

# ***Church History***



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21<sup>st</sup> century



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- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - *Modern Empire-Building*
  - *Post-War Religion*
  - *Conflicts of the “Greatest Generation” (part 4)*



# *The Modern Age*

- It was a time of discovery and division  
1945 The Nag Hammadi codices were discovered

(Okay, before I go any further with that, what's a "Nag Hammadi" and what's a "codices"?)

ΝΑΙ ΕΝΕΝΩΧΕΘΕΝΤΕΝΤΑΙΣΕΤΟΝ  
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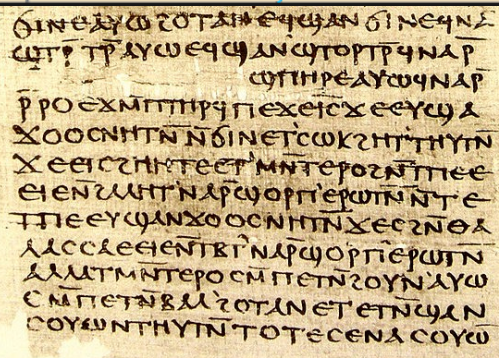
# The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—

- Nag Hammadi is a medium-sized Egyptian city, along the coast of the Nile

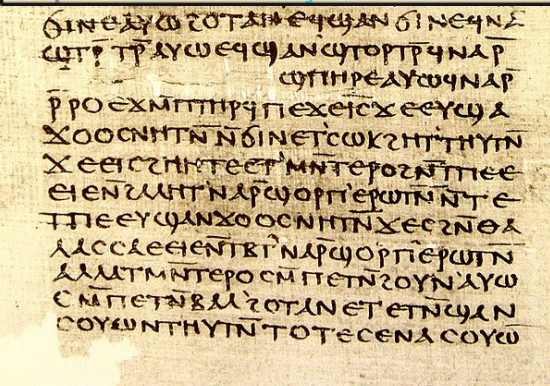
- In 1945, two brothers were digging around for fertilizer near the caves of the nearby cliffs of Jabal al-Ṭārif when they ran across large, buried jars containing ancient papyri bound in codices

(NOTE: A “codex” was an ancient version of what we’d now call a “book,” as opposed to a “scroll”—it included individual pages of vellum or papyrus bound along one edge between sturdy covers)



# The Modern Age

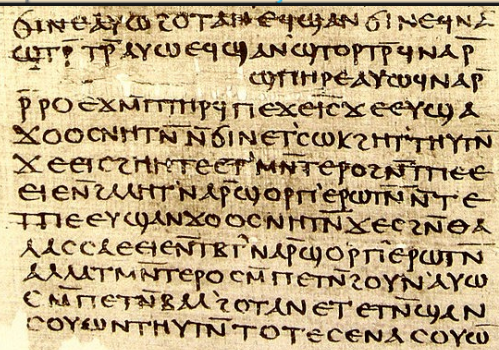
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  - In 1945, two brothers were digging around for fertilizer near the caves of the nearby cliffs of Jabal al-Ṭārif when they ran across large, buried jars containing ancient papyri bound in codices
  - Knowing the up-market for antiquities—especially among foreigners—they didn't tell anyone about their find, and just started selling the pages of papyri one by one in the market  
(NOTE: Though their Mom burned several of them, because—though none of the family could read—she was afraid they'd have “dangerous effects”)





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  - The brothers got into a fight over sales, and left the remaining codices with a Coptic priest to hold onto whose brother-in-law then sold a codex to the Coptic Museum in Cairo
  - Now that *Egyptologists* were looking at them—rather than just a bunch of *tourists* and illiterate farmers—the experts realized how important a find the codices were



# *The Modern Age*

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - Nag Hammadi is a medium-sized Egyptian city, along the coast of the Nile
  - **The codices were Gnostic writings from the early eras of the Church, written in Coptic**  
(a later Egyptian language that made use of Greek and Demotic letters—which is part of why it took Napoleon invading Egypt for the Egyptians to re-learn how to read their own ancient hieroglyphs)

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# The Modern Age

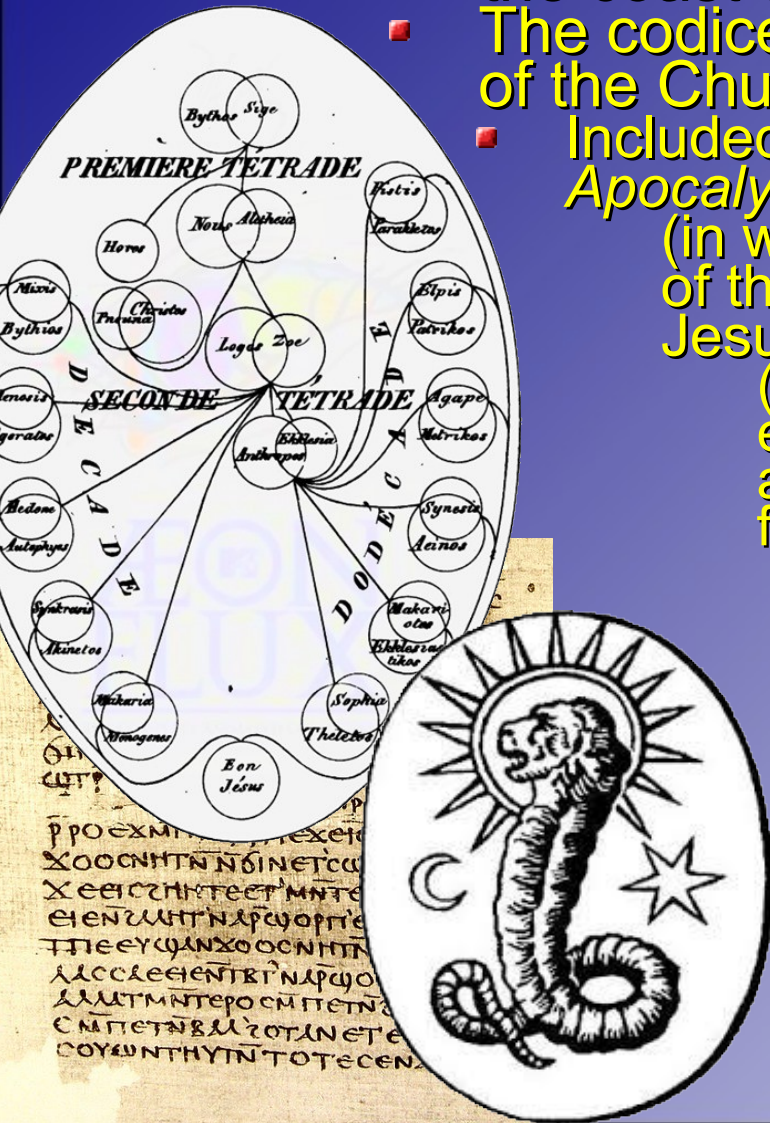
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Nag Hammadi is a medium-sized Egyptian city, along the coast of the Nile
  - The codices were Gnostic writings from the early eras of the Church, written in Coptic
    - Included in the codices were books like *The First Apocalypse of James*  
(which is a dialogue between James and his brother Jesus, in which James expresses how much he really doesn't want to die, but Jesus reassures him by telling James the secret incantations to reach the 72<sup>nd</sup>—the highest—level of Heaven when he dies... and thus, how to get past the *Demiurge*...)  
(in Gnostic thought, the Demiurge was the creator God who made all of the material world around us—which means that the Demiurge [aka YAHWEH] is an evil god, since all matter is bad, and only thought is good)



