

# Cold War Stations

## The Cold War (1946-1989)

- The conflict that best meets the description of “World War III” was the Cold War.
- The capitalist U.S. and its allies in the West competed with the communist USSR and its allies for global superiority.
- What made it a “cold” war was that the main antagonists did not fight each other directly on a battlefield. However, everything else involved in a “hot” war was in play: threats of destruction, gathering of military allies, arms buildup, spy networks, and propaganda campaigns. Even the exploration of outer space and Olympic competitions were part of the Cold War.
- The addition of Nuclear weapons in this era made the outcome of any such war extremely hazardous to the entire world.

During World War II, the U.S. and the Soviet Union were allies, fighting against Germany and Japan. Soviet leader **Joseph Stalin** was portrayed as a popular leader. During World War II, U.S. President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** and British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** needed Stalin and the Soviet forces to help defeat Germany. When the “Big Three” met at the **Yalta Conference** in Crimea in February 1945, Roosevelt was convinced that he still needed the support of Stalin to defeat the Japanese because the U.S. had not yet tested the atomic bomb. After the war, it did not take long for the U.S. and Soviet relationship to corrode into a Cold War that lasted nearly 50 years.

Read the excerpt below, taken from Churchill's “The Sinews of Peace” speech given at Westminster College, MO, on March 5, 1946. **Summarize** Churchill's perception of the relationship between the Soviet Union and parts of Central and Eastern Europe.

## EXCERPT FROM WINSTON CHURCHILL'S “THE SINEWS OF PEACE” SPEECH

“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. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, 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 many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow.”

## SUMMARY OF THE CAUSES

### ❖ **The Yalta Conference**

- Germany and its capital, Berlin, were divided into Western and Soviet regions.
- The USSR took control of most of Eastern Europe (now a separate entity from Western Europe), after promising the U.S. and Britain it would allow self-determination.
  - When that pledge failed to materialize and Soviet forces began to occupy Eastern Europe, the West became highly suspicious of Soviet intentions.
  - For its part, leaders in the USSR feared a U.S.-led invasion through Germany or Japan

### ❖ The Yalta Conference also **divided Korea** into communist north and capitalist south nations. **Japan was put into the U.S. sphere of influence.** The U.S. replaced Japan's government with a **democratic constitutional monarchy** and placed military bases there.

### ❖ The **USSR gained nuclear weapons** a few years after the end of WWII. This event stirred great concern among the Western allies, but the Soviet Union claimed the weapons were for self-defense purposes.

# The 1940s

## Station - Marshall Plan

Do you accept? (circle one) YES or NO

Reason 1 -

Reason 2 -

Reason 3 -

| Countries which accepted US aid | Countries which followed Soviet Plan |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Impact of the Marshall Plan     |                                      |

## Station - Berlin Airlift (1948-1949)

Observations / Notes

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Cartoon A | Cartoon B |
|-----------|-----------|

**Soviet Atomic Bomb Test (1949)**

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Description | Significance |
|-------------|--------------|

**NATO and the Warsaw Pact (1949 and 1955)**

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| <b>NATO</b> | <b>Warsaw Pact</b> |
|-------------|--------------------|

# The 1950s

## Station - Korean War (1950-1953)

Photographs & Maps

Forgotten War??

## U.S. Involvement in Guatemala (1954)

Why?

Significance

## Station - McCarthy Hearings

What will you do?

Reason 1 -

Reason 2 -

Reason 3 -

## **Station - Sputnik (1957)**

America's Reaction?

Eisenhower's concerns?

Would America today respond with improved funding for US math and science classes

## Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro (1959)

| Why? | Significance |
|------|--------------|
|      |              |

## The 1960s

### Station - U-2 Spy Plane (1960)

Do you prosecute?? (*circle one*) YES or NO

Reason 1 -

Reason 2 -

Reason 3 -

After reading Khrushchev's reaction - America's reaction if planes were down over the US?

## Station - Berlin Wall (1961)

Purpose and Description

How would you escape?

Canvas of concrete?

## Station - Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

Which option would you choose? Why?

How does CMC represent the tactic of brinkmanship?

### **The Vietnam Conflict / War (1955-1975)**

| Description | Result |
|-------------|--------|
|             |        |

### **Czechoslovakia Uprising (1968)**

| Description | Result |
|-------------|--------|
|             |        |



# The 1970s

By the early 1970s, the balance of world power was changing. Where there once were two superpowers (the U.S. and the Soviet Union) now there were three. China, fresh off its cultural revolution, was demanding a role on the world stage. At the same time, dissidents were gaining momentum within the Soviet Bloc countries. The video “Cracks in the Wall” examines these events and the efforts by the U.S. to encourage democracy in Soviet Bloc countries.

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In the past, events have been used to the advantage of some nations. **The Helsinki Accords**, an agreement signed by 35 countries that demanded certain standards of human rights, included the freedom of movement of people and ideas. Read the quote below by Henry Kissinger about the Helsinki Accords.

## THE HELSINKI ACCORDS

“It (the Helsinki Accords) gave us a legal standard and an international standard to which we could refer and it also gave people inside those countries a mechanism around which to rally.” - *Henry Kissinger, United States Secretary of State.*

***How might the inclusion of freedom of movement of people and ideas in the Helsinki Accords been a blow to the Soviet Union? How might this have increased or decreased tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.***

## SALT I & SALT II (1972-1979)

| Description | Significance |
|-------------|--------------|
|             |              |

**The Fall of Saigon (1975)**

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Description | Significance |
|             |              |

**Khmer Rouge and Cambodia (1975)**

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Description | Significance |
|             |              |

**Soviet-Afghan War (1978-1992)**

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Description | Significance |
|             |              |

# The 1980s

## Moscow Olympic Games (1980)

| Description | Significance |
|-------------|--------------|
|             |              |

## Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster (1986)

| Description | Significance |
|-------------|--------------|
|             |              |

## Tiananmen Square (1989)

| Description | Significance |
|-------------|--------------|
|             |              |

### **Fall of the Berlin Wall (1989)**

| Description | Significance |
|-------------|--------------|
|             |              |

## **The 1990s**

### **Reunification of Germany (1990)**

| Description | Significance |
|-------------|--------------|
|             |              |

### **Fall of the Soviet Union (1991)**

| Description | Significance |
|-------------|--------------|
|             |              |

## **Consequences of the Cold War**

### **❖ Cost**

- The Cold War involved expenditures of many billions of dollars on both sides, especially by the main antagonists: the U.S. and the USSR
- Proponents argue that the money spent was much less than what would have been appropriated if there had been a hot war between the rivals, not to mention the cost in human lives.

### **❖ Nuclear legacy**

- The enormous destructive nature of nuclear bombs may well have been the deciding factor in the Cold War remaining cold. The major rivals may have avoided using nuclear weapons, but after the Cold War, many nations developed or tried to build their own nuclear arsenal.
- Few of them responded to calls from the U.S., the former USSR, or the UN to curtail their nuclear programs.
- India, Pakistan, Israel, and Iran are some examples of countries that have developed their own nuclear programs.