

Cold War

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The origins of the cold war

- During the second world war the forces against Hitler was led by stalin of USSR, churchill of UK, and roosevelt if USA. After the second world war cold war began between USA and USSR.
- The term ' cold war,' was coined by bernard baruch. It means hostility and tensions between the two superpowers without any direct confrontation.
- USSR refused to withdraw from the areas which they had occupied during the second world war.
- USA also pushed for the creation of the international atomic energy commission which made it have exclusive control over nuclear weapons. USSR disagreed with this plan and the organization was disbanded.

Truman Doctrine

- Harry Truman pledged that US would help any nation to contain the rise of communism. His policy of containment is known as the Truman Doctrine. President Harry S Truman called for US assistance on Greece and Turkey to prevent any form of communist donations in the two nations. Truman requested the US Congress for 400 million dollars of aid to these two countries, along with dispatching US military personnel and equipment to the region.
- Truman stated that USSR was the centre of all communist activity and the US needed to provide military and economic assistance to protect the nations from communist aggression. This doctrine was called the Truman Doctrine and was announced in 1947. The doctrine stated that US would not follow a policy of isolationism, rather it would play a larger role in world affairs.
- Truman saw the meeting of Soviets and Americans in Europe as a confrontation between civilizations rather than states. The doctrine effectively reoriented the US foreign policy. Truman argued that USA could no longer tolerate the forcible expansion of Soviet Russia into other countries.
- Historians have stated that the Truman Doctrine was the official declaration of the Cold War.

Division of Germany

- Germany was partitioned among the allied forces, however Berlin was placed under joint authority of USA and USSR. Soon Germany was partitioned into West Germany occupied by USA and East Germany occupied by USSR.
- Soviet forces wanted the western powers to abandon West Berlin, hence they cut the road, water, and rail routes through which the western powers communicated with Berlin, and stopped the supply of food, electricity, gas and other necessities from being supplied from East Berlin to West Berlin.
- USA soon began dropping food packets to West Berlin from the air, the blockade lasted for 11 months before it was withdrawn by USSR.

Eisenhower and Khrushchev

- US president Eisenhower continued with Truman's policy of aiding anti- communist nations.
- After NATO was formed on 1949 the USSR formed the Warsaw pact in 1956.
- However USSR president nikita khrushchev adopted a policy of peaceful coexistence. He stated that communism would prevail over capitalism without war. Khrushchev was convinced that USA did not intend to attack USSR, and planned to switch funds from 'guns to butter.'
- After a visit by vice president Nixon to Moscow khrushchev visited camp david in USA.

Kennedy

- However the cooperation between Eisenhower and Khrushchev was halted after the capture of US spy plane in USSR.
- John F Kennedy then attempted an invasion on Cuba to topple Fidel Castro, however the invasion was unsuccessful. Soon Khrushchev started giving military and financial aid to Cuba, and tried to convert it into a Soviet base.

Cuban Missile Crisis

- Cuban missile crisis, (October 1962), major confrontation that brought the United States and the Soviet Union close to war over the presence of Soviet nuclear-armed missiles in Cuba.
- Having promised in May 1960 to defend Cuba with Soviet arms, the Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev assumed that the United States would take no steps to prevent the installation of Soviet medium- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in Cuba. Such missiles could hit much of the eastern United States within a few minutes if launched from Cuba. The United States learned in July 1962 that the Soviet Union had begun missile shipments to Cuba. By August 29 new military construction and the presence of Soviet technicians had been reported by U.S. U-2 spy planes flying over the island, and on October 14 the presence of a ballistic missile on a launching site was reported.
- U.S. Pres. John F. Kennedy decided to place a naval “quarantine,” or blockade, on Cuba to prevent further Soviet shipments of missiles. Kennedy announced the quarantine on October 22 and warned that U.S. forces would seize “offensive weapons and associated materiel” that Soviet vessels might attempt to deliver to Cuba. During the following days, Soviet ships bound for Cuba altered course away from the quarantined zone.

Cuban Missile Crisis

- As the two superpowers hovered close to the brink of nuclear war, messages were exchanged between Kennedy and Khrushchev amidst extreme tension on both sides. The Soviets compared their provision of nuclear weapons to Cuba with the stationing of Jupiter missiles in Turkey, which were in range of Soviet territory. Kennedy agreed to remove the missiles from Turkey, and also pledged that the US government would not undertake another invasion of Cuba.
- In the following weeks both superpowers began fulfilling their promises, and the crisis was over by late November. Cuba's communist leader, Fidel Castro, was infuriated by the Soviets' retreat in the face of the U.S. ultimatum but was powerless to act.
- The Cuban missile crisis marked the climax of an acutely antagonistic period in U.S.-Soviet relations. The crisis also marked the closest point that the world had ever come to global nuclear war. It is generally believed that the Soviets' humiliation in Cuba played an important part in Khrushchev's fall from power in October 1964 and in the Soviet Union's determination to achieve, at the least, a nuclear parity with the United States.

Detente

- From the late 1960s to the late 1970s, the Cold War was highlighted by a period known as “détente” – a welcome easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. While the period of détente resulted in productive negotiations and treaties on nuclear arms control and improved diplomatic relations, events at the end of the decade would bring the superpowers back to the brink of war.
- Détente, French for “relaxation,” is “a process of managing relations with a potentially hostile country in order to preserve peace while maintaining our vital interests,” Henry Kissinger, then U.S. secretary of state, told a Congressional committee in 1974, while warning that such a relationship faces “sharp limits.”
- Two decades after the Second World War, Soviet-American tension had become a way of life. Fears of nuclear conflict between the two superpowers peaked in 1962 in the wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis, paving the way for some of the earliest agreements on nuclear arms control, including the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963. In reaction to the Cuban Missile Crisis, a direct telephone line was installed between the U.S. White House and the Soviet Kremlin in Moscow allowing leaders of both nations to communicate instantly in order to reduce the risks nuclear war.