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(in Gnostic thought, the Aeons were spiritual emanations who split off in pairs from the perfect and unknowable “God”—a male “mind” and a female “truth”)  
(so when the female Aeon, Sophia, split off separately from her bonded male Demiurge, bad stuff happened, because wisdom was forever separated from the material world)  
(thus, the Christ and Holy Spirit Aeons were created to combat the evil Demiurge and teach people to rightly focus on the immaterial)





# The Modern Age

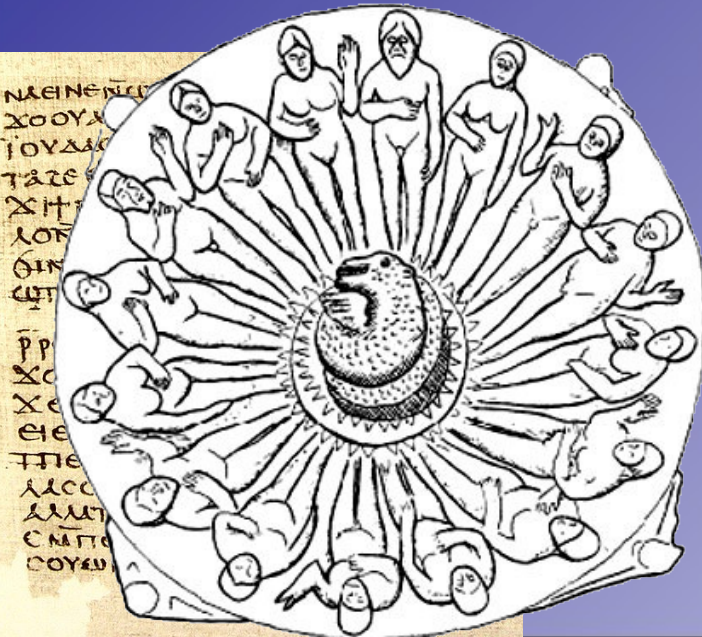
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(but the evil Demiurge/YAHWEH Aeon has created emanations of his own called the Archons [“principalities” or “rulers”] to create this evil, material world—and the disciples are thus called upon to fight against these beings)

(Because didn't Paul himself say that “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the Archons” in Ephesians 6:12?)

(But didn't Paul also say about Christ that “Whether thrones or powers or Archons or authorities; all things were created by him and for him” in Colossians 1:16?)



# *The Modern Age*

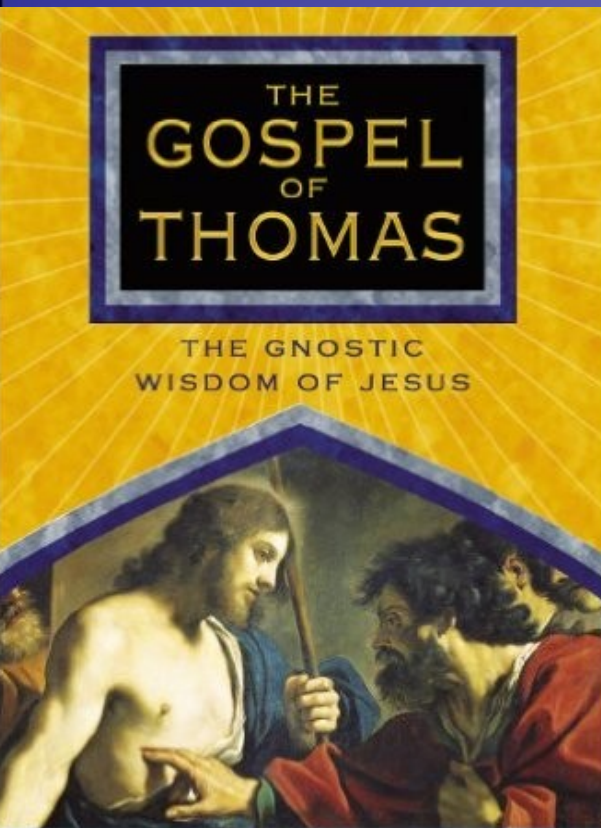
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  - Included in the codices were books like *The First Apocalypse of James* and *The Letter of Peter to Philip* but the most famous codex is *The Gospel of Thomas* (which became immediately popular among scholars because it was suddenly the oldest physical Gospel that we had available, having been put into these codices in as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century)  
(NOTE: The oldest physical Gospel pages that we have now come from the Gospel of John and are dated from around 100 AD)





