



# THE COLD WAR

## Unit 15 Review Guide

### 1: ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR

The Cold War was a conflict about what was the best economic system and split the world between the Soviet Union and the United States and the allies of these two superpowers. Many of the alliances, geographic divisions, and international systems of the Cold War are the results of the way World War II ended.



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### 2: CONTAINMENT

Rather than fighting another war to defeat communist nations, Americans chose to try to stop the spread of communism. This led the United States into conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and also led to standoffs in Europe, especially related to the status of the city of Berlin.

### 3: THE ARMS RACE

The Soviet Union and United States developed huge numbers of extremely dangerous nuclear weapons as they raced to outdo the other side. This competition for military dominance extended even into space and nearly led to nuclear war over Cuba.

#### 4: THE COLD WAR AT HOME



Fear of communism led Americans to turn on one another and changed the relationship between the military, government and defense contractors. However, the Cold War also led to improvements in education and new technologies for civilian use.

#### 5: THE LATER COLD WAR



While communist nations used fear to manipulate and control their people, the desire to prevent the spread of communism led the United States to side with dictators in the Third World who violated human rights. Beginning in the 1970s, American and Soviet leaders tried to relax tensions.

#### 6: THE END OF THE COLD WAR



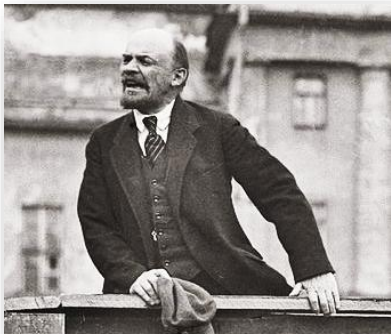
The Cold War ended without the massive military conflict between East and West that the two sides had prepared for. Instead, the leaders in communist countries allowed greater economic freedom, and responding to social pressure in the case of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, greater political freedom.



# 15-1: ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR

**BIG IDEA:** The Cold War was a conflict about what was the best economic system and split the world between the Soviet Union and the United States and the allies of these two superpowers. Many of the alliances, geographic divisions, and international systems of the Cold War are the results of the way World War II ended

The Cold War was a 50-year struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union. The two superpowers and their allies were trying to spread their ideas about the best way to run nations. The Soviet Union was the first communist nation and wanted to spread communism. The United States believed communism was wrong and wanted to promote a free market system.



Communism, which is now almost entirely gone in the world, is a system in which everyone works, and everyone shares in the wealth of the nation. The problem is that choice is taken out of the system, and therefore, incentive is also lost. People do not work hard, and the government becomes a dictatorship.

Before World War II ended, the leaders of the United States, United Kingdom and Soviet Union met multiple times to plan what the world would look like after the fighting ended.

After World War II, most of the nations in Africa and Asia that had been European colonies became independent. Many of these nations were poor, and both the United States and Soviet Union tried to win them as allies during the Cold War. Sometimes, this led to violence.

After World War I, Woodrow Wilson had tried to create a League of Nations to help prevent future war. After World War II, the United Nations was created. This time, the United States did join, and the UN has played an important role in the world as a peacekeeper and a forum for debate.

When Germany fell and the war ended in Europe, the Americans, French, British and Soviets divided up Europe into East and West. In the lands in the East that the Soviet armies had occupied, communist governments were supported. In the West, democratic governments were encouraged. This led to a division of the continent that would last throughout the Cold War. Germany itself was divided into East and West, as was Berlin, its capital city.

## VOCABULARY



### IDEAS

Capitalism

Capital

Free Market Economy

Communism

From everyone according to his ability, to everyone according to his need

Veto



### PEOPLE & GROUPS

Karl Marx

Frederich Engels

Nicolas II

Vladimir Lenin

Bolsheviks

Josef Stalin

Franklin D. Roosevelt

United Nations

Security Council

General Assembly

Secretary General



### EVENTS

Yalta Conference

Potsdam Conference

Decolonization



### PLACES

USSR

Israel

Third World

Iron Curtain

Berlin Wall



### TEXTS

The Communist Manifesto





## 15-2: CONTAINMENT

**BIG IDEA:** Rather than fighting another war to defeat communist nations, Americans chose to try to stop the spread of communism. This led the United States into conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and also led to standoffs in Europe, especially related to the status of the city of Berlin.



