1945  Defeat of Germany and Japan

February 4-11: Yalta Conference meeting of FDR, Churchill, Stalin - the 'Big Three'
Soviet Union has control of Eastern Europe. The Cold War Begins

May 8: VE Day - Victory in Europe. Germany surrenders to the Red Army in Berlin

July: Potsdam Conference - Germany was officially partitioned into four zones of occupation.

August 6: The United States drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima (20 kiloton bomb 'Little Boy' kills 80,000)

August 8: Russia declares war on Japan

August 9: The United States drops atomic bomb on Nagasaki (22 kiloton 'Fat Man' kills 70,000)

August 14: Japanese surrender End of World War II

1946

February 9: Stalin hostile speech - communism & capitalism were incompatible

March 5: "Sinews of Peace" Iron Curtain Speech by Winston Churchill - "an "iron curtain" has descended on Europe"

March 10 - Truman demands Russia leave Iran

July 1: Operation Crossroads with Test Able was the first public demonstration of America's atomic arsenal

Containment

March 12: Truman Doctrine - Truman declares active role in Greek Civil War

June: Marshall Plan is announced setting a precedent for helping countries combat poverty,
disease and malnutrition

1948
Containment
February 25: Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia
June 24: Berlin Blockade begins lasting 11 months

1949
Containment
April 4: NATO ratified
May 12: Berlin Blockade ends
29 August: Russia tested its first atomic bomb
October 1: Communist Mao Zedong takes control of China and establishes the People's Republic of China
December 1: Chiang Kai-shek moved to Formosa and created Nationalist government

1950
January 30: Truman approved H-bomb development
February: Joe McCarthy begins Communist witch hunt and loyalty tests
June 24: Korean War begins. Stalin supports North Korea who invade South Korea equipped with Soviet weapons

1951
April 11: Truman fires MacArthur

1952
A-bombs developed by Britain

1953
March 17-June 4 Nuclear Arms Race atomic test series of 11 explosions at Nevada Test Site
July: Korean War ends
December 8: Ike's Atoms for Peace speech
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 1954 | March: KGB established  
CIA helps overthrow unfriendly regimes in Iran and Guatemala  
July: Vietnam split at 17th parallel |
| 1955 | May: Warsaw Pact formed |
| 1956 | June 29: USSR sent tanks into Poznan, Poland, to suppress demonstrations by workers  
September 4: USSR sent military aid to Afghanistan  
October - November: Rebellion put down in Communist Hungary. |
| 1957 | October 4: Sputnik launched into orbit |
| 1959 | January: Cuba taken over by Fidel Castro  
September: Khrushchev visits United States; The Kitchen Debate |
| 1960 | May: U-2 Incident - Soviet Union reveals that U.S. spy plane was shot down over Soviet territory  
December 19: Cuba openly aligns itself with the Soviet Union and their policies. |
| 1961 | April: Bay of Pigs invasion see Cuban Missile Crisis Timeline  
August 13: Berlin border is closed  
August 17: Construction of Berlin Wall begins |
| 1962 | U.S. involvement in Vietnam increases see Vietnam War Timeline  
October: Cuban Missile Crisis see Cuban Missile Crisis Timeline |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ratified</td>
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<td>1963: July: President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>August: Gulf of Tonkin incident - see Vietnam War Timeline</td>
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<td>October: A-bombs developed by China</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>April: U.S. Marines sent to Dominican Republic to fight Communism</td>
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<td>July: Announcement of dispatching of 200,000 U.S. troops to Vietnam</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>B-52s Bomb North Vietnam</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>The US Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara admits the US bombing raids had failed to meet their objectives</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>President Johnson does not run for the presidency and Richard Nixon Elected President of the USA</td>
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<td>August: Soviet Red Army crush Czechoslovakian revolt</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>July 20: Apollo 11 lands on the moon</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>April: President Nixon extends Vietnam War to Cambodia</td>
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<td>Publication of the Pentagon Papers</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>February: President Richard Nixon visits China</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>July: SALT I signed</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>January: Cease fire in Vietnam between North Vietnam and United States</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September: U.S. supported coup overthrows Chilean government</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October: Egypt and Syria attack Israel; Egypt requests Soviet aid</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1974: August : President Nixon resigns

April 17: North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam which falls to Communist forces

February: Soviet and Cuban forces help to install Communist government in Angola.

January: U.S. and China establish diplomatic relations.

July: SALT II signed

November: Shah of Iran overthrown; Iranian Hostage Crisis

December: Soviet forces invade Afghanistan

1980

August: Polish shipyard workers strike Solidarity Union formed. Strike leader Lech Walesa is elected as the head of Solidarity

President Reagan proposes Strategic Defense Initiative

1983: October : U.S. troops invades and overthrows regime in Grenada

1983

Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union initiating a campaign of openness called "glasnost" and restructuring called "perestroika"

1985

October: President Reagan and Gorbachev resolve to remove all intermediate nuclear missiles from Europe

1986

October: Reagan and Gorbachev agree to remove all medium and short-range nuclear missiles

January : Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan

1987

November: Berlin Wall is demolished and East Germany allows unrestricted migration to West

1989

June: Poland becomes independent

September: Hungary becomes independent
Germany

December: Communist governments fall in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Rumania

Decline of the Soviet empire

1990

March: Lithuania becomes independent

May 29: Boris Yeltsin elected as President of Russia

October 3: Germany reunited

1991

August: End of Soviet Union and the Cold War Ends