

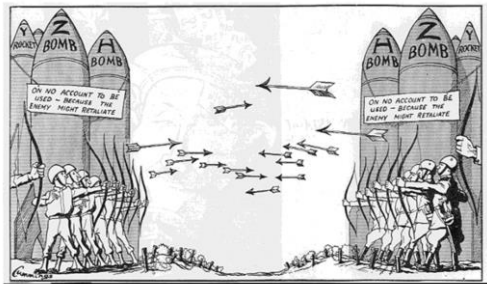
Aim #11b: How does Cold War develop & how does it “heat up”? “Confrontation and Coexistence”

The Arms Race



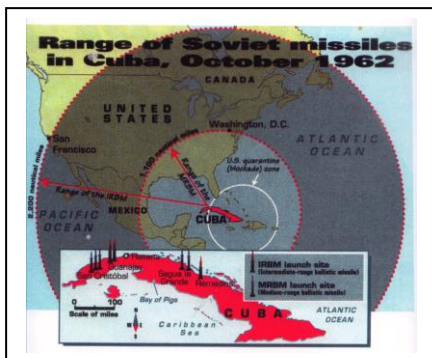
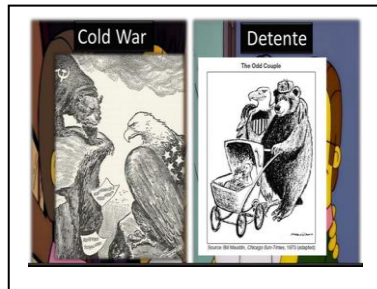
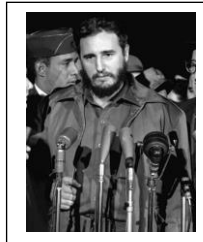
Nuclear Warhead Proliferation

Year	U.S.	USSR	Britain	France	China
1945	6	0	0	0	0
1950	369	5	0	0	0
1955	3,057	200	10	0	0
1960	20,434	1,605	30	0	0
1965	31,642	6,129	310	4	1



Mini Lecture

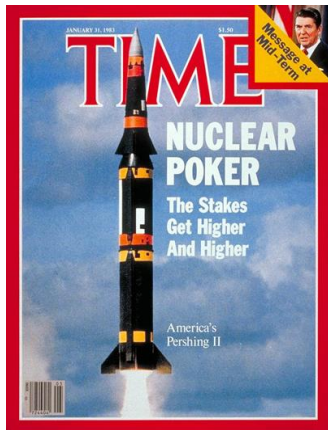
- In the Cold War, the U.S. & USSR both feared the results of a direct confrontation between them as it could quickly escalate to a full-scale nuclear war that could destroy all civilization. However, they fought indirectly by supporting opposing sides in conflicts around the world (**proxy wars**). The U.S. & USSR coexisted at a very high price.
- In August 1949, the Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb- marking the beginning of the nuclear **arms race**. The two developed much more powerful & deadly nukes (hydrogen bombs) in 1952. By 1959, each also developed **intercontinental ballistic missiles**, rockets that could precisely deliver nuclear warheads to any location. There seemed to be no limit to the lethal ingenuity employ by the scientists/military personnel on both sides.
- By 1961, due to the escalating arms race, President Eisenhower warned against the development of the **military industrial complex**- ties between private weapon companies & the government. He feared that the enormous profit motive of war to these private industries could drive foreign policy decision-making. Also, schools, hospitals, roads would suffer as the government spent so much into the military-industrial complex.
- Nuclear Proliferation**; other countries also wanted to develop nuclear weapons, either for defense or to remain relevant powers- including Britain, France, China, & 5 others).
- Recognizing the unprecedented risks of nuclear destruction, countries formed international organizations & treaties to maintain peace. **The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** was established to encourage the peaceful use of atomic energy & discourage building nuclear weapons. The **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT/NNT)** was designed to halt the spread of nuclear weapons by allowing inspections.
- Both superpowers competed for influence around the world. The U.S., realizing that overthrowing Communist governments would lead to nonstop war, adopted a policy of **containment**, to check the spread of communism into any country where it did not already exist by WWII.
- In 1959 Cuba, **Fidel Castro** overthrew the corrupt Batista dictatorship regime (wealth held by tiny elite & U.S. investors). Castro aimed to reshape Cuban society into a communist nation- promising to help the working class with economic reforms. His government was a dictatorship only allowing the Communist Party. He also nationalized, put under government control, foreign-owned industries (some owned by Americans).
- In protest against nationalization, the U.S. broke off trade with Cuba & cut diplomatic ties. In turn, Castro accepted Soviet aid & aligned with the Soviet Union. In 1961, The U.S. invaded Cuba to overthrow Castro at the **Bay of Pigs**, but failed.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis**; In 1962, the U.S. discovered that Soviet ships were sailing towards Cuba carrying nuclear missiles to be installed in Cuba, which was a direct threat to U.S. security. For almost 2 weeks, the world was close to nuclear war. But Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev recalled the ships in return the U.S. remove its missiles from Turkey.
- In 1954, Vietnam led by communist Ho Chi Minh defeated the French and gained independence. The peace treaty split the county into North & South Vietnam until elections would be held.
- Elections were never held as some in the South did not want to be communist and a war ensued. Ho & guerilla fighters in the South (**Viet Cong**) wanted 1 communist Vietnam. The U.S. feared a **domino theory effect** if Vietnam were to fall to communists. As a result, the U.S. sent over 500,000 troops to Vietnam to help the South. Despite U.S. aid, Vietnam was united & became communist. The **Vietnam War** killed 1.5 million.
- In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to form a new communist government. For 10 years, **mujahideen** (holy warriors) led by Osama bin Laden & backed by U.S. aid waged war against the Soviets until they withdrew.
- Both the Vietnam War and Soviet-Afghanistan War showed that despite each superpowers' involvement & aid, both failed.
- By the late 1960s, the U.S. & USSR wanted to slow down the nuclear arms race & the constant tension that surrounded it. This movement toward improved relations was known as **détente**. Both countries were looking for economic relief as they were spending large sums of money out of fear of the other. Reduced tensions might allow for them to reduce military expenses.
- They took several steps to relax their relationships. In 1972, after the **Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I)**, agreed to reduce number of missiles. In the 1970s, the Soviets bought grain from the U.S. In 1975, they signed the **Helsinki Accords**, agreeing to accept political boundaries set at the end of WWII.
- The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan ended the détente era.



