

The Cold War

Mr. Millhouse
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Origins of Cold War

- World War II
 - Russia resents delay in opening a second front
 - Russia waits over two years
 - At Yalta, Allies agree on free elections in Poland; becomes a communist government
 - Disagree on the post-war administration of Germany
 - Europe split between communist occupied East and capitalist occupied West

Symbols of the Cold War



- Capitalism vs. Communism
- "Iron Curtain" coined by Winston Churchill
- Berlin Wall
- Space Race
- United Nations

Cold War (1947-1953)

- U.S. adopts policy of containment
 - Truman Doctrine pledges to prevent the spread of communism
- Marshall Plan
 - Provided for the economic rebuilding of Western Europe; Molotov Plan
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
 - Military alliance between the U.S. and western European nations; Warsaw Pact

Cold War (1947-1953)

- Berlin Airlift of 1948-1949
 - Typical of Cold War—"Don't give in, don't fight"
- Communists takeover China in 1949
- USSR detonates first A-bomb in 1949
- Korean War (1950-1953)
 - Leads to expansion of containment theory
 - Eisenhower Doctrine
 - Fuels McCarthyism in the United States

Cold War Overview (1953-1972)

- Vietnam War
 - French Indo-China War
 - U.S. Vietnam War
- Space Race
- Cuban Missile Crisis
 - Cuban Revolution
 - Bay of Pigs
 - Cuban Missile Crisis



Nakita Khrushchev and Vice-President Richard Nixon engage in the "Kitchen Debate" in 1959

Vietnam War (1954-1973)

- Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnamese independence from France
 - Uses the American Declaration of Independence as a guide
 - Ho Chi Minh was a nationalist not a communist at first



Vietnam War (1954-1973)

- France tries to reclaim its colonies in French-Indo China
 - France withdraws after being defeated at Dien Bien Phu in 1954
 - Ho Chi Minh agrees to divide Vietnam into two parts
- U.S. begins to send in “advisors” to help South Vietnam in 1954

Vietnam War (1954-1973)

- Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964) allows LBJ to escalate U.S. presence in Vietnam
 - U.S. never declares war
- Nixon escalates U.S. presence in Vietnam
 - Invasion of Cambodia triggers rise of Khmer Rouge
 - Pol Pot purges Cambodia of 1/3 of its population
- U.S. ends involvement in 1973
 - Ho Chi Minh unites Vietnam in 1975

Space Race

- Space race was *not* about exploring space
- Space race used as a means to develop advanced rocketry for nuclear weapons
- USSR wins—Sputnik 1957
- U.S. lands a man on the moon 1969



Sputnik was the first satellite in space

Cuban Missile Crisis

- Cuban Revolution (1957-1959)
 - Fidel Castro overthrows U.S. supported dictator
- Bay of Pigs (April 1961)
 - C.I.A. trained Cuban refugees fail in attempt to retake Cuba from Castro
- Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)
 - Soviets place nukes in Cuba in response to U.S. placement of nukes in Turkey

Cuban Missile Crisis

- Kennedy orders a quarantine against future shipments to Cuba
- Closest U.S. and USSR comes to nuclear war during Cold War
 - M.A.D.—Mutually Assured Destruction
- U.S. agrees to withdraw nukes from Turkey and Soviets withdraw nukes from Cuba
 - Both sides claimed victory

Cold War Overview (1973-1989)

- Détente
 - SALT Treaty
 - Helsinki Accords
- USSR in Afghanistan
- End of the Cold War
 - Mikhail Gorbachev
 - Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Communist Bloc

Détente

- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)
 - First major nuclear arms treaty signed in 1972
- Nixon visits Beijing, China in 1972
 - U.S. officially recognizes China in 1979
- Helsinki Accords signed 1975
 - No political boundaries should be changed by military force
 - Paved way for dialogue between U.S. and USSR

Afghanistan (1978-1989)

- Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979
 - “USSR’s Vietnam”
- Resistance led by U.S. supported Osama Bin Laden
- Soviets eventually successful in creating a puppet government
- Overthrown by the Taliban in 1996



Mikhail Gorbachev

- Begins series of reforms in 1985
- Glasnost
 - Opened government to criticism
 - Provokes criticism by minority nationalities
- Perestroika
 - Free-market reforms
- 1st free election (1990)
- Replaced by Boris Yeltsin



Collapse of Communism