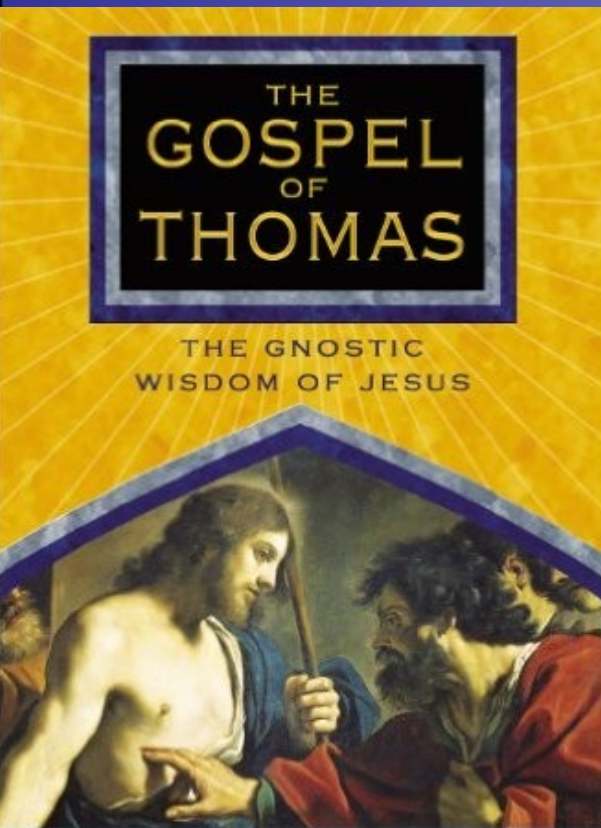
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      - It included sayings of Jesus such as these—
        - “Where there are three gods, they are gods. Where there are two or one, I am with him.”
        - “His disciples said: ‘When will you appear to us, and when will we see you?’ Jesus said: ‘When you undress without being ashamed and take your clothes and put them under your feet like little children and trample on them, then you will see the son of the Living One, and you will not be afraid.’”
        - “Blessed is the lion that a person will eat and the lion will become human. And anathema is the person whom a lion will eat and the lion will become human.”



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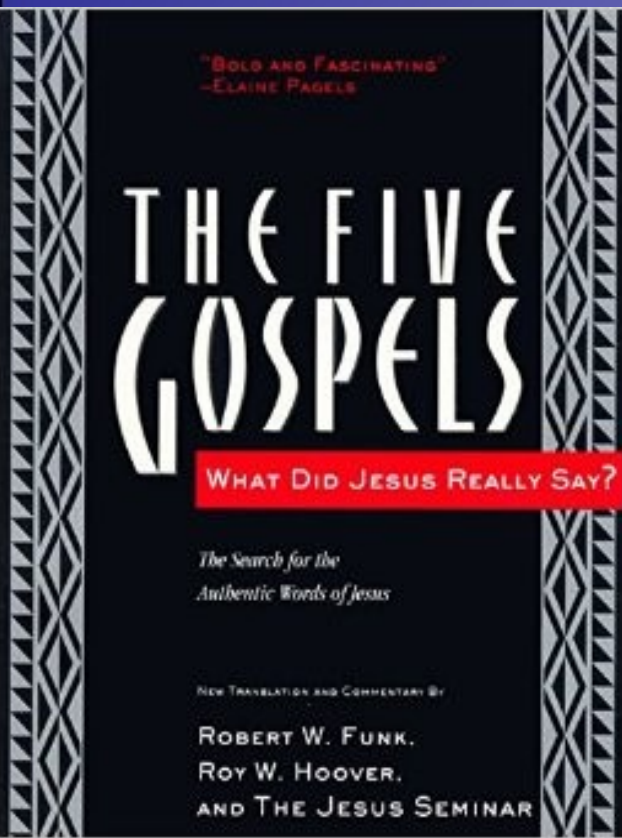
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      - It included sayings of Jesus such as these—
        - “When you make the two into one, and when you make the inside like the outside and the outside like the inside and the above like the below—that is, to make the male and the female into a single one, so that the male will not be male and the female will not be female—and when you make eyes instead of an eye and a hand instead of a hand and a foot instead of a foot, an image instead of an image, then you will enter the kingdom.”
        - “If you bring it into being within you, then that which you have will save you. If you do not have it within you, then that which you do not have within you will kill you.”