Review Questions:

- What are some examples of how the Cold War “heated up”?
- How did Cold War tensions pause in the 1970s?

How did the Cold War arms race help to achieve, maintain, and/or threaten world peace?



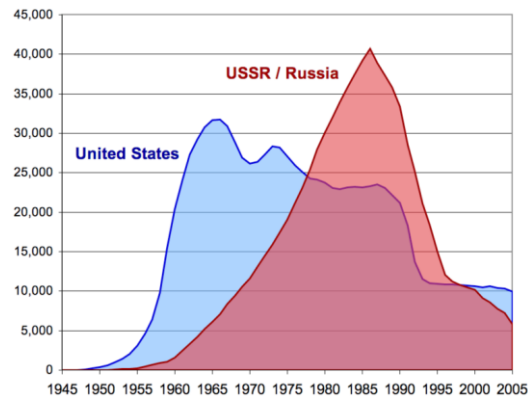
January 1983, Time Magazine Cover

1. Explain the historical circumstances that led to the historical development depicted in the Time Magazine Cover.

What was the Cold War arms race?

The **arms race** was a competition between the United States (and their NATO allies) and the Soviet Union (and their Warsaw Pact allies) for supremacy in weapons and technology during the Cold War. During the Cold War, the world grew more dangerous because each side feared the other. As a consequence, each side built up their armies and weapons. As one side built up its own military and weapons capabilities, the other side felt more threatened. One weapon that created immense fear was the atomic bomb, sometimes called the nuclear bomb. The nuclear arms race dominated relations between the United States and the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War.

2. What is an arms race? Why did the arms race escalate during the Cold War?



Cold War Timeline: Advances in Nuclear Weapons

August 1945: Atomic Bombs Dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Watch this video from the BBC entitled [“Hiroshima: Dropping the Bomb”](#) and this BBC News video entitled [“Hiroshima atomic bomb: Survivor recalls horrors.”](#)

A **nuclear weapon** is an explosive device that releases a large amount of energy in the form of a nuclear explosion. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs states that, “Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects.” The first nuclear weapons were built by the United States during World War II through the **Manhattan Project**, a secret project led by the United States that started in 1939.

