

# Cold War, 1945-1989

## The Conflict, Entrenched

(page 1 of 2)

The two nations take different approaches: brinkmanship (US) v. deterrence (Soviet Union)

1950-1953, Korean conflict  
United States made its first commitment to form a peace treaty with Japan that would guarantee long-term US military bases.

- ↳ This treaty led Stalin to approve a plan for Soviet allies to invade US-supported South Korea.
- ↳ Stalin insists the North Koreans continue fighting

The Korean War marked a shift in the focal point of the Cold War, from postwar Europe to East Asia. After this point, proxy battles in the Third World became an important arena of superpower competition.

Hydrogen bomb introduced, in 1952 (US) and 1953 (Soviet Union)

Fear of a nuclear war spurred the production of public safety films by the US federal government's Civil Defense branch which demonstrated ways to protecting oneself from a Soviet nuclear attack.

- ↳ Example: 1951 children's film Duck and Cover

Following Stalin's death, there was a period of internal unrest in the eastern block while a calming of international relations.

- ↳ This 'calming' masked the continuing arms race.

The Second Red Scare, 1948-1956 "McCarthyism" is in reference to making accusations of disloyalty, subversion, or treason without proper regard for evidence, in the US. The era was characterized by heightened fears of communist influence on American institutions and espionage by Soviet agents.

- ↳ The airing of hearings on tv and investigations by journalist Edward R Murrow led directly to the disgraceful end of McCarthy's political career.

1961, tensions mount when the US deployed 15 Jupiter Missiles in Turkey aimed at Russian cities. Moscow was only 16 minutes away. The U.S. could also launch 1,000-mile range Polaris Missiles from submerged submarines.

By 1962, the US had more than eight times as many bombs and missile warheads than the Soviet Union: 27,297 to 3,332

Cuban missile crisis, Bay of Pigs Inv.

1960 American U-2 surveillance jet shot down over Russia

- ↳ Coming just over two weeks before the scheduled opening of an East-West summit in Paris, the incident was a great embarrassment to the US and prompted a deterioration in its relations with the Soviet Union.
- ↳ Pilot Frances Powers survives, exchanged for captured Soviet prisoner Vilyam Fisher

A shadow war was taking place in the world of espionage.

There was a series of shocking spy scandals in the west

- ↳ Cambridge Five – UK diplomats and intelligence officers who passed info to Soviet Union
- ↳ Oleg Gordievsky – Soviet KGB gave info to England
- ↳ Petrov Affair – Soviet diplomat offers info to Australians in order to remain in country
- ↳ Funding for KGB, CIA, MI6, Stasi increase greatly

Decolonization

The Korean War marked a shift in the focal point of the Cold War, from postwar Europe to East Asia. After this point, proxy battles in the Third World became an important arena of superpower competition.

- ↳ The combined effects of two world wars had weakened the political and economic domination by European powers of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. This led to a series of waves of African and Asian decolonization following the Second World War; a world that had been dominated for over a century by Western imperialist colonial powers was transformed into a world of emerging African, Middle Eastern, and Asian nations. The sheer number of nation states increased drastically.

- ↳ The Cold War started placing immense pressure on developing nations to align with one of the superpower factions.

- ↳ Both promised substantial financial, military, and diplomatic aid in exchange for an alliance, in which issues like corruption and human rights abuses were overlooked or ignored. When an allied government was threatened, the superpowers were often prepared and willing to intervene.

- ↳ In such a global setting, the Soviet Union propagated a role as the leader of the "anti-imperialist" camp, currying favor in the Third World as being a more staunch opponent of colonialism than many independent nations in Africa and Asia

As the Cold War became an accepted element of the international system, the battlegrounds of the earlier period began to stabilize.

- ↳ A buffer zone between the two camps was set up in Central Europe. Instability in this buffer zone raged
- ↳ The Uprising of 1953 in East Germany started with a strike by East Berlin construction workers.

It turned into a widespread uprising against the Stalinist government. Violently suppressed by tanks; the wave of strikes and protests persisted, with demonstrations in more than 500 towns and villages.

- ↳ Warszawa Pact formed in 1955 in response to NATO's inclusion of West Germany and partly because the Soviets needed an excuse to retain Red Army units in potentially problematic Hungary.

The Pact perpetuated the Stalin-inspired concept of Soviet national security being based on imperial expansion and control over satellite regimes in Eastern Europe

- ↳ In 1956 Poland, demonstrations by workers demanding better conditions were met with violent repression. A crowd of 100,000 were confronted by 400 tanks and 10,000. 57-78 killed.

- ↳ The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a spontaneous nationwide revolt against the government and its Soviet-imposed policies.