Detente

- By the late 1960s, however, both countries had several concrete reasons for resuming arms talks. The ongoing nuclear arms race was incredibly expensive, and both nations faced domestic economic difficulties as a result of the diversion of resources to military research. The emergence of the Sino-Soviet split also made the idea of generally improving relations with the United States more appealing to the USSR. The United States faced an increasingly difficult war in Vietnam, and improved relations with the Soviet Union were thought to be helpful in limiting future conflicts. With both sides willing to explore accommodation, the early 1970s saw a general warming of relations that was conducive to progress in arms control talks.
- Earlier arms accords, including the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty and 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, helped set the ground for future détente agreements. Started in 1967 between President Lyndon B. Johnson and Soviet Premier Alexi Kosygin, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), continued by Nixon and Brezhnev at their 1972 summit, eventually led to the signing of the SALT I treaty. The agreement limited the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) either side could have in their arsenals and allowed each nation to build two missile defense sites.

Detente

- After years of negotiations between Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter and Brezhnev, Carter and the Soviet leader agreed to and signed SALT II negotiations in 1979, which established an equal number of nuclear weapons between the countries and limited MIRV missiles, among other guidelines.
- The breakdown of détente in the late 1970s stalled progress on arms control. The leadership of the two countries signed a second SALT agreement but did not ratify it, although both nations voluntarily adhered to the provisions for reduced limits on strategic weapons for years thereafter.
- By the time the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the spirit of cooperation had been replaced with renewed competition and formal implementation of the SALT II agreement stalled. With the continued arms talks stalled and tensions between the U.S. and Soviets rising following the invasion, the détente era was deteriorating.
- Carter's support of Afghan and Pakistani troops and America's boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, followed by the 1980 election of Ronald Reagan who referred to détente as a "one-way street that the Soviet Union has used to pursue its aims" and, in 1983 called the nation an "evil empire," ended the détente era as the Cold War escalated once again.

Ronald Reagan

- In 1980 Ronald Reagan came into power in USA and termed USSR as an 'evil empire.' He relaunched the arms race and increased the military spending of USA. USA also installed its perishing II missiles on europe in response to the soviet deployment of SS- 20 missiles.
- In 1983 Reagan launched the strategic defence initiative or the STAR WARS program, where a space based defence shield would protect USA from enemy missiles.

End of Cold war: Gorbachev

- In 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev came into power and decided to end the arms race. In 1987 USA and USSR signed the intermediate range nuclear forces treaty which provided for the destruction of nuclear and conventional missiles within the range of 500- 5500 km.
- In May 1985, two months after coming to power, Mikhail Gorbachev delivered a speech in St. Petersburg (then known as Leningrad), in which he publicly criticized the inefficient economic system of the Soviet Union, making him the first Communist leader to do so.
- Gorbachev launched perestroika (“restructuring”). He thus pursued an economic policy that aimed to increase economic growth while increasing capital investment.
- Gorbachev launched glasnost (“openness”) as the second vital plank of his reform efforts. Which believed in opening the political system. Glasnost also allowed the media more freedom of expression, and editorials complaining of depressed conditions and of the government’s inability to correct them began to appear.

End of Cold war: Gorbachev

- Gorbachev's perestroika program loosened centralized control of many businesses, allowing some farmers and manufacturers to decide for themselves which products to make, how many to produce, and what to charge for them.
- In May 1988, Gorbachev introduced a new policy that allowed for the creation of limited co-operative businesses within the Soviet Union, which led to the rise of privately owned stores, restaurants and manufacturers.
- Gorbachev also peeled back restrictions on foreign trade, streamlining processes to allow manufacturers and local government agencies to bypass the previously stifling bureaucratic system of the central government.
- He encouraged Western investment, although he later reversed his original policy, which called for these new business ventures to be majority Russian-owned and operated.

End of Cold war: Gorbachev

- The glasnost reforms led to a relaxation in censorship and some political liberalisation, which increased public debate, criticism and nationalism in the Soviet republics.
- Privately, Gorbachev hoped that lifting censorship would expose the errors of previous governments, creating support for more extensive economic reforms. Many Soviet people believed they were living in a successful communist state; under glasnost, they began to understand how dismal their lives were in comparison to those in the West.
- Due to 'glasnost,' all previously withheld information regarding USSR started getting debated, due to the freedom of speech and expression, and soon opposition movements against the regime started emerging. Soon aspirations of freedom, democracy, human rights began to be expressed more openly.
- However elements in the Soviet bureaucracy responsible for implementing the reforms were stridently opposed to them. The Soviet economic system was fundamentally flawed and needed to be replaced, not reformed; Gorbachev's piecemeal changes were not enough to revive the economy – and indeed only created confusion and disruption.

End of Cold war: Gorbachev

- **Soon the communist governments weakened and quickly collapsed.**
- **Gorbachev is credited with his boldness to abandon the society empire including its initiatives on disarmament, however his policies also resulted in the disintegration of USSR which remains his massive failure.**
- **Gorbachev also started reducing the influence of USSR in other parts of the world including Afghanistan, and also ended its aid to Cuba. Despite previous Soviet military interventions in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland itself, Polish voters elected a non-communist opposition government to their legislature.**
- **Communist regimes were ousted in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Demands for freedom soon spread to the Soviet Union. The Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania declared independence.**
- **The Berlin Wall and communism in Germany collapsed in June, 1990.**