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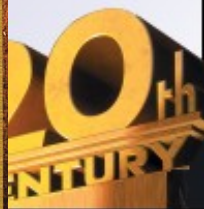
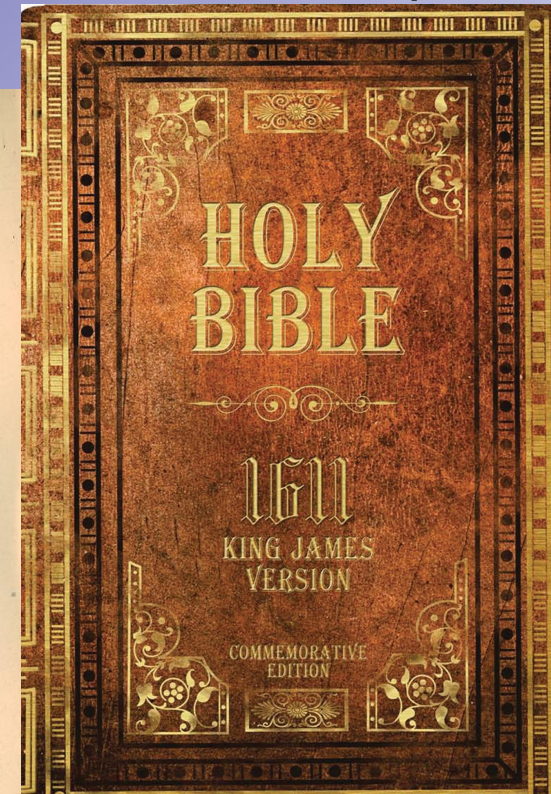
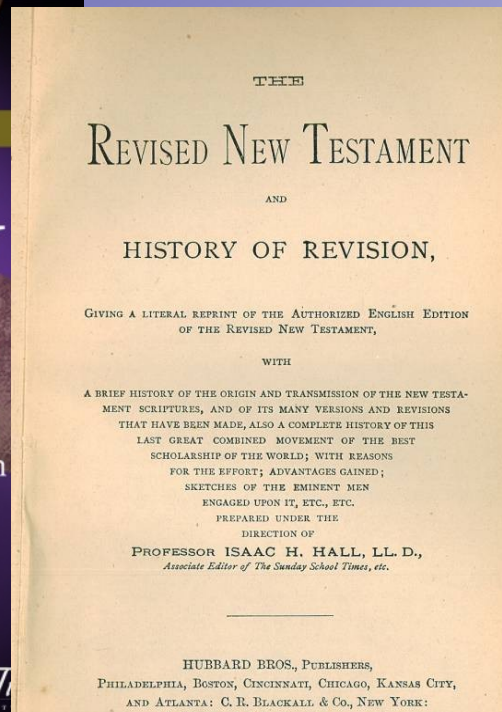
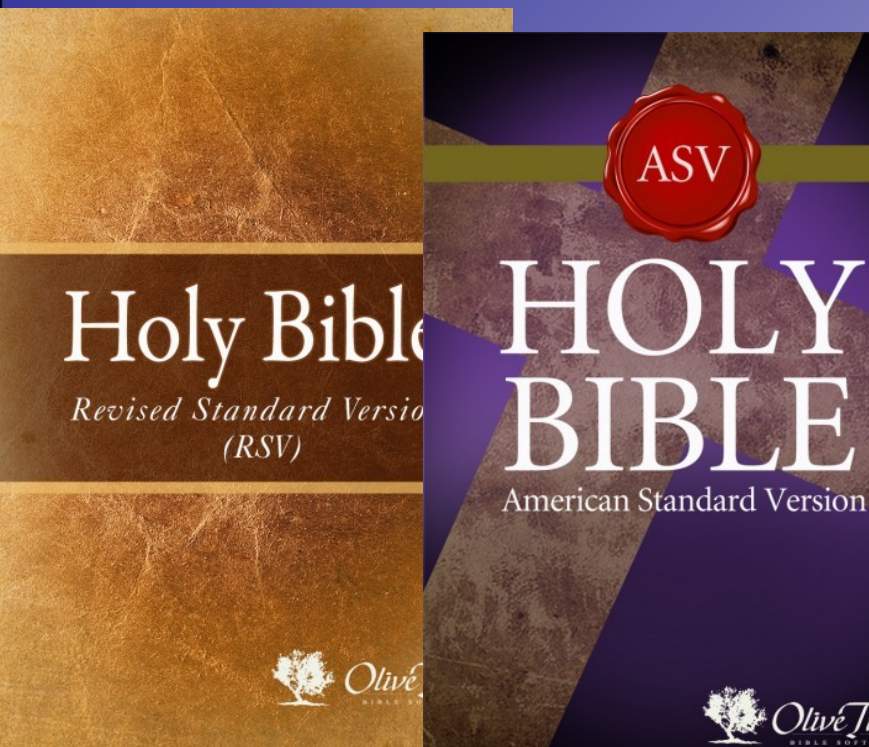
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# *The Modern Age*

- It was a time of discovery and division
  - 1945 The Nag Hammadi codices were discovered
  - 1946 *Revised Standard Version* was published
    - Do you remember the *American Standard Version* that was published back in 1901?
      - That had been simply an Americanized tweaking of the *Revised Version* published back in 1881
        - And that had basically just been a modernized tweaking of the *King James Version* published back in 1611





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  - 1945 The Nag Hammadi codices were discovered
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    - Do you remember the *American Standard Version* that was published back in 1901?
    - By the 1930s, scholars saw the need for a modern and thoroughly researched *new* translation, rather than just a succession of tweakings of the *KJV*
      - So they used the *ASV* as a basis, but went back and re-translated the verses from the best texts of the original Hebrew and Greek Scriptures available to create the *Revised Standard Version* (i.e.; not just the *Revised Version* of 1881, nor the *American Standard Version* of 1901, but the *Revised [American] Standard Version*)

Holy Bible

*Revised Standard Version*  
(RSV)



# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As you might imagine, the backlash was... intense...
  - There'd been relatively little chafing with the earlier translations, since they'd only been tweaking the *King James Version* into something more modern-sounding but this thing had the audacity to think that it could actually *improve* the translation of the *KJV*...
  - Some of the changes were based on what was contained in the oldest texts available
    - For instance,  
And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."  
In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."  
(Luke 22:19-20 in the *NIV*)  
And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body."  
(Luke 22:19-20 in the first edition of the *RSV*)  
(though the *full* text was added back in for later editions)

Holy Bible

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      - Some of the changes were based on what was contained in the oldest texts available
      - Other changes were based on new interpretations of Biblical words
        - For instance,  
The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.  
(Isaiah 7:14 in the *NIV*)  
The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.  
(Isaiah 7:14 in the *RSV*)  
(correctly noting that the Hebrew עַלְמָה does not *necessarily* mean “virgin” but failing to give weight to the fact that the Jewish translators of the Septuagint translated the word as παρθένος—i.e.; “virgin”)

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The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.  
(Isaiah 7:14 in the *RSV*)  
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.  
(Matthew 1:23 in the *RSV*)  
(since the word used in the Gospel is *παρθένος*—i.e.; “virgin”)

Holy Bible

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    - Some of the changes were based on what was contained in the oldest texts available
    - Other changes were based on new interpretations of Biblical words
    - Whole passages not present in the oldest texts—like the woman caught in adultery and the last whole chapter of Mark—were included only in footnotes while the Catholic Apocryphal books were included in their entirety in their own section
    - American Protestant leaders went ballistic and some even publicly burned at least portions of the *Revised Standard Version* in protest
    - Bible scholar Bruce Metzger happily noted that—unlike what happened to translator William Tyndale back in 1536—at least it was only the translation itself that was being burned, and not the translators...

## Brand Cleric 'Fanatic' In Plan to Burn Bibles

Rocky Mount, N. C., Nov. 29 (AP)—A Baptist minister who will burn two copies of the revised standard version of the Bible tomorrow night said today he had received support from California to Canada in the "holy war."

