

Timeline of the

COLD WAR



1945- 1947

WWII ends and the U.S./U.S.S.R alliance dissolves. President Truman expresses the need to contain Communism and the Red Scare begins. Numerous figures in Hollywood and the federal government are investigated, tried, and persecuted, while others are "black-listed" due to accusations of supporting communism.

1953- 1956

Upheaval

U.S. backs a coup and overthrows the Iranian government. President Eisenhower sends aid to South Vietnam and the Soviets end an anti-communism revolution in Hungary.

1962- 1964

The Cuban Missile Crisis

American Navy blockades Cuba after the Soviet Union places missiles in Cuba. Kennedy pulls away from Cuba in exchange for the Soviet's removal of Cuban missiles. Meanwhile, China successfully tests its first A- bomb while America begins air raid attacks on North Vietnam.

1973- 1979

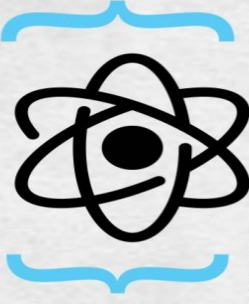
Guerilla Warfare

America's combat in Vietnam ends but it secretly backs a coup that overthrows the Chilean president. The Soviet Red Army invades Afghanistan. Guerilla warfare with guns supplied by U.S. are used against the Soviet army, but it takes 10 years for them to leave without victory.



1989- 1991

Protesters gather in Tiananmen Square who wish for the Chinese Communist Party to reform. The Party kills many young students. In Poland, the Solidarity Union forms a non-communist government and Hungary replaces its communist leadership. In Germany, the Berlin Wall is torn down. Additionally, Communists attempt a coup against Gorbachev, which fails, and the Soviet Union collapses. The Cold War ends and Boris Yeltsin is elected President of Russia.



1949- 1950

Bombs Away

The Soviet Union tests their own atomic bomb and the Arms Race begins. Truman responds by announcing intentions to build a superbomb and joins in the Korean War in efforts to stop communism spreading. Korean War ends in a stalemate cease-fire in 1953.



1957- 1961

Russia launches Sputnik into the earth's orbit. America fears the Soviet Union's technological capabilities. Communist Fidel Castro overthrows American-backed dictator in Cuba. After 2 years of unsuccessful attempts to thwart Castro, the CIA initiates the Bay of Pigs invasion which fails. In Europe, East Berlin builds the Berlin Wall.



1965- 1972

President Johnson sends troops to Vietnam and to the Dominican Republic to prevent "another Cuba." Soviet Red Army invades Czechoslovakia, to stop the "Prague Spring", a move toward liberation & away from communism.



In '72, President Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty which makes it illegal to manufacture nuclear weapons.

1980- 1981

The Solidarity Union forms when Polish workers lead labor strikes. In '81, President Reagan resumes the mission to contain communism with the Reagan Doctrine, with focus on Central America.



1983- 1985

Invasion of Grenada

The U.S. invades Grenada, overthrowing the government and replacing it with a U.S.-friendly one. Mikhail Gorbachev becomes premier of the Soviet Union and his policies are the catalyst for the Soviet Union's collapse.

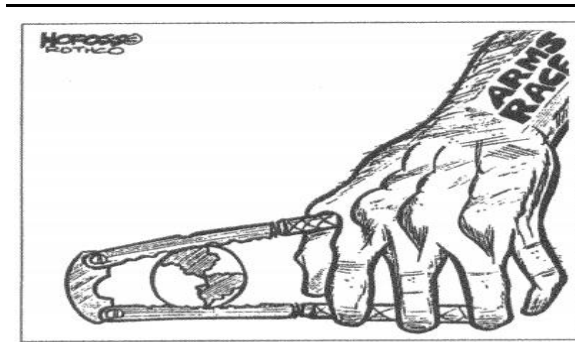


Cold War Gallery # 7

Arms Race

- Each side in the Cold War armed itself to withstand an attack by the other. At first, the United States, which had the atomic bomb, held an advantage. But Stalin's top scientists were under orders to develop an atomic bomb. When they succeeded in 1949, the arms race was now on.
- For four decades, the superpowers spent billions of dollars to develop new, more deadly nuclear and conventional weapons. As the money spent on new military equipment and new ways of using these weapons, the global powers were now in a state of global terror.

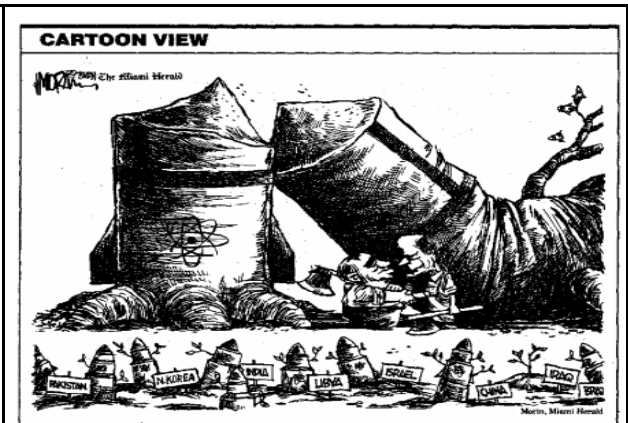
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U-2_Crisis_of_1960



Source: Ellis and Esler, *World History: Connections to Today*, Prentice Hall, 2001 (adapted)

7. What is the main idea of this cartoon?

- A. Proliferation of military weapons could destroy the world.
- B. The world's population is growing faster than its food supply.
- C. The land masses of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres are shifting.
- D. Military technology is making the world a smaller place.



10. Which statement best describes the main idea of this 1989 cartoon?

- A. Agricultural development depends on the progress of the nuclear arms race.
- B. World peace cannot be assured by limiting the nuclear capabilities of only the United States and the Soviet Union.
- C. Permanent world peace has come with agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union to reduce nuclear arms.
- D. Most nations are eliminating their nuclear weapons programs.

Space Race

- World War II proved to be a conflict in which the world's technological abilities were put to the test. Following the conclusion of this conflict, the United States and the USSR began doing long-range missile testing. As a result of this, Sputnik was launched. The launch of Sputnik proved to be a significant victory for the Soviets during the Space Race. In 1958, the United States put a satellite in orbit. Several years later, John F. Kennedy set a goal of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong took mankind's first steps on another heavenly body. In the following two and a half years, twelve American men would set foot on the moon. Not only did these landings represent a US victory over the Soviets, but also a technological triumph that proved to the US and the rest of the world that anything was possible with technology

<http://www.history.com/topics/space-race/videos/the-space-race>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvaEvCNZymo>

Star Wars

- By the 1980's both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. were mostly done with stockpiling weapons. One plan of action was the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) or "Star Wars". This plan was to have several laser satellites orbit the planet that could shoot down any missiles launched at the US. The United States pooled billions of dollars into this project, and the Soviets followed suit. However, the project proved impossible. Both the United States and Soviet governments lost billions, resulting in economic recessions for each. However, with the US's superior economy, it was able to escape the recession virtually unscathed. The U.S.S.R. could not pull out of this economic slump, and the nation collapsed.

