



# COLD WAR

Teacher's Guide

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**TEACHER'S GUIDE  
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## Materials in the Unit

- The video program [The Cold War](#)
- Teachers Guide

This teacher's guide has been prepared to aid the teacher in utilizing materials contained within this program. In addition to this introductory material, the guide contains suggested instructional procedures for the lesson, answer keys for the activity sheets, and follow-up activities and projects for the lesson.

- Blackline Masters

Included in this program are ten blackline masters for duplication and distribution. They consist of chapter review quizzes, vocabulary and discussion questions.

The blackline masters are provided as the follow-up activities for each lesson. They will help you determine focal points for class discussion based on the objectives for the lesson.

The blackline masters have a three-fold purpose: to reinforce the program; to provide an opportunity for the students to apply and analyze what they have learned from the program; for use as diagnostic tools to assess areas in which individual students need help.

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## Introduction and Summary of Series

[America in the 20th Century](#) is a comprehensive series designed to provide a clear overview of the people and events that distinguished the twentieth century. Rare archival footage and photographs, authentic recordings, and other primary source documents, bring history to life, while stunning graphics and engaging narration lend context and clarity to the subject.

The series has been developed specifically for classroom use. It is organized around established standards and thoughtfully divided into chapters, with each volume functioning well as a full-length program or as focused support for specific study areas.

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## Introduction and Summary of Program

Produced by Media Rich Learning, [The Cold War](#) is part of the award-winning educational documentary series, [America in the 20th Century](#). The program is subdivided into several chapters:

- **Chapter 1: From World War to Cold War**— The Grand Alliance of World War II united the Western democracies with the communist Soviet Union. Together they crushed Nazi

Germany and defeated Fascism. However, the Allies who won the war would not be able to secure a lasting peace for Europe. Instead they would become locked in a decades-long Cold War.

- **Chapter 2: Containment**— The Iron Curtain descended across the continent. Containment became the watchword of U.S. foreign policy. The Truman Doctrine enunciated America's promise to fight communism, while the Marshall Plan invested in the future of Europe. The Berlin Airlift marked the first direct challenge of the Cold War.
- **Chapter 3: Red Star Rising**— While the U.S. and its allies successfully contained communism in Europe, the red star was rising in Asia. In 1949, the Chiang Kai Shek and the Chinese Nationalists were defeated by communist forces led by Mao Tse Tung. And, in 1950, communist North Korea launched a blistering attack on U.S.-backed South Korea.
- **Chapter 4: Reds Under the Bed**— The Cold War came home with the investigation of Hollywood, the scourge of McCarthyism, the Hiss-Chambers trial and the conviction and execution of the Rosenbergs. The lingering question: could the U.S. fight and win the Cold War without sacrificing the very liberties it was fighting to preserve?
- **Chapter 5: Confrontation or Coexistence**—The death of Soviet leader Josef Stalin in 1953 created an opportunity to bridge the bi-polar divide. The nuclear arms race heated-up. Mr. Khrushchev came to America and the U-2 spy plane incident foiled any lingering chances for peaceful coexistence.
- **Chapter 6: Cracks in the Curtain**—The collapse of European colonialism produced a spate of new nation states in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some chose sides in the Cold War, some chose the independent course of non-alignment. The race to secure third-world alliances led to some of the hottest confrontations of the Cold War.
- **Chapter 7: Third World Wars**—The collapse of European colonialism produced a spate of new nation states in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some chose sides in the Cold War, some chose the independent course of non-alignment. The race to secure third-world alliances led to some of the hottest confrontations of the Cold War.
- **Chapter 8: Kennedy and Crises**—President John F. Kennedy presided over some of the darkest days of the Cold War. The Bay of Pigs, the Berlin Wall, and the Cuban Missile Crisis challenged the Kennedy administration and pushed the confrontation to the breaking point.
- **Chapter 9: Détente**—By the late 1960s, the Cold War had raged for two decades. The Superpowers had reached a crossroads. They could continue the saber-rattling and confrontations that threatened to plunge the world into nuclear war, or they could agree to disagree and seek areas of shared interest.
- **Chapter 10: Civil Rights to Selma**— “Détente? Isn't that what the farmer has with his turkey...until Thanksgiving day?” Ronald Reagan didn't want to contain communism. He

wanted to roll it back and win the Cold War. Circumstances in the Soviet Union conspired to provide a new opportunity for peace in the Cold War.

- **Chapter 11: The Wall**—“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev did not tear down the wall, but he did not stand in the way of its demise. After fifty years, the wall came down and the iron curtain was lifted.

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## Standards

### Era 9: Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)

#### STANDARD 2:

**How the Cold War and conflicts in Korea and Vietnam influenced domestic and international politics.**

#### Standard 2A

The student understands the international origins and domestic consequences of the Cold War.

Benchmarks:

#### Grade level: 5-12

Evaluate the “flawed peace” resulting from World War II and the effectiveness of the United Nations in reducing international tensions and conflicts. [Analyze cause-and-effect relationships]

#### Grade level: 7-12

Explain the origins of the Cold War and the advent of nuclear politics. [Hold interpretations of history as tentative]

#### Grade level: 7-12

Examine the U.S. response to the Chinese Revolution and its impact on the Cold War. [Analyze cause-and-effect relationships]

#### Grade level: 7-12

Analyze the causes of the Korean War and how a divided Korea remained a source of international tension. [Formulate a position or course of action on an issue]

#### Grade level: 7-12

Explain the rationale, implementation, and effectiveness of the U.S. containment policy. [Evaluate the implementation of a decision]

#### Grade level: 5-12

Explain the popular uprisings against communist governments in Eastern Europe and evaluate how they affected United States foreign policy. [Analyze cause-and-effect relationships]

Grade level: 7-12

Analyze the change from confrontation to coexistence between the Soviet Union and the United States. [Analyze cause-and-effect relationships]

**Standard 2B**

The student understands United States foreign policy in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Benchmarks:

Grade level: 9-12

Analyze American policies toward independence movements in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. [Marshal evidence of antecedent circumstances]

Grade level: 7-12

Evaluate changing foreign policy toward Latin America. [Identify issues and problems in the past]

Grade level: 7-12

Assess U.S. relations with Israel and explain how Arab-Israeli crises influenced American foreign policy during the Cold War. [Evaluate the implementation of a decision]

**Standard 2C**

The student understands the foreign and domestic consequences of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. (THIS STANDARD IS COVERED IN MORE DEPTH IN THE MEDIA RICH LEARNING PROGRAM: [VIETNAM](#).)

Benchmarks:

Grade level: 7-12

Assess the Vietnam policy of the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations and the shifts of public opinion about the war. [Analyze multiple causation]

Grade level: 9-12

Explain the composition of the American forces recruited to fight the war. [Interrogate historical data]

Grade level: 5-12

Evaluate how Vietnamese and Americans experienced the war and how the war continued to affect postwar politics and culture. [Appreciate historical perspectives]

Grade level: 7-12

Explain the provisions of the Paris Peace Accord of 1973 and evaluate the role of the Nixon administration. [Differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations]

Grade level: 9-12

Analyze the constitutional issues involved in the war and explore the legacy of the Vietnam war. [Formulate a position or course of action on an issue]

### Standard 2C

The student understands the political debates of the post-World War II era. (ADDITIONAL BENCHMARKS FOR THIS STANDARD ARE ADDRESSED IN THE MEDIA RICH LEARNING PROGRAM: THE POST-WAR YEARS.)

Benchmarks:

#### Grade level: 7-12

Explain the relationship between post-war Soviet espionage and the emergence of internal security and loyalty programs under Truman and Eisenhower. [Analyze cause-and-effect relationships]

#### Grade level: 7-12

Analyze the rise and fall of McCarthyism, its effects on civil liberties, and its repercussions. [Analyze cause-and-effect relationships]

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## Instructional Notes

It is suggested that you preview the program and read the related Suggested Instructional Procedures before involving your students in the lesson activities. By doing so, you will become familiar with the materials and be better prepared to adapt the program to the needs of your class.

You will probably find it best to follow the program and lesson activities in the order in which they are presented in this teacher's guide, but this is not necessary.

It is also suggested that the program presentation take place before the entire class and under your direction. The lesson activities focus on the content of the programs.

As you review the instructional program outlined in the Teacher's Guide, you may find it necessary to make some changes, deletions, or additions to fit the specific needs of your students.

Read the descriptions of the Blackline Masters and duplicate any of those you intend to use.

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## Suggested Instructional Procedures

To maximize the learning experience, teachers should:

- Preview the video The Cold War
- Read the descriptions of the blackline masters.

- Duplicate any blackline masters you intend to use.

Students should be supplied with the necessary copies of blackline masters required to complete the activities. By keeping students informed of current events, teachers can extend any of the lessons on the program.

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## Student Objectives

After viewing the program The Cold War and participating in the follow-up activities, students will be able to:

- Identify the origins of the Cold War.
- Analyze the goals, successes, and failures of the Marshall Plan.
- Give examples of where and how the Cold War was "fought".
- Evaluate American involvement in the Korean War.
- Analyze the impact Joseph McCarthy had on American politics.
- Compare and contrast the impact on society between the Cold War and other wars in which the United States had been involved.
- Trace the relationship between the Republic of China and the United States from the early 1970's until the present.
- Describe the strategic importance of the Middle East to the United States and analyze policies that have been implemented to support that position.
- Describe the fall of the "Iron Curtain" and its affect on the role of the United States in world politics.
- Analyze American foreign policy in Central America since 1970.
- Identify and describe major political and military events that have occurred in the post Vietnam era.

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## Follow-Up Activities

There are eleven **quizzes** included among the follow-up activities—one for each chapter. These can be administered separately to gauge understanding of the events and concepts introduced by the program. Alternately, they can be used as a question bank from which the instructor can create his or her own assessments. Similarly, there are **discussion questions** relating to each chapter. Both questions and possible answers are provided in the Answer Key and a question-only version is included among the student handouts. The discussion questions can be used to



stimulate classroom dialog, as background information for the instructor, or as a question bank from which the instructor can create his or her own assessments.

These **follow-up activities** are from the excellent NEH website, [Edsitement](#). They may be used to expand student understanding of the concepts and events presented in the video program. These links are to external resources and should be thoroughly reviewed prior to implementing them for classroom use.

### **The Origins of the Cold War**

[Sources of Discord, 1945-1946](#)

[The Strategy of Containment, 1947-1948](#)

[The Formation of the Western Alliance \(1948-1949\)](#)

### **Anticommunism in Postwar America, 1945-1954: Witch Hunt or Red Menace**

[Soviet Espionage in America](#)

[The House Un-American Activities Committee](#)

[The Rise and Fall of Joseph McCarthy](#)

### **American Diplomacy in World War II**

[The New Order for "Greater East Asia"](#)

### **Other**

[The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962: "The Missiles of October"](#)

[The Korean War: "Police Action," 1950-1953](#)

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## **Suggested Resources**

There are many excellent resources available for study of the Cold War. The following resources are among those consulted in the production of this program:

Clifford, Clark. *Counsel to the President: A Memoir*. New York: Random House, 1991.

Gaddis, John Lewis. *The Cold War: A New History*. New York: Penguin, 2005.

Lukacs, John and Kennan, George F. "From World War to Cold War" *AmericanHeritage.com* Vol. 46, Issue 8. December 1995.

Kennan, George F. "The Last Wise Man" *The Atlantic* April 1989.

Kennan, George F. "After the Cold War" *The New York Times* 5 February 1989.

Mastny, Vojtech. "How Able Was 'Able Archer'?" *Journal of Cold War Studies* Vol. 11, No. 1 (Winter 2009)

Oberdorfer, Don. *From the Cold War to a New Era: The United States and the Soviet Union, 1983-1991*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Suri, Jeremi. "Explaining the End of the Cold War: A New Historical Consensus?" *Journal of Cold War Studies* Vol. 4, No. 4 (Fall 2002)

Talbot, Strobe. "The Specter and the Struggle" *Time Magazine* 04 January 1982.

Trachtenberg, Marc. "The United States and Eastern Europe in 1945." *Journal of Cold War Studies* Vol. 10, No. 4 (Fall 2008)

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## Answer Key

### Blackline Master #1—Chapter 1: Quiz

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. False | 6. True   |
| 2. True  | 7. True   |
| 3. True  | 8. True   |
| 4. True  | 9. True   |
| 5. True  | 10. False |

### Blackline Master #2—Chapter 2: Quiz

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. False | 6. False  |
| 2. True  | 7. False  |
| 3. False | 8. False  |
| 4. True  | 9. False  |
| 5. True  | 10. False |

### Blackline Master #3—Chapter 3: Quiz

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. False
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. True

**Blackline Master #4—Chapter 4: Quiz**

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. True
9. False
10. False

**Blackline Master #5—Chapter 5: Quiz**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. False
7. True
8. False
9. True
1. True

**Blackline Master #6—Chapter 6: Quiz**

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. False
9. False
10. True

**Blackline Master #7—Chapter 7: Quiz**

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. False
10. False

**Blackline Master #8—Chapter 8: Quiz**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. False | 6. False |
| 2. False | 7. False |
| 3. True  | 8. True  |
| 4. True  | 9. True  |
| 5. True  | 10. True |

**Blackline Master #9—Chapter 9: Quiz**

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. True  | 6. False  |
| 2. True  | 7. True   |
| 3. True  | 8. True   |
| 4. True  | 9. True   |
| 5. False | 10. False |

**Blackline Master #10—Chapter 10: Quiz**

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. True  | 6. True   |
| 2. False | 7. False  |
| 3. True  | 8. True   |
| 4. False | 9. True   |
| 5. False | 10. False |

**Blackline Master #11—Chapter 11: Quiz**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. False | 6. True  |
| 2. False | 7. False |
| 3. True  | 8. False |
| 4. True  | 9. True  |
| 5. True  | 1. False |

**Blackline Master #12: Discussion Questions**

Answers will vary. Possible answers follow.

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## CHAPTER 1: FROM WORLD WAR TO COLD WAR

1. What were the inherent conflicts between the two competing systems of Western capitalism and democracy and Soviet communism?

The conflicts were ideological, political and economic.

In a modern liberal democracy, power is vested in the people who can elect or reject candidates for political office. Whereas, the totalitarian government requires subservience to the State. Winston Churchill once said, “Democracy is the worst kind of government, except all the rest.” There is much truth to this. Because our Democratic form of government is predicated upon the vote, the fear of Soviet Communism became a potent political issue throughout the Cold War. After the Truman administration “lost” China to communism in 1949, every Cold War President—from Truman through Reagan—were held hostage to the fear of “losing” another nation to the same fate. This political captivity fostered the communist witch hunts of the 1950s and contributed in large part to America’s involvement in Vietnam.

Capitalism is based on a market economy, whereas Communism is based on a command economy, “from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.”

The United States maintained an isolationist foreign policy until World War I, when it became clear to President Woodrow Wilson that transplanting our democratic ideals abroad would be vital to our security at home. In the post-World War II period this became even more pronounced with initiatives like the Marshall Plan, NATO. By contrast, in the tenants of Communism, there is a neo-religious belief in the inexorable forces of history—the inevitability that Capitalism was inherently evil and would self-destruct. To fanatical Communists, the State is the God—and any measure undertaken to preserve and profit the State can be philosophically sanctioned.

## **2. Why did the United States and Great Britain ally themselves with the Soviet Union in World War II?**

The marriage of communists and capitalist was one of necessity and desperation, consummated solely to defeat fascism. Churchill deemed it a “deal with the devil.” If history had taken a different turn, the United States could have aligned with Hitler against Stalin. This unlikely alliance was forced when Hitler reneged on the Molotov-Rippendorp Pact—the non-aggression agreement signed by Germany and the Soviet Union—by invading the U.S.S.R.

**3. How were the post-World War II boundaries in Europe established?**

“Everyone imposes his own system as far as his army can reach.” Joseph Stalin. This quote provides much of the answer. At the close of World War II, the Soviet Red Army occupied much of Eastern Europe—all the countries it had “liberated” from German occupation. The armies of the United States and Great Britain, which had invaded Germany through France and the low countries, occupied most of Western Europe. The exception was defeated Germany which was divided into occupation zones, controlled by the U.S.S.R., the United States, Great Britain and France.

**4. How did the World War II alliance with the Soviet Union affect American public opinion in the post-war period?**

In the American public mind Hitler was the sole evil of World War II. The public relations campaign supporting the Allied cause was so successful that the American public was slow to acknowledge and accept that the allies had become adversaries following the war. For example, Winston Churchill’s Iron Curtain speech—which raised the alarm of the Soviet threat to Europe—was roundly criticized by the American press and public.

**5. Who were the members of the Grand Alliance. Why were the decisions they made at Yalta and Potsdam so important to the future of Europe and the international community.?**

The Grand Alliance was comprised of the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain. The decisions made at Yalta and Potsdam determined the national boundaries of post-war Europe, the fate of defeated Germany.

**6. Who was responsible for the Russian Revolution? What were their motivations? How did Russia change after the revolution?**

There were actually two revolutions in 1917: In February, there was a popular uprising in St. Petersburg which resulted in the Czar ceding power to a provisional government. The October Revolution—the Bolshevik Revolution—Vladimir Lenin seized power in a coup d’etat. According to the program following the October Revolution, Lenin and his comrades set about creating the communist Soviet Socialist state. Business was privatized, agriculture

was collectivized, property was seized. A police state was established in order to “protect” the revolution from “enemies of the state.”

**7. What role did the United States and Great Britain play in the Russian Civil War? How did their actions affect the relationship between the Bolsheviks and the West?**

During the Russian Civil War, Western nations supported factions fighting *against* the Bolsheviks. This convinced the Soviet leaders that the West would stop at nothing to destroy them.

**8. Based on the video, how did President Harry Truman feel about the Soviet Union?**

During the Potsdam conference, President Truman wrote in his diary that the Soviet Union was, “...police government—plain and simple. A few top hands just take clubs, pistols and concentration camps and rule the people on the lower level.”

**9. What effect did the development of the atomic bomb have on the early Cold War?**

Following World War II, the Soviet Red Army was the largest and most powerful in all of history. The United States, because of its nuclear monopoly at the time, did not see the need to maintain a significant land-based army. They felt “the bomb” would be an adequate deterrent to Soviet aggression in Europe.

**10. Communism was an answer to the exploitation and excesses of the industrial revolution. How did President Woodrow Wilson’s “liberal democracy” address these issues?**

Wilson’s liberal democracy was enunciated in his Fourteen Points address, in which he called for. He did so, though, just as a gentler revolution was transforming the foreign policy of the United States. Wilson had not been content to justify American entry into the war for what it was—an effort to restore the European balance of power. Instead, he too imposed an ideological framework by proclaiming as war aims self-determination, open markets, and collective security.

**11. Why did Stalin insist on the Soviet Sphere of Influence in Eastern Europe?**

Stalin said the sphere of influence would serve as a buffer against foreign invasion and was non-negotiable. Consider this: Stalin’s country had suffered almost inconceivable loss of life

during World War II. Germany had invaded through Poland. Stalin was determined that this would not happen again.