Americans did not want to continue fighting to stop communism. They had just finished fighting the Germans and Japanese and fighting the Soviets to stop communism would have been unpopular with voters. Instead, leaders like President Truman decided to prevent communism from spreading to new places. This was called containment.

Americans were afraid that poverty and political instability in Europe would give communists an opportunity to win over the hearts and minds of people in many countries, not just the nations that were occupied by Soviet troops. A solution was to promote economic recovery. In theory, if people had jobs and the economy was doing well, they would not want to give up prosperity to experiment with communism. To do this, the United States gave billions of dollars to places like France, West Germany, Greece and Japan to help them rebuild.

Stalin was angry that the city of Berlin was divided and wanted to unite the city under communist rule. To force the Americans, British and French out, he blockaded the city, preventing fuel and food from being brought in. He believed that the allies would give up the city rather than fight. Truman saw the conflict as a test of his willingness to stand up to stop the spread of communism and organized an airlift to supply everything the people of West Berlin needed by air transport. After more than a year, Stalin gave up and allowed ground transport into the city again. It was an important early victory for containment.

Both the United States and Soviet Union wanted allies. The United States and its allies in Western Europe formed NATO. The Soviet Union and its allies in Eastern Europe formed the Warsaw Pact. Both alliances were for mutual defense. If any country was attacked, everyone would join the fight in their defense.

In China, the civil war that had been raging before the Japanese invaded reignited. Communists and nationalists fought in the late 1940s, and communists under Mao Zedong won, driving the nationalists to the island of Taiwan. The United States did not want to fight another war so soon after World War II and did not directly join the fighting. This was a failure to contain the spread of communism.

At the end of World War II, Korea had been divided between communists in the North and non-communists in the South. In 1950, the communists invaded the South and the United States led a fight to defend them. Korea was another important test of containment. The war was long and ended in a stalemate. Today Korea is still divided between a communist North and non-communist South. During the Korean War, General MacArthur wanted to expand the war into China and defeat communism once and for all, but President Truman fired him. The Cold War would be a long conflict, but always limited.

In the end, American leaders came to believe in a domino theory. They thought that if one nation became communist, its neighbors would also soon become communists. In order to prevent the spread of communism, every country, no matter how small, would need to be defended. Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson all decided to support the anti-communists in Vietnam for this reason.

### VOCABULARY



#### IDEAS

Collective Security  
Stalemate  
Armistice



#### PEOPLE & GROUPS

George Kennan  
George Marshall  
William Turner  
NATO  
Warsaw Pact  
Sun Yat-sen  
Chiang Kai-shek  
Mao Zedong  
Syngman Rhee  
Kim Il-Sung  
Douglas MacArthur  
Kim Jong-Il  
Kim Jong-un  
Ho Chi Minh  
Viet Minh  
Vo Nguyen Giap  
Ngo Dinh Diem  
Viet Cong



#### EVENTS

Berlin Airlift  
Long March  
Dien Bien Phu



#### PLACES

Baltic States  
Berlin  
People's Republic of China  
Republic of China  
Taiwan  
38th Parallel  
Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)  
Indochina  
Hanoi  
Saigon



#### POLICIES

Containment  
Truman Doctrine  
Marshall Plan  
Domino Theory



# 15-3: THE ARMS RACE

**BIG IDEA:** The Soviet Union and United States developed huge numbers of extremely dangerous nuclear weapons as they raced to outdo the other side. This competition for military dominance extended even into space and nearly led to nuclear war over Cuba.

When World War II ended, the United States was the only country with an atomic bomb. Within a few years, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France and China had also developed nuclear weapons.

Since the Cold War was essentially a long face off, both sides wanted to be prepared with the most powerful weapons. This led to an arms race in which the United States and Soviet Union tried to outdo each other to develop more powerful and more plentiful nuclear bombs, missiles, tanks, and airplanes. Both superpowers ended up having nuclear weapons mounted on missiles, in bombs delivered by airplanes, and missiles launched from submarines.

