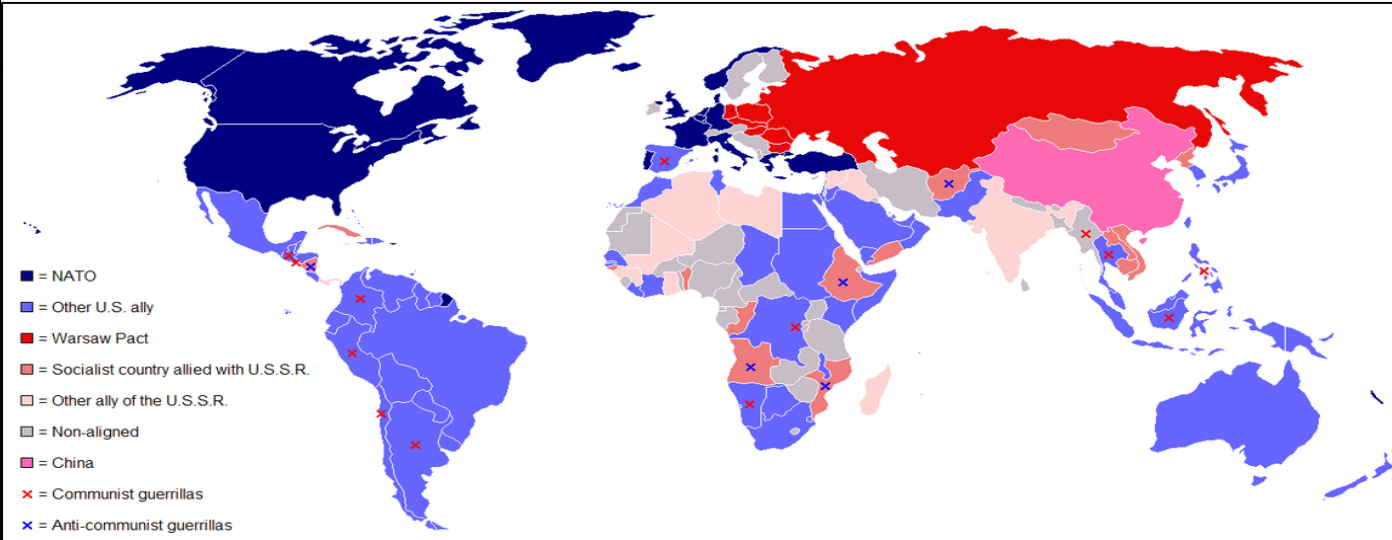


Overview and Map

The Cold War was a long period of open, yet restrained, tension between the democracies of the western world and the communist countries of the east. The democratic west was led by the United States, whilst the communist east was spear-headed by the Soviet Union – the two world superpowers at the time. Whilst the two superpowers never directly declared war on one another, they fought indirectly via proxy wars, an arms race, and the space race, in order to gain political and ideological dominance. The map below shows the extent of their alliances in 1980, towards the end of the Cold War.



Key People

Dwight Eisenhower – (1890-1969) Dwight Eisenhower was a five star general of the US army and supreme commander of the Allied forces in western Europe, before becoming the 34th President of the United States. As President, he articulated his views on the 'Domino Theory', suggesting that Communism should be stopped before it spread. Whilst he ended the Korean War, he was the first President to send troops to Vietnam, and made preparations to make interventions in Cuba. He made efforts to limit nuclear weapons proliferation, but these were unsuccessful.



Joseph Stalin – (1878-1953) was the Communist leader/ dictator of the USSR during WWII. After the death of the Communist Leader Lenin, Stalin won a vicious grapple for power before eventually establishing himself as a totalitarian dictator. His own policies became known as 'Stalinism.' After World War II, Stalin became committed to taking both political and ideological control of eastern European states, believing this to be integral to creating a buffer between the democratic West. This quest for domination is seen as one of the predominant factors in starting the Cold War.



John F. Kennedy – (1917-1963) Commonly known as JFK, John F. Kennedy was the 35th President of the United States, who served between 1961-1963 at the height of the Cold War. The majority of his presidency involved managing relations with the Soviet Union. He authorized the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, but subsequently helped to diffuse the Cuban Missile Crisis, and made a famous speech about the Berlin Wall as being symbolic of Communist failure. He also expanded the US space programme. He was assassinated in 1963.



Nikita Khrushchev – (1894-1971) Nikita Khrushchev was the successor to Joseph Stalin, who led the Soviet Union between 1953 and 1964 – the tensest years of the Cold War. He was more liberal than his predecessor in domestic policy, and also cut Soviet forces. However, he built up the number of nuclear missiles. He was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, when nuclear war between the US and Soviet Union seemed to be imminent. In 1964, he was removed by his colleagues, replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.



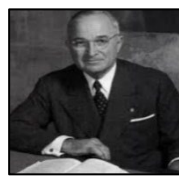

Sir Winston Churchill – (1874-1965) was a British politician who served as the Prime Minister between 1940 and 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. He took over after a disastrous start to the war in which Nazi Germany conquered much of Europe. The manner in which he forged crucial alliances with countries like the US and Russia undoubtedly aided the Allies victory. After the war, he was one of the first public figures to hypothesise about the significant dangers of an 'Iron Curtain' descending across Europe.