Almost every newspaper in the State has attacked the Rev. Martin Luther Hux's Bible-burning plan as everything from "foolish" to "fanatical." Baptist leaders pointed out that Hux withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention in 1946. But Hux, pastor of the Temple Baptist Church here, said he has received letters and telegrams from as far away as Canada and California "telling me to go to it and godspeed."

Hux's congregation held a special protest meeting against the revision last Sunday and Hux announced plans for the Bible-burning. On Thursday he said the response to his plan has been so "enthusiastic" that he will have to burn a second Bible outside his church for the benefit of those who can't get in for the first burning.

Hux said the principal objection to the RSV is that it substitutes the words "young

woman" for "virgin" in Isaiah VII: "Behold the Lord shall give you a sign. A virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel."

He said the change is an attempt to deny the divinity of Christ and his congregation adopted a resolution denouncing the RSV as a "deliberate attack on our historic Christian faith."

The RSV is the work of a team of scholars sponsored by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S. They retranslated the Bible from the Greek in

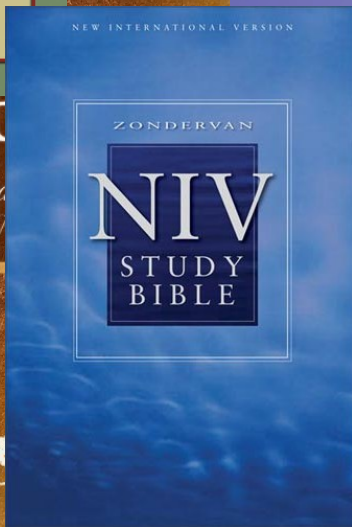
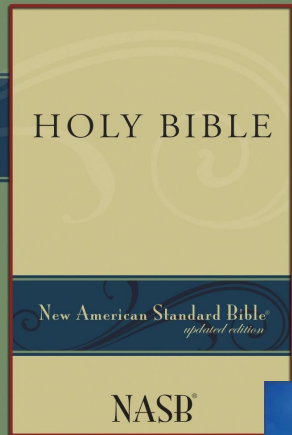
WHEI

Books  
Bridge  
Brown  
Bus. Curio  
City Hall  
Coby  
Cressword  
Dr. Brady  
Editorial  
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Horsehoe  
Hut Between  
Movies  
Obituarie  
Old Times



# The Modern Age

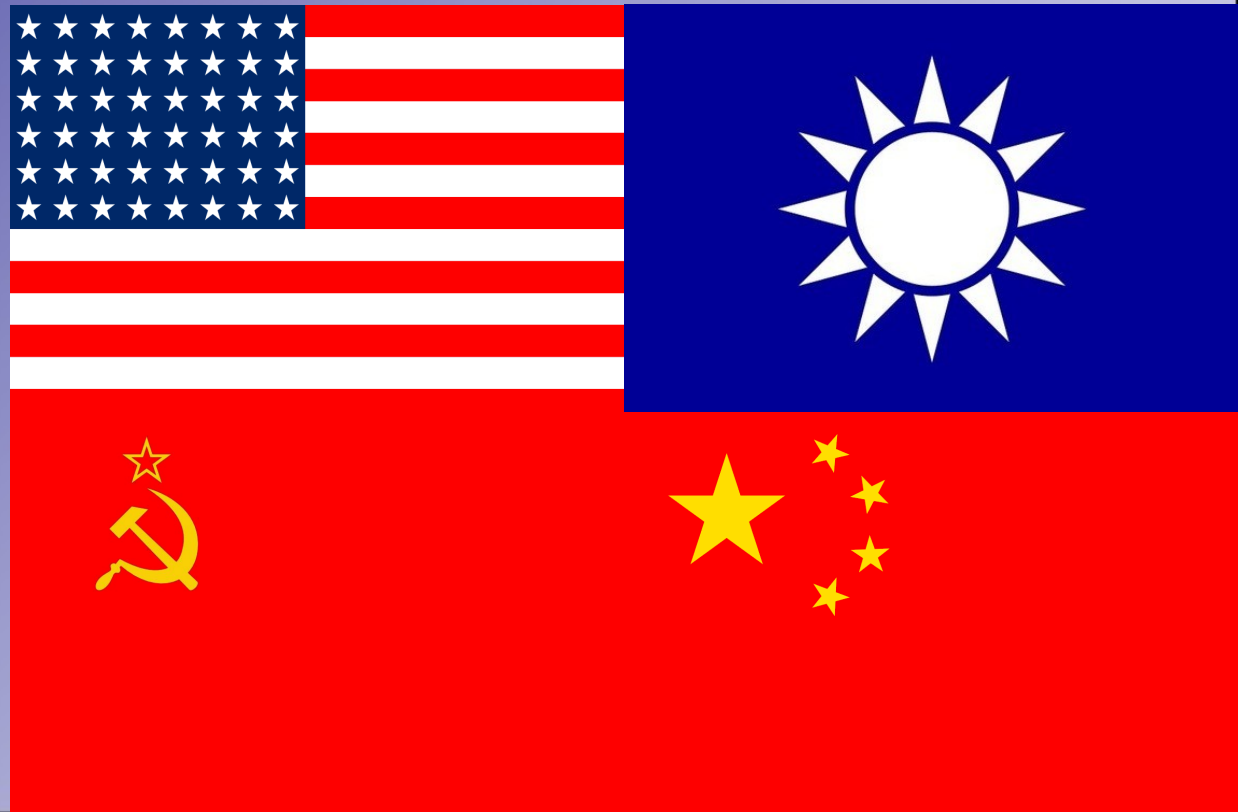
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As you might imagine, the backlash was... intense...
    - There'd been relatively little chafing with the earlier translations, since they'd only been tweaking the *King James Version* into something more modern-sounding but this thing had the audacity to think that it could actually *improve* the translation of the *KJV*...
    - But as a result of all of this, though the *RSV* became the most popular version of the Bible amongst scholars, mainline Protestant liberals and Catholics, it never really caught on with American Fundamentalists and Evangelicals, who kept hoping for a scholarly and modern translation to come out with a more consciously Biblically conservative commitment...  
(but they had to wait until the extremely literal *New American Standard Version* was published in 1963—though the *NAS* is often a bit clunky for most people to try to read and understand...)  
(so with several other less-than-scholarly paraphrases popping up here and there, conservatives had to wait until 1973 for a *really readable*, scholarly and modern translation that consciously tried to stay conservative... though the *New International Version* was roundly attacked when it came out as well)





