Origins of Cold War Math Equation:

USSR aggression (i.e. Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland). US believed it was evidence of USSR desire for world domination, USSR claimed it was for self-defense.

Distrust each other

USSR lost land in Treaty of Versailles (WWI)

Different and competing ideologies (capitalism vs. communism)

Distrust each other

USSR distrusts US

Stalin wanted US/UK to attack Hitler 2.5 years before they did (2nd front)

USSR distrusts US

Vulnerability of USSR to be attacked through Poland – fear of a strong Germany and un-friendly Poland

-Historically true
-geographically true

USSR distrusts US (i.e. the “West”)

Truman stopped the Lend Lease aid to USSR even though they sacrificed much more in war effort (and aid continued to UK)

USSR distrusts US

US rebuilding Western Europe through Marshall Plan. Aid offered to USSR but turned down because Stalin believed it came with American control.

Distrust each other

Woodrow Wilson’s “unknown war with Russia” decades earlier during the Russian Revolution (Wilson tried to help the White Army (capitalists) defeat the Red Army (Communists)

USSR distrusts US

Truman Doctrine positioned US as opponent of USSR. USSR viewed it as antagonistic, and US viewed it as necessary to stop world domination of Communism

USSR distrusts US

= Seeds set for beginning of Cold War

Distrust each other