In the United States, people were terrified of the possibility of death from sudden, unpredictable nuclear attack. Many Americans built fallout shelters. Students practiced “duck and cover” drills at school, and superheroes fought communists in comic books.

By the end of the arms race, both nations had enough nuclear weapons to destroy the other many times over. However, both sides were afraid to shoot first, for fear of a retaliatory attack. This mutually assured destruction prevented nuclear war.

All nuclear nations tested their weapons. The United States and France tested weapons in the islands of the Pacific, with disastrous results for the health of the islanders.

The race for technological superiority extended into space. The Soviet Union launched the first satellite, first animal, and first person into space, but the United States was first to send a man to the Moon.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy was elected president in a close election over Vice President Richard Nixon. It was the first election that featured televised debates.

Kennedy wanted more conventional weapons so he would have other options besides nuclear war. He also wanted Americans to travel abroad to help other nations so that people around the world would think positively about the United States.

In 1959, communists took over the island nation of Cuba. Americans tried to help anti-communist Cubans retake the island, but their invasion failed and Kennedy refused to help. This was embarrassing for Kennedy and made the Soviets think Kennedy was weak.

In 1962, Soviet leader Khrushchev placed nuclear missiles in Cuba. The 13 days of standoff between Khrushchev and Kennedy were the closest the two superpowers ever came to nuclear war. After the crisis, both sides decided to try to talk more and find ways to reduce their nuclear arsenals.

## VOCABULARY



### PEOPLE & GROUPS

Curtis LaMay  
Nuclear Club  
Captain America  
Superman  
Laika  
Yuri Gagarin  
Alan Shephard  
Valentina Tereshkova  
John F. Kennedy  
Neil Armstrong  
Lyndon B. Johnson  
New Frontiersmen  
Fulgencio Bautista  
Fidel Castro  
Nikita Khrushchev  
Adlai Stevenson  
Robert Kennedy  
Ex-Comm  
Politburo  
Leonid Brezhnev  
Raul Castro



### PLACES

Bikini Atoll  
Eniwetok



### EVENTS

Castle Bravo  
1960 Presidential Election  
Kennedy-Nixon Debates  
Cuban Revolution  
Bay of Pigs Invasion  
Cuban Missile Crisis



### GOVERNMENT & MILITARY AGENCIES

Strategic Air Command  
Civil Defense  
Apollo Program  
Peace Corps  
Central Intelligence Agency



### SPEECHES

Kennedy's Inaugural Address  
We Choose to Go to the Moon  
One small step for man...



### TECHNOLOGIES

B-52 Stratofortress  
Thermonuclear Warhead  
Tactical Nuclear Weapons  
ICBM  
SLBM  
Nuclear Triad  
MIRV  
Fallout Shelter  
Sputnik  
Explorer 1  
U-2  
Red Telephone



### IDEAS

Proliferation  
Nuclear Winter  
Mutually Assured Destruction  
Blockade  
Embargo



### POLICIES, LAWS & AGREEMENTS

Compact of Free Association  
New Frontier  
Flexible Response



# 15-4: THE COLD WAR AT HOME

**BIG IDEA:** Fear of communism led Americans to turn on one another and changed the relationship between the military, government and defense contractors. However, the Cold War also led to improvements in education and new technologies for civilian use.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, a second Red Scare swept the United States. People in both the House of Representatives and especially Senator Joseph McCarthy investigated suspected communists. Many people's careers were ruined by false accusations since few real communists were ever found. Those that did, such as spies who had given nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union, fueled fears that gave power to the accusers.

President Eisenhower wanted to find ways to use nuclear power for good, not just for weapons of destruction. His Atoms for Peace program encouraged the sharing of nuclear technology to support things such as medicine and nuclear power stations to generate electricity.

When he left office, Eisenhower warned America about the danger posed by the Cold War's long period of military readiness. Unlike past wars that ended, the Cold War was always about to begin. This meant that the government was always spending money to have the latest military technology, and the companies and workers that supplied those weapons relied on tax money being spent for their jobs. Eisenhower warned that this would lead to unnecessary spending in the future, which has turned out to be true.