# ***The Modern Age***

- **It was a time of discovery and division**
  - 1945 The Nag Hammadi codices were discovered
  - 1946 *Revised Standard Version* was published
  - The Chinese Civil War resumed**
    - **Remember the Chinese Civil War from a few weeks back?**  
(the USSR backed the Chinese Communist Party while the USA backed the Republic of China)



# ***The Modern Age***

- **It was a time of discovery and division**

1945

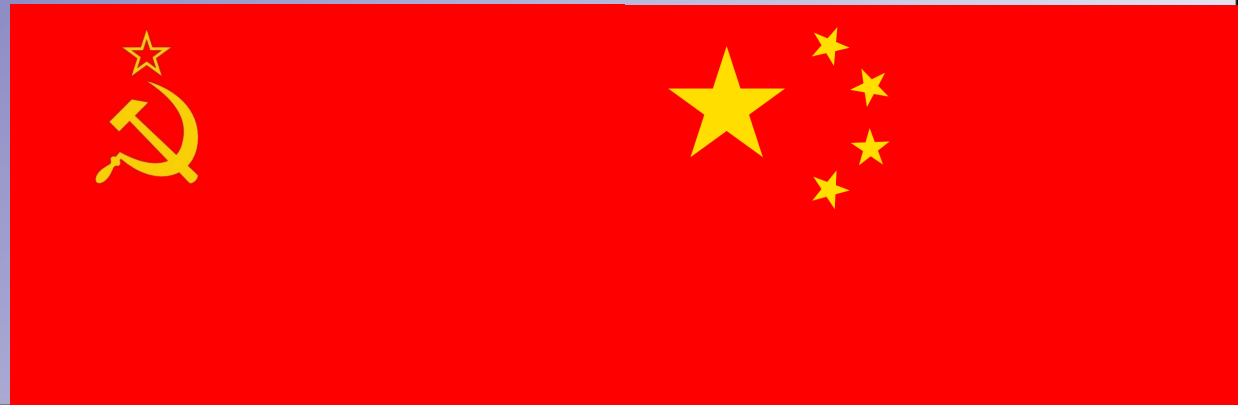
The Nag Hammadi codices were discovered

1946

*Revised Standard Version* was published

**The Chinese Civil War resumed**

- Remember the Chinese Civil War from a few weeks back?
- **It resumed about 37 seconds after WWII ended and continued until the end of 1949, when Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China, with its new capital in Beijing**  
(The Republic of China—under Chiang Kai-shek—was allowed to exist in exile on the island of Taiwan just so long as they never, ever tried to be an independent state again)





# ***The Modern Age***

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**The Chinese Civil War resumed**

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- But remember this date, 'cuz it's going to be relevant to something else later on...



# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - This was kind of a crucial time in Eastern Communist / Western Democratic relations
  - Though Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels had previously used the term “Iron Curtain” in 1945 it was a 1946 speech by Winston Churchill that entered the phrase into the English consciousness, warning of the power that the Soviet Union was gaining in Europe:  
“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow...”





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    - Of course, Stalin didn't help matters that same year when he argued that capitalism made war inevitable:  
“The war broke out as the inevitable result of the development of world economic and political forces on the basis of present-day monopolistic capitalism. Marxists have more than once stated that the capitalist system of world economy contains the elements of a general crisis and of military conflicts, that, in view of that, the development of world capitalism in our times does not proceed smoothly and evenly, but through crises and catastrophic wars. The point is that the uneven development of capitalist countries usually leads, in the course of time, to a sharp disturbance of the equilibrium within the world system of capitalism, and that group of capitalist countries regards itself as being less securely provided with raw materials and markets usually attempts to change the situation and to redistribute 'spheres of influence' in its own favor—by employing armed force.”



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  - Of course, Stalin didn't help matters that same year
  - The President outlined to Congress what became known as the “Truman Doctrine”:

“I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way. I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes.”

(i.e.; that the United States would actively—but not *directly*—oppose the spread of Communism in the world by economically supporting countries that were most in danger of falling to Communist control)

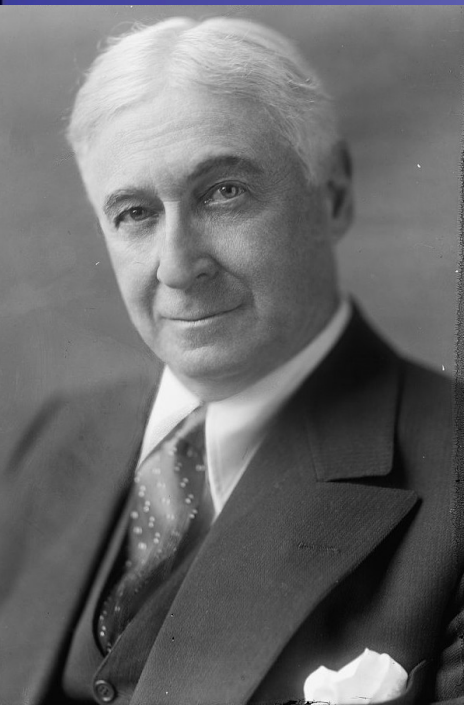




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    - The President outlined to Congress what became known as the “Truman Doctrine”
    - This is why, in 1947, American political advisor Bernard Baruch coined yet another new term when he spoke to the South Carolina legislature:

“Let us not be deceived—we are today in the midst of a Cold War. Our enemies are to be found abroad and at home. Let us never forget this: Our unrest is the heart of their success. The peace of the world is the hope and the goal of our political system; it is the despair and defeat of those who stand against us. We can depend only on ourselves.”



