

## 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

## — 1947

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

- 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](#)

- 1963  
1963: July : Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ratified  
  
1963: November : President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas
- 1964  
August : Gulf of Tonkin incident - see Vietnam War Timeline  
  
October: A-bombs developed by China
- 1965  
April : U.S. Marines sent to Dominican Republic to fight Communism  
  
July : Announcement of dispatching of 200,000 U.S. troops to Vietnam
- 1966  
B-52s Bomb North Vietnam
- 1967  
The US Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara admits that the US bombing raids had failed to meet their objectives
- 1968  
President Johnson does not run for the presidency and Richard Nixon Elected President of the USA  
  
August : Soviet Red Army crush Czechoslovakian revolt
- 1969  
July 20 : Apollo 11 lands on the moon
- 1970  
April : President Nixon extends Vietnam War to Cambodia
- 1971  
Publication of the Pentagon Papers
- 1972  
February: President Richard Nixon visits China  
  
July : SALT I signed
- 1973  
January : Cease fire in Vietnam between North Vietnam and United States  
  
September : U.S. supported coup overthrows Chilean government  
  
October : Egypt and Syria attack Israel; Egypt requests Soviet aid

- 1974 1974: August : President Nixon resigns
- 1975 April 17 : North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam which falls to Communist forces
- 1976 February: Soviet and Cuban forces help to install Communist government in Angola.
- 1979 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
- 1983 President Reagan proposes Strategic Defense Initiative  
  
1983: October : U.S. troops invades and overthrows regime in Grenada
- 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union initiating a campaign of openness called "glasnost" and restructuring called "perestroika"
- 1986 October : President Reagan and Gorbachev resolve to remove all intermediate nuclear missiles from Europe
- 1987 October : Reagan and Gorbachev agree to remove all medium and short-range nuclear missiles
- 1989 January : Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan  
  
June : Poland becomes independent  
  
September : Hungary becomes independent  
  
November : Berlin Wall is demolished and East Germany allows unrestricted migration to West

Germany

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

Decline of the Soviet empire

March : Lithuania becomes independent

May 29 : Boris Yeltsin elected as President of  
Russia

October 3 : Germany reunited

— 1990

— 1991

August : End of Soviet Union and the Cold War  
Ends