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## CHAPTER 2: CONTAINMENT

### 12. What was the Iron Curtain?

Although he did not coin the phrase, Winston Churchill made it famous when he warned in 1946, “An Iron Curtain has descended over the continent...” to describe the Soviet sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. Prior to that, in December 1945, Alan Dulles—the future head of the Central Intelligence Agency—said of conditions in the Soviet zone of East Germany, “In the zone being turned over to Poland there is a good deal of buck passing. It is difficult to say what is going on, but in general the Russians are acting little better than thugs. They have wiped out all the liquid assets. No food cards are issued to Germans, who are forced to travel on foot into the Russian zone, often more dead than alive. An iron curtain has descended over the fate of these people and very likely conditions are truly terrible. The promises at Yalta to the contrary, probably 8 to 10 million people are being enslaved.”

### 13. Why did the relationship between the wartime allies deteriorate so quickly?

Historians argue about precisely when the Cold War started—some say at Yalta, others say Potsdam, others contend it was the Berlin blockade in 1948. Whatever the date, the table was set and the food prepared well before the guests sat down to dinner—so to speak. The ideological, political and economic differences had been present since 1917—when the Bolshevik Revolution and Wilson’s Fourteen Points essentially outlined the opposing systems of Communism and modern liberal Democracy. The inter-war years were frigid and the World War II partnership was “...a marriage of desperation, consummated to defeat Hitler and nothing more.” After they defeated Hitler, the members of the Grand Alliance had nothing in common—with the notable exception of reciprocal distrust, fear and antipathy.

### 14. Why was the United States the only nation able and willing to provide economic and financial aid on a large scale?



Among the victorious allies, the United States was the only nation to emerge from the war virtually unscathed. More than 300,000 U.S. servicemen died in the war, but the American homeland was essentially untouched and the war economy had primed American industry for the greatest peacetime expansion in history. By contrast, the Soviet Union suffered more than 20 million war casualties and much of its homeland was devastated by the greatest land battles in all of history. Great Britain, although it was never invaded, suffered extensive bomb damage and was verging on bankruptcy.

**15. Why did the United States offer aid to Europe in the form of the Marshall Plan?**

As a result of World War II, much of Europe was physically devastated—homes, factories, railways and roads had been destroyed and millions had been displaced. The political and social fabric of Europe was essentially unravelling. U.S. policy makers feared that desperate Europeans would turn to Communism and its altruistic promise of equity—rather than face hunger, starvation and death. The Marshall Plan was seen as a way to “get the train back on the track” to “jump-start” the European economy so that it could again run on its own. Even with a \$17 billion price tag, Secretary of State George Marshall said, “This program should be viewed as an investment in peace. In those terms the cost is low.”

**16. Why did the Soviet Union refuse Marshall Aid for itself and its allies**

Marshall Plan aid was ostensibly open to all who wished to participate in the planning process—including the Soviet Union and its new satellites. But, this offer was somewhat disingenuous. The Truman administration understood that Stalin would never accept—or allow his satellites to accept—a handout that came with “strings-attached.” They also realized that, in the court of world opinion, Stalin would be judged as the tyrant he really was.

**17. What strategies did the United States and Soviet Union use to ensure the security of spheres of influence?**

Following World War II, Germany was divided into four occupation zones—controlled by the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union. The German capital of Berlin—which lay well within the Soviet zone—was subdivided in the same fashion. This was

intended to be an interim arrangement until a plan could be negotiated for German reunification. However, the Cold War rivals could never agree on a new plan. In 1948, the three Western allies decided to merge their zones. They also introduced a new currency to combat inflation: the Deutshmark. The Soviets viewed these moves as a direct threat to their hold on East Germany and retaliated with the blockade. Stalin probably hoped the US would backdown and abandon West Berlin—rather than risk war with the Soviets. Nonetheless, Truman cut-short on discussion regarding the fate of West Berlin saying, “... we are going to stay-period.”

### **18. Why did the Soviet Union blockade Berlin?**

Following World War II, defeated Germany was divided into four zones of occupation, individually controlled by the Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain and France. The capital city of Berlin—which lay deep with the Soviet zone—was similarly divided. In establishing the blockade, their aim was to force the western powers to allow the Soviet zone to start supplying Berlin with food and fuel, thereby giving the Soviets practical control over the entire city.

### **19. Why did the United States choose an airlift instead of armed conflict?**

Remember, at this time, the Soviets had roughly 400,000 troops in East Germany—vastly more than the US had committed to the defense of West Germany. So a direct military confrontation was unfeasible. Land access into West Berlin had never been negotiated between the occupying powers but a twenty-mile wide air corridor had. Additionally, unlike a force of tanks and trucks traveling over land, the Soviets could not claim that cargo aircraft were some sort of military threat. In the face of unarmed aircraft refusing to turn around, the only way to enforce the blockade would have been to shoot them down. An airlift would force the Soviet Union into the position of either taking military action, in a morally reprehensible fashion, breaking their own agreements, or else to back down.

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## **CHAPTER 3: RED STAR RISING**

### **20. How did the Korean War turn into a Cold War conflict?**

At the end of World War II, Japanese troops then occupying the Korean peninsula surrendered to Soviet troops in the North and American troops in the South. The 38th parallel was established as a temporary border until national elections could be held to unify Korea under a single government. This never happened. Although the occupying forces left Korea within a few years, they each established “client” governments: Kim Il Sung became the communist dictator of North Korea and Syngman Rhee, a fanatic anti-communist, headed South Korea. Border skirmishes between North and South were commonplace, but Stalin and Truman kept their respective clients on the proverbial “short leash,” neither wishing to ignite a wider conflict. In early 1950, Kim finally convinced Stalin to approve an invasion. Several factors contributed to this. 1) The victory of Communists in the long-running Chinese civil war; 2) Successful testing of the Soviet atomic bomb—nuclear parity with the United States; 3) an ill-timed statement by Secretary of State Dean Acheson explicitly excluding Korea from the U.S. defensive perimeter in the Pacific. Stalin falsely believed that the United States would not intervene to protect South Korea. He was wrong. When North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950 it was believed by those in Washington that the attack had been motivated by the Soviet Union. This wasn’t the case, but the Truman administration felt it had to “draw the line on Soviet aggression” in Asia. Chinese troops later entered the conflict en masse to protect their own interests. Stalin, for his part, provided military hardware, but refused to provide troops or air support as he had once promised. Nonetheless, the American belief in “monolithic communism”—the idea that all communist movements were orchestrated by Moscow—made Korea very much a “hot” war within the context of the Cold War.

## 21. What role did the UN and Western powers play in the war in Korea?

The United Nations security council voted to intervene to restore the sovereignty of South Korea. A veto by any member of this body would have killed the motion, but the Soviets had imprudently walked-out of the U.N. to protest the UN’s failure to recognize the Communist government in China. Short story—the Soviets were not present for the vote on Korean intervention. Seventeen countries committed troops to the mission, but the overwhelming majority were American—fighting under General Douglas MacArthur for what amounted to American interests. Many history books still refer to Korea as an

“international police action,” but that’s nonsense. It was a war. In the words of military historian S.L.A. “Slam Marshall,” the century’s nastiest little war.”

## 22. Who won the Korean War?

The explicit objectives of the UN were accomplished, (e.g. sovereignty for South Korea) within four months of intervention. The subsequent U.N. invasion of North Korea (with the extended objective of defeating North Korea) spurred Red China to enter the war. This ushered in a “entirely new war” which resulted in a lot of death and destruction, but only a strategic stalemate. The final peace settlement reached in Panmunjon in 1953 fixed the boundary between North Korea and South Korea at about the same place it all began in 1950.

## 23. Why did the Korean conflict NOT lead to world war?

MacArthur, a staunch conservative and supporter of Chiang Kai-Shek, very much wanted to take the war to the Chinese mainland, introduce nuclear weapons, in short wipe the commies off the face of the map. President Truman, however, was committed only to the “limited” objectives of the U.N. missions. He eventually fired MacArthur for insubordination and replaced him with the level-headed General Matthew Ridgeway. (As an aside, Ridgeway would later undertake a study on American involvement in Indochina and the prospects of fighting a land-war there. His conclusions in the 1950s pretty much predicted the morass that transpired, e.g the number of troops, casualties and ultimate futility.) On the other side of the fence (or the other side of the Yalu) Stalin pretty much bailed on Mao and Kim after the U.S. entered the fray (Planes? Who said anything about planes?) Stalin was a tyrant, but he was also pragmatic. His chief concerns were safety for his regime and the security of his immediate Soviet sphere in Europe. War with the United States would place that all at great risk and he wasn’t willing to do that to prop-up North Korea or even Red China.

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## CHAPTER 4: REDS UNDER THE BED

### 24. How did the Cold War affect domestic policies of the U.S. and Soviet governments?

Both nations became fanatically committed to internal security. This was nothing new for the Soviet Union. Stalin: "Death is the solution to all problems. No man - no problem." In the United States the "red menace" and fears of communist infiltration and subversion became endemic. "McCarthyism" was the marquee for a broad front offensive, ignoring pesky little constitutional guarantees like freedom of speech and equal protection. Legislation such as the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950 codified the witch hunt into law. It authorized the government to investigate persons suspected of engaging in subversive activities or otherwise promoting the establishment of a "totalitarian dictatorship," fascist or communist. That's all well and good, but "interpretation" was the devil in the details. In practice "anyone suspected" meant, well, "anyone."

The Democratic-controlled Congress overrode President Harry S. Truman's veto to pass this bill. Truman called the bill "the greatest danger to freedom of speech, press, and assembly since the Alien and Sedition Laws of 1798." He also said, "We're not going to turn the United States into a right-wing totalitarian state in order to deal with a left-wing totalitarian threat. In short, we're not going to end democracy. We're going to keep the Bill of Rights on the books." Give 'em hell, Harry.

## 25. Did the ends justify the means?

In retrospect, of course not. But, put yourself in the moment: It's 1949. The Soviets have just exploded an atomic bomb—all signs point to pilfered American secrets as the only way they could have developed a bomb so quickly. Sensational spy scandals dominate the headlines. Names like "Hiss," "Greenglass" and "Rosenberg" are synonymous with all things died-in-the-red-white-and-blue-wool Americans love to hate. Somebody lost China to the Communists (as if China were ours to lose); North Korea invades South Korea. How do you combat an enemy that doesn't play by the rules? The quote included in the program from the Doolittle Report is telling: "It is now clear we are facing an implacable enemy whose avowed objective is world domination. There are no rules in such a game, hitherto acceptable norms of human conduct do not apply."

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## CHAPTER 5: CONFRONTATION OR COEXISTENCE

**26. What was the arms race?**

The arms race was the military competition between the United States and Soviet Union that began following World War II. As the Cold War festered, the adversaries feverishly sought to out design, out build and out-deploy each other with the weapons of war. Although conventional weapons played a part in the arms race, it was the *nuclear* arms race that in many ways defined the Cold War.

**27. Why did it escalate?**

For several reasons—a few legitimate reasons and several illegitimate reasons. 1) back in the day (early Cold War) military intelligence was spotty. Before satellites and aerial reconnaissance, most information was garnered through espionage. The United States “thought” the Soviet Union had “many” bombers which could drop nuclear bombs on American soil, when in fact, they did not. Later, we “thought” they were “cranking out missiles like sausages”—because Khrushchev said they were—when, in fact, they had a few nukes with no bona fide way of delivering them to American targets. On the other side of the ideological divide, the Soviets “thought” we were hell-bent on bombing them back to the stone age—maybe because some military men advocated this approach, so they invested in new arms, etc. 2) Politics. A one party system (i.e. the Soviet Union) does not have to contend with political pressure, but in a democracy (i.e. the United States) it was of immeasurable importance. 3) The Military-Industrial Complex was not as conspiratorial as it sounds, but the shared interests of military leaders, big business and the politicians in their pockets (campaign contributions=winning campaigns) created a self-perpetuating paradigm that continues to this day. No Cold War arms race. No big new weapons programs. Fewer contracts for defense contractors; fewer jobs for Representative Daddy Warbucks 17th Congressional district.

**28. How did the arms race affect domestic concerns?**

An entire culture emerged around nuclear fear, backyard bunkers, civil defense drills, “Duck and Cover” public service announcements. The growth in religious devotion during the 1950s is credited to the fear of “Godless” communism and nuclear holocaust. Even

Congress (separation of Church and State notwithstanding) got in on the action, adding “In God We Trust” to the dollar bill and “One Nation under God” to the pledge of allegiance.

### **29. How did the arms race and scientific competition contribute to the continuation of the Cold War?**

When Sputnik became the first man-made object to orbit the earth in 1958, it sparked panic in the United States. It didn't take a rocket scientist to realize that the technology that could launch an object or a man into orbit, could deliver nuclear-tipped missiles across continents and oceans. The United States committed itself to surpass the Soviets and, in so doing, pioneered the field of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs).

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## **CHAPTER 6: CRACKS IN THE CURTAIN**

### **30. Why did Eastern Bloc countries rebel after the death of Stalin?**

After Stalin's death in 1953 the ruling triumvirate tried to distance themselves from Stalin's legacy. They realized there were a lot of skeletons (figuratively and literally, I suppose) in Uncle Joe's dacha closets. They repealed some of Stalin's draconian security programs, released some political prisoners from the Gulag, and made other moves that implied a new day dawning over Red Square. By this time, the people of Eastern Europe had been abused and oppressed for the better part of seven years. They were fed-up with work quotas, Marxist rhetoric, and gray flannel uniforms. Remember: Even though Eastern Europe was under the Soviet thumb, the individual countries all had their own governments and Stalinist dictators. The popular revolt in East Germany (1953), was aimed at the hardline government of Walter Ulbricht. The activists were betting that the new, warm-and-fuzzy Kremlin would not intervene. Ulbricht proved utterly incapable of defending his regime in the face of the challenge, which created a dilemma for the Kremlin: allow Ulbricht's government to fall and, perhaps, ignite similar protests across the Eastern bloc; or rely on the time-tested tactics of brutality and force, intervene to save Ulbricht's government and set an example for anyone with similar aspirations.

### **31. Why did the Soviets not rebel after the death of Stalin?**

In Eastern Europe the bet was that the Soviets would not intervene. A direct challenge to Soviet authority would leave the Kremlin no choice.

### **32. How and why did the superpowers react to each of the rebellions?**

Eisenhower and his hawkish Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, had been vocal about “rolling back Communism” and “liberating the enslaved people of Eastern Europe.” Their rhetoric had led many Americans—and more importantly, elements of resistance within the Soviet sphere—to believe that the United States would lend military, economic and/or political support to a challenge to Soviet hegemony. The 1953 German uprising occurred about a year after Eisenhower entered office. In his defense, a comprehensive plan to aid such a rebellion had not yet been formulated. In his words, the time was not yet right to “roll them out for keeps.” The situation in 1956 Hungary was much different. Eisenhower’s campaign rhetoric sent an implicit “go” to revolutionaries-in-waiting, but when they rose-up, the Eisenhower team quickly back-peddled, offering a host of excuses—most of them legitimate concerns—for why they could not officially aid the rebellion without risking war with the Soviet Union. This is one of the reasons that the 1956 Hungarian Uprising was so brutally tragic. The Hungarian Partisans were willing to “hold out until the last drop of blood” so sure were they that the swashbuckling Americans would arrive to save the day. That didn’t happen.

### **33. How did the decisions made by each superpower affect the course of the Cold War?**

The Soviet Union’s willingness to use force in East Germany (1953), Hungary (1956), and Czechoslovakia (1968) underscored the lengths to which the Kremlin would go to guarantee their hegemony. It wasn’t until Gorbachev came along and demonstrated an abhorrence to force, that the seeds of revolution were able to take root and flourish.

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## **CHAPTER 8: KENNEDY AND CRISES**

### **34. Why was Berlin the center of crisis in 1948-49 and again between 1958 and 1961?**

Khrushchev likened Berlin to a certain part of the male anatomy, saying, “whenever I want to get a reaction from the West, I squeeze Berlin.” The United States and the Soviet Union



managed an uneasy coexistence in Europe and elsewhere, but in Berlin, it was impossible to avoid friction. The German “question” or the German “problem” emerged from the unfinished business of World War II. Negotiations over the future of Germany were never concluded and so issues such as occupation forces, access rights and other diplomatic niceties—which were only intended to be temporary—were cast in doubt. In East Germany, Walter Ulbricht—and later Erich Honecker—put incredible pressure on Moscow to resolve the issue by forcing the Americans from West Berlin. Khrushchev understood this would be provocative and was very reluctant to do it. Nevertheless, he blustered and threatened the best he could. His threats were manifested in his several “Berlin Ultimatums.”

### **35. Why did the Soviet Union sanction the construction of the Berlin Wall?**

By the time President Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev met at the Vienna summit of 1961, millions of East Germany’s best and brightest had fled the country and the mass exodus situation had become a crisis. Khrushchev himself admitted: “The wall was a hateful thing, but what should I have done? The East German economy would have collapsed.” That pretty much sums it up.

### **36. Why did the United States allow it to happen?**

The Berlin wall is the notorious symbol of the Cold War division of Europe, but its construction helped de-fuse the explosive situation that existed at the time and settled the “Berlin Question” once and for all. As President John F. Kennedy recognized, “...a wall is a hell of a lot better than a war.”

### **37. What were the origins of the Cuban Missile Crisis?**

Nikita Khrushchev had long resented the presence of American missiles in Turkey targeting the Soviet Union. Khrushchev did not have long range missiles capable of reaching the United States, but he did have plenty of short-range and intermediate-range missiles. With Castro’s 1959 revolution in Cuba he suddenly had an ally in the Western hemisphere. Khrushchev felt that putting missiles in Cuba was simply a quid pro quo. However, the United States led by the Kennedy administration viewed it as a direct threat to its security.

### **38. What effect did the Cuban Missile Crisis have on the Cold War?**

The Cuban Missile Crisis was the only direct nuclear confrontation between the two countries. After 1962, the Soviet Union never again tested the United States resolve. Within two years the impulsive Khrushchev would be replaced with the conservative Leonid Brezhnev, in large part due to Khrushchev's handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Having stood at the edge of the abyss, neither party wanted to repeat the near-cataclysmic experience.

**39. What is Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)?**

MAD is a doctrine of military strategy in which a full-scale use of nuclear weapons by two opposing sides would effectively result in the destruction of both the attacker and the defender. It is based on the counterintuitive theory of deterrence in which a guaranteed outcome (mutual destruction) prevents the events that would trigger that outcome (any use of nuclear weapons.)

**40. What was the economic impact of Cold War spending in the Soviet Union?**

The Soviet Union spent lavishly in order to keep pace in the arms race. By the 1980s, fully one-third of the Soviet Union's economic output was feeding the war machine. Ultimately, this crippled the nation and led to its collapse.

