

## ***Cold War Timeline of Events: 1945 to 1991***

A summary of the main events that happened during this period.  
All images from Google Images to give you a better understanding of the events  
that took place that changed the shape of global society.

February 4th – 11th 1945 Yalta Conference

Meeting between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin to decide what would happen at the end of the war. Topics discussed included – Partitioning of Germany, Fate of Poland, The United Nations, German reparations.



May 8th 1945 V E Day Victory in Europe as Germany surrenders to the Russian army.



July 17th – August 2nd 1945 Potsdam Conference

The Potsdam Conference formally divided Germany and Austria into four zones. It was also agreed that the German capital Berlin would be divided into four zones. The Russian Polish border was determined and Korea was to be divided into Soviet and American zones.

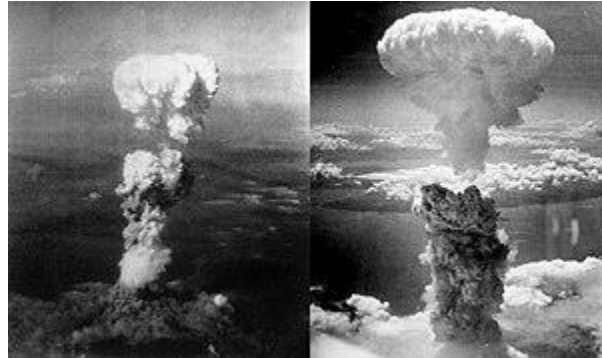


**August 6th 1945**

**The United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima**

**August 8th 1945**

**The United States dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki.**



**August 14th 1945**

**V J Day The Japanese surrendered bringing World War Two to an end.**



**September 2nd 1945 Vietnam Independence**

**Ho Chi Minh proclaimed Vietnam an independent republic from the French.**



**March 5th 1946      Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech**

Churchill delivers his 'Sinews of Peace' speech which contain the famous phrase "...an iron curtain has descended on Europe"



**March 12th 1947      Truman Doctrine**

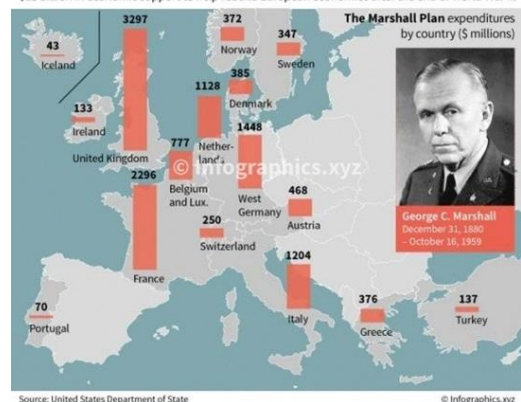
President Truman promised to help any country facing a Communist takeover.

It was Truman's attempt to enforce his plan of "containment" against the Domino Theory – when one country falls to communism, they all fall!



**June 5th 1947 Marshall Plan**

**Marshall Plan**  
The Marshall Plan was an American initiative to aid Europe, in which the United States gave \$13 billion in economic support to help rebuild European economies after the end of World War II.



This was a program of economic aid offered by the United States to any European country. The plan was rejected outright by Stalin and any Eastern Bloc country considering accepting aid was reprimanded severely. Consequently the aid was only given to Western European Countries.

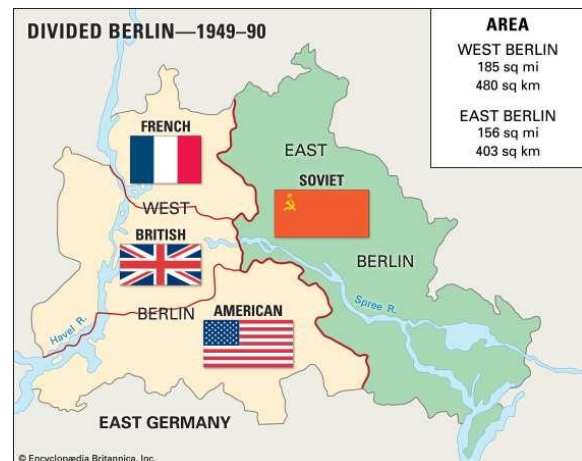
September 1947      Cominform

The USSR set up Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) which was the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties responsible for the creation of the Eastern bloc. To ensure all member countries stayed loyal to Stalin.



June 1948      Formation of West Germany

The French, USA and UK partitions of Germany were merged to form West Germany





**June 24th 1948      Berlin Blockade**

Russia's response to the merger of the French, USA and UK partitions of Berlin was to cut all road and rail links to that sector. This meant that those living in Western Berlin had no access to food supplies and faced starvation. Food was brought to Western Berliners by US and UK airplanes, an exercise known as the Berlin Airlift.