In fact, during the election campaign of 1960, Kennedy encouraged this sort of spending by claiming that the United States had fewer missiles than the Soviet Union. This missile gap did not actually exist, but many people were so afraid of communists that they believed it anyway and their fear encouraged politicians to vote to spend money on the military.

Fear that the communists might be more advanced in the fields of science and math, and therefore might be able to surpass the United States in weapon design, led to spending in education. Science education became important again and many colleges and high schools built new science labs and hired science teachers.



## VOCABULARY



### IDEAS

Bomber Gap  
Missile Gap  
Bomb Shelters  
Military Industrial Complex



### PEOPLE & GROUPS

Alger Hiss  
Julius and Ethel Rosenberg  
Joseph McCarthy  
Reds  
Hollywood 10



### EVENTS

Second Red Scare  
McCarthyism



### GOVERNMENT & INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

House Un-American Activities Committee  
International Atomic Energy Agency



### SPEECHES

McCarthy's 205 Communists  
Have you no sense of decency?  
Atoms for Peace  
Eisenhower's Farewell Address



### LAWS & TREATIES

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty  
National Defense Education Act





# 15-5: THE LATER COLD WAR

**BIG IDEA:** While communist nations used fear to manipulate and control their people, the desire to prevent the spread of communism led the United States to side with dictators in the Third World who violated human rights. Beginning in the 1970s, American and Soviet leaders tried to relax tensions.

There were few chances for the United States and Soviet Union to actually meet face to face and debate their ideas. Once chance was the Kitchen Debates between then-Vice President Richard Nixon and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in 1959. Nixon showed off a model American kitchen and all the good things that capitalism allowed people to buy. Khrushchev was impressed, but did not change his mind about the benefits of communism.

Twice, people in Eastern Europe tried to fight to get rid of their communist governments. In 1959, people in Hungary rebelled and in 1968, people in Czechoslovakia rebelled. In both cases, the Soviet Union sent its own troops to put down the rebellions and restore communists to power.

One way communist governments maintained control was through fear. People who disagreed or tried to organize opposition to the government were arrested, thrown in jail, or sometimes they simply disappeared. People knew that the secret police might appear at any moment and had power to kidnap political opponents, so most people tried to avoid criticizing their leaders or doing anything that might put themselves in danger. The result was an obedient and unhappy people.

In the 1970s, American leaders decided that there was little chance of getting rid of communism. The initial worries about communism spreading had ended. Therefore, they decided, they should try to find ways to get along and coexist peacefully. The United States and Soviet Union signed a series of treaties to ban the testing of nuclear weapons, and to start to reduce their total number of warheads. The two nations even worked together to have their spacecraft dock in orbit and their astronauts shake hands in space. This period of cooling tensions was called *Détente*, but ended when the Soviets invaded their neighbor Afghanistan.

Both the United States and Soviet Union tried to convince other nations to join their side. This meant that Americans supported anti-communists governments around the world. Sometimes, we supported people who were dictators and terrible leaders, such as in Chile and Panama, simply because they were anti-communist. These conflicts were proxy wars, because they stood in for actual fights between the superpowers.

In Central America, when the poor started a revolution against the wealthy landowners, the Soviet Union supported the poor and the United States ended up supporting the rich people who controlled the government. Because both superpowers were giving money and weapons to their side, the civil wars lasted a long time and thousands of people died who might have lived if the Cold War had not been raging. Similar problems happened in the Middle East. In Afghanistan, the United States gave weapons to the same people who we eventually had to fight after 9/11.



## GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

KGB  
Stasi  
Juntong  
State Security Department  
Gulag  
Troika  
Apollo-Soyuz Test Project  
School of the Americas

## VOCABULARY



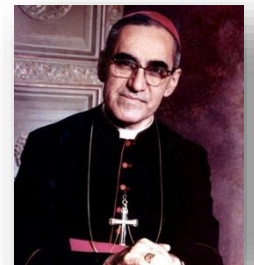
### IDEAS

Realpolitik  
Proxy Wars



### PEOPLE & GROUPS

Alexandr Solzhenitsyn  
Dr. Henry Kissinger  
Strongman  
Salvador Allende  
Agosto Pinochet  
Manuel Noriega  
Sandinistas  
Contras  
PMLN  
Oscar Romero  
Gamal Abdel Nasser