**41. What effect did the Prague Spring have on the Czechoslovaks and on the Soviet Union's relationship with its satellites?**

The Brezhnev Doctrine declared, "When forces that are hostile to socialism try to turn the development of some socialist country towards capitalism, it becomes not only a problem of the country concerned, but a common problem and concern of all socialist countries." In effect, it provided justification for the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 as well as earlier invasions including Hungary in 1956. These interventions were meant to put an end to democratic liberalization efforts and uprisings that had the potential to compromise Soviet hegemony inside the Eastern bloc. In practice, a very limited degree of political autonomy would be permitted within the satellites, but no country would be allowed to leave the Warsaw Pact, disturb a nation's communist party's monopoly on power, or in any way compromise the cohesiveness of the Eastern bloc.

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## CHAPTER 9: DÉTENTE

### 42. What is détente and why did it occur?

Détente—from the French word meaning loosening or relaxing—means literally as an easing of strained relations, especially in a political situation. In the context of the Cold War, it represented the period between roughly 1969 and 1979 where the two sides in the bi-polar confrontation sought to “agree to disagree.”

### 43. What was the significance of the Helsinki Final Act for Cold War foreign policy and detente?

The Helsinki Final Act offered the Soviet Union something that it very much desired: official confirmation of post-World War II borders in Europe. In exchange, they were required to recognize in writing, for the first time, “the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms...” For a nation which had, for so long, disregarded human rights, this was a great leap. Chairman Brezhnev worried about the implications. However, his Foreign minister, Andrei Gromyko reassured him it was “just a piece of paper.”

It proved to be a “ticking time” bomb for the Soviet Union. The accord established an internationally accepted standard by which Communist governments could be held accountable for the treatment of its citizens. Emboldened by this legal and moral authority, thousands of freedom-loving individuals challenged the governments that enslaved them.

### 44. What did detente mean to the Soviet Union and the United States? Did it mean something different to each superpower?

Détente provided a respite in the Cold War, but it never addressed the underlying causes of the conflict. The Soviet Union used détente as an opportunity to achieve nuclear parity with the United States and spread marxism throughout the developing world. Each party remained inherently distrustful of the other. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan underscored the end of détente and ushered-in a period of great rhetorical hostility between the two countries.

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## CHAPTER 10: EVIL EMPIRE

45. What factors turned President Reagan from “war monger” to “peace monger.”
46. Ronald Reagan said of détente: “Isn’t that what the farmer has with his turkey...until Thanksgiving day?” Explain the meaning of this statement.
47. What were the pros and cons of Star Wars?

The President presented Star Wars as a next step in the evolution of missile defense. At the time, however, it had no basis in fact or science. It was at best an achievement that lay decades in the future. The Soviet Union interpreted Star Wars as a direct, immediate threat. They possessed neither the material resources or technological know-how to compete in this next leg of the arms race. According to Soviet President Gorbachev, the fear of American technology advances and the exorbitant cost of trying to match Reagan's defense spending both led to the downfall of the Soviet Union. In this respect, Star Wars contributed to the end of the Cold War.

48. How did the fears of nuclear war in the 1980's compare with those of the 1950's and 1960's?

Prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) there was the belief that a nuclear war could be fought and won. Because of this, there was a genuine fear that a bipolar confrontation could lead to a nuclear exchange. By the 1980s, the exponential growth of the sheer numbers of nuclear munitions coupled with unprecedented technological advances in the way missiles could be deployed and delivered made a “winnable” nuclear war an aberration.

49. What role did the personalities of Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev play in the end of the Cold War?

Mikhail Gorbachev was a reform-minded leader who was not mired in the communist dogma of his predecessors. He grasped that change was necessary for the Soviet Union to remain a world power, even if he, ultimately, failed to make the changes necessary to preserve the state. Ronald Reagan's self-confidence and the self-confidence he instilled in the American people, his willingness to engage with Gorbachev, and his abhorrence of

nuclear weapons as a peril to civilization all contributed significantly to the events which occurred. It is important to remember that Reagan was not a professional politician. He was unafraid of making bold and extraordinary decisions which flew in the face of traditional American foreign policy vis a vis the Soviet Union.

## CHAPTER 11: THE WALL

### 50. What started the "revolutions" of 1989?

Various factors, but including the deepening resentment in Eastern European countries to communist regimes which had been imposed upon them by Moscow and the growing desire for self-determination, independence and freedom. However, as illustrated by the suppressed uprisings of the 1950s and 1968, the spark of freedom could have been snuffed out had the man in charge been someone other than Mikhail Gorbachev.

### 51. Why were the revolutions so peaceful, despite growing tension and social pressures?

The communist dictatorships of Eastern Europe were stiffened by the threat of military force from Moscow. When Gorbachev made it clear that he was unwilling to prop-up the satellite governments, the threat of local military suppression was not great enough to overcome the scale of the popular opposition.

### 52. Why did the Cold War end?

For many reasons. In 1990, Ronald Reagan offered his opinion saying, "mutual interests"—Gorbachev's interest in dealing with an economic "emergency" at home, caused in large measure by massive military expenditures, and Reagan's own belief that "it was a danger to have a world so heavily armed that one mistep could trigger a great war."

### 53. What were the costs of the Cold War, both human and material?

The costs are incalculable in terms of dollars spent to build weapons and raise armies; loss of life and, perhaps above all, loss of opportunity.



## SCRIPT OF VIDEO NARRATION

Two nations. Two political systems. Two ideologies. In the epic contest between capitalism and communism, only one would prevail.

The standoff divided Europe...

### WINSTON CHURCHILL:

*"...an iron curtain has descended across the continent."*

...and engulfed the world.

### PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY:

*"I take pride in the words 'Ich bin ein Berliner.'"*

Marked by confrontation, might, and maneuvering.

### AMBASSADOR ADLAI STEVENSON:

*"I'm prepared to wait for my answer until hell freezes..."*

Punctuated by anxiety, paranoia, and fear.

### SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY:

*"...even if there were only one communist in the state department, that would still be one communist too many."*

Two civilizations, one epic question: Would the rivals destroy each other—and the world or find common ground, and survive the Cold War

### PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:

*"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."*

## CHAPTER 1 – FROM WORLD WAR TO COLD WAR

### 1.1 – THE GRAND ALLIANCE

It was July 1945. Harry S. Truman was bound for Europe and a meeting of the Grand Alliance—the coalition of the three leading Allied Powers of World War II. The American President had been in office for just three months, yet he was poised between two of history’s greatest battles—the world war that was ending and the Cold War that would replace it.

Monumental issues confronted Truman and his wartime partners: the control of defeated Germany, post-war boundaries, winning the war with Japan and, most importantly, securing a lasting peace for Europe.

#### PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:

*“There’s not one piece of territory or one thing of a monetary nature that we want out of this war. We want peace and prosperity for the world as a whole.”*

Victory over Germany had restored peace to Europe. But it was already threatened by a growing rift between the partners themselves.

At the Potsdam Conference, President Truman and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill were on one side of the divide—determined to secure political freedom and democratic governments throughout post-war Europe.

Their partner, the dictator of the Soviet Union, Josef Stalin, had other plans. He was determined to dominate all of Europe and impose Communism on its nations.

The Allies had won the war, but their alliance would not survive the peace. Historic differences would prove too great to overcome.

### 1.2 – COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

The bitter rivalry between the Soviet Union and the West had its roots in the years of the first world war...when the competing ideas of communism and liberal democracy first came into conflict.

Beginning in 1914, World War I consumed Europe in killing and destruction. For the Western powers the war was hell. For the Russian Army it was pure hell—twenty times over.

Sent to fight without food, without ammunition, sometimes even without weapons... the demoralized soldiers were a human sacrifice to the war Gods—offered-up by a corrupt, imperialist ruler...Russia’s Tsar Nicholas II.

At home, the Tsar urged his subjects to work harder...eat less...support the doomed war effort. By 1917, the Russian people were tired of the war, tired of starving—and tired of their Tsar.

In February of that year, a public demonstration for higher bread rations escalated into a popular rebellion. Tsar Nicholas was overthrown and imprisoned.

A new government came to power. They promised democratic elections...new freedoms...equal rights for women.

### A.N. KARENSKY

*“The revolution belongs to the people. I propose to defend it from any attack—whether from the left or from the right.”*

Russia’s flirt with democracy would be short-lived.

In Switzerland, an exiled Russian named Vladimir Lenin was planning his own revolution—based on the writings of the German philosopher, Karl Marx.

Living in 19th century England, Marx witnessed first hand the growing disparity between the rich and the poor. He predicted that the inequities of the capitalist system would inspire a spontaneous revolution of the modern working class—the proletariat. Capitalism would be replaced by a system of social and economic equality called communism.

### KARL MARX (CHARACTER VO)

*“We declare openly that our ends can only be achieved by the forcible overthrow of all social conditions...”*

Lenin interpreted Marx’s beliefs with religious and violent fervor. He returned to Russia to lead a group called the Bolsheviks and condemned the new government.

### VLADIMIR LENIN:

*“They imagine that serious political questions are decided by voting. As a matter of fact, they are decided by class warfare.”*

In October 1917, Lenin launched his revolution ...and seized control of Russia.

He and his band of comrades then set-about establishing their worker’s paradise—the modern Soviet Socialist state.

Bank accounts and personal property were confiscated. Private fields became collectivized farms. Stores and business were surrendered to the state.

Lenin was intolerant of dissent and totally ruthless. Arrest without charge, imprisonment without trial, disappearance without explanation all became routine.

In the United States, President Woodrow Wilson followed events in Russia with growing unease. He had committed his nation to World War I “...in order that the world “be made safe for democracy.”



In his Fourteen Points address to Congress, he outlined how to achieve his lofty goals based on the principals of national self-determination, free trade and international cooperation.

But the President's vision for the future did not include the Bolsheviks. Instead, when civil war broke out in Russia in 1919, Wilson sent troops to fight against Lenin's government.

And in England, a young Winston Churchill urged swift action.

Before the House of Commons, he declared:

*"We must strangle the infant Bolshevism in the cradle."*

Such rhetoric convinced Lenin and his comrades—including Joseph Stalin—that the West would stop at nothing to destroy their Communist dream.

### 1.3 - ALLIES TO ENEMIES

Three decades later, the two systems remained bitterly opposed and Potsdam did nothing to bridge the divide.

President Truman called on Stalin to withdraw his troops from Eastern and Central Europe and to hold the free elections he had promised. Stalin refused. The region was a buffer zone, he said, and essential to his nation's security.

The President was unconvinced. In his diary, he condemned the Soviet dictator for running a:

*"...police government—plain and simple. A few top hands just take clubs, pistols and concentration camps and rule the people on the lower level."*

But Truman had a trump card. His nation had developed an entirely new weapon. It was destined to end the war with Japan, but it would also provide leverage in dealing with people like Stalin. If the weapon worked, Truman noted:

*"I'll certainly have a hammer on those boys."*

On the day Truman arrived in Potsdam, a blinding flash seared the New Mexico desert. Scientists for the top-secret Manhattan Project had produced the world's first atomic explosion. For the father of the bomb—Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer—the awesome sight summoned the words of the Hindu God, Vishnu:

*"Now I am become Death, the Destroyer of Worlds."*

President Truman gave his final go-ahead to drop the bomb on Japan: "Release when ready," he wrote.

When Stalin learned that the city of Hiroshima had been destroyed by the American bomb, it came as no surprise. His spies within the Manhattan Project had long ago revealed its existence. But Truman's

willingness to use the weapon, presented a stark new reality for the Soviet leader: In a war fought with atomic bombs, his mighty Red Army would be rendered impotent.

*“The balance has been destroyed. That cannot be.”*

Potsdam was the first and final meeting between Stalin and Truman and it set the tone for the early Cold War. In the words of one British diplomat, it was:

*“...a very bad-tempered conference.”*

As President Truman sailed for home, he could scarcely have imagined the decades of Cold War that lay ahead. There would be no Pearl Harbor in this coming struggle—no sudden attacks or declarations of war. Just a growing sense of fear and distrust pulling the former allies toward a confrontation that neither could afford, but that neither would manage to escape.

## CHAPTER 2 – CONTAINMENT

### 2.1 – AN IRON CURTAIN

#### WINSTON CHURCHILL:

*“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe...”*

In 1946, Winston Churchill raised the alarm, warning that tyranny was again on the march in Europe.

#### WINSTON CHURCHILL:

*“...all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in some cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow.”*

Churchill’s words drew criticism on both sides of the Atlantic. No one wanted another war. But in the months since Potsdam, the Soviet Union had been behaving more like an enemy than an ally. Josef Stalin’s Red Army had projected his authority throughout Eastern Europe.

Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Eastern zone of Germany...had come under the Soviet Union’s so-called “Sphere of Influence.”

This was Stalin’s “buffer zone,” insurance against future invasions.

Initially, Stalin hand-picked candidates to join coalition governments in these countries. But slowly, all opposing factions were eliminated until only the hardline Communists remained.

Many Eastern Europeans fled to escape the coming storm. Millions of others were forcibly deported.

Scenes of mass expulsions haunted one American intelligence officer.

#### FRANK WISNER

*“...twenty-seven box cars packed and heading East to the Soviet work camps.”*

### 2.2 – THE LONG TELEGRAM

Stalin continued to test the limits of the World War II “Grand Alliance.” He warned his people that war with the West was inevitable. Washington was at a loss to explain the hostility. What did the Soviet leader want? Were his ambitions limitless?

The best answer came from George F. Kennan, who had spent years observing the Kremlin as an American diplomat stationed in Moscow.

In an 8,000-word dispatch to Washington, now known as the “long telegram,” Kennan deciphered the Soviet riddle.

*“...at the "bottom of the Kremlin's neurotic view of world affairs is the traditional and instinctive Russian sense of insecurity.”*

Stalin needed to present the outside world as hostile and menacing in order to justify his own bloody regime.

This didn’t mean that the Soviets desired war with the West, Kennan emphasized. Soviet leaders may be

*“impervious to the logic of reason,”*

but, they would be

*“highly sensitive to logic of force.”*

...and would back down if confronted with strong resistance.

A year later, writing under the pseudonym, X, Kennan proposed a “long-term, patient but firm and vigilant of Russian expansive tendencies.”

Kennan’s idea of “containment,” formed the basis of American Cold War policy for the next fifty years. Before long, it was put to the test.

### 2.3 - TRUMAN DOCTRINE

In 1947, the British announced that they could no longer afford to support the pro-western governments of the Mediterranean, in their fight against communism. If the US could not take-up the burden, the whole region was in danger of falling under communist rule.

The Truman administration responded decisively. On March 12th 1947, the President went before a joint session of Congress to request aid for the countries of Greece and Turkey. The address sent a clear message to the Soviet Union.

#### **PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:**

*“I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedom. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world and we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation.”*

The President’s appeal was quickly dubbed the Truman Doctrine. It represented a dramatic change in US foreign policy, but it merely laid the groundwork for what followed.

## 2.4 – MARSHALL PLAN

A month later, Secretary of State George C. Marshall traveled to Europe. He witnessed first hand the physical ruin, social disintegration and economic collapse left by the war.

Marshall warned that under these conditions Europeans would turn to Communism as an alternative to starvation and death.

Two months later, Marshall proposed a program of massive economic assistance to rebuild Europe: the Marshall Plan.

### SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE C. MARSHALL:

*“Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.”*

European reaction to Marshall's speech was quick and positive. The British Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, hailed it as a:

*“lifeline to sinking men.”*

Of all the nations invited to help draft the plan, only the Soviet Union and its satellites refused.

The price would be high—up to \$17 billion dollars—but compared to the alternative, Marshall told Congress, it was a bargain.

### SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE C. MARSHALL:

*“This program should be viewed as an investment in peace. In those terms the cost is low.”*

While Congress debated the enormous financial commitment, Communist-inspired riots led to the overthrow of the democratically elected government in Czechoslovakia.

The events galvanized opinion on Capitol Hill and Congress approved funding for the Marshall Plan.

American aid was soon on its way to Europe. Food was distributed. Machinery and technical support spurred new production. Homes and businesses were rebuilt.

Marshall Plan aid provided nets for Flemish fishermen, money to rebuild Italian automotive factories, construction equipment for France, and coal to fuel Danish industry.

The Marshall plan was an overwhelming success. It launched Western Europe on the road to recovery, beat-back the threat of Communism in the region, and established the United States as the world's dominant economic Superpower. It also contributed to the first major confrontation of the Cold War.

## 2.5 - BERLIN AIRLIFT

At the Potsdam Conference, in 1945, the Allies had agreed to temporarily divide Germany into four occupation zones administered by the U.S., Great Britain, the Soviet Union and France. The German capital of Berlin—which lay deep within the Soviet zone—was partitioned in the same way.

But, three years later, Germany remained divided and Berlin had become a microcosm of the Cold War struggle for all of Europe.

The Soviet Foreign Minister emphasized the importance of the German capital.

### VYACHESLAV MOLOTOV:

*“What happens to Berlin, happens to Germany; what happens to Germany, happens to Europe.”*

The Soviets had plundered the Eastern Zone of Germany—hauling-off machinery, equipment, train tracks, even entire factories—to rebuild the Soviet Union.

At the same time, the zones under Western control were beginning to thrive. To aid in the recovery, a new currency was introduced: the Deutsch mark.

Stalin condemned the move as American economic imperialism and retaliated.

On June 24, 1948, he ordered all land access into the city of West Berlin to be sealed-off beginning the Berlin Blockade.

Roads and railways were shutdown. Shipments of goods languished at border crossings. The power to the city was turned off. Stalin was determined to force the Western Allies out of West Berlin and starve its people into submission.

The German capital symbolized American commitment to Europe, but was saving West Berlin worth the risk of war with the Soviets?

There would be no debate. President Truman declared,

*“We are going to stay, period.”*

Within days, the United States and Great Britain orchestrated the Berlin airlift to re-supply the beleaguered city.

Day and night, planes ferried-in food, coal and medical supplies. On average, a flight landed in West Berlin every three minutes. More than two million tons of cargo were delivered to Berlin during the 15-month operation.

Each mission brought the threat of Soviet military intervention, but it never came, and the flights continued, unchallenged.

Finally, in May 1949, the Soviets relented and lifted the blockade.

In its wake, any hopes to reunify the country were abandoned and a permanently divided Germany became a reality. Democratic West Germany and Communist East Germany.

## 2.6 - MILITARY ALLIANCES

The blockade underscored the need for a united defense against Soviet aggression. In 1949, the United States and Canada joined with ten European nations to form a military alliance: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—or NATO. A rebuilt, rearmed West Germany joined the alliance in 1955.

In response, the Soviet Union and its satellites formed a competing alliance—the Warsaw Pact.

Through 1948, the success of the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan and the Berlin airlift, had frustrated Soviet plans to dominate Europe.

But, the red star was rising, and 1949 would be an explosive year for world communism.

In August, the Soviets stunned the world by exploding their own atomic bomb...years ahead of expert predictions.

