**Timeline of the Cold War**

1940s

* 1945: February 4-11-- [Yalta Conference](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/yalta.htm) **Cold War Begins**
* 1945: August 6 -- United States first used atomic bomb in war
* 1945: August 8 -- Russia enters war against Japan
* 1945: August 14 -- Japanese surrender **End of World War II**
* 1946: March -- Winston Churchill delivers "Iron Curtain" Speech
* 1947: March -- Truman declares active role in [Greek Civil War](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/greek.htm)
* 1947: June -- Marshall Plan is announced
* 1948: February -- Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia
* 1948: June 24 -- [Berlin Blockade](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm) begins
* 1949: July -- [NATO ratified](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/nato.htm)
* 1949: May 12 -- [Berlin Blockade](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm) ends
* 1949: September -- Mao Zedong, a Communist, takes control of China
* 1949: September -- Soviets explode first atomic bomb

1950s

* 1950: February -- Joe McCarthy begins Communist witch hunt
* 1950: June -- [Korean War](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/korea.htm) begins
* 1951: January 12 -- [Federal Civil Defense Administration](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/civil.htm) established
* 1953: June 19 -- [Rosenberg executions](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/rosenber.htm)
* 1953: July -- [Korean War](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/korea.htm) ends
* 1954: March -- [KGB](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/kgb.htm) established
* 1954 -- CIA helps overthrow unfriendly regimes in Iran and Guatemala
* 1954: July -- [Vietnam](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) split at 17th parallel
* 1955: May -- Warsaw Pact formed
* 1956: October - November -- Rebellion put down in Communist Hungary. Egypt took control of Suez Canal; U.S. refused to help take it back
* 1957: October 4 -- [Sputnik](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/spacerac.htm) launched into orbit
* 1958: November -- Khrushchev demands withdrawal of troops from [Berlin](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm)
* 1959: January -- Cuba taken over by Fidel Castro
* 1959: September -- Khrushchev visits United States; denied access to [Disneyland](http://www.snopes.com/disney/nikita.htm)

1960s

* 1960: May -- Soviet Union reveals that U.S. spy plane was shot down over Soviet territory
* 1960: November -- John F. Kennedy elected President
* 1961: April -- [Bay of Pigs invasion](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/pigbay.htm)
* 1961: July -- Kennedy requests 25% spending increase for military
* 1961: August 13 -- [Berlin border closed](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm)
* 1961: August 17 -- Construction of [Berlin Wall](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm) begins
* 1962: -- U.S. involvement in [Vietnam increased](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm)
* 1962: October -- [Cuban Missile Crisis](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/cuba.htm)
* 1963: July -- Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ratified
* 1963: November -- President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas
* 1964: August -- Gulf of Tonkin incident
* 1965: April -- U.S. Marines sent to Dominican Republic to fight Communism
* 1965: July -- Announcement of dispatching of 150,000 U.S. troops to [Vietnam](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm)
* 1968: January -- North Korea captured U.S.S. Pueblo
* 1968: August -- Soviet troops crush Czechoslovakian revolt
* 1969: July 20 -- [Apollo 11](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/spacerac.htm) lands on the moon

1970s

* 1970: April -- President Nixon extends [Vietnam War](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) to Cambodia
* 1972: July -- SALT I signed
* 1973: January -- Cease fire in [Vietnam](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) between North Vietnam and United States
* 1973: September -- United States helps overthrow Chile government
* 1973: October -- Egypt and Syria attack Israel; Egypt requests Soviet aid
* 1974: August -- President Nixon resigns
* 1975: April 17 -- [North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm)
* 1979: July -- SALT II signed
* 1979: November -- Shah of Iran overthrown; Iranian Hostage Crisis

1980s

* 1983: -- President Reagan proposes Strategic Defense Initiative
* 1983: October -- U.S. troops overthrow regime in Grenada
* 1985: -- Iran-Contra Affair (arms sold to Iran, profits used to support contras in Nicaragua)
* 1985: -- Mikhail Gorbachev ascends to power in Soviet Union
* 1986: -- Gorbachev ends economic aid to Soviet satellites
* 1986: October -- Reagan and Gorbachev resolve to remove all intermediate nuclear missiles from Europe
* 1986: November -- Iran-Contra Affair revealed to public
* 1987: October -- Reagan and Gorbachev agree to remove all medium and short-range nuclear missiles by signing treaty
* 1989: January -- Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan
* 1989: June -- China puts down protests for democracy; Poland becomes independent
* 1989: September -- Hungary becomes independent
* 1989: November -- Berlin Wall falls
* 1989: December -- Communist governments fall in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Rumania; Soviet empire ends

1990s

* 1990: October 3 -- Germany reunited
* 1991: April -- Warsaw Pact ends
* 1991: August -- [End of Soviet Union](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/thaw.htm) **Cold War Ends**