

# The Cold War

After World War II, the United States and U.S.S.R. quickly became adversaries in the “Cold War” that would last more than 40 years.

The Cold War was “cold” only in the sense that, because of nuclear weapons, the two superpowers never confronted each other in open warfare.

# The Cold War

- The global competition of the superpowers led to frequent world crisis and regional confrontations on every continent.
- Unlike other “traditional” wars, the main adversaries, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. did not engage in direct hostilities, but engaged in conflicts through other proxy nations.

# The Yalta Conference

Churchill (Britain), Roosevelt (U.S.) and Stalin (U.S.S.R.) met at the **Yalta Conference** in February 1945 to discuss post war reconstruction of Europe. They agreed that Germany should be divided into four separate occupation zones.

They also confirmed the structure of the new United Nations, which had been negotiated five months earlier at the **Dunbarton Oaks Conference**.

# The Potsdam Conference

After President Roosevelt died in April 1945, President Harry Truman met with Stalin in Potsdam Germany in July/August 1945 to decide on the treatment of Germany, the final campaign against Japan, and future of Europe.

The two countries did not resolve some key issues, particularly related to the future of Eastern Europe.

# The “Iron Curtain”

The U.S. did not share its secret of how to make the atomic bomb with the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Union refused free elections in Poland.

Local communists came to power in Eastern Europe.

Winston Churchill told Americans in a speech in 1946 that an “Iron Curtain” had fallen, closing off Eastern Europe from the West. Travel and contact between East and West Was limited.

# Berlin Airlift

In 1948, the French, British, and US zones of occupation of Germany were merged into one country, "West Germany."

Russia responded by blockading the old capital of Germany, Berlin, which was deep inside the Soviet zone.

The Western Allies began a massive airlift to supply West Berlin.

# East vs. West

NATO formed in 1949 – U.S. and its Western allies agreed to defend each other in the event of attack.

Warsaw Pact, 1955 – Soviet response to NATO. Alliance of Soviet allies.

# Nuclear Proliferation

In 1945, the United States was the sole nuclear power.

The Soviet Union learned how to make atomic bombs by about 1945.

The superpowers embarked on a strategy of mutually assured destruction. Neither party could use its nuclear weapons, or the other would destroy them.



# Korean War (1950-1953)

North Korea invaded South Korea.

The war ended where it began – at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

# Korean War (1950-1953)

General Douglas MacArthur, the leader of allied forces in the Pacific (Asian) theater of WW II, wanted to pursue the Korean War in a more traditional fashion to “win.” This conflicted with Truman’s strategy to avoid a direct conflict with the the Communists in China. MacArthur was recalled. The war ultimately ended where it began – at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel.

# China

In 1949, the Communist Chinese, led by Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-Tung) defeated the Nationalist Chinese led by General Chiang Kai-Shek. The Nationalist Chinese retreated to Taiwan.

# PART 2

# The Red Scare

Beginning in the late 1940's Congress began investigating possible U.S. domestic communism in the **House Committee on Un-American Activities**. Many people thought these investigations went too far.

# The Red Scare

The **Hollywood Ten** consisted of ten screenwriters and directors who refused to answer questions from this committee. They were fired by their employers and had trouble finding work for a decade.

# The Red Scare

In the early 1950's, **Senator Joseph McCarthy** from Wisconsin, became especially prominent in Congress' anti-communist investigations. Many people questioned his methods and said McCarthy ruined peoples lives and reputations without adequate proof of being communist. His brand of activity became generally known as **“McCarthyism.”**

# Red Scare

In 1950, **Julius and Ethel Rosenberg** were convicted of furnishing atomic bomb secrets to the U.S.S.R. They were later executed.



# Cold War – Kennedy & Eisenhower

**Dwight Eisenhower** was a five-star general in the United States Army and served as supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe. He was responsible for planning and supervising the invasion of North Africa in Operation Torch in 1942–43 and the successful invasion of France and Germany in 1944–45, including D-Day. He served as president of the United States from 1953 to 1961.

# Cold War – Kennedy & Eisenhower

In 1954 President Eisenhower committed to containing communism in the Middle East. This Policy became known as the “**Eisenhower Doctrine.**” Under this doctrine, 15,000 U.S. troops were sent to Lebanon in 1958 to support its pro-Western President against the threat of communist revolution.

# Cold War – Kennedy & Eisenhower

**Nikita Khrushchev** became leader of the U.S.S.R. in 1953, after the death of Joseph Stalin

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first man made satellite into space. It was called “**Sputnik.**”

# Cold War – Kennedy & Eisenhower

In 1959, **Fidel Castro** and his guerrilla fighters overthrew the Cuban dictator, Batista. Castro, and set up a brutal communist dictatorship. His government nationalized/confiscated private property, and turned it over to his government.

President Eisenhower's administration planned an invasion of Cuba, but that plan was not executed until John F. Kennedy became President.

# Cold War – Kennedy & Eisenhower

The **Bay of Pigs Invasion** was the U.S. plan to assist and arm Cuban exiles in an invasion of Cuba in order to topple Castro's government. The effort failed. Many people blamed President Kennedy for the failure. They complained the U.S. did not supply air support during the invasion.

# Cold War – Kennedy & Eisenhower

In October 1962, US spy planes detected the Cubans preparing to install Soviet missiles in Cuba. The US installed a naval blockade around Cuba. This confrontation brought the superpowers dangerously close to a nuclear war. It became known as the **“Cuban Missile Crisis.”**

Khrushchev agreed to withdraw Cuban missiles in exchange for a US promise to not try to invade Cuba again. Also, the US withdrew its missiles from Turkey.

## Cold War – Cuba.

Between 1959 and 1962, more than 200,000 Cubans fled Castro's repressive government for the U.S. Air travel was restored between the two countries from 1965 to 1973, and another 368,000 Cubans fled to America. In 1980, Castro permitted another 100,000 Cuban Marielitos to flee from the port of Mariel, in Cuba.

# Cold War

The **Space Race** was the competition between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. for advancements in space technology. The Soviet Union beat the US to have the first human in earth orbit, Yuri Gagarin, on April 12, 1961.

In 1962, President Kennedy proposed a US priority to land a human on the moon by the end of the decade. This goal was achieved in July 1969 when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon.



# Cold War

In 1961, the Soviets built the “**Berlin Wall.**” It was a concrete and barbed wire wall constructed to prevent East Berliners in communist controlled territory from fleeing to the West.

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