**May 1949      End of Berlin Blockade    Russia ended the blockade of Berlin.**

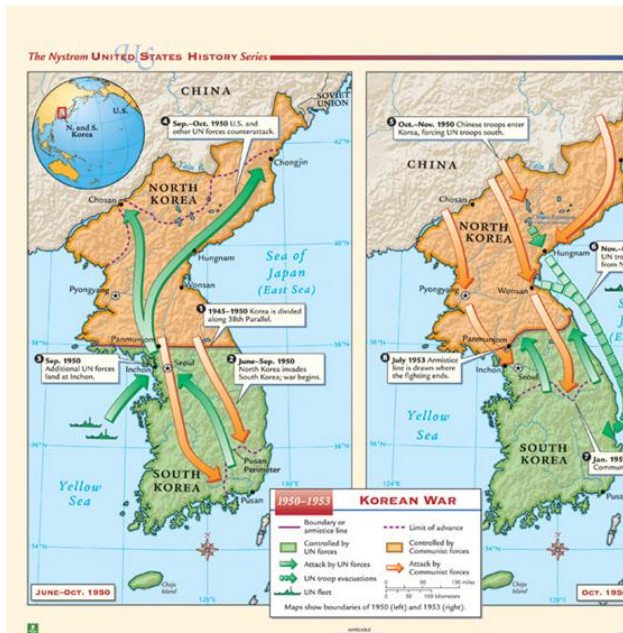


April 4th 1949 NATO formed

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization formed with member states Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States



June 25th 1950 Korean War



The Korean War began when North Korea invaded South Korea.

The war will involve both sides invading each other's territories and end up being a stalemate at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel and a Demilitarized Zone being set up between North and South Korea.

It will later be known as The Forgotten War

**March 5th 1953      Death of Stalin**

**Joseph Stalin died at the age of 74. He was succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev.**



**July 27th 1953 Korean War    The Korean war ended.**



**North Korea remained affiliated with Russia while South Korea was affiliated with the USA.**

**Summer 1954    The Geneva Accords.**

**This set of documents ended the French war with the Vietminh and divided Vietnam into North and South states. The communist leader of North Vietnam was Ho Chi Minh while the US friendly south was led by Ngo Dinh Diem.**





## May 14th 1955 Warsaw Pact

The Warsaw Pact was formed with member states East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union.



## October 23rd 1956 Hungarian Revolution

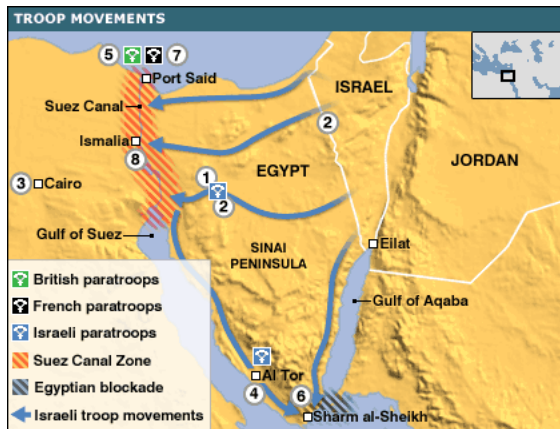
This began as a Hungarian protest against Communist rule in Budapest. It quickly gathered momentum and on 24th October Soviet tanks entered Budapest. The tanks withdrew on 28th October and a new government was formed which quickly moved to introduce democracy, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion. The Soviet tanks returned on 4th November encircling Budapest. The Prime Minister Imre Nagy made a World broadcast that Hungary was under attack from the Soviet Union and calling for aid. Hungary fell to Russia on 10th November 1956.





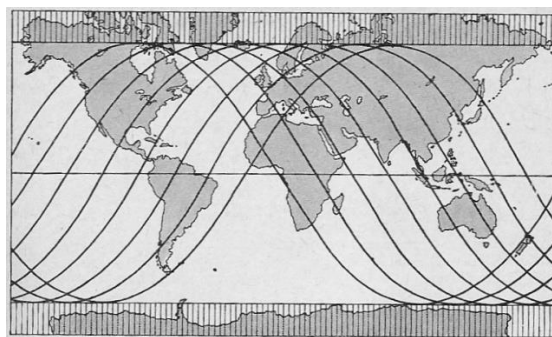
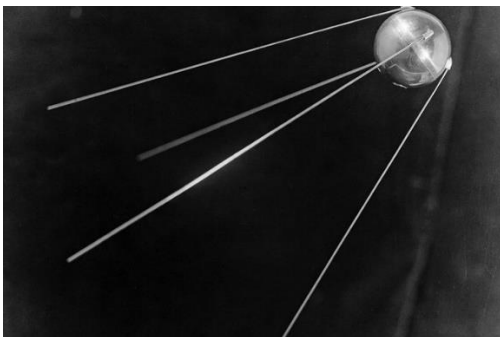
### October 30th 1956 Suez Crisis