And, in China, Communist revolutionary Mao Zedong prevailed in a decades long civil war against the Chinese nationalist government. Nearly 500 million Chinese fell under Communist rule. For decades to come, Mao would be the linchpin of communist revolution in Asia—supporting fledging governments in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaya...and in Korea, where the Cold War Superpowers drew perilously close to World War III.

## CHAPTER 3 – RED STAR RISING

### 3.1 – THE LOSS OF CHINA

#### 3.1 - The Loss of China

Through the early years of the Cold War, the Truman administration's policy of "containment" had halted Soviet expansion in Europe. Their attempts to halt the spread of Communism elsewhere were much less successful.

The end of World War II brought renewed violence in a long-running Chinese Civil War. In 1949, Communist leader Mao Zedong launched an all-out offensive to defeat Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government. American efforts to mediate an end to the conflict failed and Chiang's government was forced to flee into exile.

At home, conservatives blamed President the Truman administration for what they called the "loss of China" to communism.

News that the Soviets had successfully tested their first atomic bomb and a series of sensational spy scandals, convinced many Americans that the enemy had seized the initiative in the Cold War.

### 3.2 – WAR IN KOREA

In June 1950, these fears seemed to be confirmed when the Communist army of North Korea launched a blistering attack against its neighbor, South Korea.

Within days they had overrun the capital of Seoul and forced the defending South Korean army into full retreat.

The North Korean invasion was the first military challenge of the Cold War. How the United States responded to the threat was critically important.

Following World War II, Korea was temporarily divided at the 38th parallel and jointly occupied—by the United States, in the South, and the Soviet Union, in the North.

The Soviets, turned North Korea into a communist state. They installed into power a dictator named Kim il-Sung.

In South Korea, the United States established a pro-Western government under Syngman Rhee, an oppressive, yet fanatically anti-communist leader.

Both Rhee and Kim aspired to unite Korea under their own rule, but neither the US nor the Soviet Union would allow their client-states to start a war.



That changed in 1950. Kim finally convinced Joseph Stalin to support his invasion of South Korea. Kim would provide the troops, Stalin would supply the military hardware, and Mao Zedong, if it became necessary, would provide Chinese reinforcements.

Kim promised that victory would be swift and decisive. It would be neither.

Half a world away, the North Korean invasion sparked intense debate in Washington. Was the assault ordered by the Soviets? Was this the beginning of World War III?

President Truman and his advisors quickly decided to take action.

#### **PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:**

*“An act of aggression such as this creates a very real danger to the security of all free nations. This challenge has been presented squarely. We must meet it squarely.”*

The U.S. acted through the United Nations. Their mandate was explicit: repel the attack and restore peace to the area. A coalition of fifteen countries agreed to send troops.

But the overwhelming majority of fighting men were American, fighting under General Douglas MacArthur, to defend American interests in the region.

In diplomatic language it was termed a “police action.” But it was a war. In the words of military historian Slam Marshall:

#### **S.L.A. “SLAM” MARSHALL:**

*“...the century’s nastiest little war.”*

General MacArthur rushed his troops to the battlefield, but the ill-prepared units were completely overwhelmed by the disciplined North Korean army fighting with Soviet tanks and artillery.

### **3.3 – TURNING THE TIDE**

Within a month, MacArthur’s army had retreated to the tip of the Korean peninsula, near Pusan, while plans were laid for a daring amphibious landing behind enemy lines—at the Port of Inchon.

If it were successful, the North Korean army could be trapped. If it failed, U.N. forces might be wiped-out entirely.

The assault at Inchon came on September 15, 1950.

It was a gauntlet: dangerous currents, extraordinary tides, defense fortifications, and massive seawalls. One planner described the obstacles:

*“We drew up a list of every natural and geographic handicap—and Inchon had all of them.”*

Despite the challenges, the invasion was a stunning success. Within days the capital city of Seoul was liberated. With the restoration of South Korea, the U.N. mission had been accomplished.

But, General MacArthur demanded the authority to cross the 38th parallel into North Korea.

The political risks were immense. Would the Soviets retaliate? Would Communist China intervene? There were rumors that Mao's troops were already massing along the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and China.

President Truman reluctantly agreed to MacArthur's appeal, but he warned his General:

*"Stay away from the Chinese border."*

MacArthur replied:

*"Mr. President, if the Chinese cross the Yalu, I will make of them the greatest slaughter in the history of warfare."*

### 3.4 - RED CHINA

In early October 1950, the first American troops marched north, across the 38th parallel, toward China.

By the end of October, MacArthur's forces had captured the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. By Thanksgiving day, they approached the Yalu River.

As the General prepared for the final offensive, he cabled President Truman:

*"...this should for all practical purposes end the war."*

But, MacArthur had underestimated the enemy. On the night of November 25th, the Chinese army struck with fury.

#### UNITED NEWSREEL:

*"At the White House, top defense officials gather to discuss the gravest defense condition since Poland and Pearl Harbor."*

#### PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:

*"The forces of the United Nations are in Korea to put down an aggression that threatens not only the whole fabric of the United Nations but all human hopes of peace and justice. If U.N. yields to the forces of aggression, no nation will be safe or secure. If aggression is successful in Korea, we can expect it to spread throughout Asia and Europe and to this hemisphere. We are fighting in Korea for our own national security and survival. We have committed ourselves to the cause of a just and peaceful world order through the United Nations. We stand by that commitment."*

**UNITED NEWSREEL:**

*“...which has broken their fluid lines of defense across North Korea.”*

UN forces fought desperately to escape the Chinese onslaught.

At the Chosin Reservoir, 6,000 Marines were encircled by the enemy. With temperatures dipping to minus 40 below zero their situation seemed hopeless. But, in a heroic effort dubbed the Chosin Breakout, their big guns and air support smashed the Chinese lines. 60,000 enemy troops were killed and the Marines escaped.

General MacArthur demanded that he be allowed to wage an all-out war against China, but President Truman was determined that Korea should remain a limited war. When MacArthur made it clear that he disagreed with that policy, the President fired him.

**3.5 – STALEMATE**

By the Spring of 1951, the war had degenerated into a brutal stalemate near the 38th parallel, but American troops continued to fight and die in Korea for two long years.

In the end, more than four million soldiers and civilians were killed during the conflict. Among them, 40,000 Americans died.

For Harry Truman, the costly war in Korea was a crushing blow to his presidency. His popularity, already weakened by charges of “losing China,” collapsed.

When the cease fire agreement was finally signed in July 1953, it was Truman’s successor, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who earned the credit.

**PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:**

*“We have won armistice on a single battle ground. Not peace in the world. We and our United Nation Allies must be vigilant against the possibility of untoward developments.”*

**3.6 – THE FORGOTTEN WAR**

Korea is often called the “forgotten war,” but it dramatically changed America’s sense of security.

For many, it reinforced the belief in “monolithic communism,” the assumption that all communist movements were orchestrated from Moscow. The idea poisoned American politics for decades and set the stage for the disaster in Vietnam.

Korea also put the country on a permanent war footing—leading to spiraling defense spending and greatly increasing the Pentagon’s influence. By the end of his term in 1960, President Eisenhower warned of a growing threat to the nation from within.

**PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:**

*“In the councils of government we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence whether sought or unsought by the military-industrial complex. The potential for disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.”*

## CHAPTER 4 – REDS UNDER THE BED

### 4.1 – LIKE AN EPIDEMIC

#### ARCHIVAL CIVIL DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT:

*“Attention, Attention, this is an official civil defense warning, this is not a test. The United States is under nuclear attack. Take cover immediately in your area fallout shelter. Repeat...the United States is under attack...”*

America’s Cold War years were filled with fear. Daily radio and newspaper reports blared frightening stories of advancing communism, imminent nuclear war, and Soviet spies.

America responded with an all-out offensive against communist infiltration.

#### UNITED NEWSREEL ARCHIVAL:

“The growing menace of communism arouses the House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee. Among the well-informed witnesses testifying is J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Hoover speaks with authority on the matter.”

#### J. EDGAR HOOVER:

*“Communism in reality is not a political party. It is a way of life. An evil and malignant way of life. It reveals a condition akin to disease that spreads like an epidemic. And like an epidemic a quarantine is necessary to keep it from infecting this nation.”*

### 4.2 – THE HOLLYWOOD TEN

While J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI worked behind the scenes, Congress held its own high-profile investigations, often ignoring the civil rights of the accused.

#### INTERROGATOR:

*“Are you now or have you ever been a member of the communist Party?”*

#### DALTON TRUMBO:

*“I believe I have the right to be confronted with any evidence that supports this question. I should like to see what you have.”*

#### INVESTIGATOR:

*“Oh well you would?”*

**DALTON TRUMBO:**

*"Yes!"*

Beginning in 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee, or HUAC, investigated communist influence in Hollywood. The committee was concerned with the power of movies to persuade audiences with subversive messages.

With movie stars and other industry professionals called to testify, the hearings became red carpet events. For the anti-communist witch hunt, it was a publicity bonanza.

**ADOLPH MENJOU:**

*"It is completely against the American feeling this communistic thing...I would move to the state of Texas if it ever came here because I think the Texans would kill them on site."*

**WALT DISNEY:**

*"We have sold them some films. They bought the "Three Little Pigs" and used it throughout Russia."*

**ROBERT TAYLOR, ACTOR:**

*"If I had my way about it they'd all be sent back to Russia or some other unpleasant place."*

Most witnesses cooperated with the committee. However a small group, who became known as the "Hollywood Ten," refused to answer questions, citing protection under the first amendment. Among them, screenwriter John Howard Lawson.

**INTERROGATOR:**

*"The question is: 'Have you ever been a member of the communist party?'"*

**JOHN HOWARD LAWSON:**

*"I'm framing my answer in the only way any American citizen can frame his answer to a question that absolutely invades his rights."*

**INTERROGATOR:**

*"Then you deny....then you refuse to answer that question, is that right?"*

**JOHN HOWARD LAWSON:**

*"I have told you I will offer my beliefs, my affiliations, and everything else to the American public and they will know where I stand as they do from what I have written. I have written of Americanism for many years and I shall continue to fight for the Bill of Rights."*

**INTERROGATOR:**

*"Stand away from the stand...stand away from the stand..."*

*"It is the unanimous opinion of this subcommittee that John Howard Lawson is in contempt of Congress."*

The "Hollywood Ten," were convicted of contempt and sent to prison. Thousands of others were blacklisted by the studios, forcing many talented movie makers into exile and obscurity.

Among the "friendly" witnesses who testified in 1947 was a B-movie actor named Ronald Reagan. No one could have suspected that, four decades later, Reagan would play a leading role in bringing the Cold War to an end.

**ERIC JOHNSTON:**

*"If communists have attempted to inject their propaganda into the motion picture they have failed miserably."*

Perhaps Hollywood wasn't influenced by communists, but it was affected by the hearings. Movie studios added to the hysteria by cranking out such anti-communist films as "Is this Tomorrow," "Red Planet Mars," and dozens of others.

**4.3 - HOW NOT TO FIGHT COMMUNISM**

The tawdry films did little to distract President Truman from what he saw as a perversion of American democracy.

**PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:**

*"I'll tell you how we're not going to fight communism. We're not going to transform our fine FBI into a gestapo secret police. We're not going to try and control what our people say and read and think. We're not gonna turn the United States into a right wing totalitarian country in order to deal with a left wing totalitarian threat. In short, we're not gonna end democracy. We're going to keep the Bill of Rights on the books."*

Against the President's objections, Congress passed more dubious legislation, including the Internal Security Bill of 1950 which empowered the government to take action against anyone it deemed a "security risk." Truman called it:

**PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:**

*"...the greatest danger to freedom of speech, press, and assembly since the Alien and Sedition Laws of 1798."*

**4.4 - ALGER HISS**

In 1948, the Red Hunt struck at the very center of government when ex-communist Whitaker Chambers accused a former State Department Employee named Alger Hiss of spying for the Soviet Union.

**ALGER HISS:**

*"I first knew him as Crosley. What his name is today, I'm not prepared to testify or what other names he may have had."*

**WHITAKER CHAMBERS:**

*"Mr. Hiss represents the concealed enemy against which we are all fighting and I am fighting."*

The House committee was prepared to dismiss the case for lack of conclusive evidence, but one of its members pressed the issue: an ambitious young congressman from California, Richard Nixon.

**RICHARD NIXON:**

*"These documents were fed out of the State Department over ten years ago by communists who were employees of that department and who were interested in seeing that these documents were sent to the Soviet Union where the interests of the Soviet Union happened to be in conflict with those of the United States."*

Alger Hiss was convicted, not of treason, but of perjury and sentenced to five years in prison. His supporters said he was a victim of the communist hysteria. Others saw him as part of a communist conspiracy to destroy the United States—and pressed the search for more traitors.

**4.5 - THE ROSENBERGS**

Within months, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were arrested in connection with a plot to pass U.S. bomb secrets to the Soviets.

The Rosenbergs denied the charges and claimed their were being persecuted as Jews and for their left-wing views. The evidence suggested they played a small, but material role in the spy ring. The Rosenbergs were convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Protests erupted amid claims of anti-Semitism. The Nobel-prize winning writer Jean-Paul Sartre condemned the sentence as "...a legal lynching which smears with blood a whole nation." and he warned: "Your country is sick with fear. You're afraid of the shadow of your own bomb."



Despite the outcry, the Rosenbergs were executed in 1953.

#### 4.6 – MCCARTHYSIM

United Newsreel: Union Square in New York was the backdrop for these scenes of Red Violence. From their ranks will come the saboteurs, spies and subversives should World War III be forced upon America.

At the height of the anti-communist hysteria, the greatest danger to America came—not from the Reds, but from the so-called red baiters.

#### SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY:

*“Even if there were only one communist in the state department...even if there were only one communist in the State Department, that would still be one communist too many...”*

Of all the demagogues who exploited the red scare for political gain, no one matched the Senator from Wisconsin—who’s namesake—McCarthyism—would come to define the entire era of political persecution.

Senator Joseph McCarthy emerged from virtual obscurity in 1950 when he claimed he had a list of 205 communists working in the State Department.

The claim was patently untrue, but it launched McCarthy on a political juggernaut.

For four years, the Senator ran rough-shod over civil liberties while the news media served as a conduit for his reckless, unsubstantiated charges.

McCarthy’s audacity knew no bounds.

He accused Secretary of State George Marshall—the architect of the Marshall Plan—of:

*“...infamy so black as to dwarf any previous venture in the history of man...”*

He even threatened President Truman—and suggested that the Democratic Party was:

*“...a bed-fellow of international communism.”*

The hysteria of McCarthyism seeped into every aspect of American life. People rushed to condemn friends, neighbors and coworkers. Many were fired or shunned for perceived left-leanings. Though McCarthy wore a cloak of patriotism, his abusive actions had a chilling effect on democracy.

He was told:

*“ You have created an atmosphere so vile that people have lost confidence in their government.”*

But slowly the tide began to turn. Dissenters spoke out.

The respected journalist Edward R. Murrow attacked McCarthy's repugnant tactics on his investigative TV series *See it Now*.

**EDWARD R. MURROW:**

*"One month ago tonight, we presented a report on Senator McCarthy. We labelled it as controversial."*

McCarthy remained characteristically defiant.

**SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY:**

*"If I am giving comfort to our enemies that I ought not to be in the Senate. If, on the other hand, Mr. Murrow is giving comfort to our enemy he ought not be brought into the homes of millions of Americans by the Columbian Broadcasting System."*

Then, with his support withering, McCarthy pitted himself against the U.S. Army in an investigation of charges and countercharges concerning clout, favoritism and communist coverups.

**SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY:**

*"Unless we make sure that there is no infiltration of our government, then just as certain as you sit there... you will see a Red world."*

The ensuing Army-McCarthy hearings tore away the senator's mask of self righteousness and struck a fatal blow to his crusade.

**JOSEPH WELCH, ESQ.:**

*"Until this moment Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness..."*

The hearings were a media circus—and, in the end, inconclusive. But, for the tens of millions of viewers who tuned in to watch, McCarthy was revealed to be an arrogant, blustering, tyrant.

**SENATOR STUART SYMINGTON:**

*"The American people have had a look at you for six weeks. You're not fooling anyone..."*

The American public had seen enough. Nearly overnight, McCarthy's immense national popularity evaporated.

President Eisenhower probably spoke for millions of Americans when he said:

*"It's no longer McCarthyism, it's McCarthywasm."*

Three years later, Joseph McCarthy died—probably of complications from alcoholism—he was 48 years old.

McCarthy faded, but an unsettling question remained: Could America win the Cold War without sacrificing the very liberties it was fighting to safeguard?

Ominously, a highly classified government report concluded,

#### **DOOLITTLE REPORT:**

*“It is now clear we are facing an implacable enemy whose avowed objective is world domination. There are no rules in such a game, Hitherto acceptable norms of human conduct do not apply.”*

A new and frightening day was dawning. One in which legal and moral restraints were set aside in a high-stakes game of diplomatic maneuvering, clandestine operations, and nuclear brinksmanship.

## CH. 5 – CONFRONTATION OR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

### 5.1 – THE NEW LOOK

Harry Truman and Joseph Stalin led their nations from world war victory in 1945...through seven years of tense confrontation.

By 1953, it was time for a new generation of Cold Warriors to take command.

In Washington, the changing of the guard came democratically.

#### UNITED NEWSREEL:

*“The people speak and their verdict: a landslide victory for Dwight D. Eisenhower.”*

The hero of D-Day, General Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first republican president in twenty-years.

On the campaign trail, Eisenhower had pledged to take a hardline with the Soviet Union and to bring an end to the war in Korea.

#### PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:

*“You have summoned me on behalf of millions of your fellow Americans to lead a great crusade for freedom in America and freedom in the world.”*

As President, Eisenhower continued the policy of containment, but his administration’s New Look defense strategy relied more heavily on airpower and nuclear weapons. Deploying an effective nuclear arsenal was easier and cheaper than maintaining a massive land army. Eisenhower could defend the nation, cut taxes and curb inflation—all at the same time. In the expression of the day, it was

*“...a bigger bang for the buck.”*

The New Look was not just economical, it was aggressive. The White House adopted a policy of Massive Retaliation to deter Soviet aggression. It stated that if the Soviet Union invaded Western Europe, the U.S. would respond by launching more than 3,000 nuclear missiles against every major urban, industrial and military target throughout the Communist world. Experts estimated that such an attack would kill 285 million people. President Eisenhower refused to consider options that stopped short of *total* war.

### 5.2 – THE NEW KREMLIN

But even as the Eisenhower White House was refining its Cold War strategy, news from Moscow that Joseph Stalin had died, dramatically altered the playing field. The official cause was a stroke, but many suspected poison. Without a plan for succession, a collective leadership assumed control of the Soviet Union.

Almost immediately, they extended an olive branch to the West. Speaking for the party, Georgi Malenkov declared,

*"We stand as we have always stood, for peaceful coexistence of the two systems."*

Coming from the avowed enemy of capitalism, peaceful coexistence was a radical notion. Was this just Soviet propaganda or was the *new* Kremlin really different than the *old*?

