

Origins of the Cold War [Revision Cascade]

Communist threats in SE Asia, 1948-54	Malaya, 1948	The Malayan Communist Party started a guerrilla war against the British
	China, 1949	Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China
	Korea, 1950-53	June 1950, with Stalin's blessing, the North Korean People's Army invaded South Korea; 1950-53 America fought the Korean War to stop Communist North Korea conquering South Korea.
	Thailand, 1952	A series of communist demonstrations in 1952 known as the 'Peace rebellion'
	Vietnam, 1946-54	The Vietminh under Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap fought a guerrilla war against the French, triumphing at Dien Bien Phu in 1954
Korean War, 1950–53: causes	Domino Theory	The Americans developed the idea that if one democracy fell, others would follow
	NSC #68, Apr 1950	US National Security Council document 68 recommended abandoning 'containment' and moving to a policy of 'rolling back' communism
	Stalin's plotting	Stalin encouraged Kim Il Sung because he hoped it would cause trouble for the USA
	Kim Il Sung asked permission, 1949	Communist North Korea hated the pro-West South Korea; Kim Il Sung visited Stalin and Mao Zedong and got their support for an attack
	Syngman Rhee provided the excuse, 1950	South Korean leader Syngman Rhee threatened to attack North Korea; it gave Kim Il Sung an excuse to invade
Korean War, 1950–53: events	NKPA invasion, 25 Jun 1950	North Korean People's Army (NKPA) invaded South Korea and drove the South Korean army back to the Pusan area
	United Nations Resolution #83, 27 Jun 1950	The United Nations passed Resolution 83 to send troops to South Korea.
	MacArthur's Inchon Landing, 15 Sep 1950	General MacArthur and 300,000 UN troops landed at Inchon; they drove the NKPA back to the Chinese border
	The Chinese 'People's Volunteers', 25 Nov 1950	The Chinese 'People's Volunteers' counter-attacked to help the North Koreans; they drove back the Americans to the 38th parallel.
	Truce, 27 July 1953	After 3 years of stalemate, US president Eisenhower threatened to use the atomic bomb, and the Chinese agree a truce
Korean War, 1950–53: results	Chinese and North Korean deaths	A million Chinese and half a million North Korean soldiers died, and 8 million civilians.
	Domino Theory	The Americans developed the 'domino theory' to explain Communist expansion; if one democracy fell, others would follow
	SEATO, 1954	The US formed SEATO as a Pacific version of NATO to stop Communist expansion
	Vietnam	The US regarded Korea as a success, and started to use in Vietnam some of the tactics (e.g. napalm) they developed in Korea
	Ban the Bomb campaigns	MacArthur had wanted to use the atomic bomb in Korea. This led to fear of 'Armageddon' in the West, and CND and Ban-the-Bomb campaigns

The Thaw: causes	Death of Stalin, 1953	His regime had been paranoid and repressive
	The struggle for power, 1953–56	Khrushchev used 'destalinisation' as a way to unite his supporters against his rivals
	'Peaceful coexistence'	Khrushchev believed that, since communism was superior, it did not need tyranny and deterrent to enforce it
	East German riots, Apr 1953	The riots were caused by poverty and Soviet demands on the East German economy; Khrushchev feared Stalin was pushing the people too hard
	'Secret Speech', 1956	At the 20th Party Congress Khrushchev denounced Stalin and his methods
Khrushchev's policy of peaceful co-existence: facts	Beria executed, 1953	Political prisoners were freed and Beria (Stalin's Chief of Secret Police) executed in 1953
	'Many roads to Communism'	Khrushchev visited Tito of Yugoslavia in 1955 and told him there were 'many roads to communism'
	Austrian State Treaty, 1955	Khrushchev signed the Austrian State Treaty (1955), pulling Soviet troops out of Austria
	Geneva Summit, 1955	Khrushchev met Western leaders at summit meetings (e.g. at Geneva in 1955, he and Eisenhower discussed world trade and disarmament)
	Destalinisation	There was a relaxation of Soviet control over business, trade and culture
The Thaw: results	Khrushchev became popular	Khrushchev was at first welcomed in the West as a laughing man who would end the Cold War
	Geneva Summit, 1955	Khrushchev met Western leaders at the Geneva summit meetings (and discussed world trade and disarmament)
	Bread riots in Poland, 1956	Khrushchev sent Russian troops into Poland to put down the rebels
	Writers' Congress in Czechoslovakia, 1956	Czechoslovakian President, Novotny, suppressed the movement and reinforced a hard-line Stalinist regime
	Hungarian Revolution, 1956	Khrushchev sent in the Red Army to end the reformist government of Imre Nagy; this horrified the West and was the end of the 'Thaw'
The Warsaw Pact: membership and purpose	West Germany joined NATO, 9 May 1955	West Germany was welcomed as a member of NATO
	Warsaw Pact formed, 14 May 1955	USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania
	Mutual support if attacked	The Pact promised 'friendship, cooperation and mutual alliance'
	Hungary, 1956	Soviet troops invaded when Hungary left the Warsaw Pact
	Czechoslovakia, 1968	Although the Pact promised non-intervention in members' internal affairs, it invaded Czechoslovakia to put down the Prague Spring
Hungary, 1956: causes	Destalinisation	Encouraged Hungary to try to get free from Soviet control (c.f. Poland and Czechoslovakia)
	Catholicism	Hungarians were Catholics and the communist government was repressing religion (Cardinal Mindszenty was in prison).
	Economic subjection	Hungarians objected to Hungarian products being sent to the USSR whilst they were in poverty
	Political oppression	Hungarians objected to Russian military occupation and the AVH secret police
	American encouragement	US radio encouraged the revolt, and the USA opened trade negotiations; the Hungarians thought they would help