The only time nuclear weapons have been used in combat was the dropping of **atomic bombs by the United States on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan** in 1945 during the final stages of World War II. The explosion in Hiroshima killed 80,000 people, wiped out 90 percent of the city, and tens of thousands more died later of radiation exposure. When the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki three days later, it killed about 40,000 people. Japan’s Emperor Hirohito announced his country’s unconditional surrender in World War II in a radio address on August 15, stating, “the enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is, indeed, incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives. Should we continue to fight, it would not only result in an ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation, but

3. According to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, why are nuclear weapons such a threat?
4. When was the only time nuclear weapons were used in combat?
5. What does Emperor Hirohito’s statement during his surrender speech reveal about the impact of nuclear weapons?

August 1949: Soviet Union Tests Their First Atomic Bomb

Watch [this video entitled “The Terrifying True Scale of Nuclear Weapons \(0:00-4:04\)”](#)

The United States was the only nation that possessed atomic weapons until 1949 when the Soviet Union tested an atomic bomb. The nuclear arms race unfolded from this point with the belief that the more nuclear weapons a country had, the more powerful the country was. As the nuclear arms race, the United States tested a new and more powerful weapon, the hydrogen bomb, in 1952. While this bomb was smaller than the atomic bomb used in Japan, it was thousands of times more powerful. Not to be outpaced, the Soviet Union developed its own version of the hydrogen bomb in 1953. This race to match each other’s weapons stockpiles resulted in **mutually assured destruction (MAD)**. MAD is the understanding that each side had enough weapons to destroy the other side, which discouraged all out nuclear warfare.

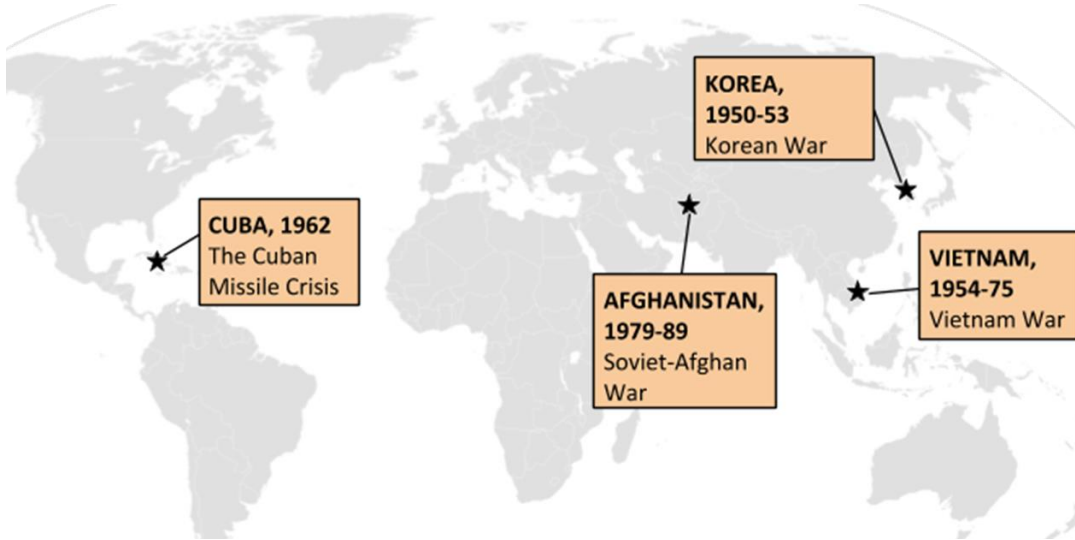
6. Why did the nuclear arms race begin in 1949? What were the goals of this nuclear arms race?
7. What is mutually assured destruction? How did it affect the way the USSR and USA interacted with one another?

How did Cold War proxy wars help to achieve, maintain, and/or threaten world peace?

Directions: Read the text and examine the map below then answer the questions that follows.

Cold War Hot Spots

Though the United States and the Soviet Union never fought one another directly, conflicts between their allies, and those involving one of the two superpowers took place throughout the Cold War all over the world. These types of conflicts are called **proxy wars**. A **proxy** is a person that presents someone else. In the Cold War, allies of the United States and Soviet Union were their proxies. Below are examples of four Cold War conflicts.



1. Based on your understanding of the Cold War and the foreign policies of the Soviet Union and the United States, why do you think there were proxy wars around the world?