The revolt was prompted by demands including free secret ballot elections, independent tribunals, and inquiries into Stalin and Rákosi Hungarian activities. Soviet tanks entered Budapest. Protester attacks at the Parliament forced the collapse of the government.

- ↳ The Berlin Crisis of 1961 was the last major politico-military incident about the occupational status of Berlin and post-World War II Germany.

- ↳ Russia provoked the crisis with an ultimatum demanding withdrawal of Western armed forces from West Berlin — culminating with the city's partition with the East German erection of the Berlin Wall.

John Foster Dulles, a rigid anti-communist, focused aggressively on Third World politics.

- ↳ He intensified efforts to "integrate" the entire noncommunist Third World into a system of mutual defense pacts

1954, first James Bond book

The Eisenhower-Dulles approach to foreign policy did not establish the use of covert means to overthrow unfriendly governments, but increasingly relied on clandestine CIA operations.

Vietnam, and the invasion of Cambodia

Third World and nonalignment in the 1960s and 1970s

- ↳ Decolonization continues
- ↳ The economic needs of the Third World states made them vulnerable to foreign influences and pressures. Much needed resources for economic development came through economic ties and trade with the western powers and the Soviet Union, which vied with each other to capture the political support of the newly independent countries.

- ↳ Some underdeveloped states devised a strategy that turned the Cold War into "creative confrontation" – playing off the Cold War participants to their own advantage while maintaining nonaligned status.

Invasion of Czechoslovakia 1968, Warszawa Pact invades to prevent liberalization reforms.

Space Race

The Nixon Doctrine, 1969

- ↳ States that the US expected its allies to take care of their own military defense, but that the U.S. would aid in defense as requested.

- ↳ The Doctrine argued for the pursuit of peace through a partnership with American allies.

- the US will keep all of its treaty commitments.
- the US will provide a shield if a nuclear power threatens the freedom of an allied nation or of a nation whose survival considered vital to US
- in cases involving other types of aggression, the US shall furnish military and economic assistance when requested in accordance with treaty commitments. But the US shall look to the nation directly threatened to assume the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defense.

## Sino-Soviet Split

China's 'Great Leap Forward' and other policies based on agriculture instead of heavy industry challenged the Soviet-style socialism, and the extent of Soviet influence over the socialist countries.

- ↳ As "de-Stalinization" went forward in the Soviet Union, China's revolutionary founder, Mao Zedong, condemned the Soviets for "revisionism."
- ↳ The Chinese also were growing increasingly annoyed at being constantly in the number two role in the communist world.
- ↳ In the 1960s, an open split began to develop between the two powers; the tension led to a series of border skirmishes along the Chinese-Soviet border

Reference to the "Second Cold War" is *due to the rising US-Soviet tensions and a change in Western policy from détente to more confrontation against the Soviets.*

Neoconservatives rebelled against both the Nixon-era détente and the Democratic Party's position on defense issues in the 1970s, especially after the nomination of George McGovern in 1972, saying liberal Democrats were the cause for U.S. international setbacks

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) thinking takes hold

1983, Soviet Union shoots down Korean Airlines flight 007 claiming that it was on a spy mission. The Politburo said it was a deliberate provocation by the US to test the Soviet Union's military preparedness, or even to provoke a war.

For much of the Cold War, the prevailing war plan of the United States was all-out nuclear attack on all major military and civilian sites in the Soviet Union, no matter the nature of Soviet aggression (invasion, nuclear bombing, etc).

- ↳ In 1954, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles described this approach as a "capacity for massive retaliation." Supported by General Curtis LeMay

US Intelligence Officer Arthur Nicholson is shot to death by a Soviet sentry in West Germany.

1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War, as an extension of Cold War tensions

Reagan orders large peacetime buildup of the US military  
↳ USSR unable to match this due to the cost.

## Afghanistan conflict, 1979-1989

A ten year military stalemate caused when the USSR comes to assist the Afghanistan government against the resistance fighters Mujahideen.

- ↳ Killed: 14,400 Russians, 500,000+ Mujahideen, 1,000,000+ Afghan civilians
- ↳ A proxy war, as the Mujahideen was supported by the US, England and Muslim countries.
- ↳ Seen to have damaged the USSR's international standing and military morale (sometimes viewed as an analogous as 'the USSR's Vietnam conflict'.)
- ↳ US President Carter places trade embargo on USSR shipments of grain and weapons.
- ↳ US is very paranoid about tens of thousands of Soviet troops being in such close proximity of oil-rich Persian Gulf.