In an address dubbed *Chance for Peace*, Eisenhower called on the Soviets to demonstrate they had truly broken with Stalin's legacy.

#### **PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:**

*"I know of only one question upon which progress waits. It is this: What is the Soviet Union ready to do? Whatever the answer is, let it be plainly spoken. Again we say: the hunger for peace is too great, the hour in history too late, for any government to mock men's hopes with mere words and promises and gestures."*

Before the Soviets could respond, Eisenhower's offer was contradicted by his own Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles. He ridiculed the idea of peaceful coexistence as a ploy to divide the Western Allies adding:

*"We are not dancing to any Russian tune."*

The "chance for peace," if it ever existed, was squandered, and U.S. Soviet relations continued to vacillate between measured tolerance and outright disdain.

### **5.3 – GENEVA 1955**

Two years later, in 1955, both the United States and the Soviet Union were seeking opportunities to relax Cold War tensions. They met face-to-face in Geneva, Switzerland for the first time since the end of World War II.

#### **PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:**

*"Eleven years ago I came to Europe with an army, a navy, an air force. This time I come armed with something far more powerful, the goodwill of America, the great hopes of America, the aspirations of Americans for peace."*

Americans got their first good look at the new Kremlin powers at the summit. There was Soviet Premier Nicolai Bulganin, Defense Minister Marshall Zhukov, and the outspoken head of the Soviet communist party, Nikita Khrushchev.

During discussions, Eisenhower suggested a program he called "Open Skies" that would permit air reconnaissance over both countries. Bulganin and Zhukov were receptive to the idea. But, Khrushchev quickly denounced the idea as a "bold espionage plot." After two years of uncertainty, it was clear that Nikita Khrushchev was now the top man in Moscow.

Khrushchev's reason for refusing "open skies" was simple. His nation had been threatening the West with nuclear rockets it simply did not have and bombs it could not deliver onto American soil.

These military shortcomings were a closely held secret in the Kremlin, but they would not remain secret for long.

#### 5.4 - U-2

On July 4, 1957, the Lockheed U-2 spy plane made its inaugural flight over the Soviet Union. From an altitude of 70,000 feet, the U-2 captured stunningly clear images of its target.

For four years, U-2 flights gathered revealing intelligence about Soviet military installations and missile deployments. But President Eisenhower feared the consequences of the inevitable. He said:

*“Sooner or later, one of these things is going to get shot down.”*

#### 5.5 - NIKITA SERGEYEVICH KHRUSHCHEV

Nikita Khrushchev was nothing like his predecessor. He was no monster—like Stalin—but in his relations with the West, he was openly defiant and often belligerent. He boasted of the Soviet Union’s vastly superior nuclear capabilities that:

*“...could wipe out any American or European city.”*

True or not, Khrushchev’s threats to unleash his “rocket weapons” on Western targets was unnerving.

But for all his nuclear posturing, Khrushchev could be amiable and, at times, even likable.

In 1959, he engaged Vice-President Richard Nixon in an impromptu debate over the relative merits of capitalism and communism.

#### VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON:

*“...will teach us some things and will teach you some things, too. Because, after all, you don’t know everything. Every word you have said here will be reported in the United States and they will see you say it on television...”*

Khrushchev would soon have a chance to witness a capitalist democracy first hand.

#### 5.6 - MR. K COMES TO AMERICA

#### PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:

*“The President of the United States has invited Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the the USSR to pay an official visit to the United States in September.”*

Khrushchev was the first Soviet head-of-state ever to visit the United States. During his stay he was exposed to the extremes of American life and culture—from movie stars in Hollywood to farm production in the American heartland.

#### UNITED NEWSREEL:

*“Nikita Khrushchev’s American tour swings into the world’s best corn country. In one of the world’s most modern, efficient and modern farming operations, Khrushchev shows an enthusiasm springing from his Ukrainian peasant background and the interest of a leader whose nation has long known severe food production problems.”*

The Soviet leader acknowledged the riches of the United States, but boasted:

*“Tomorrow we shall be as rich as you are. The next day, even richer.”*

Meetings with President Eisenhower failed to break new ground, but the two leaders bridged a divide. They pledged to meet again in Paris the following year.

Khrushchev was deeply moved by his American experience.

#### NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV (TRANSLATED):

*“I hope that in the relationship between our two countries we will be able to use more often the good short American word “OK.” Until we meet again friends.”*

Upon returning to Moscow, he openly declared:

*“long live Soviet-American friendship”*

He pledged his nation to massive cuts in its conventional military as a first step towards peace.

### 5.7 - SPY PLANE FIASCO

By this time, the U-2 had revealed that the Soviets were greatly exaggerating their nuclear capabilities. Seeing continued surveillance as a “diplomatic risk” Eisenhower had suspended the flights. But under pressure from his advisors, he reluctantly agreed to allow one more mission.

#### UN NEWSREEL:

*“May Day in Moscow. This year’s parade through Red Square is a three-and-a-half hour affair with emphasis on peaceful coexistence...”*

On May 1, 1960, as Kremlin leaders waived to the May Day crowds in Red Square, a U-2 piloted by Francis Gary Powers was shot down over Soviet airspace. In an instant, the plane, the pilot, and any chance for peaceful coexistence came crashing to earth.

The White House had devised a cover story for just such an occurrence. They claimed:

*“...the U-2 was on a weather mission originating in Turkey” for NASA and had strayed off course.”*

The next day they changed the story: The plane was: “piloted by a civilian” and that a “failure in oxygen equipment” had resulted in the “pilot losing consciousness” and “accidentally violating Soviet Airspace”

It was all rubbish. Khrushchev knew the U.S. had been flying spy missions over the Soviet Union and now he had the evidence to prove it. The wreckage of the U-2 and the American pilot—alive and kicking.

Trapped, Eisenhower finally came clean with the American public.

#### **PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:**

*“Now, this has not put the United States on trial whatsoever.”*

At the Paris summit two weeks later, Khrushchev, turned the U-2 incident into a crisis.

#### **UNITED NEWSREEL:**

*“Khrushchev outdoes his earlier outburst against President Eisenhower at the commencement of the Paris meeting. Flanked by Foreign Minister Gromyko and glowering Marshall Malinovski he fires a barrage of threats, insults and menaces; warns of devastating blows at bases used by American espionage planes; denounces American acts of aggression; and in general follows a tough line that seems to signal a new freezing spell in the Cold War.”*

The captured U-2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers, was convicted of espionage against the Soviet Union and sentenced to ten years in prison. It was August 17, 1960.

That very same day, in the skies over the Pacific Ocean, an Airforce pilot snatched a falling capsule from midair. The event marked a breakthrough in the top secret project to develop Corona—the world’s first earth orbiting reconnaissance satellite.

The U-2 may have been downed, but America had a new “eye in the sky,” and this one could capture stunningly clear—and revealing—images of its target from more than one hundred miles in outer space.



## CHAPTER 6 – CRACKS IN THE CURTAIN

### 6.1 – STALIN’S TERROR

Joseph Stalin made the dark cloud hanging over the Cold War infinitely more sinister. His crimes against his own people were so great as to be immeasurable—a million....10 million...perhaps 40 million Soviet citizens perished during his reign of terror. His was a government run by fear, cruelty and, finally, madness.

But in March 1953, the monster met his demise...

...and the leadership of the Soviet Union passed to a collective of top Kremlin officials. They sought to distance themselves from Stalin’s cruel legacy. But they soon realized that fear and intimidation were the only things keeping them in power.

### 6.3 – EAST GERMAN REVOLT

The first test of their authority came almost instantly.

In East Germany, Walter Ulbricht ran his government according to the cold-blooded dictates of Stalinism.

No one dared challenge his authority—for fear of imprisonment or death.

Stalin himself boasted that a revolt by the East German people was impossible:

*“Revolt? Why, they won’t even cross the street unless the light is green.”*

But in June 1953, they stormed the streets in waves of anti-government protest.

The violence quickly spread to cities across East Germany.

With Ulbricht’s government in peril, Moscow ordered Soviet forces to intervene and put an end to the demonstrations.

Hundreds were killed—or later executed—as a result.

The events of the 1953 East German Uprising are recounted commemorated in a poem by the German poet, Bertolt Brecht:

*“After the uprising of the 17 June*

*The Secretary of the Writers Union*

*Had leaflets distributed in the Stalinallee*

*Stating that the people*

*Had forfeited the confidence of the government  
 And could win it back only  
 By redoubled efforts. Would it not be easier  
 In that case for the government  
 To dissolve the people  
 And elect another?"*

In the United States, the new administration had not anticipated the challenge to Soviet authority. Despite his campaign pledge to “rollback” communism and “free the enslaved people of Eastern Europe,” President Eisenhower refused to intervene.

## 6.2 - KHRUSHCHEV’S THAW

In the wake of the East German uprising, the top ranks of the Kremlin were reshuffled.

When the blood-letting was over, a single man stood at the pinnacle of Soviet government—Nikita Sergeyeovich Khrushchev.

With power consolidated in the Kremlin, the Soviet Union—and the Cold War—took a dramatic turn.

In 1956, Khrushchev rocked the communist world to its core by tearing down the legacy of Stalin himself.

Before the 20th Communist Party Congress he unleashed a fiery, four-hour condemnation of the late Soviet dictator leader and his cult-of-personality.

*“Stalin abandoned the method of ideological struggle for that of administrative violence, mass repressions and terror.”*

He possessed a

*“capricious and despotic character”*

...and he was

*“...a Supreme egotist and sadist, capable of sacrificing anything and anybody for his own power and glory.”*

The impact of the “secret speech” was immense. It ushered in a period of relative liberalization known as Khrushchev’s Thaw.

By Western standards the changes were modest. But, to the long-suffering people of Eastern Europe, enraged by ten years of Soviet-style repression, they were cause for revolution.

## 6.4 – POLAND AND HUNGARY 1956

Just months after the Secret Speech, an uprising by Polish workers, challenged Khrushchev to make good on his promises for reform.

In its aftermath, When bloodshed was averted, Vice President, Richard Nixon noted cynically:

*“It would serve American interests if the Soviets pounded another upstart satellite, such as Hungary, into submission.”*

He got his wish in October of 1956.

Inspired by the events in Poland, In the Hungarian capital of Budapest, students and workers demonstrated against the repressive policies of the country’s Stalinist government. They demanded an end to Soviet military occupation, free elections, and the return to power of their deposed Prime Minister — Imre Nagy.

But events in Budapest quickly spiraled out of control. The Hungarian secret police opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators. But that only fueled the rioting.

Symbols of Soviet enslavement were destroyed. Hungarian resistance fighters, or partisans, hunted-down and killed government officials.

By the next day, Soviet forces had entered the fray and the city was at war.

The Hungarian resistance fought Soviet tanks using Molotov cocktails and small arms.

(SOUND UP - HUNGARIAN RADIO)

The American-sponsored Radio Free Europe encouraged the rebels to “fight the Soviets to the death.”

Finally, after nearly a week of violence, an uneasy cease-fire descended on the city. Soviet tanks were withdrawn. Negotiations commenced to seat a new, independent, government in Budapest— independent of Moscow influence.

Against impossible odds, it appeared the heroic freedom fighters had prevailed against the mighty Soviet Union.

### UNITED NEWSREEL:

*“At the end of a six-day fight that astonished the world and shook the Kremlin to its foundation, Hungary was free - free to fraternize on its own borders and rush-in supplies to the stricken city of Budapest along roads littered with burned-out Red tanks, disabled by almost unarmed men fired by liberty. Flaring swiftly from student demonstrations into open revolution, the penned-up hatred of oppression sent Russian might reeling, and forced withdrawal of the Red yoke. But even as these scenes were recorded, rumors flared of the re-entry of Russian forces and new fighting. The beautiful*

*city of Budapest, scarred by conflict, again faces a Russian onslaught even before the debris of the fight for freedom is cleared from the streets."*

The world watched and waited even as tens of thousands of desperate refugees fled for their lives.

Khrushchev agonized over what to do next.

Could he allow Hungary to determine its own political future? That would mean losing face and, perhaps, losing the rest of Eastern Europe.

In the end, it was too much to concede.

On November 4th, Soviet military forces rolled into Hungary—with orders to terminate the rebellion.

A radio transmission captured the final desperate moments of Hungarian freedom.

**ANONYMOUS, HUNGARIAN M.T.I. (NEWS AGENCY):**

*"We are under heavy machine-gun fire.*

*We will hold out until the last drop of blood.*

*Goodbye friends. God save our souls.*

*The Russians are too near."*

In America, the man who promised to roll-back communism provided no military support...

...no diplomatic intervention...

...nothing.

Budapest lay in ruins. Several thousand were dead. Thousands more were wounded. Imre Nagy was arrested by Soviet forces, imprisoned, and later, executed. Khrushchev said it would serve

*"...as a lesson to all other leaders in socialist countries."*

## CHAPTER 7 – THIRD WORLD WARS

### SECTION 7.1 – THE SUEZ CRISIS

#### UNITED NEWSREEL:

*“The Suez Canal - storm center of controversy for weeks, now becomes a cause of war in a lightning sequence of diplomatic and military moves. Since its seizure and nationalization by President Nasser of Egypt, the vital waterway has precipitated a new crisis in the already tense Middle East. Crack French units are embarked at Marseilles, bound for a joint staging area with Britain on Cyprus...”*

In 1956, the Soviet Union wasn't the only country fighting to hold on to its satellites.

While Russian tanks were crushing the Hungarian uprising, Britain and France invaded Egypt in a display of colonial arrogance and brutal desperation. Their attack was aimed at regaining control of the Suez Canal, the strategic link between the oil-rich Middle East and Western Europe which had been controlled by an Anglo-French alliance for nearly a century.

The incursion ended in humiliation for the invaders. It was a sign of the times for the once great colonial empires.

### SECTION 7.2 – THE END OF COLONIALISM

During the decades following World War II, dozens of colonies defied colonial rule by declaring their independence. Each had to choose a method of government...and most faced severe economic challenges. Many new nations were forced to choose sides in the Cold War—leading to internal divisions, anarchy and authoritarian governments.

But a coalition of poor African and Asian states sought to avoid this fate. They banded together to gain more influence in global affairs.

When leaders of the non-aligned movement met in Bandung Indonesia in 1955, they represented 2/3 of the world's population.

#### SOT:

*“It is a new departure in the history of the world that leaders of Asian and African nations can meet together in their own countries to discuss and deliberate upon issues of common concern.”*

Egypt's President, Gamal Abdel Nasser, represented the rising tide of Arab nationalism in the middle east. He described his form of government as “moderate socialism”—explaining it as:

*“socialism without capitalists, without imperialists and without communists.”*

But Nasser and other shrewd leaders, played the Cold War rivals against each other to gain military and economic aid.

American leaders suspected that many non-aligned nations were under Communist influence and tried to change their governments.

In 1953, the Prime Minister of Iran, Mohammed Mossadegh, became the target of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's first regime-change action. The CIA-engineered a coup to get rid of Mossadegh and then vested power in the pro-Western Shah of Iran. The Shah became a staunch ally of the West. By the time, U.S. President Richard Nixon visited Iran, two decades later, most Iranians resented the Shah's repressive government and America's growing influence in the Middle East.

But the success of the Iranian coup had been intoxicating and gave rise to many similar operations, designed to eliminate potential threats and shape the politics of the third world.

They did not all meet with success, but none failed as catastrophically as American attempts at nation-building in Vietnam.

## VIETNAM

Vietnam and its neighbors in Southeast Asia were colonized by the French in the 19th century. "French Indochina," as it was known, was the crown jewel in France's vast empire until the beginning of World War II when Japan invaded the region and seized control of Vietnam. When the war ended, in 1945, France sought to reclaim its colony. They were opposed by a communist organization called the Viet Minh. Their leader was a Vietnamese nationalist named Ho Chi Minh. Ho dreamed of uniting his country under one, independent government.

France fought the Viet Minh for eight years in the First Indochina War, before suffering a devastating defeat in the Battle of Dienbienphu, in 1954.

French forces withdrew from Vietnam, while Ho's popularity spread throughout country. But, Vietnam became a pawn in the emerging Cold War. During cease-fire negotiations the country was divided—Ho and his communist government would rule North Vietnam. A new Western-backed government was created in the South. American leaders feared that ALL of Vietnam would turn communist. They pushed aside the French and supported South Vietnamese Prime Minister, Ngo Dinh Diem.

Vietnam itself was not strategically important. But, American leaders feared that if Vietnam fell to communism other countries in the region would follow. This became known as the Domino Principle.

## PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:

*"Finally, you have broader considerations that might follow what you call the falling domino principle. You have a row of dominoes set up and you knock over the first one and what will happen to the last one is that the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you could have the beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences."*

The tragedy that followed was epic in its scope and senselessness. Billions of dollars and more than 50,000 American lives were spent to stop the dominos from falling. In the process, the United States laid-waste to much of the country and killed more than three million people.

But, the justification for war in Vietnam was fatally flawed. Ho was a communist, but he was not a puppet of Moscow, as the U.S. feared. His resistance was based on a fierce patriotism that inspired his people to fight-on even in the face of almost inconceivable losses. With the benefit of military support from the Soviet Union and Communist China, they frustrated the U.S. for two decades.

Finally, in 1975, a tired and demoralized United States abandoned the war. The last American's were evacuated from South Vietnam and communist forces overran the capital city of Saigon.

#### **PRESIDENT GERALD FORD:**

*"These events, tragic as they are, portend neither the end of America nor of America's leadership in the world."*

In the end, the dominos didn't fall. But the communist victory in Vietnam did influence the Cold War.

In the 1970s, the United States endured a crisis of self-confidence that came to be known as the Vietnam Syndrome. Americans lost faith in their government. Political leaders lost faith in their military. The country questioned its role in foreign affairs. No one had any taste for another Vietnam. This view contributed to an easing of international relations known as Detente.

In the Soviet Union, the effects of the Vietnam war were even more far-reaching. Emboldened by the communist victory—and America's ambivalence toward foreign affairs—Kremlin leaders spent lavishly to build their arsenals and extend their communist empire around the world. It was, in effect, a brazen attempt to overtake the United States and win the Cold War. It would be, however, their greatest mistake.

## CHAPTER 8 – KENNEDY AND CRISES

### 8.2 – BAY OF PIGS

#### PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY:

*“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty...”*

As John F. Kennedy assumed the presidency in 1961, he inherited an all or nothing defense policy. It provided only two military options for dealing with a Soviet threat. Do nothing and let the diplomats work it out...

...or launch an all-out nuclear attack against the Communist-bloc that would reduce the Soviet Union to ashes and rubble. Humiliation or holocaust.

President Kennedy demanded more options - a middle ground. A new defense policy emerged known as “Flexible Response.” It called for a massive build-up in conventional forces, as well as new tactical and strategic nuclear arms. It also emphasized counterinsurgency and other unconventional military operations for dealing with threats in the third world.