Cold War Timeline: Proxy Wars

1950-1953: Korean War

Watch the video [“Korean War” from Simple History](#)

The **Korean War** was a conflict that started between communist North Korea and South Korea in 1950, but soon became a proxy war between the USSR and United States.

In 1910, the Japanese invaded Korea, subjecting the Koreans to a violent and repressive rule that attempted to replace Korean culture with Japanese. Like European imperial countries, the Japanese used Korean natural resources to further the growth of their empire and sold Japanese-made goods to Koreans. Koreans resisted Japanese rule through efforts like the March First Movement whose protests gained some freedoms for the Korean people, but Japanese military rule was strong throughout the occupation.

After defeating Germany in World War II, the United States and USSR agreed to focus both of their efforts on Japan. The Soviets invaded Japan-occupied China and Korea from the north as the US fought the Japanese in the Pacific. Following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Japanese surrender in August 1945, the Soviet Union and United States occupied Korea much like they divided Europe. The Soviets controlled Korea north of the 38th Parallel of latitude and the US controlled the peninsula south of that line.

Two Korean political groups came to power after World War II. The first which was in the north and led by a man named Kim Il-sung were communist revolutionaries who fought against the Japanese and were supported by fellow communists in the People’s Republic of China and the Soviet Union. The other group were called “ultranationalists” and were led by Syngman Rhee, a Korean who was exiled from the country during Japanese rule and educated in and supported by the United States. Eventually, Kim Il-sung became the leader of a communist North Korea and Syngman Rhee became the president of the south.

In 1950, with the approval of Joseph Stalin and with Soviet military support, North Korea invaded the south with the goal of unifying the country under communist rule. In response, the United Nations, urged on by US President Harry Truman, authorized troops to assist the South Koreans. The resulting war lasted three years. It involved troops, equipment, and aid from more than 40 countries, but 90% of the UN soldiers were from the United States. The USSR and China contributed troops, equipment, and resources to the North Korean including the Chinese army and some of the Soviet air force. At least 2.5 million people died in the fighting, half of which were civilians.

After three years of fighting, both sides realized that neither could successfully conquer the entire Korean peninsula. Negotiations between the United States, USSR, China, North Korea and South Korea led to an armistice on July 27, 1953. The treaty that ended the war divided along the 38th parallel where it was after World War II and remains today. The demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two nations is still the most heavily fortified border in the world.

2. What did the U.S. and its allies want during the Korean War? How did they try to meet their goals?
3. What did the Soviet Union and its allies want during the Korean War? How did they try to meet their goals?
4. How did the Korean War impact Korea?
5. As a result of the Korean War, was communism contained or did it expand? Explain.

1961: Cuban Missile Crisis

Watch the video [“The History of the Cuban Missile Crisis” from TED-Ed](#)

Why did this conflict begin?

In 1959, Fidel Castro led a communist revolution in Cuba later known as the **Cuban Revolution**. With Cuba only 90 miles away from Florida, the United States feared having a communist nation so close.

The United States felt threatened by Cuba’s proximity and in the spirit of **containment** wanted to bring down the communist regime. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy supported **The Bay of Pigs Invasion**, an attempt by U.S. trained Cuban exiles to overthrow Fidel Castro. The Bay of Pigs was unsuccessful and Castro captured the invaders.

Following the Bay of Pigs, Castro asked for weapons from the Soviet Union to defend Cuba against the United States. In October 1962, the United States discovered the missile sites in Cuba. Most alarming for the United States was that these sites brought every town in the US within range of these nuclear missiles. In response, the United States used its navy to blockade Cuba to prevent more missiles from reaching the island. This was the beginning of the **Cuban Missile Crisis**, a confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States regarding the Soviet deployment of nuclear missiles in Cuba. The United States demanded that the Soviet Union remove the missiles and threatened military force. After thirteen days of tense fear of nuclear war, Soviet Premier **Nikita Khrushchev** removed the missiles in exchange for the United States removing missiles from Turkey and promising not to invade Cuba.

6. What did the U.S. want during the Cuban Missile Crisis? How did they try to meet their goals?
7. What did the Soviet Union want during the Cuban Missile Crisis? How did they try to meet their goals?
8. Why was the United States deeply invested in this Cold War Crisis?
9. As a result of the Cuban Missile Crisis, was communism contained or expanded? Explain.

1954-1975: Vietnam War

Why did this conflict begin?