Hungary, 1956: events	Riots, 23 Oct 1956	Rioters toppled a statue of Stalin, and attacked secret police/Russian soldiers
	Russian troops withdrew, 28 Oct 1956	At Nagy's request, Khrushchev pulled Russian troops out of Budapest
	Nagy's reforms, 29 Oct 1956	Nagy introduced democracy, freedom of speech and religion and released political prisoners
	Warsaw Pact, 1 Nov 1956	Nagy announced that Hungary intended to leave the Warsaw Pact
	Russian invasion, 4 Nov 1956	Khrushchev sent 1000 Russian tanks into Budapest. Hungarians resisted with machine guns (4000 were killed)
Hungary, 1956: why it was a threat to the USSR	Defection to capitalism	Khrushchev decided events in Hungary were not 'destalinisation' – they were a defection to capitalism
	Destabilising effect	The Hungarian Revolution undermined other hard-line communist regimes
	Warsaw Pact	Hungary's attempt to leave the Warsaw Pact threatened Soviet security and the 'buffer' of friendly states
	China	China asked Russia to act to stop Communism being damaged
	Hard-liners in Russia	Hard-liners in Russia were using it to attack Khrushchev
Hungary, 1956: results	Janos Kadar	Khrushchev put in the hard-liner Janos Kadar as prime minister; Nagy was executed; many Hungarians fled to Austria
	Russian domination confirmed	No Iron Curtain country tried to break free from the Soviet Union until 1968
	America failed to help	People behind the Iron Curtain realised that they would not get help from the USA
	End of the 'thaw'	Western leaders became more determined to 'contain' communism
	Western Communists resigned	Western Communists were horrified – many left the Communist Party
NATO: causes	Truman Doctrine, 12 Mar 1947	Truman defined the USA's role to defend democracies and 'contain' Communism; most NATO troops in Germany were American
	Treaty of Brussels, Mar 1948	Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, and the UK signed a mutual defence treaty, and set up the Western European Union Defence Organisation
	Soviet Conventional forces	The USA had the atomic bomb, but the USSR had superior conventional forces
	Berlin Blockade, 1948–49	Convinced western leaders that Stalin was seeking to expand Soviet power
	Ernest Bevin, 1949	Approached the USA to create a stronger anti-Soviet defensive alliance
NATO: membership and purpose	Twelve founding members, Apr 1949	Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, the UK, plus USA, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark and Iceland
	Greece and Turkey, 1952	Greece and Turkey joined in 1952, West Germany in 1955
	Lisbon Conference, Feb 1952	Agreed to set up a permanent military force in Germany – eventually set at 35 divisions, supported by nuclear weapons
	Exercise Mainbrace, Sep 1952	First NATO naval exercises
	Protect the west	NATO was a lasting US commitment to defend Europe from Soviet aggression