# *The Modern Age*

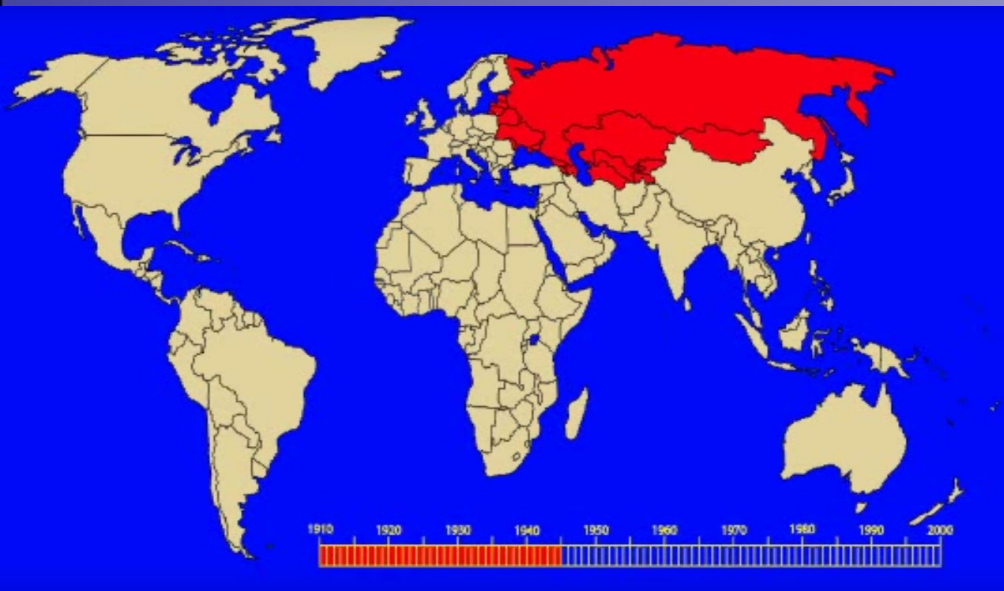
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    - Concerned (rightly) about Communist sympathizers in America, the existing House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) began (unconstitutionally) to hunt out potential American Communists
      - In 1947, they set their sights on Hollywood, blacklisting any film-makers who either
        - 1) Had any ties to the Communist Party at all
        - 2) Refused to answer about whether or not they had any ties to the Communist Party at all
- What can we learn from all of this today?





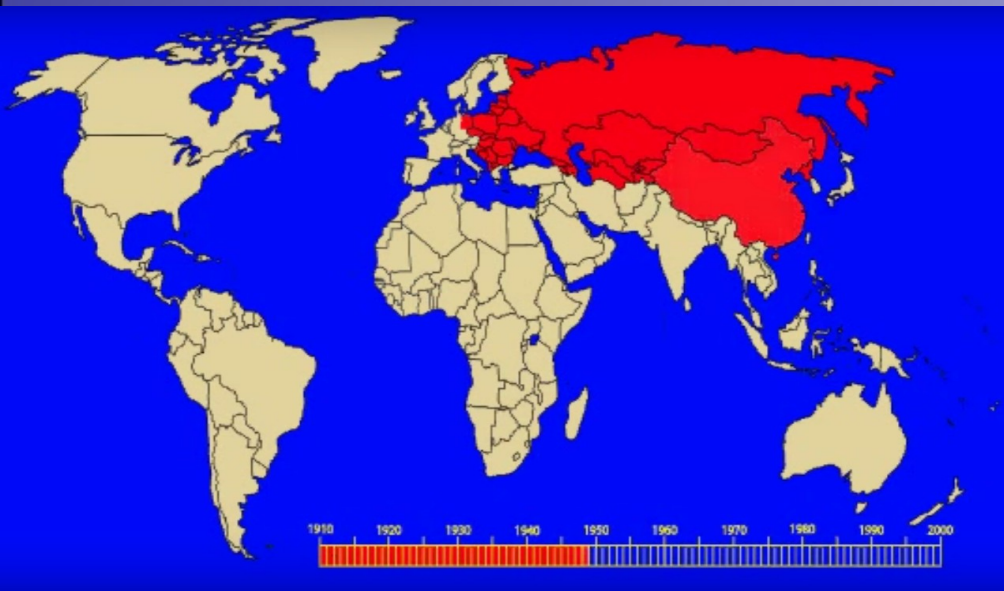
# *The Modern Age*

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - This was kind of a crucial time in Eastern Communist / Western Democratic relations
  - That may seem (rightly) to be fear-mongering to our modern sensibilities—but remember the context
    - This is the sphere of Communist control in 1945



# ***The Modern Age***

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - This was kind of a crucial time in Eastern Communist / Western Democratic relations
  - **That may seem (rightly) to be fear-mongering to our modern sensibilities—but remember the context**
    - This is the sphere of Communist control in 1945 and then this is the same sphere of control in 1949