The Vietnam War was a conflict between the **communist regime** of North Vietnam and Viet Cong (communist-led guerrillas) and the **anti-Communist** South Vietnam and its ally, the United States. The communist regime of the north wanted to unify Vietnam into a single state that would be based on communist ideology. In 1958, the Viet Cong began to battle the South Vietnamese government.

Motivated by a policy of **containment**, the United States pledged support for the anti-communist South Vietnam. The United States and its allies provided training and equipment from the American military. The United States also deployed large numbers of military personnel to South Vietnam. Later in the war, the United States launched airstrikes and committed more foot soldiers.

From 1968 to 1973, efforts were made to end the conflict through **diplomacy** or dialogue. By January 1973, an agreement was reached and the United States forces were withdrawn from Vietnam and the United States prisoners of war were released. In 1975, South Vietnam surrendered to the North. Vietnam was unified as a communist state called the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Vietnam War had disastrous effects. Vietnam’s infrastructure was destroyed and farmland was polluted by American chemical warfare. An estimated 2 million Vietnamese died and another 3 million were wounded. About 12 million became refugees who fled to neighboring countries. During the Vietnam War, 58,000 Americans died in Vietnam and the war cost the United States millions of dollars. The United States entrance into the war led to protests by students and others at home in the United States. Despite all the money and troops the United States sacrificed, it failed to "contain" communism. Finally, by 1973, United States President Richard Nixon announced that America was abandoning the **Truman Doctrine**, or the doctrine that the United States would provide political, military and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from external or internal Communist forces.

10. What did the U.S. and its allies want during the Vietnam War? How did they try to meet their goals?
11. What did the Soviet Union and its allies want during the Vietnam War? How did they try to meet their goals?
12. How did the Vietnam War impact the United States and Vietnam?
13. As a result of the Vietnam War, was communism contained or did it expand? Explain.

1979-1989: Soviet-Afghan War

Why did this conflict begin?

In April 1978, Afghanistan’s government was overthrown by military officers who supported communism. The new government forged close relationships with the Soviet Union, but was greatly disliked by the devout Muslim and largely anticommunist population. Rebellions rose against the new communist government. The insurgents or rebels were known as the **mujahideen**. There was internal fighting and coups that threatened the stability of the new communist government. In December 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to protect the communist government. Nearly 100,000 Soviet soldiers took control of major cities in Afghanistan. They bombed and depopulated civilian areas where the mujahideen and its supporters were located. The Soviet strategies to subdue the mujahideen led to mass migrations into neighboring countries. Millions of Afghan people fled to Pakistan and Iran.

Motivated by a policy of **containment**, the United States and its European allies supported the mujahideen against the Soviets. The United States provided aid to the Afghan people and provided weapons, military training, and funding to the mujahideen. The mujahideen were able to fight back against the Soviet forces using shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles supplied by the United States.

The toll in Soviet casualties, economic resources, and loss of political support of Soviet leaders at home forced the Soviet Union to consider an exit strategy. By 1988, the Soviet Union signed an accord with the United States, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and agreed to withdraw its troops. By Feb. 15, 1989, Afghanistan returned to nonaligned status.

14. What did the U.S. and its allies want during the Soviet-Afghan War? How did they try to meet their goals?
15. What did the Soviet Union and its allies want during the Soviet-Afghan War? How did they try to meet their goals?
16. How did the Soviet-Afghan War impact the Soviet Union, United States and Afghanistan?
17. As a result of the Soviet-Afghan War, was communism contained or did it expand? Explain.

How did Détente help to achieve, maintain, and/or threaten world peace?

Directions: Examine the timeline below, read the excerpt provided, watch the video, and then answer the question that follows.



Détente is a French word that means “relaxation.” When studying history, it usually refers to the time in the Cold War between 1969 and 1979 when tension between the Soviet Union and the United States relaxed.

Watch the [Media Rich Learning Video on Détente](#)

1. Why did the USSR and USA enter a period of détente?
2. Identify two events that showed that relations between the US and USSR improved when Richard Nixon was President.
3. According to Richard Nixon’s address to the Soviet people, what did the US and USSR need to do to prevent conflict between the two superpowers?
4. Why do you think President Gerald Ford referred to the human rights agreement in the Helsinki Final Act as “a time bomb” for the Soviet Union?
5. According to the video, why did détente end?
6. Were the US and USSR able to live up to Nixon’s goal? State your claim and support it with two pieces of evidence from the video and its transcript.

