The Cold War

When World War II ended, a new type of warfare began. Two former allies—the USA and USSR (Russia)—begun a dangerous rivalry. This rivalry, or fight, cast a shadow over international affairs until the 1990’s.

Origins of the Cold War

Even before the end of World War II, tensions were building between the USA and Union Socialist Republic (U.S.S.R., or Soviet Union, for short).

- They had different ideas about government and economics and how the world should run after the war.

The U.S. is democratic, which is a type of government.

- We choose/relect representatives to make laws.
- The economic system in the U.S. is called free enterprise.
- In a free enterprise system, individuals are free to own or work for a business of their choice.
- Consumers and business owners control the economy.
- Another name for a free enterprise economy is capitalism.
Socialism (communism) spread through Europe after the war.

- The government owns major industries such as banks, railroads, power plants, airlines.
- People own stores, farms, factories.
- Government, consumers, businesses control the economy.

Communism

- The government owns all the stores, factories, farms, banks, utilities, transportation systems, and so on.
- The government has complete power.
- The U.S.S.R. was run by a dictator, or a ruler with absolute power.
- The people do not vote.
- The leaders in the United States wanted nations to stop having wars and work together using democracy.

The U.S. wanted:

- Open door trade around the world to end communism.

The U.S.S.R. wanted:

- to spread communism and then control all Communist countries.
- did not want democracy/capitalism.

A World Divided

- In 1949, 12 allied nations: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom and the U.S.

  > signed a treaty: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
  > They supported democracy.

President Harry S. Truman signed the document that made the United States a NATO member in 1949. Leaders of Congress stood behind him at the signing ceremony.

- The U.S. and its allies became known as the Western Bloc.

  Eastern Bloc: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, and East Germany fell under the U.S.S.R.'s control after the war.

- All but Yugoslavia signed the Warsaw Pact in response to NATO. The countries that signed agreed to be under Soviet control.
Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, “an iron curtain has descinded” across Europe.

- After he said this, people often referred to the Eastern Bloc as being “behind the iron curtain.”
- U.S. President Harry Truman promised to help any country that U.S.S.R tried to turn Communist.
- This policy was called the Truman Doctrine or the policy of containment.

The city of Berlin in Germany was divided at the end of WWII.

- The east part was under Soviet control.
- The west part was controlled by Allies.
- Thousands fled from the east to the west.

In August 1961, Soviets built a wall to prevent people from leaving E. Berlin.

- Army soldiers guarded the wall.
- People who tried to cross were killed.
- The Berlin Wall became the symbol of Communist dictatorship.

The Berlin Wall
In time, other nations became Communist.

- Korea was divided into two nations:
  - South Korea was democratic
  - North Korea was communist

In 1949, China became the People's Republic of China.
- Communist leader Mao Zedong became dictator.

In 1959, Cuba became Communist, too.
- This was known as the domino theory.

McCarthyism

Fear of communism spread around the United States.
- Senator McCarthy headed a movement to do away with communism in American government and society.
- The House Un-American Activities (HUAC) was formed in 1945.
- During this time, people accused of being communist lost jobs, friends, and were even arrested.
- People were forced to give names of others who might be Communists.
- McCarthyism, the most extreme part of the Red Scare, ruined some people's lives.
- In the mid-1950's, McCarthy's anti-Communist "witch hunt" ended.
Korean Conflict

North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950.
- Soon, the **communists** occupied most of **S. Korea**
- The U.S. sent troops officially commanded by the United Nations, under **Gen. Douglas MacArthur**
- The Korean conflict was **violent**
- Hundreds of thousands of people **died**, including over 36,500 **U.S. soldiers**
- A 1953 **truce** left Korea still divided between North and South.
- Today, North Korea is **still communist**. South Korea is **democratic**

Nuclear Weapons

In 1945, The United States was the only country in the world that had **atomic bombs** or knew **how to build** them.
- Then in 1949, the **USSR** built its first atomic bomb.
- This was the beginning of the **nuclear arms race**.
- The race was between the **U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.**
- Each country **built thousands** of atomic bombs.
- This was a conflict **without any direct warfare** between the two nations and was called the **Cold War**

Cuban Missile Crisis

Nikita Khrushchev was the leader of the U.S.S.R. from 1953-1964.
- He **took power** after the death of Joseph Stalin, a brutal dictator.
- He **began a challenge** to the U.S. that almost started a nuclear war.
- In October 1962, the U.S.S.R. was **building & arming secret nuclear missile bases in Cuba**. They thought that the U.S. might plan to **attack Cuba**.
- Missiles could reach the U.S. from Cuba. It is only 92 miles from Florida.
- President John F. Kennedy ordered the U.S. Navy to **blockade Cuba** so that Soviet ships w/ missiles could not reach Cuba.
- The Soviets intended to **launch nuclear weapons if U.S. invaded Cuba**.
- For seven days, the world lived in **fear** of nuclear war.
Finally, Khrushchev ordered ships with missiles to turn back before they encountered the U.S. ships.
- He also agreed to remove the missiles from the Cuban bases.
- The crisis was over but the world felt that nuclear war could happen any time.

NATO & Warsaw Pact were the two sides of the Cold War.
- The Communist invasion of Western Europe never came.
- Many Warsaw Pact nations and former parts of the U.S.S.R now belong to NATO.

The Vietnam War
As part of the containment, the U.S. tried to fight communism.
- 1954: the United States was training S. Vietnamese to fight the Communists.
- 1963: there were about 17,000 U.S. soldiers in Vietnam. Soon, U.S. forces were fully involved in combat.
- 1969: there were more than 500,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam. More than 58,000 American troops were killed.
- 1975: S. Vietnam

The Vietnam War became very unpopular in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s.
- Many young people protested the war.
- This one of the reasons that the troops were removed.
- This notable effect of political protest was a change in American life.