Following military bombardment by Israeli forces, a joint British and French force invaded Egypt to regain control of the Suez Canal which had been nationalized by the Egyptian leader Nasser. The attack was heavily criticized by World leaders, especially America because Russia had offered support to Egypt. The British and French were forced to withdraw and a UN peace keeping force was sent to establish order.



### October 4<sup>th</sup> 1957 Space Race

USSR Sputnik I launched. The world's first artificial satellite was about the size of a beach ball (58 cm. or 22.8 inches in diameter), weighed only 83.6 kg. or 183.9 pounds, and took about 98 minutes to orbit the Earth on its elliptical path.



**November 1st 1957 Space Race**

**USSR Sputnik II carried Laika the dog, the first living creature to go into space.**



**1960 Paris East/West talks**

**Talks between Nikita Khrushchev and Dwight Eisenhower concerning the fate of Germany broke down when a USA U2 spy plane was shot down over Russian airspace.**



**April 12th 1961 Space Race**



**Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human being in space.**

**It was based on this accomplishment that U.S. President J.F. Kennedy vowed to be the first to put a man on the moon.**

April 17th 1961

### Bay of Pigs Invasion

A force of Cuban exiles, trained by the CIA, aided by the US government attempted to invade Cuba and overthrow the Communist government of Fidel Castro. The attempt failed.



August 13th 1961

### Berlin Wall

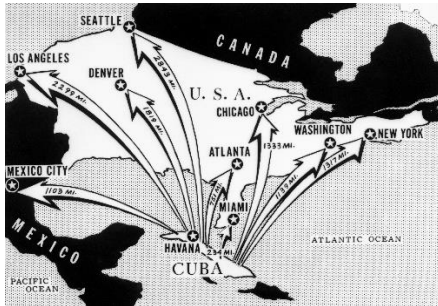
Berlin wall built and borders sealed between East and West Germany.





## October 14th 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis

A US spy plane reported sighting the construction of a Soviet nuclear missile base in Cuba. President Kennedy set up a naval blockade and demanded the removal of the missiles. War was averted when the Russians agreed on 28th October to remove the weapons. The United States agreed not to invade Cuba.



## November 22nd 1963 JFK Assassination

J. F. Kennedy was assassinated while on a visit to Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the murder but there has always been speculation that he was not a lone killer and that there may have been communist or CIA complicity.





October 15th 1964 USSR

Nikita Krushchev removed from office. He was replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.



July 1965 Vietnam War 150,000 US troops sent to Vietnam.



It would result in a time of social and political unrest in America, a war that many did not want and were adamantly opposed to. The war would be escalated on several occasions including “carpet bombing” and village massacres by both sides.

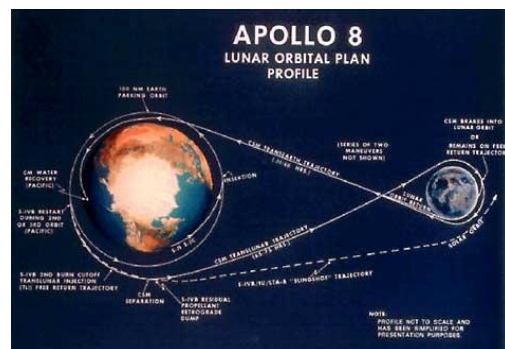
August 20th 1968      Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia

Warsaw Pact forces entered Czechoslovakia in a bid to stop the reforms known as 'Prague Spring' instigated by Alexander Dubcek. When he refused to halt his program of reforms Dubcek was arrested.