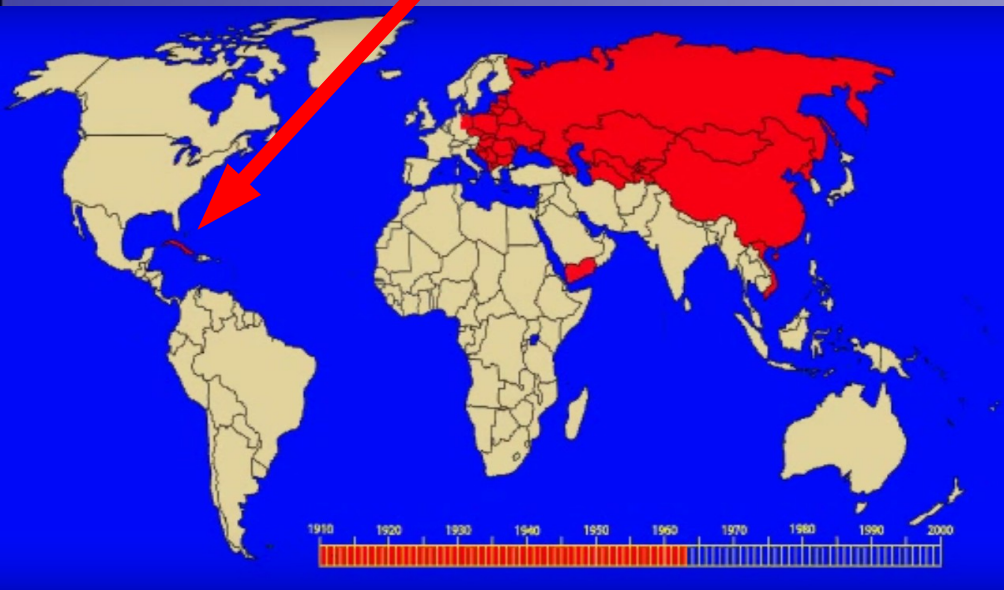


# *The Modern Age*

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  - That may seem (rightly) to be fear-mongering to our modern sensibilities—but remember the context
    - This is the sphere of Communist control in 1945 and then this is the same sphere of control in 1949 and then this is the same sphere of control in 1962  
(NOTE: An openly aggressive Communist nation was now 103 miles off of the coast of Florida)  
(NOTE<sup>2</sup>: An openly aggressive Communist nation to whom Nikita Krushchev was sending nuclear missiles to aim at the United States)

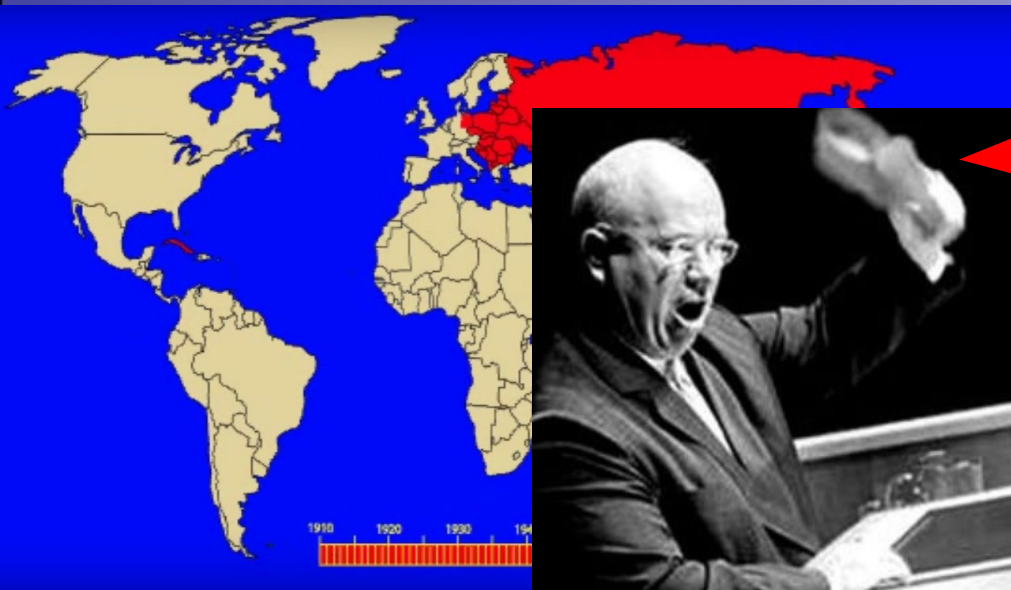
(That would be the same Krushchev who had recently banged his shoe in addressing the United Nations, and who had shouted,

“About the capitalist states, it doesn't depend on you whether or not we exist. If you don't like us, then don't accept our invitations, and don't invite us to come to see you. Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. *We will bury you!*”)



# *The Modern Age*

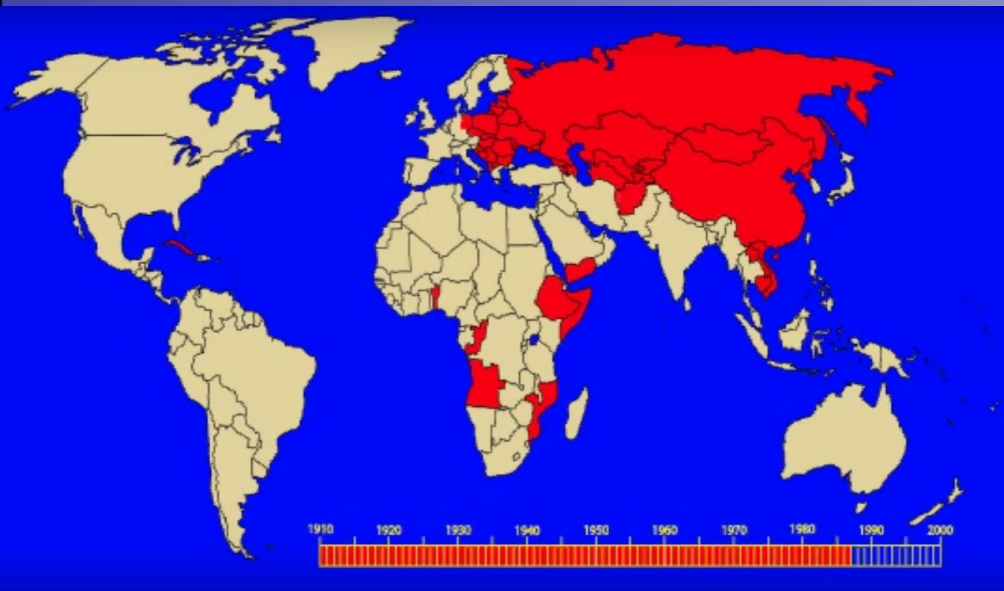
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(That would be the same Krushchev who had recently banged his shoe in addressing the United Nation)  
(NOTE: This is a fake picture of the shoe-pounding incident, but the incident itself really did happen)





# *The Modern Age*

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
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  - **That may seem (rightly) to be fear-mongering to our modern sensibilities—but remember the context**
    - This is the sphere of Communist control in 1945 and then this is the same sphere of control in 1949 and then this is the same sphere of control in 1962 and then this is the same sphere on control in 1987
    - The impending Communist domination of the globe was a very real and deadly threat for an extended period of our recent history...



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      - The impending Communist domination of the globe was a very real and deadly threat for an extended period of our recent history...
      - But then, the Communist world imploded—why?
    - To oversimplify a bit, because one man wanted to do the right thing and *another* man actively held him accountable to actually *doing* it
      - What can we learn from all of this today?