Fidel Castro – (1926-2016) Fidel Castro was a Cuban communist, revolutionary, and politician, who helped to lead the Communist revolution in Cuba. He was allied with the Soviet Union, and caused grave concern to the US as communism was now in the Americas. The CIA took charge of trying to overthrow Castro's government, using Cuban exiles, but got their strategy disastrously wrong in the Bay of Pigs invasion. Castro became a hero for his victory, and stayed in power right up until 2011.



Major Events

Event	Image	Description	Date/s	Fact
The Truman Doctrine		The Truman Doctrine was an American foreign policy created with the aim of countering Soviet geopolitical expansion. Announced to congress by President Harry S. Truman, the doctrine alleged that communist totalitarian regimes represented a significant threat to international peace. As a result, American support would be provided to countries threatened by Soviet communism.	12 th March 1947	The Doctrine led to the formation of NATO, an alliance that is still in effect.
Berlin Blockade		During multinational occupation of post-World War II Germany, the Soviet Union blocked the Western Allies' railway, road and canal access to parts of Berlin under western control, in response to western introduction of the Deutsche mark. Via the 'Berlin Airlift', Allied planes were able to deliver vital supplies to Berliners.	24 th June 1948 – 12 th May 1949	It proved to be a PR disaster for Stalin, who had to remove the blockade in May 1949.
The Hungarian Uprising		The Hungarian Uprising was a nationwide socialist revolution against the Hungarian People's Republic and its Soviet-imposed policies. The new Hungarian leader, Imre Nagy wanted to reform Hungary and leave the Warsaw Pact. The uprising was crushed by Soviet tanks	23 rd October – 10 November 1956	Nagy was replaced and later killed on the orders of the Kremlin. Soviet control was restored
The U-2 Plane incident		A United States U-2 spyplane was shot down by the Soviet Air Defence Forces, whilst photographing targeted Soviet sites whilst deep into Soviet territory. Embarrassingly, the US was forced to admit this purpose after the USSR produced the pilot and evidence.	1 st May 1960	The pilot, Gary Powers, was captured and convicted of espionage.
The Bay of Pigs Invasion		The Bay of Pigs Invasion was a failed military invasion of Cuba. The CIA-sponsored Brigade 2506 intended to overthrow the increasingly communist government of Fidel Castro, but were defeated after only 3 days.	17 th – 20 th April 1961	The outcome made Castro a national hero.
The Cuban Missile Crisis		The missile crisis was a 13-day confrontation between the USA and the USSR. The USA initiated ballistic missile deployment in Italy and Turkey, whilst the USSR deployed missiles in Cuba. It is often considered the point at which the Cold War came closest to all-out nuclear war. After tense negotiations, missiles were dismantled.	16 th – 28 th October 1962	Soviet missiles in Cuba would have been only 90m from Florida in the USA.
The Prague Spring		Alexander Dubcek's effort to establish "communism with a human face" was celebrated across the country, and the brief period of freedom became known as the Prague Spring. But on the Soviet Union answered Dubcek's reforms with invasion of Czechoslovakia by 500,000 Warsaw Pact troops.	January – August 20 1968	Dubcek was a close friend of Brezhnev, and felt betrayed by him!
Detente		Détente (a French word meaning release from tension) is the name given to a period of improved relations between the USA and the USSR. Key developments in this include the SALT I Treaty, the joint space mission, the Helsinki Accords, and the SALT II negotiations	1971 - 79	Détente came to an end following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979
The Second Cold War		Ronald Reagan became President of the USA in 1981. He described the USSR as "The Evil Empire". He massively increased military spending (a new arms race), and created the SDI program, to neutralize the Soviet nuclear threat. Initially during Regan's presidency tensions between the Superpowers massively increased	1981 - 86	After Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the USSR in 1986, the Cold War thawed, with a series of agreements
Fall of the Berlin Wall		The Berlin Wall had separated communist eastern section of Berlin Germany from west Berlin since 1961. However, the Soviet Union was beginning to collapse, and was struggling to hold onto East Germany. In November 1989, the Central Committee of East Germany opened up free movement across the wall. In doing so, one of the major symbols of the Cold War itself was abolished	9 th November 1989	On October 3, 1990 Germany was officially reunified into a single country.

1945 – Potsdam Conference leads to distrust between the USSR and USA | 1945 – The Iron Curtain divides east from west. | 1946 – Policy of containment leads to the Domino Theory. | 1947 – The Truman Doctrine pledges to resist Communism. | 1948 – Stalin mounts the Berlin blockade in East Germany. | 1949 – USSR tests its first nuclear bomb and the arms race begins. | 1950-53 – The Korean War. | 1955 – The Vietnam War begins. | 1957 – The Space Race begins (ends around 1975). | 1960 – The U-2 plane incident – US pilot Gary Powers captured. | 1961 – Berlin Wall erected. | 1961 – The Bay of Pigs: botched invasion of Cuba. | 1961 – Cuban Missile crisis brings the world close to nuclear war. | 1969 – Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. | 1979 – Soviets invade Afghanistan. | 1989 – Fall of the Berlin Wall. | 1991 – Collapse of USSR. Cold War ends.