

COLD WAR TIMELINE

- 1945 Yalta Conference
World War II ends in Europe / U.S. drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.
Potsdam Conference - Truman - Stalin and British divide up Europe
US and USSR occupy Korea south and north of the 38th parallel
French return to Vietnam
- 1946 Winston Churchill delivers "Iron Curtain" Speech
- 1947 Communists seize power in Poland
Truman Doctrine announced
Marshall Plan is announced
George F. Kennan articulates the Containment policy
House Un-American Activities Committee begins hearings
- 1948 Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia
Berlin Airlift begins (ends May 19, 1949)
- 1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) established.
Soviet Union explodes its first atomic bomb.
Communists win Chinese Civil War.
- 1950 U.S. and other U.N. members fight North Korean forces.
(the Korean War ends July 27, 1953)
Alger Hiss convicted
Joe McCarthy begins Communist witch hunt in his Wheeling, WV speech
- 1952 US explodes hydrogen bomb in the Marshall Islands
- 1953 Josef Stalin dies
Soviet Union explodes hydrogen bomb
Rosenberg executions
U.S. sponsored coup overthrows Iranian government.
- 1954 U.S. sponsored coup overthrows Guatemalan government.
Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) formed.
Fall of Dien Bien Phu – French defeat in Vietnam
Geneva Accords - Vietnam split at 17th parallel
Senate condemns McCarthy
- 1955 Warsaw Pact formed.
- 1956 Red Army crushes the Hungarian Revolution.
Khrushchev denounces Stalin in speech to Communist Party
- 1957 Soviets launch first man-made satellite (Sputnik).
- 1958 NASA is formally established
- 1959 Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba, installs Communist government.
- 1960 U.S. U-2 spy plane was shot down over Soviet territory
- 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.
East Germany builds Berlin Wall.
Yuri Gagarin is the first man to orbit the Earth
Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space
Kennedy pledges to put man on the moon before decade ends ("Space Race")
- 1962 U.S. involvement in Vietnam increased
Cuban Missile Crisis

- 1963 JFK visits Berlin: "Ich bin ein Berliner." speech
South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem is assassinated
President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas
- 1964 China explodes its first atomic bomb.
Gulf of Tonkin incident
- 1965 U.S. sends troops to the Dominican Republic to fight communism.
U.S. commits 150,000 combat troops to South Vietnam.
- 1968 Soviet Red Army crushes Czech Uprising.
Tet Offensive / My Lai massacre in Vietnam
- 1969 Apollo 11 lands on the moon
U.S. forces in Vietnam over half a million
- 1970 Paris Peace Talks begin
President Nixon extends Vietnam War to Cambodia
- 1972 President Richard Nixon visits China.
Nixon orders mining of Haiphong Harbor and intensive bombing of North Vietnam
- 1973 Paris Peace Accords: Cease fire between North Vietnam and United States
United States helps overthrow Chile's government
Egypt and Syria attack Israel in Yom Kippur War; Egypt requests Soviet aid
OPEC begins embargo against the United States
- 1974 President Nixon resigns
- 1975 South Vietnam falls to Communist forces; Americans evacuate as Saigon falls
- 1976 Soviet and Cuban forces help install Communist government in Angola.
- 1978 Camp David Accords signed between Egypt and Israel
- 1979 U.S. and China establish diplomatic relations.
Soviet Red Army invades Afghanistan
Shah of Iran overthrown; Iranian Hostage Crisis
- 1980 Polish shipyard workers strike, Solidarity Union formed.
- 1983 U.S. invades Grenada.
- 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union, the following year he declares
glasnost and *perestroika*.
Iran-Contra Affair (arms sold to Iran, profits used to support contras in Nicaragua)
- 1989 Led by university students, over one million Chinese in Tiananmen Square demand reforms
by the Chinese Communist government.
Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan
Solidarity forms the first post-war non-Communist government in Poland
Hungary declares a non-Communist government.
East Germany allows unrestricted migration to West Germany.
Berlin Wall is demolished.
Communist governments fall in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Rumania; Soviet empire ends
- 1990 Lithuania becomes independent
Germany reunited
- 1991 Hard-line Communists stage unsuccessful coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.
Warsaw Pact ends
The Soviet Union is abolished. Boris Yeltsin becomes President of Russia.
Cold War Ends