“Flexible Response” was designed to avoid total war. With this diverse arsenal the President and his advisors believed it would be possible to fight a limited war with the Soviets—even a limited nuclear war—without igniting a world-ending apocalypse. This premise was tested by the major Cold War challenges of the early 1960s.

The President encountered his first international crisis after just three months in office.

Just 90 miles from the beaches of Florida, a military dictator had seized power in Cuba. Fidel Castro promised his people:

*“Not Communism or Marxism but representative democracy and social justice in a well-planned economy.”*

But, U.S. leaders feared the worst. Castro looked like a communist and talked like a communist. He was a liability. In April 1961 plans were set in motion for an armed invasion of Cuba.

The covert mission took its name from the main landing ground—on the “Bay of Pigs.”

The CIA had armed and trained a band of Cuban exiles for the covert operation. President Kennedy approved the plan, but then he crippled the operation by refusing air and naval support. The invasion force was crushed. The Kennedy administration humiliated.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy feared that the Soviet Union would seize on the Bay of Pigs as a sign of weakness. He warned his brother:



*"If we don't want Russia to set up missile bases in Cuba, we had better decide now what we are willing to do to stop it."*

Following the Bay of Pigs, the U.S. imposed economic sanctions on Cuba. Castro appealed to the Soviet Union for aid. For Chairman Khrushchev, it was a coup: a communist outpost in America's own backyard—what could be better? Khrushchev's elation sprouted into a germ of an idea:

*"What if we threw a hedgehog down Uncle Sam's pants?"*

While Khrushchev's scheme took root in the Caribbean, the two Cold War superpowers faced-off over the increasingly contentious issue of Berlin.

### 8.3 - THE BERLIN WALL

By the 1960s West Berlin was a thriving cosmopolitan city. In the words of one Cold War historian, the West German capital was:

*"...a permanent advertisement for the virtues of capitalism and democracy in the middle of communist East Germany."*

Still West Berliners lived with the fear that the Communists could cut-off land access to their city as they had done during the Berlin blockade, in 1948.

Jobs, prosperity and freedom—and the security afforded by the American military presence—beckoned to the hungry, disenfranchised and repressed of East Germany. To the exasperation of their Communist leaders, millions fled across the open border.

By the time President Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev met at the Vienna summit of 1961, millions of East Germany's best and brightest had left the country and the mass exodus situation had become a crisis.

#### SOVIET VICE PREMIER ANASTAS MIKOYAN.

*"Marxism was born in Germany...If [it] does not prove itself as superior and vital here, then we have not won."*

Tired of haggling over the divided city, Khrushchev issued an ultimatum to the American President: withdraw U.S. troops currently occupying West Berlin or face a blockade.

Kennedy stood his ground.

#### PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY:

*"We will at all times be ready to talk, if talk will help. But we must also be ready to resist with force if force is used upon us. The source of world trouble and tension is Moscow, not Berlin. And if war begins, it will have begun in Moscow, not Berlin."*

War did not come to Berlin....but a wall did: barbed wire and concrete twelve feet high and a hundred miles long isolating east from west.

East German border patrols had orders to “shoot to kill”—and they did.

Khrushchev admitted:

*“The wall was a hateful thing, but what should I have done? The East German economy would have collapsed.”*

The much-hated Berlin Wall finally settled the nagging “German Question” and helped to diffuse East-West tensions in Europe. But, it did nothing to prevent conflict elsewhere.

#### 8.4 - CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

In the summer of 1962, Khrushchev’s hedgehog triggered the gravest confrontation of the Cold War—the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Soviet ships crossed the Atlantic, bound for Cuba. They carried military hardware, Soviet troops...and nuclear missiles capable of striking nearly anywhere in the United States.

On October 14, U-2 reconnaissance flights over Cuba confirmed what for months had been rumored.

#### PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY:

*“Unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. A strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. It shall be the policy of this Nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.”*

For Americans, the idea of going to war with the Soviet Union was terrifying. But having nuclear missiles stationed permanently in Cuba was unthinkable.

#### MOS #1:

*“I’d hate like heck to see us go to war, but if it’s necessary to prevent a nuclear war I think the action has to be taken at this time”*

#### WOS #1:

*“Well, I think it’s high time we stopped Russia from having things her own way.”*

#### MOS #2:

*“I know that some action should be taken but he’s gonna have to tread very lightly... short of going to war.”*

At the United Nations, U.S. ambassador Adlai Stevenson confronted his Soviets counterpart.

**SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON:**

*"All right, sir, let me ask you one simple question. Do you Ambassador Zoran deny that the USSR has placed and is placing medium and intermediate range missiles and sites in Cuba? Yes or no? Don't wait for the translation - yes or no?"*

**SOVIET AMBASSADOR ZORAN:**

*"I am not in an American courtroom Sir, and therefore I do not wish to answer a question put to me in the fashion in which a prosecutor does. You will have your answer in due course."*

**SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON:**

*"I'm prepared to wait for my answer until hell freezes over if that's your decision."*

The crisis turned critical. U.S. military forces prepared for a possible invasion of Cuba. It was the greatest emergency troop mobilization since World War II.

For the first time in its history, the nation's nuclear army—the Strategic Air Command, or SAC, moved to Defense Condition 2. The next step, DEFCON 1, would mean nuclear war.

If a nuclear missile was fired from Cuba, American minuteman missiles were poised to destroy every major city in the Soviet Union.

Just as the "Flexible Response" had promised, the President had every military option at his disposal.

As tension mounted, the first opening in the crisis came from Khrushchev. On October 26th, he cabled the president:

**CHAIRMAN NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV:**

*"Mr. Kennedy...you and I are like two men pulling on a rope with a knot in the middle, the harder we pull, the tighter the knot until even he who tied it will not have the strength to untie it...and then it will be necessary to cut that knot...that would...doom the world to the catastrophe of thermonuclear war...let us not only relax forces pulling on the ends of the rope, let us take measures to untie that knot. We are ready for this."*

But even as the two leaders fumbled to untie the knot, events they had unleashed threatened to overwhelm them.

Castro pleaded with Khrushchev to launch a preemptive nuclear strike, should the U.S. mount an invasion.

In Washington, Kennedy was under pressure to attack Cuba. Air Force General, Curtis LeMay, recommended surrounding the island and, if need be,

*"Fry it."*

While the world edged closer to the nuclear abyss, Bobby Kennedy met secretly with the Soviet ambassador in Washington to seek a negotiated settlement.

In the end, diplomacy prevailed. On October 28th, a message was broadcast from Moscow. Khrushchev had agreed to remove the missiles. The world breathed a sigh of relief.

#### **PRESS SECRETARY PIERRE SALINGER:**

*“The following is the text of President Kennedy’s statement of noon. ...returning them to the Soviet Union under U.N. verification. This is a constructive...to peace.”*

In exchange for the removal of Cuban missiles, President Kennedy pledged that the U.S. would not invade Cuba. Privately, he also agreed to remove American missiles stationed in Turkey and targeting the Soviet Union.

The missile crisis caused the President to reconsider his assumption that a nuclear war was winnable. He now understood that destroying the Soviet Union would mean sacrificing the United States to the same fate. This premise became the basis of new Kennedy defense strategy—Mutual Assured Destruction—MAD. The idea was that, if no one stood a chance of surviving a nuclear war, no one would start one.

### **8.5 - PRELUDE TO DETENTE**

Kennedy and Khrushchev tried to reign-in the spiraling arms race following the Cuban Missile Crisis. Neither side was prepared to eliminate nuclear weapons, but during the 1960s accords were reached on how to manage them. The first agreement was signed in 1963—the Limited Test Ban Treaty—which prohibited atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. It was a small step, but laid the groundwork for a more productive relationship between the two leaders.

It was not to be. One month after the test ban treaty was signed in Moscow, John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

The official government investigation concluded that a lone gunman was responsible Lee Harvey Oswald—an American communist—with ties to the Soviet Union....and Cuba. Was Oswald part of a conspiracy to assassinate the President? If he was, he took the secret to his grave.

Two days after the assassination, Oswald himself was gunned-down.

Just months later Khrushchev was deposed as head of the Soviet Union. The charges: he had allowed his own cult of personality to develop and no longer listened to advisors; he had ruined Soviet agriculture, brought the world to the brink of nuclear war and allowed the Berlin Wall to be constructed, a monument to the failures of Communism. In short, he had humiliated the Soviet Union. Still, no blood was shed in this Russian revolution. Khrushchev saw that as true progress.

*“Could anyone have dreamed of telling Stalin that he didn't suit us anymore and suggesting he retire? Not even a wet spot would have remained where we had been standing. Now everything is different. The fear is gone. That's my contribution.”*

The end of the Kennedy-Khrushchev era ushered in a period of unprecedented social upheaval. Both the United States and the Soviet Union were challenged by those within their own societies.

America witnessed the struggle for Civil Rights and racial equality, political assassinations, and the youth counterculture of the 1960s.

The Vietnam war divided American society. A growing “credibility gap” highlighted the contradictions between the statements of political leaders and the facts on the ground. By 1968, it seemed like the nation had come unraveled.

That same year, the Soviet Union—now under Leonid Brezhnev—struggled to reassert its influence after the modest tolerance of the Khrushchev years. In Czechoslovakia, a communist reformer named Alexander Dubcek, sought to put a “new face on socialism” through his Prague Spring political reforms...only to see his dreams snuffed-out by Soviet-led forces of the Warsaw Pact.

In justifying the attack, Brezhnev outlined the so-called Brezhnev Doctrine, in which he claimed the right to violate the sovereignty of any country that turned away from Communism.

The Soviets had Czechoslovakia...the United States had Vietnam...and both countries had nuclear missiles pointed at the other. The world had grown weary of the Cold War and pressure was building for change.

## CHAPTER 9 – DETENTE

### 9.1 – NIXON'S PEACE OFFENSIVE

#### PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON:

*"I Richard Milhouse Nixon do solemnly swear..."*

By the time Richard Nixon reached the White House in 1969 the Cold War had been underway for more than two decades.

The Superpowers were not ready to end the conflict, but they had reached a crossroads.

They could continue the saber rattling and confrontations that threatened to plunge the world into nuclear war, or they could agree to disagree and seek areas of mutual interest.

In 1969, they chose the latter and a decade of relative calm in the Cold War began.

In Europe, West German Chancellor Willy Brandt called it Ostpolitik.

In the United States, Nixon and his National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger, called it Detente.

It did not end the Cold War, but it created a framework for cooperation among the rivals.

In 1972, President Nixon embarked on a diplomatic trip that came to symbolize Detente.

When he touched down at Capital Airport near Peking, Nixon became the first American president to be welcomed in the Communist, Peoples Republic of China.

It was a historic opening in the Cold War. During a week of diplomacy and cultural exchange, the two former enemies made great progress towards normalizing relations.

Not to be outdone, the Soviet Union reached out to the West as well. Chairman Leonid Brezhnev saw detente as an opportunity to gain access to valuable foreign aid and open its borders to international trade.

In May 1972, the Kremlin in Moscow played host to the American President. Together, Nixon and Brezhnev, signed the first ever agreements to limit nuclear weapons. The SALT I and ABM treaties were largely symbolic, but they represented a mutual effort to work towards cooperation and coexistence.

Nixon: Archival Footage: President Nixon, June 1, 1972

Nixon—the peacemaker—appealed to the Soviet people and their leaders.

**PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON:**

*"As we look at the prospects for peace we see that we have made significant progress at reducing possible sources of direct conflict between us. But history tells us that great nations have often been dragged into war without intending it by conflicts between smaller nations. As great powers we can and should use our influence to prevent this from happening. Our goal should be to discourage aggression in other parts of the world and particularly among those smaller nations that look to us for leadership and example. With great power goes great responsibility."*

Nixon's peace offensive was soon overshadowed by the intrigue and coverups of the Watergate scandal.

Congressional hearings revealed that the President and his staff had waged an illegal war against their political opponents members of the media, leaders of the anti-war movement. Crimes had been committed. Congress threatened impeachment. For Nixon, it was the end of the line.

**PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON:**

*"I shall resign the presidency effective at noon tomorrow. Vice President Ford at that hour, in this office."*

**9.2 - HELSINKI AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Detente continued under President Gerald Ford—notably with the signing of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

In Helsinki, Finland President Ford and Chairman Brezhnev and thirty-three other world leaders formally acknowledged the post-world war II borders in Europe and recognized, "the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms..."

Chairman Brezhnev was nervous about the human rights provision, but his Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, reassured him that it was:

*"just a piece of paper."*

President Ford said the issue was "...time bomb" for the Soviets. For, it established an internationally accepted standard by which Communist governments could be held accountable for the treatment of its citizens. Emboldened by this legal and moral authority, thousands of freedom-loving individuals challenged the governments that enslaved them.

"Helsinki Watch Groups" monitored human rights abuses behind the iron curtain and brought them to world attention.

Many activists were targeted by official government harassment.

In 1977 the Soviet Union's secret police service—the KGB—reported that it had investigated members of the Moscow Helsinki Watch and uncovered "slandorous materials" and "hostile documents" that could "inflict serious political damage on the Soviet state." The report was signed by KGB chief Yuri Andropov.

The campaigns were not limited to the Soviet Union. In Communist Czechoslovakia...

A small group of dissidents drafted a human rights manifesto called the Charter 77 Declaration. It petitioned the Czech government to live up to the promises it had made at Helsinki.

The government denounced the signatories and retaliated.

Playwright Vaclav Havel was among the many chartists who were arrested and imprisoned for “subversion” and “hostility towards the socialist social.”

Then, in 1979, the wave of defiance crested. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II brought a message of hope to his native Poland.

In Poland, Pope John Paul II brought a message of hope to millions of Poles in 1979.

He reassured the millions of Poles who greeted him: “Be not afraid. You must be strong with the strength of hope...”

The Pope became a powerful force for change in Communist Poland as a chief supporter of Solidarność —or Solidarity—an independent trade union led by Lech Walesa (lek wa-LESS-a) —the first-ever to be established in a communist-bloc country.

### 9.3 - THE END OF DETENTE

In the United States, a new President, Jimmy Carter, made human rights the centerpiece of his new administration.

#### **PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER:**

*"We will have moved this year a step toward our ultimate goal — the elimination of all nuclear weapons from this Earth."*

The passion for freedom is on the rise. Tapping this new spirit there can be no nobler nor more ambitious task for America to undertake on this day of a new beginning than to help shape a just and peaceful world that is truly humane.

President Carter spent three years working in vain to further the cause of world peace and to bring an end the Cold War.

By the end of his term, the Soviet Union’s arsenal equalled that of the U.S...and America’s world supremacy was being openly challenged

In the middle east, America’s old ally—The Shah of Iran—was forced from power during the Iranian Revolution.



Nine months later, student followers of the Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Khomeini, stormed the American embassy. Scores of Americans were taken captive and held for more than a year.

The hostage crisis—coupled with the shifting balance in the Cold War—convinced many Americans that their nation had lost its international power and prestige.

The fear seemed to be confirmed when, on Christmas Day 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to prop-up a failing Marxist dictatorship.

Detente had taken the chill off of the Cold War, but it had never been a solution to the deep seated hostilities that caused it. By 1980, the temperature was falling and sabers were unsheathed. New actors waited in the wings as the stage was set for the final, decisive battle of the Cold War.

## CHAPTER 10 – THE EVIL EMPIRE

### 10.1 – TO WIN THE COLD WAR

#### PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:

*“The only morality they recognize is what will further their cause, meaning they reserve the right...”*

By 1980, Ronald Reagan’s crusade against communism had spanned five decades.

#### REAGAN (1950S):

*“The crusade for freedom is your chance and mine to fight communism...”*

In 1947 he was the b-movie actor who railed against communist infiltration of Hollywood.

Twenty years later, as the governor of California, he defended America’s war in Vietnam.

#### GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN:

*“Ending the conflict is not as simple as calling it off and coming home, because the price for that peace might be a thousand years of darkness for generations yet unborn.”*

In 1981, communism’s old foe assumed a powerful new position.

#### PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:

*“I Ronald Reagan do solemnly swear...”*

Just like in the movies, America’s new president was ready for the final showdown.

#### PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:

*“We must realize that no arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today’s world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors...”*

The Cold War balance of power had shifted dramatically in favor of the Soviet Union during the 1970s. Reagan vowed to change that. He made no secret of his desire to destroy Communism.

**PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*"The West won't contain communism, it will transcend communism. It won't bother to denounce it will dismiss it as some bizarre chapter in human history whose last pages even now are being written."*

While critics cautioned against inciting the Russian bear, the Reagan administration made plans to win the Cold War.

National Security Directive 75 outlined a strategy to reinvigorate the nation's military defense and encourage political change within the Soviet sphere. Only then, from a position of strength—not weakness—would the U.S. be willing to engage in diplomacy.

President Reagan's defense proposal was bold—and controversial. It called for an investment of 1.5 trillion dollars over five years. The greatest military build-up ever in peacetime.

New ships, tanks, fighter jets and nuclear weapons for the American arsenal...

...and nuclear-tipped Pershing II missiles were sent to Europe to strengthen America's NATO allies in Europe.

**10.2 - THE REAGAN DOCTRINE****PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*"We must stand by all our democratic allies. And we must not break faith with those who are risking their lives—on every continent, from Afghanistan to Nicaragua—to defy Soviet-supported aggression and secure rights which have been ours from birth."*

In a policy known as the Reagan Doctrine, the President asserted America's right to support those who opposed Communism—wherever they might be.

Breaking with the doctrine of Containment—which had ruled U.S. Soviet relations for decades—the Reagan Doctrine was designed to “rollback” Communism. American military aid flowed to the Contra Rebels in Nicaragua and others anti-communist resistance groups.

The President authorized billions of dollars in arms for the Mujahadeen guerillas battling the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. With the help of American-made Stinger missiles—the rag tag militia turned the tide against the mighty Soviet army.

While these far-flung conflicts became “bleeding wounds” for the Soviet Union, American aid bankrolled the human rights movement continued to build behind the iron curtain.

**10.3 - THE ASH HEAP OF HISTORY**

Before the British Parliament, President Reagan made a bold prediction.

“What I am describing now is a plan and a hope for the long term — the march of freedom and democracy which will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash-heap of history as it has left other tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people.”

#### 10.4 – STAR WARS

President Reagan believed passionately in his crusade against Communism. By the end of Reagan’s first term in office, defense spending reached \$34 billion dollars per year. The President said he was “arming to disarm.” An increasingly vocal minority said he was mad.

The nuclear freeze movement argued that the President was leading the world toward nuclear war. One million “freeze” supporters converged on Central Park in 1982 to denounce the arms build-up.

**SOT:**

*“We want no more nuclear weapons.”*

Reagan maintained that they had misjudged his intentions. He wanted to end communism—not the world—and he had a plan to do it.

**PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*“Let me share with you a vision of the future which offers hope. It is that we embark on a program to counter the awesome Soviet missile threat with measures that are defensive.”*

In March 1983, President Reagan proposed the creation of a space-based missile defense known as the Strategic Defense Initiative or SDI. The concept read like science fiction: satellites patrolling the heavens zapping incoming Soviet missiles with lasers.

**PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

“What if free people could live secure in the knowledge that their security did not rest upon the threat of instant U.S. retaliation to deter a Soviet attack, that we could intercept and destroy strategic ballistic missiles before they reached our own soil or that of our allies?”

The press quickly dubbed the controversial plan “Star Wars.”

Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov said the American President was:

*“...inventing new plans on how to unleash a nuclear war...”*

“Star Wars” was decades from becoming a reality, but the Soviets saw it as an immediate threat.  
[Dobrynin]

#### 10.5 – KAL 007

The Soviet Union was stretched to the breaking point.

Fully half of its economic output was needed to keep pace with Reagan's arms buildup.

They had neither the money nor the technological know-how to join the race for an space-based missile shield.

Just months after the Stars Wars announcement, an international crisis dramatized the sinister nature of what Reagan called the Evil Empire.

**PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*"I'm coming before you tonight about the Korean airline massacre, the attack by the Soviet Union against 269 innocent men, women, and children aboard an unarmed Korean passenger plane."*

In August 1983 Soviet air defenses shot down a commercial airliner that had drifted off course.

**PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*"This was the Soviet Union against the world and the moral precepts that guide relations between people everywhere."*

It was a military blunder. Reagan asserted otherwise.

**PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*"It was an act of barbarism, born of a society which wantonly disregards individual rights and the value of human life and seeks constantly to expand and dominate other nations."*

As Reagan's rhetoric reached a fever pitch, Andropov became convinced that the United States was preparing for a surprise nuclear attack on the USSR. [Gordievsky]

When Reagan learned this, he was astonished.

"Do you suppose they really believe that? I don't see how they could believe that. But it's something to think about."

## 10.6 - THE TURN TOWARD PEACE

The Superpowers managed to avoid nuclear Armageddon for nearly four decades. But, on November 20, 1983, millions of Americans endured the unthinkable.

The TV movie, "The Day After" was a fictionalized depiction of nuclear war. But, for President Reagan, it was a sobering glimpse at where the world might be headed.

**PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*"More than 20 years ago, President Kennedy defined an approach that is as valid today as when he announced it. "So let us not be blind to our differences," he said, "but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved."*

Reagan decided he had pushed hard enough. It was time to try a new approach.

**PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*"People don't make wars. People want to raise their children in a world without fear and without war. If the Soviet Government wants peace, then there will be peace. Together we can strengthen peace, reduce the level of arms, and know in doing so that we have helped fulfill the hopes and dreams of those we represent and, indeed, of people everywhere. Let us begin now."*

President Reagan's about-face—from war monger to peacemaker—coincided with the death of the third Soviet leader in as many years.

Reagan joked:

*"How can I get anywhere with the Soviets if they keep dying on me?"*

At 54 years of age, the new Communist in charge was in no immediate danger of dying. Mikhail Gorbachev was university educated, reform-minded, with ideas and imagination. He seemed quite unlike the sinister, boorish, senile leaders who had preceded him.

Gorbachev was determined to save the failing Soviet economic system—and improve the lives of ordinary citizens—without abandoning Marxism-Leninism.

In November 1986, Gorbachev and Reagan met for the first time at a summit in Geneva, Switzerland.

The mood was tense during official discussions—Gorbachev was ready to negotiate an arms reduction—on condition that Reagan abandon Star Wars. The President wouldn't budge.

But in private, the two leaders forged the beginnings of a personal relationship that would transcend ideology, geo-political differences and the Cold War itself. Geneva did not produce any arms limitation agreements, but it was a historic breakthrough.

Just five months later, an explosion ripped through reactor #4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union. It was an environmental catastrophe—the worst nuclear disaster in history. It exposed a Soviet system that was shot-through with corruption and incompetence...

Gorbachev vowed immediate and radical change...

The Soviet leader introduced Glasnost - a move away from government secrecy toward openness...

...and perestroika: a dramatic economic, political and social restructuring of the Soviet Union itself.

To pay for the reforms, Gorbachev knew he would have to abandon the arms race and seek an end to the Cold War.

In December 1987, the seeds planted at Geneva a year earlier, bore fruit. Reagan and Gorbachev signed an historic agreement to eliminate intermediate-range missiles in Europe. It was the first step on the road to dramatically reducing nuclear weapons stockpiles.

Reagan and Gorbachev found common ground on the issue of nuclear abolition. In 1987, President Reagan traveled to West Germany to seek common ground on human rights. In front of the Berlin Wall, the he made his appeal.

#### **PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:**

*“General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.”*

For Ronald Reagan—the one-time Hollywood actor—it may have been his finest performance.

## CHAPTER 11 – THE WALL

### 11.1 – THE FALL OF COMMUNISM

#### PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:

*“Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate...”*

Even as President Reagan spoke at the Berlin Wall in 1987, the last great drama of the Cold War was unfolding.

For decades, the repression of Eastern Europe had been backed-up by the threat of Soviet military force. But in 1988, Soviet President, Mikail Gorbachev announced an end to that policy.

At the United Nations, he declared:

*“Force...cannot be...an instrument of foreign policy,” he told the United Nations.  
“Freedom of choice is...a universal principle, and it should know no exceptions.”*

Hardline communists throughout the Eastern-bloc were powerless to stop what came next.

The citizens of one country after another rose up against Communist domination. Hungary led the way.

In June 1989, the Hungarian government held a state funeral to honor and rebury the martyred figurehead of the 1956 uprising—Imre Nagy. 200,000 Hungarians attended. At the same time, Hungary opened its border with Austria—creating a gateway in the Iron Curtain. When news reached East Germany—tens of thousands packed up their belongings and made the 800 kilometer journey to freedom.

In Poland, free elections were held...and Solidarity prevailed. Lech Walesa was chosen to lead the first non-communist government in postwar Eastern Europe.

In Czechoslovakia, hundreds of thousands mobbed the streets demanding that the government step down. By the end of the year, Alexander Dubcek—whose 1968 Prague Spring reforms had been crushed by Soviet tanks—was installed as chairman of the national assembly. Alongside him was Czechoslovakia’s new President: playwright, turned dissident, turned-politician, Vaclav Havel.

In Bulgaria, the communist party was renounced and forced to hold free and fair elections...

#### SOT:

*“Free and Democratic elections to be held next year.”*

Only in Romania was the revolution bloody. The most brutal of communist dictators, Nicolai Ceausescu, clung tenaciously to power...only to be deposed...arrested...and then executed on Christmas Day, 1989.



In celebrations across the country, the Soviet emblem was torn from the Romanian flag to proclaim independence.

### 11.2 - TEAR DOWN THIS WALL

In East Germany, the hardliner, Erich Honecker, was forced to resign. Despite promises of democratic reforms, the new government was unable to contain the popular uprising. After nearly thirty years, the Berlin Wall was breached.

Within a year the future of divided Germany was settled once and for all. In 1990 the country was united and the German people voted to establish a single, democratic government.

### 11.3 - THE END OF THE EVIL EMPIRE

As the Eastern-bloc disintegrated, Mikhail Gorbachev refused to intervene. He was hailed as a hero outside of his country.

At home, he was ridiculed during the country's annual May Day parade. The Soviet Union had lost its international prestige. Perestroika had failed to revive the economy, and the individual republics that comprised the vast Soviet state demanded their independence.

Ultimately, the forces of change that had swept through Eastern Europe...engulfed the Soviet Union as well...and consumed the man who had set them in motion. On Christmas day, 1991, M. Gorbachev, in his final act as head of state, officially dissolved the Soviet Union.

In the end, the dominoes DID fall—but not as President Eisenhower had predicted.

The Cold War was over.

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# Blackline Masters

Activity: **Chapter 1 - Quiz (1)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. The Grand Alliance was the federation of Western countries aligned against the U.S.S.R.  
A. True            B. False
2. The Potsdam Conference was convened to confirm post-war boundaries in Europe, negotiate control of defeated Germany and plan strategy for defeating Japan.  
A. True            B. False
3. The idea of liberal democracy was enunciated in President Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points, which called for national self-determination, open markets and a League of Nations.  
A. True            B. False
4. The United States and the Soviet Union were allies in World War II.  
A. True            B. False
5. The Cold War had its roots in the political, economic and ideological differences between communism and Western capitalism and democracy.  
A. True            B. False
6. The Manhattan Project was the World War II project to build an atomic bomb.  
A. True            B. False
7. During the creation of the Soviet Union bank accounts and personal property were seized.  
A. True            B. False
8. President Truman referred to Soviet communism as "Police government, plain and simple."  
A. True            B. False
9. In the October Revolution Vladimir Lenin seized power in Russia.  
A. True            B. False
10. Following World War II, the Soviet sphere of influence extended throughout Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.  
A. True            B. False

Activity: **Chapter 2 - Quiz (2)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. The "Long Telegram" was the name for President Truman's ultimatum demanding the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe.  
A. True            B. False
2. The Truman Doctrine represented a dramatic sea-change in American foreign policy.  
A. True            B. False
3. The Berlin Blockade was a naval blockade of the Turkish Straights.  
A. True            B. False
4. The Marshall Plan is more formally known as the European Recovery Program.  
A. True            B. False
5. The policy of containment was designed to "contain" Soviet communism from spreading beyond its post World War II borders.  
A. True            B. False
6. The Soviet Union and its satellites accepted Marshall Plan aid.  
A. True            B. False
7. The Iron Curtain was the security apparatus surrounding the Soviet Union.  
A. True            B. False
8. Following World War II, Germany was divided into two occupation zones: East Germany and West Germany.  
A. True            B. False
9. According to the video, the first test of the U.S. policy of containment came in Korea.  
A. True            B. False
10. NATO is a trade organization that coordinated trade between the Western democracies.  
A. True            B. False

Activity: **Chapter 3 - Quiz (3)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. Following World War II, the United States occupied North Korea and the U.S.S.R. occupied South Korea.  
A. True            B. False
2. The demarkation between North and South Korea was set at the 38th parallel.  
A. True            B. False
3. Following the communist victory in the Chinese Civil War, the Truman administration was criticized for "losing China."  
A. True            B. False
4. In responding to the conflict in Korea, President Truman asked Congress for a declaration of War.  
A. True            B. False
5. A major turning-point in the Korean War was an amphibious invasion at Inchon.  
A. True            B. False
6. UN troops were ambushed by Soviet troops near the Yalu river.  
A. True            B. False
7. According to the program, the Soviet contribution to the Korean conflict was limited to military hardware.  
A. True            B. False
8. General MacArthur wanted to expand the war by attacking the Soviet Union.  
A. True            B. False
9. The United States won the Korean war in 1953.  
A. True            B. False
10. According to the video program, the Korean War reinforced the belief in monolithic communism—the idea that all communist movements were controlled by Moscow.  
A. True            B. False

Activity: **Chapter 4 - Quiz (4)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. In the program, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover compared communism to "...a deadly plague."  
A. True            B. False
2. The House Un-American Activities Committee investigated communist influence in Hollywood.  
A. True            B. False
3. The "Hollywood Ten" were actors and screenwriters who secretly worked for the FBI.  
A. True            B. False
4. In the program, President Truman said, "We're not gonna turn the United States into a right wing totalitarian country in order to deal with a left wing totalitarian threat."  
A. True            B. False
5. In the program, an ex-communist named Whitaker Chambers accused a U.S. Department of State employee named Alger Hiss of spying for the Soviet Union.  
A. True            B. False
6. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of espionage and sentenced to death.  
A. True            B. False
7. The noted writer, Jean Paul Sartre called the Rosenberg sentence "a legal lynching."  
A. True            B. False
8. Some conservative politicians sought to exploit the fear of communist infiltration for political purposes.  
A. True            B. False
9. Senator Eugene McCarthy's namesake—McCarthyism—came to define the entire era of political persecution.  
A. True            B. False
10. The Army-McCarthy hearings resulted in a singular victory for McCarthyism.  
A. True            B. False

Activity: **Chapter 5 - Quiz (5)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. The Eisenhower administration's "New Look" defense strategy relied on air power and nuclear weapons.  
A. True            B. False
2. "A Bigger Bang for the Buck" was President Eisenhower's campaign slogan.  
A. True            B. False
3. According to the program, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles ridiculed the idea of "peaceful coexistence" with the Soviet Union.  
A. True            B. False
4. "Open Skies" was the code name for the top-secret U-2 spy plane program.  
A. True            B. False
5. "The Domino Principle" was an influential film of the 1950s.  
A. True            B. False
6. Soviet leader Josef Stalin visited the United States in 1959.  
A. True            B. False
7. U.S.-Soviet relations were damaged when a spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union.  
A. True            B. False
8. President Eisenhower assumed full and immediate responsibility for the U-2 incident.  
A. True            B. False
9. According to the video, the "New Look" would protect the nation and save money.  
A. True            B. False
10. The U-2 was eventually replaced by spy satellites.  
A. True            B. False

Activity: **Chapter 6 - Quiz (6)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. Following the death of Josef Stalin in 1953, the new Kremlin leaders expressed interest in “peaceful coexistence” with the West.  
A. True            B. False
2. The Eisenhower Administration pledged to “roll back” communism in Eastern Europe, but did very little to support popular uprisings that challenged Soviet rule.  
A. True            B. False
3. “De-Stalinization” occurred during the period known as “Khrushchev’s Thaw.”  
A. True            B. False
4. Stalin’s “Secret Speech” was the Soviet dictators deathbed confession to the mass purges of the 1930s.  
A. True            B. False
5. According to the program, radio broadcasts by the American-sponsored Voice of America led many Hungarian partisans to believe the U.S. would support their rebellion.  
A. True            B. False
6. Following Josef Stalin’s death, Nikita Khrushchev emerged as the dominant Soviet leader.  
A. True            B. False
7. During the 1950s, popular uprisings occurred in Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria.  
A. True            B. False
8. According to the program, the figurehead of the Hungarian uprising was Walter Ulbricht.  
A. True            B. False
9. President Eisenhower sent American troops to aid the Hungarian partisans.  
A. True            B. False
10. According to the program, Khrushchev feared allowing Hungary to determine its own political future might jeopardize Soviet control over the rest of Eastern Europe.  
A. True            B. False



Activity: **Chapter 7 - Quiz (7)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. Following World War II many former colonies became sovereign states.  
A. True                      B. False
2. The Suez crisis was caused by the overproduction of oil during the early 1950s.  
A. True                      B. False
3. The U.S. supported Great Britain, France and Israel when they invaded Egypt in 1956.  
A. True                      B. False
4. The United States engineered or supported "regime change" operations in Iran, Guatemala, Cuba and elsewhere.  
A. True                      B. False
5. The United States supported the repressive government of the Shah of Iran from 1953-1979.  
A. True                      B. False
6. Gamal Abdel Nasser described his government in Egypt as "Socialism without the excesses of capitalism."  
A. True                      B. False
7. President Eisenhower cited the principle of diminishing returns when addressing the strategic importance of Vietnam.  
A. True                      B. False
8. Many nations in the developing world formed a coalition known as the non-aligned movement.  
A. True                      B. False
9. In the 1970s the U.S. endured a crisis of confidence known as the China Syndrome.  
A. True                      B. False
10. Communist victory in Vietnam led to the spread of communism throughout Southeast Asia and the Pacific.  
A. True                      B. False

Activity: **Chapter 8 - Quiz (8)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. In his inaugural address, President John F. Kennedy declared that, "...government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."  
A. True            B. False
2. The Berlin Crisis is generally considered the closest the United States and Soviet Union came to nuclear war during the Cold War.  
A. True            B. False
3. The Bay of Pigs invasion was designed to overthrow the Cuban government of Fidel Castro.  
A. True            B. False
4. President Kennedy said of the Berlin Wall, "...a wall is a hell of a lot better than a war."  
A. True            B. False
5. Under the Brezhnev Doctrine the Soviet Union claimed the right to violate the sovereignty of any country that turned away from communism.  
A. True            B. False
6. The Kennedy defense policy was known as "Inflexible response"  
A. True            B. False
7. The Cuban Missile Crisis reaffirmed the belief that the United States could fight and win a nuclear war with the Soviet Union.  
A. True            B. False
8. As part of the agreement to end the Cuban Missile Crisis President Kennedy agreed to remove American missiles from Turkey.  
A. True            B. False
9. The Berlin Wall was constructed to keep East Germans from emigrating to the West.  
A. True            B. False
10. The Limited Test Ban Treaty prohibited atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons.  
A. True            B. False

Activity: **Chapter 9 - Quiz (9)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. Detente was a period of relaxed international relations during the Cold War.  
A. True            B. False
2. According to the video program, the Soviet Union took advantage of Detente to spread communism and build their nuclear arsenal.  
A. True            B. False
3. The Helsinki Final Act established an internationally accepted standard by which communist governments could be held accountable for the treatment of their citizens.  
A. True            B. False
4. The Polish "Solidarity" was an independent trade union and later a political party.  
A. True            B. False
5. The Soviet Union invaded Vietnam in 1979 to prop-up a failing Marxist dictatorship.  
A. True            B. False
6. Nixon and Brezhnev signed the Nuclear Forces in Europe Agreement in 1973.  
A. True            B. False
7. President Nixon's visit to China was designed to improve cooperation between the two nations.  
A. True            B. False
8. The Charter 77 declaration was a political manifesto that called upon the Czech government to abide by the Helsinki Final Act.  
A. True            B. False
9. The presidency of Jimmy Carter was weakened by the Iran hostage crisis.  
A. True            B. False
10. During the 1970s, the United States supported communist governments in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.  
A. True            B. False

Activity: **Chapter 10 - Quiz (10)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. When he became President, Ronald Reagan said, "If anyone can sit down and convince the Soviets to end the Cold War, it's me."  
A. True            B. False
2. President Reagan's first term was marked by a dramatic increase in defense spending.  
A. True            B. False
3. President Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as part of an "axis of evil."  
A. True            B. False
4. In 1983 a United Airlines passenger jet was shot down over the Soviet Union.  
A. True            B. False
5. "Star Wars" was President Reagan's plan to destroy the dark forces of communism.  
A. True            B. False
6. According to the program, during his second term in office, President Reagan turned from war monger to peace maker.  
A. True            B. False
7. The Strategic Defense Initiative or SDI was a Reagan-era plan to place nuclear-tipped Pershing II missiles in Europe.  
A. True            B. False
8. The Reagan Doctrine asserted America's right to support those who opposed Communism wherever they might be.  
A. True            B. False
9. "Perestroika" and "glasnost" were two reform programs introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev.  
A. True            B. False
10. Before the Berlin Wall, President Reagan called on Mikhail Gorbachev to "...tear down the tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people."  
A. True            B. False

Activity: **Chapter 11 - Quiz (11)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements and mark true or false.**

1. The fall of communism in Eastern Europe was marked by widespread violence.  
A. True                  B. False
2. The Soviet Union intervened to stop the popular uprisings of 1989.  
A. True                  B. False
3. Before the United Nations, Soviet leader Gorbachev declared that "Force...cannot be..an instrument of foreign policy..."  
A. True                  B. False
4. In Poland, Lech Walesa was chosen to lead the new post-communist government.  
A. True                  B. False
5. The former leader of the Charter 77 Movement, Vaclav Havel, became president of Czechoslovakia.  
A. True                  B. False
6. East and West Germany were reunited in 1990.  
A. True                  B. False
7. The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe was followed by the end of Chinese communism.  
A. True                  B. False
8. The events of 1989 climaxed when the Kremlin Wall was torn down.  
A. True                  B. False
9. According to the program, Mikhail Gorbachev's final official act as head of state was to officially dissolve the Soviet Union.  
A. True                  B. False
10. According to the program, the United States won the Cold War in 1992.  
A. True                  B. False

Activity: **Discussion Questions (12)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following statements and mark true or false.