### EVENTS

Kitchen Debate  
Hungarian Uprising  
Prague Spring  
Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan  
Assassination of Oscar Romero  
Suez Crisis



### PLACES

Israel



### TEXTS

The Gulag Archipelago



### POLICIES & TREATIES

Partial Test Ban Treaty  
Outer Space Treaty  
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty  
SALT I & SALT II  
Biological Weapons Convention  
Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty  
Helsinki Accords  
*Détente*

# 15-6: THE END OF THE COLD WAR

**BIG IDEA:** The Cold War ended without the massive military conflict between East and West that the two sides had prepared for. Instead, the leaders in communist countries allowed greater economic freedom, and responding to social pressure in the case of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, greater political freedom.

As part of his effort to reduce Cold War tensions, Richard Nixon decided to formally recognize the communist government of China and visited Beijing in 1972. This led to an opening up of China, as well as the sharing of goodwill gestures such as ping-pong matches and a gift of panda bears.

When Ronald Reagan became president in 1980, he decided to challenge communist leaders. He called the Soviet Union an “evil empire” and built up the American military. He disagreed with the idea of détente.

Reagan proposed a new strategy that would upend the system of mutually assured destruction. He wanted to build a system that could shoot down incoming Soviet missiles. The plan was not technologically possible, but it threatened to undo the delicate balance of power that had prevented war for decades.

Reagan was weakened as president by the Iran-Contra Scandal, which showed Americans how much he did not know about what his aides were doing. He survived, however, and started working with Soviet leaders.

Reagan met multiple times with Mikhail Gorbachev to try to reduce nuclear weapons. In fact, his second term was almost the opposite of his first. Instead of building up the military, Reagan started to reduce nuclear weapons. He wanted to give Gorbachev a chance to start reforms inside the Soviet Union.

Communism started to fall in Europe beginning in Poland. Workers there formed a union that conducted a non-violent resistance against the communist leadership. Pope John Paul II, originally from Poland, was an important voice around the world against communism.

In 1989, students organized a mass protest in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China. They wanted democracy and an end to communist rule. However, the communist government of China sent in the army to end the protest.

Growing protests in Eastern Europe were different, however. The Soviet government under Gorbachev refused to intervene the way that had in Hungary and Czechoslovakia in the 1950s and 1960s. Instead, they allowed pro-democracy demonstrations and permitted their Eastern European allies to open up the borders with the West.

In 1989, people in Berlin tore down the Berlin Wall. This most potent symbol of the division between East and West fell peacefully when the Soviets decided to let communism in East Germany end.

Gorbachev had hoped that by allowing people the freedom to vote, he might save communism, but that plan failed and in 1991, army officers staged a coup and tried to overthrow his government. However, the army itself did not follow the coup’s leaders. Eventually, the destruction of Gorbachev’s authority led to the splitting up of the Soviet Union and the end of communist governments in all the newly independent nations and in the former communist nations of Eastern Europe.

Communist governments continue in Cuba and North Korea. In China and Vietnam, the communist leaders gave up communism as an economic system, but continue to rule without elections.

## VOCABULARY



### IDEAS

Vietnam Syndrome



### PEOPLE & GROUPS

Ronald Reagan  
Margaret Thatcher  
Mikhail Gorbachev  
Solidarity  
Lech Walesa  
Pope John Paul II  
Erich Honecker  
Boris Yeltsin



### EVENTS

Nixon’s Visit to China  
Iran-Contra Scandal  
Reykjavik Summit  
Tiananmen Square Massacre  
Fall of the Berlin Wall  
Reunification of Germany  
1991 Coup  
Fall of the Soviet Union



### PLACES

People Republic of China  
Republic of China  
Alexanderplatz



### SPEECHES

Evil Empire Speech  
Tear Down This Wall



### POLICIES,

Rapprochement  
Ping Pong Diplomacy  
One China Policy  
Reagan Doctrine  
Perestroika & Glasnost  
Sinatra Doctrine  
Brezhnev Doctrine



### TEXTS

Shanghai Communiqué



### GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS & AGENCIES

Strategic Defense Initiative  
Missile Defense Agency



# ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY



## PEOPLE AND GROUPS

**Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels:** German intellectuals who promoted the ideas of socialism and communism and wrote the Communist Manifesto.