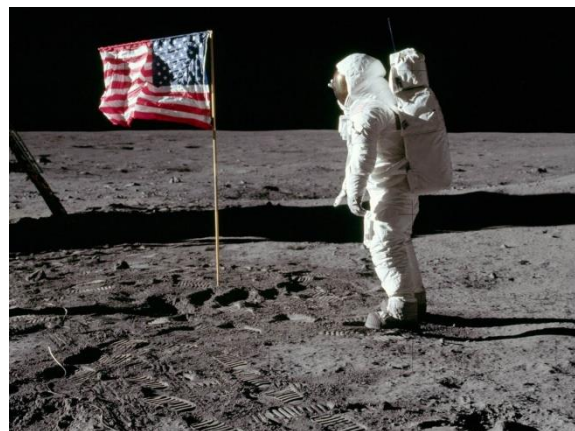
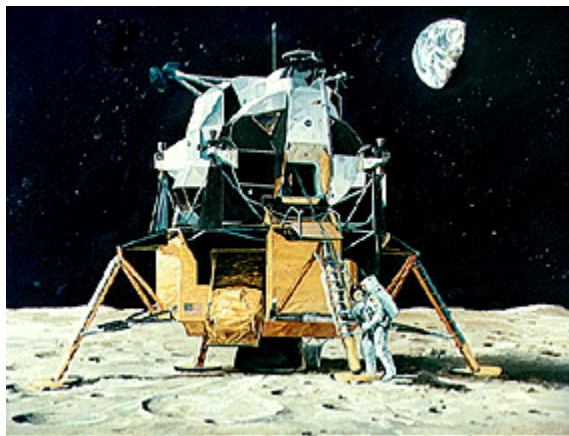
December 21st 1968      The Space Race

US launched Apollo 8 – first manned orbit of the Moon.



20th July 1969      The Space Race

US Apollo 11 landed on the Moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man on the Moon.



April 30th 1970 Vietnam War

President Richard Nixon ordered US troops to go to Cambodia.



September 3rd 1971 Four Power Agreement Berlin

The Four Power Agreement made between Russia, USA, Britain and France reconfirmed the rights and responsibilities of those countries with regard to Berlin.



May 26th 1972 SALT - Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty signed between the US and USSR.

26 May 1972 SALT I Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty



**Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty**  

May 26, 1972 – Moscow – Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and U.S. President Richard Nixon, meeting in Moscow, sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreements. At the time, these agreements were the most far-reaching attempts to control nuclear weapons ever. A number of agreed statements were also made. This helped improve relations between the United States and the USSR. SALT I froze the number of strategic ballistic missile launchers at existing levels and provided for the addition of new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers only after the same number of older intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and SLBM launchers had been dismantled. (Sources: History.com & Wikipedia)

**Cold War** 

**C3i**  
e-Magazine  
www.c3iopscenter.com



August 15th 1973 The Paris Peace Accords ended American involvement in Vietnam.



April 17th 1975 Cambodia Killing fields The Khmer Rouge attacked and took control of Cambodia. Any supporters of the former regime, anyone with links or supposed links to foreign governments as well as many intellectuals and professionals were executed in a genocide that became known as the 'killing fields'.

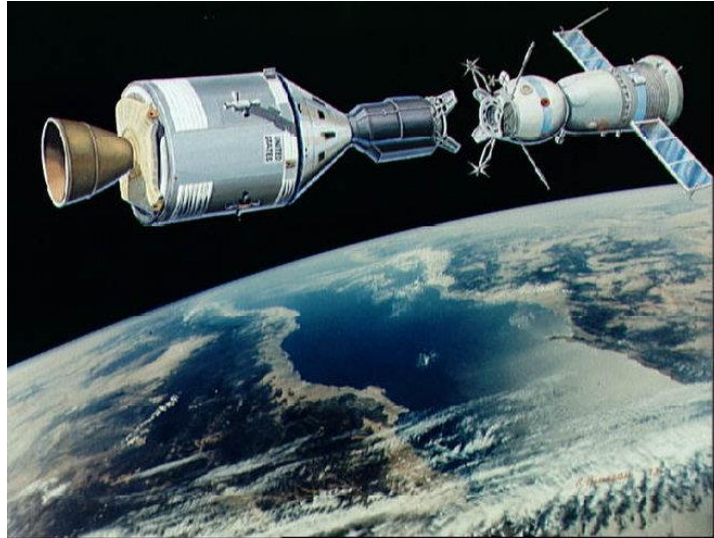


April 30th 1975 Vietnam North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam. The capture of Saigon by the North Vietnamese led to the whole country becoming Communist





**July 1975      Apollo-Soyuz Test Project – A Joint space venture between USA and USSR heralded as an end to the ‘Space Race’**



**January 20th 1977      Carter President**

**Jimmy Carter became the 39th President of the United States**



**November 4th 1979      Iranian hostage crisis. A group of Iranian students and militants stormed the American embassy and took 53 Americans hostage to show their support for the Iranian Revolution.**



**December 24th 1979 Afghanistan Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan**



**July 1980 Olympic Boycott by USA** A number of countries including the USA boycotted the summer Olympics held in Moscow in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Other countries including Great Britain participated under the Olympic flag rather than their national flag



**December 13th 1980 Poland Martial law was declared to crush the Solidarity movement**



January 20th 1981 Iranian hostage crisis ended

The Iranian hostage crisis ended 444 days after it began



June 1982 START



During a summit in Geneva Reagan proposed Strategic Arms Reduction Talks

The talks became to be known as START

July 1984 Olympic boycott by Russia

Russia and 13 allied countries boycotted the summer Olympics held in Los Angeles in retaliation for the US boycott of 1980.