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## CHAPTER 1: FROM WORLD WAR TO COLD WAR

1. What were the inherent conflicts between the two competing systems of Western capitalism and democracy and Soviet communism?
2. Why did the United States and Great Britain ally themselves with the Soviet Union in World War II?
3. How were the post-World War II boundaries in Europe established?
4. How did the World War II alliance with the Soviet Union affect American public opinion in the post-war period?
5. Who were the members of the Grand Alliance. Why were the decisions they made at Yalta and Potsdam so important to the future of Europe and the international community.?
6. Who was responsible for the Russian Revolution? What were their motivations? How did Russia change after the revolution?
7. What role did the United States and Great Britain play in the Russian Civil War? How did their actions affect the relationship between the Bolsheviks and the West?
8. Based on the video, how did President Harry Truman feel about the Soviet Union?
9. What effect did the development of the atomic bomb have on the early Cold War?
10. Communism was an answer to the exploitation and excesses of the industrial revolution. How did President Woodrow Wilson's "liberal democracy" address these issues?
11. Why did Stalin insist on the Soviet Sphere of Influence in Eastern Europe?

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## CHAPTER 2: CONTAINMENT

12. What was the Iron Curtain?
13. Why did the relationship between the wartime allies deteriorate so quickly?
14. Why was the United States the only nation able and willing to provide economic and financial aid on a large scale?
15. Why did the United States offer aid to Europe in the form of the Marshall Plan?
16. Why did the Soviet Union refuse Marshall Aid for itself and its allies?
17. What strategies did the United States and Soviet Union use to ensure the security of spheres of influence?
18. Why did the Soviet Union blockade Berlin?
19. Why did the United States choose an airlift instead of armed conflict?

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## CHAPTER 3: RED STAR RISING

20. How did the Korean War turn into a Cold War conflict?
21. What role did the UN and Western powers play in the war in Korea?
22. Who won the Korean War?
23. Why did the Korean conflict NOT lead to world war?

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## CHAPTER 4: REDS UNDER THE BED

24. How did the Cold War affect domestic policies of the U.S. and Soviet governments?
25. Did the ends justify the means?

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## CHAPTER 5: CONFRONTATION OR COEXISTENCE

26. What was the arms race?

27. Why did it escalate?
28. How did the arms race affect domestic concerns?
29. How did the arms race and scientific competition contribute to the continuation of the Cold War?

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## CHAPTER 6: CRACKS IN THE CURTAIN

30. Why did Eastern Bloc countries rebel after the death of Stalin?
31. Why did the Soviets not rebel after the death of Stalin?
32. How and why did the superpowers react to each of the rebellions?
33. How did the decisions made by each superpower affect the course of the Cold War?

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## CHAPTER 8: KENNEDY AND CRISES

34. Why was Berlin the center of crisis in 1948-49 and again between 1958 and 1961?
35. Why did the Soviet Union sanction the construction of the Berlin Wall?
36. Why did the United States allow it to happen?
37. What were the origins of the Cuban Missile Crisis?
38. What effect did the Cuban Missile Crisis have on the Cold War?
39. What is Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)?
40. What was the economic impact of Cold War spending in the Soviet Union?
41. What effect did the Prague Spring have on the Czechoslovaks and on the Soviet Union's relationship with its satellites?

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## CHAPTER 9: DÉTENTE

42. What is détente and why did it occur?



43. What was the significance of the Helsinki Final Act for Cold War foreign policy and detente?
44. What did detente mean to the Soviet Union and the United States? Did it mean something different to each superpower?

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## CHAPTER 10: EVIL EMPIRE

45. What factors turned President Reagan from “war monger” to “peace monger.”
46. Ronald Reagan said of détente: “Isn’t that what the farmer has with his turkey...until Thanksgiving day?” Explain the meaning of this statement.
47. What were the pros and cons of Star Wars?
48. How did the fears of nuclear war in the 1980's compare with those of the 1950's and 1960's?
49. What role did the personalities of Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev play in the end of the Cold War?

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## CHAPTER 11: THE WALL

50. What started the "revolutions" of 1989?
51. Why were the revolutions so peaceful, despite growing tension and social pressures?
52. Why did the Cold War end?
53. What were the costs of the Cold War, both human and material?

Activity: **Vocabulary Terms (13)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **The Cold War**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**1985 GENEVA SUMMIT**

**Definition:** International summit meeting between United States President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. This was the first face-to-face meeting for the two. Their report was initially confrontational, but by the end of the summit they had forged the beginnings of a personal relationship that would result in unprecedented arms reduction agreements and, ultimately, lead to the end of the Cold War.

**20TH PARTY CONGRESS**

**Definition:** 1955 Meeting of the Communist party of the Soviet Union at which Nikita Khrushchev delivered his “secret speech” denouncing former Soviet leader, Josef Stalin.

**ABM**

**Definition:** ABM is the initialism for “antiballistic missile,” a defensive weapon designed to detect and intercept incoming offensive nuclear missiles.

**APOLLO-SOYUZ**

**Definition:** Apollo-Soyuz was a Joint U.S.-Soviet space program undertaken during Detente. On July 17, 1975, a U.S. Apollo spacecraft and Soviet Soyuz vessel docked for two days of joint operations.

**ARMY-MCCARTHY HEARINGS**

**Definition:** The Army-McCarthy hearings were a series of hearings held by the United States Senate's Subcommittee on Investigations between March 1954 and June 1954. The hearings were held for the purpose of investigating conflicting accusations between the U.S. Army and Senator Joseph R. McCarthy. The Army accused McCarthy and his chief counsel, Roy Cohn, of pressuring the Army to give preferential treatment to G. David Schine, who was a former McCarthy aide and a friend of Cohn's. McCarthy counter-charged that this accusation was made in bad faith, in retaliation for his recent aggressive investigations of suspected Communists and security risks in the Army.

**ATOMIC AGE**

**Definition:** The term “atomic age” refers to the period following the detonation of the first atomic bomb in 1945 which was characterized by both optimism and fear. It was believed that all power sources in the future would be atomic in nature. The atomic bomb (“A-bomb”) would render all conventional explosives obsolete and nuclear power plants would do the same for power sources such as coal and oil. There was a general feeling that everything would use a nuclear power source of some sort, in a positive and productive way, from irradiating food to

preserve it, to the development of nuclear medicine. This would render the Atomic Age as significant a step in technological progress as the first smelting of Bronze, of Iron, or the commencement of the Industrial Revolution. This hope was counterbalanced by a growing fear that the world would be destroyed in a war fought with atomic or nuclear weapons.

### **BAY OF PIGS INVASION**

**Definition:** The Bay of Pigs Invasion was an unsuccessful action by a CIA-trained force of Cuban exiles to invade southern Cuba, with support and encouragement from the US government, in an attempt to overthrow the Cuban government of Fidel Castro.

### **BERLIN AIRLIFT**

**Definition:** Successful effort by Britain and the United States to supply West Berlin with essentials such as food, medicine and coal during a Soviet blockade of road, rail and canal routes into the city.

### **BERLIN WALL**

**Definition:** The Berlin Wall was a fortified partition that completely cut-off West Berlin from surrounding communist East Germany and East Berlin. It was built to prevent East German citizens from emigrating to the West.

### **BIG THREE**

**Definition:** The Big Three refers the dominant members of the Allies of World War II: Britain (the British Empire and the British Commonwealth), the Soviet Union (USSR), and the United States of America. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt referred to the Big Three and China as the "Four Policemen". France, before its defeat in 1940 and after Operation Torch in 1942, as well as Poland, were considered major allies as well.

### **BOLSHEVIKS**

**Definition:** The Bolsheviks were the political faction that preceded the Russian Communist Party. In October 1917, during the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks launched a coup to unseat the ruling provisional government in Petrograd, Russia. This paved the way for the modern Soviet Socialist State, the USSR or Soviet Union.

### **CHARTER 77 DECLARATION**

**Definition:** The Charter 77 Declaration was a political manifesto which demanded that the Communist rulers of Czechoslovakia abide by the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Acts. Many of the 230 original signatories were harassed or imprisoned, among them the poet and playwright, Václav Havel. Following the 1989 Velvet Revolution, many "Chartists" played important roles in Czech and Slovak politics. Havel became the first post-Communist President of Czechoslovakia and, later, the Czech Republic.

### **CIA**

**Definition:** The Central Intelligence Agency, established in 1947 during the Truman administration was the United States' top spy agency during the Cold War.

### COLD WAR

**Definition:** The Cold War was the state of conflict, tension and competition that existed between the United States (US) and the Soviet Union (USSR) and their respective allies from the mid-1940s to the early 1990s, although many historians believe the conflict can be dated to as early as 1917. Throughout this period, rivalry between the two superpowers was expressed through military coalitions, propaganda, espionage, weapons development, industrial advances, and competitive technological development, e.g., the space race. Both superpowers engaged in costly defence spending, a massive conventional and nuclear arms race, and numerous proxy wars.

### COMMUNISM

**Definition:** Within the context of the Cold War, Communism is a family of economic and political ideas and social movements related to the establishment of a classless society based on common ownership and control of the means of production and property in general. It is also often used to refer to a form of government in which the state operates under a one-party system and declares allegiance to Marxism-Leninism or a derivative thereof, even if the party does not actually claim that the society has already reached communism.

### COMMUNIST BLOC

**Definition:** The terms Eastern Bloc, Communist Bloc or Soviet Bloc were used to refer to the former Communist states of Eastern and Central Europe, including the countries of the Warsaw Pact, along with Yugoslavia and Albania, which were not aligned with the Soviet Union after 1948 and 1960 respectively.

Communist governments were initially installed in a Bloc politics process that included extensive political and media controls, along with a Soviet approach to restricting emigration. Events such as the Tito-Stalin split and Berlin Blockade prompted stricter control. While the Bloc persisted through revolts, such as the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the 1968 Czechoslovakia Prague Spring, its command economies experienced inefficiencies and stagnation preceding the Bloc's dissolution.

### CONTAINMENT

**Definition:** Containment was the policy developed by the Truman administration to "contain" Soviet expansion to its 1945 borders. It was proposed by career diplomat George Kennan and enunciated in an article he wrote under the pseudonym "X" for Foreign Affairs magazine entitled, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct."

### CONTRAS

**Definition:** “Contra” referred to paramilitary groups opposed the ruling Sandinista government in Nicaragua following the July 1979 overthrow of Anastasio Somoza Debayle. The “Contras” became fodder for many water cooler discussions during the 1987 Iran-Contra scandal and Congressional hearings.

### CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

**Definition:** The Cuban Missile Crisis was a confrontation between the United States, the Soviet Union, and Cuba in October 1962, during the Cold War. The crisis developed when the Cuban and Soviet governments in September 1962 placed nuclear missiles in Cuba. When United States intelligence discovered the weapons, its government decided to do all they could to ensure their removal. The crisis ranks with the Berlin Blockade as one of the major confrontations of the Cold War, and is generally regarded as the moment in which the Cold War came closest to a nuclear war

### “CUBA SÍ, YANQUIS NO”

**Definition:** “Cuba Sí, Yanquis No” was the oft-repeated slogan used by Cuba nationalists in the wake of the 1959 revolution that brought to power Fidel Castro. The slogan refers to the historical influence wielded by the United States over Cuban affairs.

### DEMOBILIZATION

**Definition:** Demobilization is the process of standing down a nation's armed forces from combat-ready status. This may be as a result of victory in war, or because a crisis has been peacefully resolved and military force will not be necessary. The opposite of demobilization is mobilization.

In the final days of World War II, for example, the United States Armed Forces developed a demobilization plan which would discharge soldiers on the basis of a point system that favored length and certain types of service. In this manner, the armed forces of the United States were reduced from over 10,000,000 at the end of the war to roughly 1.5 million service members a year-and-a-half later.

### EASTERN BLOC (ALSO SOVIET BLOC, COMMUNIST BLOC)

**Definition:** The terms Eastern Bloc, Communist Bloc or Soviet Bloc were used to refer to the former Communist states of Eastern and Central Europe, including the countries of the Warsaw Pact, along with Yugoslavia and Albania, which were not aligned with the Soviet Union after 1948 and 1960 respectively.

Communist governments were initially installed in a Bloc politics process that included extensive political and media controls, along with a Soviet approach to restricting emigration. Events such as the Tito-Stalin split and Berlin Blockade prompted stricter control. While the Bloc persisted through revolts, such as the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the 1968 Czechoslovakia

Prague Spring, its command economies experienced inefficiencies and stagnation preceding the Bloc's dissolution.

### GRAND ALLIANCE

**Definition:** The Grand Alliance was an alliance made during World War II, which joined together the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain. It was essentially an alliance of necessity, as all three needed to join together in order to defeat the threat of Nazi Germany.

### POTSDAM DECLARATION

**Definition:** The Potsdam Declaration or the Proclamation Defining Terms for Japanese Surrender was a statement issued on July 26, 1945 by President of the United States Harry S. Truman, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Winston Churchill and President of the Republic of China Chiang Kai-shek which outlined the terms of surrender for the Empire of Japan as agreed upon at the Potsdam Conference. This ultimatum stated that if Japan did not surrender, it would face "prompt and utter destruction".

Japan's initial rejection of the ultimatum led directly to Truman's decision to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9. Whether the ultimatum was intended to be acceptable without recourse to use nuclear weapons has been subject to considerable debate.

The declaration was one of Churchill's final official acts as Prime Minister before leaving office the following day in favour of Clement Atlee.

### LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY

**Definition:** The Limited Test Ban Treaty was an arms control agreement negotiated by the US, USSR, and UK in 1963 prohibiting tests of nuclear devices in the atmosphere, in outer space, and underwater. It did not prohibit underground nuclear testing, so long as radioactive debris was contained within the "territorial limits" of the testing state. The treaty has since been signed by a total of 116 countries, including potential nuclear states Argentina, Brazil, India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Africa. Though two major nuclear powers, France and the People's Republic of China, have not signed, they are now abiding by its provisions. In 1992, China exploded a bomb beyond the LTBT limits.

**Context:** xxx

### LONG TELEGRAM

**Definition:** The Long Telegram was a diplomatic cable sent from George Kennan, the chargé d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, to officials with the Treasury Department in Washington. The missive was intended to explain Soviet intransigence on issues such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. However, the "Long Telegram" laid the groundwork for U.S.-Soviet Relations for much of the Cold War.

### MANHATTAN PROJECT

**Definition:** The Manhattan Project was the World War II program to develop the first nuclear weapon—the atomic bomb. The scientific research was directed by American physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer and much of the work was accomplished at Los Alamos, New Mexico.

The first test explosion—code-named “Trinity” was conducted in July 1945. Just weeks later atomic bombs were detonated over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing tens of thousands of Japanese civilians and resulting in the “full and unconditional surrender” of Japan to end World War II.

**Context:** For J. Robert Oppenheimer, witnessing the Trinity test explosion, called to mind the words of the Hindu God Vishnu, “I have become Death, destroyer of worlds.”

### MARSHALL PLAN

**Definition:** The Marshall Plan (from its enactment, officially the European Recovery Program, ERP) was the primary plan of the United States for rebuilding and creating a stronger foundation for the countries of Western Europe, and repelling communism after World War II. The initiative was named for Secretary of State George Marshall and was largely the creation of State Department officials, especially William L. Clayton and George F. Kennan.

### OPEN SKIES

**Definition:** Open Skies was a concept for a mutual reconnaissance agreement between the U.S. and Soviet Union designed to eliminate the potential of “surprise” attacks and, thus, relieve tension in the Cold War. The plan was developed by Nelson Rockefeller and proposed by President Eisenhower at the 1956 Geneva summit. On behalf of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev rejected the idea calling it a “bold espionage plot” and likening it to peering into respective bedrooms.

The deployment by the United States of the U-2 spy plane, already in development prior to Geneva, eliminated the need for any cooperative reconnaissance agreement.

### RED ARMY

**Definition:** The Russian Red Army was formed after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution from remnants of the rebel Red Guards and the ruins of the Tzar’s Imperial Army. By the end of World War II, the Soviet Red Army was the mightiest and most feared land army in the world and was used by Josef Stalin to impose Soviet Communism on the nations of eastern Europe. In 1946, the Red Army was renamed the Soviet Army.

**Context:** The “Red Army” name refers to the traditional colour of the workers’ movement. This represents, symbolically, the blood shed by the working class in its struggle against capitalism, and the belief that all people are created equal.

### SPACE RACE

**Definition:** The Space Race was the competition between the U.S. and Soviet Union for dominance in outer space.

**Context:** Between 1957 and 1975, the Cold War rivalry between the two nations focused on attaining firsts in space exploration, which were seen as necessary for national security and symbolic of technological and ideological superiority.

### SPUTNIK

**Definition:** Sputnik 1 was the first Earth-orbiting artificial satellite. It was launched into a low altitude elliptical orbit by the Soviet Union on October 4, 1957. The success of the Soviet Sputnik program ignited the Space Race within the Cold War.

**Context:** Sputnik 2 was the second spacecraft launched in Earth orbit, on November 3, 1957, and the first to carry a living animal—a dog named Laika.

### TRUMAN DOCTRINE

**Definition:** Proclaimed by President Harry S. Truman on March 12, 1947, the Truman Doctrine stated that the U.S. would, "support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures." The speech represented a dramatic sea-change in U.S. foreign policy from that of non-intervention to one of world leadership.

### U-2

**Definition:** The Lockheed U-2 spy plane was developed to conduct overflights of the Soviet Union for the purposes of aerial reconnaissance. The aircraft was capable of photographing objects from an altitude of more than 70,000.

**Context:** A U-2 spy plane piloted by Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960 sparking the U-2 incident between the U.S. and U.S.S.R.

### UNITED NATIONS

**Definition:** The United Nations (UN) is an international organization whose stated aims are to facilitate cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, human rights, and achieving world peace. The UN was founded in 1945 after World War II to replace the League of Nations, to stop wars between countries and to provide a platform for dialogue.



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