**Vladimir Lenin:** Leader of the Bolsheviks and first communist leader of the Soviet Union.

**Josef Stalin:** One of Lenin's supporters and the second leader of the Soviet Union from 1922-1953.

**Nikita Khrushchev:** Soviet leader from 1953-1964. He was leader during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Leonid Brezhnev:** Soviet leader from 1964-1982.

**Mikhail Gorbachev:** Last leader of the Soviet Union from 1985-1991. He promoted government reform and negotiated with the United States.

**Boris Yeltsin:** Russian leader who demanded greater reform during the 1980s. He opposed the 1991 coup and became the first president of independent Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt:** President of the United States during the Great Depression and most of WWII.

**United Nations (UN):** An organization in which the nations of the world meet to cooperate and solve disputes. The headquarters is in New York City.

**Security Council:** The small group of nations that has the authority to set policy for the United Nations. It includes five permanent members: the US, UK, France, Russia and China.

**George Kennan:** The State Department official who developed the policy of containment.

**George Marshall:** American Secretary of State who proposed using American money to rebuild Europe. He believed that if countries had a strong economy they would be less likely to fall to communism.

**NATO:** Alliance that includes the United States, Canada, and most of the nations of Western Europe as well as Greece and Turkey. It was created to counter the threat of the Soviet Union.

**Warsaw Pact:** The collective security agreement that was the answer to NATO. It included the Soviet Union and most of Eastern Europe.

**Mao Zedong:** Leader of the Chinese communists. He became the first leader of mainland China after the communist takeover.

**Douglas MacArthur:** American hero of WWII in the Pacific. He had led the occupation of Japan and was commander in the Korean War until he was relieved by President Truman for insubordination.

**Kim Il-Sung:** First leader of communist North Korea.

**Kim Jong-il:** Second leader of North Korea from 1994-2011

**Kim Jong-un:** Third leader of North Korea from 2011 to the present.

**John F. Kennedy (JFK):** Democratic president from 1961-1963. He was president during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Lyndon B. Johnson:** Vice president for John F. Kennedy and president from 1963-1968.

**Fidel Castro:** Communist leader who led the Cuban Revolution in 1959.

**Alger Hiss:** American diplomat who had advised Roosevelt at Yalta and was involved in the creation of the United Nations. He was denounced as a communist during the Red Scare. He was convicted but evidence of his guilt is inconclusive.

**Julius and Ethel Rosenberg:** Julius Rosenberg was scientist who gave nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union. He and his wife Ethel were tried, convicted and put to death during the Red Scare.

**Joseph McCarthy:** Senator who became famous as an accuser during the Red Scare. He rarely presented evidence and was eventually discredited.

**Reds:** Derogatory nickname for communists.

**Hollywood 10:** A group of ten Hollywood writers, producers and directors who were accused of being communist. They refused to answer questions from HUAC and were blacklisted.

**Dr. Henry Kissinger:** National Security Advisor to President Nixon. He believed in realpolitik and was instrumental in the negotiations with the Soviet Union and China that were part of the détente policy.

**Ronald Reagan:** American president from 1981-1989. He abandoned détente and supported a more confrontational stance toward the Soviet Union based on an ideological view of the conflict. In his second term he began negotiating with Gorbachev and is credited with helping end the Cold War.



## SPEECHES

**Kennedy's Inaugural Address:** President Kennedy's speech in 1961 and occasion of some of his most famous statements.

**We Choose to Go to the Moon:** Speech by JFK in 1961 in which he challenged America to send a man to the moon before 1970.

**McCarthy's 205 Communists:** McCarthy claimed to know of 205 communists working in the State Department during a speech in 1950. He never provided evidence but his claim and subsequent Senate hearings made him famous.

**Atoms for Peace:** A speech given by President Eisenhower in 1953 (and the government programs that followed) that encouraged the civilian use of nuclear technology.

**Eisenhower's Farewell Address:** Televised address by departing President Eisenhower in 1961 shortly before Kennedy took office. Eisenhower warned of the dangers of all-or-nothing thinking and the growing influence of a military industrial complex.