## Chernobyl disaster

26 April 1986 a nuclear power plant 'meltdown' in Ukraine.

Large areas of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia evacuated, and over 336,000 permanently resettled.

- ↳ Raised concerns among Russian citizens of the Soviet nuclear power industry.
- ↳ International demands forced USSR to be less secretive about its activities.

## Cold War, 1945-1989 The Conflict, Entrenched (page 2 of 2)

Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader in 1985, following death of three leaders in three years.

- ↳ This advanced into leadership positions several young reform-orientated technocrats who had begun their careers in the heyday of 'de-Stalinization' under the reformist leader Khrushchev.

Reagan takes aggressive posture toward the Soviet Union

- ↳ Persuades Saudi Arabian oil companies to increase production.
  - ↳ This led to a drop by two-thirds in the price of oil globally (oil was the main source of Soviet revenues, so they lost money.)

Reagan and the US pursued policies of aggressive political confrontation and arms buildups

## Mikhail Gorbachev

Promotes liberalization of the political landscape of the USSR and capitalist elements into the economy.

- ↳ Prior to this, the USSR had been strictly prohibiting liberal reform and maintained an inefficient centralized economy.

USSR, faced with massive economic difficulties, as interested in reducing the cost of the arms race

Gorbachev-introduced policies had a transformative ripple affect throughout the Soviet world.  
"Demokratizatsiya" – democratization  
"Glasnost" – openness  
"Perestroika" – restructuring  
↳ As these were instituted with little regulation/oversight, the extent of them grew uncontrollable quickly.  
↳ This eventually made it impossible to reassert central control over Warszawa Pack members without resorting to military force.

## Berlin Wall speech

12 June 1987 at the Brandenburg Gate Reagan challenges Gorbachev to go further with his reforms by "tearing down this wall"

- ↳ The event was political stagecraft, as the two leaders had previously discussed then-unrevealed plans to dismantle the wall.

## Fall of Berlin Wall

Hungary and Austria eased border restrictions in August 1989 and thousands of East Germans tried to move west. In Germany, a peaceful revolution emerges. No German authority figure was willing to issue the order to use lethal force.  
9 November 1989 is recognized as the day the wall fell.

Gorbachev-inspired reform propagated through Eastern Europe, influencing many.

- ↳ Communist governments of Poland and Hungary became first to negotiate the organizing of competitive elections.
- ↳ In Czechoslovakia and East Germany, massive protests unseat entrenched Communist leaders.
- ↳ Bulgaria and Romania crumble, the former peacefully and the latter violently.
- ↳ Attitudes has changed so dramatically that US Secretary of State James Baker suggested the Americans would not oppose Soviet intervention in Romania if it would prevent continued bloodshed

Collapse of Eastern European governments occur with Gorbachev's tacit consent inadvertently encouraged several Soviet republics to seek greater independence from Moscow's rule.

- ↳ Several declare independence
- ↳ Disaffection in other republics was met by promises of greater decentralization.
- ↳ More open elections led to the election of candidates opposed to Communist rule.
  - ↳ *The groundwork for a structural systematic change is occurring!*

## 1991 Coup

In an attempt to hail the rapid changes, a group of Soviet hardliners stages a coup to overthrow Gorbachev.

- ↳ Boris Yeltsin rallied the people and many in the army against the coup.
- ↳ Returned to power, Gorbachev's authority had been irreparably undermined.

31 December 1991, the USSR officially dissolved, breaking into fifteen separate nations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Brainstorm review – Cold War

1. What approach did the US take in the Cold War?
2. What approach did the Soviet Union take in the Cold War?
3. What did the US-Japanese agreement prompt Stalin to do?
4. To what does “McCarthyism” refer?
5. What was the McCarthy era characterized by?
6. Why did the Jupiter Missiles make the Russians uncomfortable?
7. In 1962, how many missiles did each country have?
8. What happened to Frances Powers
9. A shadow war was taking place in the world of espionage.” Give examples in support of this.
10. How does decolonization relate to the Cold War?
11. In what ways did the Cold War place pressure on developing nations?
12. What was the Eisenhower-Dulles approach to foreign policy?
13. What is the Nixon Doctrine?
14. What are the three tenets of the Nixon Doctrine?
15. How did the Sino-Soviet split relate to the Cold War?
16. What prompted the term ‘Second Cold War’?
17. What was the prevailing war plan of the US during much of the Cold War?
18. What happened in Afghanistan?
19. What happened at Chernobyl?
20. What did Mikhail Gorbachev do to reform the Soviet Union?
21. What is Demokratizatsiya, Glasnost and Perestroika?
22. What was the impact of these three above policies?
23. Under what circumstances did the collapse of eastern European governments occur?