March 11th 1985      Gorbachev leader of USSR

Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union. He would be responsible for major changes to the system and the subsequent end of the USSR



April 26th 1986      Chernobyl Disaster      An explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine remains the worst nuclear disaster in history



June 1987      Glasnost and Perestroika      Mikhail Gorbachev announced his intention to follow a policy of glasnost – openness, transparency and freedom of speech; and perestroika – restructuring of government and economy. He also advocated free elections and ending the arms race.





February 15th 1989 Afghanistan

The last Soviet troops left Afghanistan



June 4th 1989 Tiananmen Square Anti-Communist protests in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China were crushed by the government. The death count is unknown.



August 1989 Poland Tadeusz Mazowiecki elected leader of the Polish government – the first eastern bloc country to become a democracy





December 2nd, 3rd 1989 Malta Summit

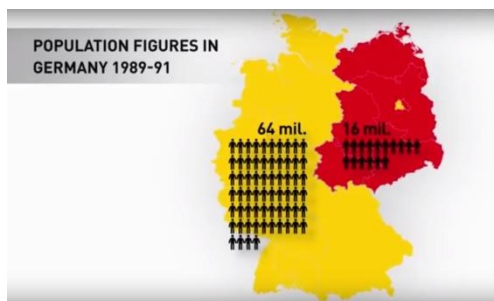
This meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and George H W Bush reversed much of the provisions of the Yalta Conference 1945. It is seen by some as the beginning of the end of the cold war.



December 16th – 25th 1989 Romanian Revolution Riots broke out which culminated in the overthrow and execution of the leader Ceaușescu and his wife.



October 3rd 1990 German reunification - East and West Germany were reunited as one country.





1st July 1991 End of Warsaw Pact

The Warsaw Pact which allied Communist countries was ended



31st July 1991 START

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty was signed between Russia and the USA



President Bush and President Gorbachev sign the START Treaty, July 31, 1991.

25th December 1991 Gorbachev resigned

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

VOL. CXLII... No. 4826 NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1991

## GORBACHEV, LAST SOVIET LEADER, RESIGNS U.S. RECOGNIZES REPUBLICS' INDEPENDENCE

**COMMUNIST FLAG YELTSIN GETS NUCLEAR**

**RETAILERS REPORT SALES FELL SHORT OF DIM FORECASTS**

**Last Minute Buying Spree Falls to Carry Merchants Ahead of Last Year's Receipts**

**By EREN SHAPIRO**

Reaction would probably be in the next few days. While most merchants had been prepared for a sluggish season, many said sales turned out to be even more disappointing. Even the last-minute shopping frenzy was not enough to give merchants anything to cheer about.

An economy as a month ago, many retailers had hoped to record last year's sales by 5 percent. But results through the end of August in Manhattan indicate that spending will be flat or slightly up in December. The major retail chains are scheduled to release their final monthly sales results next week.

"We are disappointed with the situation," Stephen D. Watson, president of the United States Commerce in Moscow, said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

"The Little 'T' List"

Mikhail S. Gorbachev after announcing his resignation last night as President of the Soviet Union.

By FRANCIS X. BOSTER

MOSCOW, Dec. 25 — Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the architect of the Soviet Union's reform from the cold war and the quest for the democratic reforms that ended 70 years of Communist rule, said a weary, anxious nation is being urged to vote on his resignation as President and stepping out the door.

"I hereby announce my resignation as the first of Presidents of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," declared Gorbachev in a television message that was broadcast across the six years and nine days of his command.

Mr. Gorbachev made no attempt to offer a last, nearly neutral statement and address a much less bitter regret and concern as being forced from office by the former republics of the collapsed Soviet empire under the informal leadership of President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia.

"A New World"

While none of Mr. Gorbachev's resignation, Russian and other leaders began recognition of Russia and the other former republics.

"We're now living in a new world," Mr. Gorbachev declared in recognizing the end of his tenure. "An era has been put to the cold war and to the entire era, as well as to the political structure of the country, which has created an economic, political, and social

Mikhail Gorbachev resigned. The hammer and sickle flag on the Kremlin was lowered

26th December 1991

The End of the Soviet Union!

Russia formally recognized the end of the Soviet Union