NATO: results	Coordinated NATO forces	NATO countries standardised their weaponry and coordinated their strategies (e.g. the NATO phonetic alphabet)
	Increased international tension	Stalin saw NATO as an act of war
	Arms Race	Stalin saw himself facing united enemies and saw nuclear weapons as the only way to defend the Soviet Union
	Russia's atomic bomb, Aug 1949	Stalin rushed to get an atomic bomb
	Warsaw Pact, 1955	The addition of West Germany to NATO in 1955 led to the Warsaw Pact
The arms race: causes	The Cold War	McCarthyism/USA nuclear weapons frightened Khrushchev; Hungary/Soviet nuclear weapons frightened the West
	Deterrent	Both sides believed that, since war was MAD (mutually assured destruction), having the ability to wipe out the enemy would prevent attack
	Military-industrial complex	By 1955, the USA was spending almost a fifth of its national income on weapons – weapons manufacturers wanted an arms race
	Peaceful co-existence	Khrushchev's idea of 'peaceful coexistence' was really 'unrestrained competition' to see which was the better system
	One-upmanship	Some historians believe that by the late 1950s the Cold War had deteriorated into attempts simply to 'come out on top'
The arms race: facts	Nautilus, 1954	The first US nuclear-powered submarine (the USSR had developed nuclear submarines by 1958)
	ICBMs, 1957	In 1957 both sides developed Intercontinental ballistic missile – they could destroy each other at the push of a button
	Polaris, 1960	A US nuclear warhead launched from a submarine (also fitted on British subs)
	Soviet superiority in conventional forces	By 1980, the Warsaw Pact had 70,000 tanks, NATO had 30,000
	Overkill	By 1960, America had 20,000 warheads, Russia had 1,605 – together, enough to destroy every living thing on earth
Nuclear arms race: causes	The Cold War	Truman Doctrine/Marshall Plan/NATO frightened Stalin; Iron Curtain/Berlin Blockade frightened the West
	Russia's atomic bomb, Aug 1949	When the USSR got the atomic bomb, there was bound to be a race
	Deterrent	Both sides believed that, since war was MAD (mutually assured destruction), having the ability to wipe out the enemy would prevent attack
	Fear	Both sides feared a pre-emptive strike, and sought safety in weapons
	Military-industrial complex	By 1955, the USA was spending almost a fifth of its national income on weapons – weapons manufacturers wanted an arms race
Nuclear arms race: facts	Atomic bomb	USA, 1945/USSR, 1949
	Hydrogen bomb	USA, 1952/USSR, 1953
	ICBMs	Intercontinental ballistic missiles: USA Atlas-A, 1957/USSR R-7, 1957
	USA 2000 v USSR 200 warheads	By 1955, the USA had 2000 nuclear warheads, the USSR had 200
	Soviet Conventional forces	The USSR had far better conventional weapons (especially tanks)

The space race: causes	Adventure and exploration	“Space; the final frontier”
	Science fiction stories	Especially the belief that there was life on Mars and Venus
	UFOs	Even the CIA compiled dossiers on extra-terrestrial visits
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The space race: facts	Space launch vehicles, Aug 1957	Both the USSR (R-7) and USA (Atlas-A) developed rockets capable of lifting a payload into orbit
	Soviet satellite Sputnik #1, Oct 1957	The first (Soviet) satellite; the US Explorer satellite was launched in 1958
	Laika the Soviet dog, Nov 1957	The first (Soviet) animal in space; the US sent Ham (a chimp) in 1961
	Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, Apr 1961	The first (Soviet) manned orbit; the US sent John Glenn in 1962
	US Apollo program, May 1961	President Kennedy announced America’s intention to take a man to the moon
U2 Crisis, 1960: causes	Space race	Sputnik 1 had given the USSR a psychological advantage in the Cold War
	Fidel Castro, 1959	Castro’s revolution in Cuba (1959)
	China criticised Khrushchev, 1959	When Khrushchev visited America in 1959, China accused him of betraying Communism
	“Open skies’ discussions, 1955–60	The Americans proposed surveillance flights to monitor each other’s nuclear weapons
	Gary Powers was shot down, 1 May 1960	A U2 spy-plane piloted by Gary Powers was shot down over Soviet territory
U2 Crisis, 1960: events	Gary Powers was shot down, 1 May 1960	A U2 spy-plane piloted by Gary Powers was shot down over Soviet territory
	US ‘weather research aircraft’ story, 5 May 1960	The US, thinking Powers dead, said they had lost a weather plane because the pilot had oxygen difficulties
	Khrushchev’s trap, 7 May 1960	Khrushchev announced he had Powers alive and the spy camera, and proved the Americans had lied
	Paris Summit, 16 May 1960	Khrushchev demanded an apology and walked out when Eisenhower refused
	Powers trial, Aug 1960	Powers was found guilty in a Soviet court of espionage
U2 Crisis, 1960: results	Soviet propaganda victory, 7 May 1960	The Americans had been shown to be liars; the Soviets grew in confidence
	The Paris Summit collapsed, 16 May 1960	Khrushchev demanded an apology and walked out when Eisenhower refused
	Eisenhower cancelled a visit to Russia, Jun 1960	American attitudes hardened, and they elected Kennedy, who asked them to ‘pay any price ... for the survival of freedom’
	President Kennedy was elected, 1961	A sign of increasing tension in the Cold War
	US Discoverer spy satellites, Aug 1960	The Americans developed the ability to take spy-photos from space satellites