**Evil Empire Speech:** 1982 speech by President Ronald Reagan in which he condemned communism and the Soviet Union calling it an "Evil Empire."

**Tear Down This Wall:** 1987 speech by Ronald Reagan in West Berlin in which he challenged Gorbachev to open the Iron Curtain.



## KEY CONCEPTS

**Capitalism:** An economic system in which people are free to make choices about how to spend money, where to work, etc.

**Free Market Economy:** Another term for capitalism.

**Communism:** An economic systems in which the government controls all production and distribution. In theory, everyone works and everyone shares.

**Collective Security:** An agreement between nations in which they agree to treat an attack on any member of the agreement as an attack on all members.

**Stalemate:** A situation in war in which neither side is able to win.

**Proliferation:** The spread of weapons, especially nuclear weapons to multiple countries.

**Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD):** The situation in which both the United States and Soviet Union could destroy one another in a nuclear exchange. Because starting a war meant assured destruction, no side would start the war

**Military Industrial Complex:** President Eisenhower's term for the relationship between the military, weapons manufacturers, and lawmakers who allocated funding for weapons systems.

**Missile Gap:** A perceived lack of ICBMs compared to the Soviet Union. There was actually no gap, but the public became concerned with Senator Kennedy repeatedly used the term to stoke fear during his 1960 presidential campaign.

**Realpolitik:** Policies based on practical rather than moral or ideological goals.

**Proxy Wars:** Wars that were not fought between the United States and Soviet Union. However, the superpowers supported either side and the wars were viewed as a stand-in for real face-to-face conflict.



## GOVERNMENT & MILITARY AGENCIES

**Strategic Air Command:** The organization in the American military responsible for America's nuclear bombers and missiles.

**Apollo Program:** NASA program to develop the technology to send a man to the Moon.

**Peace Corps:** A group of young American volunteers who travel to developing nations to provide support and help spread goodwill.

**Central Intelligence Agency (CIA):** America's spy agency.

**House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC):** Special committee formed by members of the House of Representatives to investigate communists in the United States. Future president Richard Nixon was a member of the committee and they investigated the Hollywood 10.



## EVENTS

**Yalta Conference:** February 1945 meeting between President Roosevelt, Josef Stalin, and Great Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill to make agreements about the post-WWII world.

**Potsdam Conference:** A conferences in July and August 1945 between President Truman, Josef Stalin and Great Britain's Clement Attlee in which the leaders agreed to divide Germany into four zones of occupation.

**Decolonization:** The process by which former colonies in the Third World gained independence from European powers in the first few decades after WWII.

**Berlin Airlift:** Operation mounted by the United States and Great Britain to supply West Berlin by air when Stalin cut off the city's land access in 1948-1949. The Airlift was a success despite tremendous obstacles and the city was saved from communist takeover.

**1960 Presidential Election:** Election between Senator John F. Kennedy and Vice President Richard Nixon. Kennedy won in a close popular vote.

**Kennedy-Nixon Debates:** The first televised presidential election debates.

**Cuban Revolution:** Communist overthrow of Batista's Cuban government in 1958, led by Fidel Castro.

**Bay of Pigs Invasion:** 1961 attack by anti-communist Cuban exiles who had been trained by the CIA in an effort to start a revolution against Castro. The invasion failed and Kennedy refused to support the invaders.

**Cuban Missile Crisis:** 13-day standoff in 1962. The Soviet Union had placed nuclear missiles in Cuba and Kennedy demanded that they be removed. It was the closest the world every came to nuclear war.

**Second Red Scare:** The period in the late 1940s and early 1950s when the fear that communists were infiltrating America drove wild accusations and political investigations.

**McCarthyism:** Another term often used for the Second Red Scare which refers to the unfounded accusations common of the time.

**Nixon's Visit to China:** 1972 visit by President Nixon to the People's Republic of China. This visit officially reopened the diplomatic relationship between the PRC and the US and the US recognized the PRC government as the representatives of China at the United Nations.

