will benefit from this
* Asian countries prospered thanks to globalisation.
* Free trade have caused the diffusion of prosperity

Arguments against globalisation :

* It divides the world into Rich/Poor, North/South.
* There is more trade, but only rich countries
* FMN make what is best for them, and not for the country or its inhabitants
* There is only little control : it led to economic crisis
* Undemocratic system : the FMN and IMF are not elected as a government is.
* Individual word-wide power and no control (ex : Rupert Murdoch)
* Loss of cultural identity : the world is becoming the same everywhere
* Exploitation of the poor.

Causes of the recent crisis :

* American banks lent too much credit to people who could not pay back the loans (“sub-prime mortgages”)
* Because American banks lent to foreign banks, the crisis spread in other countries (especially Iceland and GB)
* People can’t buy goods, it led to a collapse in manufacturing industry

The response to the crisis :

* USA and GB : governments spent billions to pay the debts of the banks
* Europe : the EU tried to find a common solution, but each government wanted to protect its own country
* There are European countries which are more touched than other : Greece, Spain, Ireland… Germany refused to pay for weak countries, because it could be touched.

Conclusion :

It is unlikely that globalisation will “stop” because of the crisis but it will need to be more regulated than before, especially in the banking and finance sectors.

**Development of Europe**

The ideas after 1945

* Desire of peace after the devastation of Europe (WWI and WWII)
* A feeling that nationalism caused the two world wars, and that internationalism was much better for Europe
* A wish of counterbalance the power of the USA
* The Marshall plan encouraged economic co-operation

Steps towards Union

The Congress of Europe at The Hague in 1948 :

* Churchill president
* Calling for united Europe, with free movement of people and goods
* Chart of Human rights (reassembling only democratic countries)

The Council of Europe (1949) :

* 10 countries decided to work together on the basis of their cultural roots etc…
* But there were disagreements because countries (France and Germany) wanted closer integration, whereas others wanted to stay independent and close to the USA.

The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights (1950)

The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC, 1951) :

* Proposed by Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman
* Share French and German production of raw materials for war and open the organization to other European states
* Adenauer anchored West Germany to the organisation and it ended Germany’s diplomatic isolation
* But GB preferred to join the Commonwealth and work with the USA
* But this cooperation was strong, and it led to the Treaty of Rome (1957)

The Treaty of Rome (1957)

* Encouraged by the success of the ECSC and by the Belgian politician Paul-Henri Spaak, the EEC was formed
* It is based on the idea that countries had to gradually lift the barriers to allow the free movement of people and goods
* A “Common Agricultural Policy” was set and discussion on an economic and monetary union began

The attitude of Great-Britain

Britain declined to join this community :

* It was very attached to the Commonwealth and didn’t want to “desert” them
* It was very attached to the USA
* It was very attached to its “National Sovereignty” and didn’t want to lose its independence in an United Europe

Britain tried to create another organisation for the countries who weren’t members of the EEC, the EFTA, but it failed, and at the same time, the EEC knows a big success, and GB applied in 1963 and 1967.

But the two applications were rejected because of the veto of Général De Gaulle. He believed Britain was a “Trojan Horse”, sent by the USA in order to destroy the community.

Britain joined in 1973 (🕆 CDG in 1970), and it had to accept that its Commonwealth countries adopt the same EEC tariffs.

Europe develops (1957 – 2010)

The EEC was such a success that other countries wanted to join : between 1973 and 1995, 9 countries join (GB, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Finland and Sweden)

In 1991 – 1992, the Maastricht Treaty created the European Union from the Common Market. They created the “Euro”, and it appeared in 2002.

In the Schengen Treaty (1995), 7 of the 15 states (including France) removed all border controls.

The collapse of the “Iron Curtain” and the liberation of the Eastern European countries was a problem (it wasn’t planned by the “Fathers of Europe”)

In 2004, 10 news countries joined (it jumped from 15 to 25), and in 2007, Romania and Bulgaria joined (27). The Turkey’s membership is still a problem.

The new Europe

The rapid expansion of the EU in the last decade has brought advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages :

* These countries are committed to “democratic principles” after years of communist dictatorship
* They offer a huge market for exports
* The workforce in “old” Europe needs rejuvenating
* Europe will be a stronger player in world politics, more able to counterbalance the power of the USA and China.

Disadvantages :

* The Union is too big to be manageable
* The new countries are too poor economically
* Immigration from East to West causes problems in the rich areas (Britain, France etc…)
* Industries are relocated in the East where the workforce is cheaper
* The “new” countries are more pro-USA than the “old” ones

The Lisbon Treaty (2009)

A new constitution is needed to organize the management and decision-making. The first attempts were ruined by the “no” from France and Holland in 2005.

A new alternative is proposed with this treaty.

The main features are :

* The introduction of a “Qualified majority voting” (larger countries had more votes than smaller)
* There is now a President of the Union and a Foreign Minister.

**London : a global city**

A global city is one which goes beyond the boundaries of its national territory thanks to its role in the global economy.

The major global centres of the world are New York, London, Tokyo, Paris, Hong-Kong and Chicago.

They are accessible cities which are hubs around which the people, capital, information and products of world trade revolve.

The term “global city” was first used in 1991 by a sociologist called Saskia Sassen.

The factors which make a global city

Economic activity :

* General : number of firms, volume of transactions
* London : 33% of the top international companies are their European Headquarters in London

Financial activity :

* banking and financial services
* the City is the world’s leading financial centre and the London Stock Exchange is the one of the three most important of the world

Transport infrastructure :

* airports, underground railway, motorways, trains
* 405 kms of underground railway, 6.4 million people taking the bus everyday, Eurostar linked to Paris

“Human Capital” :

* Number of inhabitants, number of international migrants, quality of universities and research centres
* 8.5 million inhabitants, “melting pot” of cultures, high-reputation of British universities

Culture :

* Number of sporting activities, cultural events, international exhibitions
* Olympic Games (2012), 14 million visitors per year to see its museums, galleries and other attractions

Information and communications:

* Press agencies, television networks, internet speed
* The BBC and other television broadcasters are world famous for the quality of their output, and the British press based in London has enormous power

Political factors :

* Number of ambassadors, consulates, international conferences etc…
* Home of the British Parliament, big player in political affairs

The challenges faced by Global Cities

The wealth is not shared like it has to be : it causes social tensions.

The immigration has not produced a really multicultural society but a collection of different racial groups in certain areas. It also caused shortages and difficulties (education, health)

The crisis was disastrous for the banking organisations based in London, Britain has been badly hit, and Hong Kong is threatening London’s leading position.

Heathrow is too much little to welcome a huge amount of passengers.

London is so famous that it is a target for terrorist organisations.