**Iran-Contra Scandal:** Political scandal in 1986 in which officials in the Reagan Administration illegally sold weapons to Iran and used the money to support the Contras in Nicaragua. The scandal called into question Reagan's ability to manage the day-to-day operations of government.

**Reykjavik Summit:** 1985 summit between President Reagan and Gorbachev held in Reykjavik, Iceland. It was one of five meetings between the two leaders. At their meeting, they agreed to eliminate all nuclear weapons but their advisors made them reverse this pledge.

**Fall of the Berlin Wall:** The demonstrations and reverse of East German policy in November, 1989 that led to the opening of crossing points between East and West Berlin, and the subsequent destruction of the Berlin Wall by the people of Berlin.

**Tiananmen Square Massacre:** 1989 confrontation between pro-democracy activists and the communist government in Beijing, China. After protesters occupied Tiananmen Square in the center of the city the government ordered the military to break up the protest resulting in hundreds, possibly thousands of deaths.

**Reunification of Germany:** 1990 joining of East and West Germany. The East German government ceased to exist and the capital of Germany was moved from Bonn to Berlin.

**1991 Coup:** Attempt to overthrow the Soviet government of Gorbachev by hard line leaders and generals in August 1991. It failed when the military refused to follow orders from the coup leaders. Gorbachev was returned to power but was weakened, leading to the breakup of the Soviet Union.

**Fall of the Soviet Union:** December 25, 1991. The various republics of the Soviet Union became independent nations and the Soviet government and communism in the former Soviet Union ceased to exist. This was the final end of the Cold War



## LOCATIONS

**Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR):** The official name of the Soviet Union.

**Third World:** The traditionally poorer regions of the world including Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

**Iron Curtain:** The division between Eastern and Western Europe marking the separation between the communist and free worlds.

**Berlin Wall:** A wall built by the East German government in 1961 to prevent people from escaping to West Berlin. It became a symbol of the division between the free and communist worlds.

**Berlin:** Capital city of Germany. After WWII it was divided. West Berlin was a small enclave of freedom surrounded by Soviet-dominated East Germany. The city was the site of many standoffs and physical manifestations of the Cold War.

**People's Republic of China (PRC):** The official name of communist mainland China.

**Republic of China (ROC):** The official name of non-communist Taiwan.

**38<sup>th</sup> Parallel:** The line of latitude that divided North and South Korea before the Korean War. The current boundary still roughly follows the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel.

**Demilitarized Zone (DMZ):** The three-mile wide strip of land that marks the boundary between North and South Korea.

**Israel:** Nation in the Middle East created in 1948 largely by Jews who escaped the Holocaust. It is a strong ally of the United States but has a violent history with its Arab neighbors.



## POLICIES & TREATIES

**Containment:** The policy of preventing the spread of communist but not trying to eliminate it where it already existed.

**Truman Doctrine:** President Truman's plan to implement containment and use American money to support countries that were in danger of falling under communist domination.

**Marshall Plan:** The plan to use American money to rebuild Europe. It was intended to prevent the spread of communism by demonstrating that a free market system would be the path to prosperity.

**Domino Theory:** American belief that if one nation fell to communism its neighbors would soon follow.

**Flexible Response:** Kennedy's policy of having more conventional (non-nuclear) weapons so that the United States could use military power without resorting to a nuclear attack.

**Partial Test Ban Treaty:** 1963 treaty banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, under water and in space.

**Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:** A treaty signed in 1968 by all but four countries in the world. Nations promise not to acquire nuclear weapons (if they don't already possess them) and in exchange they may use nuclear technology for civilian purposes.

**SALT I & SALT II:** Treaties signed between the United States and Soviet Union in 1972 and 1979 agreeing to reduce the number of nuclear warheads in their arsenals.

**Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty:** 1972 treaty between the United States and Soviet Union agreeing to limit the development of missiles that could intercept incoming ICBMs.

**Helsinki Accords:** 1975 agreement between the major nations of the Free and Communist Worlds. It guaranteed respect for boundaries, thus cementing the communist takeover of Eastern Europe, but also committed nations to respect human rights.

**Détente:** A policy of engaging the Soviet Union in negotiations used by Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter in the 1970s. It assumed that the end of the Cold War was not imminent so negotiation rather than confrontation was the best policy.