

After the War

1946 - PRESENT

Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

Eastern Europe's Iron Curtain

- In June 1945, 50 countries joined together to form the United Nations. This new organization had real power to investigate and settle disputes. When necessary, U.N. Peacekeeping forces could be sent to troubled areas.



Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

Eastern Europe's Iron Curtain

- After the war, Soviet troops occupied a strip of countries along the U.S.S.R.'s western border. They installed Communist governments in these countries as a wall of protection against future invasion.
- Churchill called this group of countries the "Iron Curtain."



Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

United States Tries to Contain Soviets

- Much of Western Europe was in ruins, with a scarcity of jobs and food. The United States proposed an assistance program called the Marshall Plan. The U.S. would provide food, machinery, and other materials to rebuild Western Europe.
- In 1948, Congress voted to approve the \$12.5 billion program. The plan was a spectacular success.



Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

The Cold War Divides the World

- Conflicts between the United States and the Soviet Union were called the Cold War. A cold war is a struggle over political differences carried on without military action or war.
- Beginning in 1949, the superpowers used spying, propaganda, diplomacy, and secret operations in their dealings with each other.



Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

The Cold War Divides the World

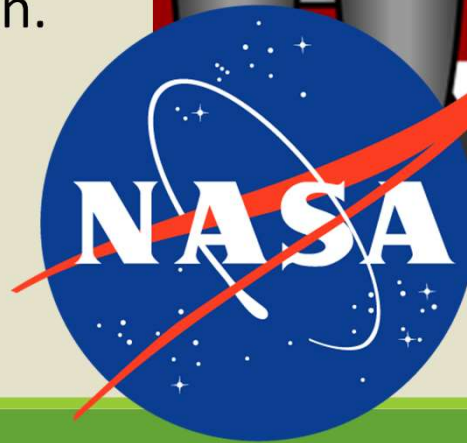
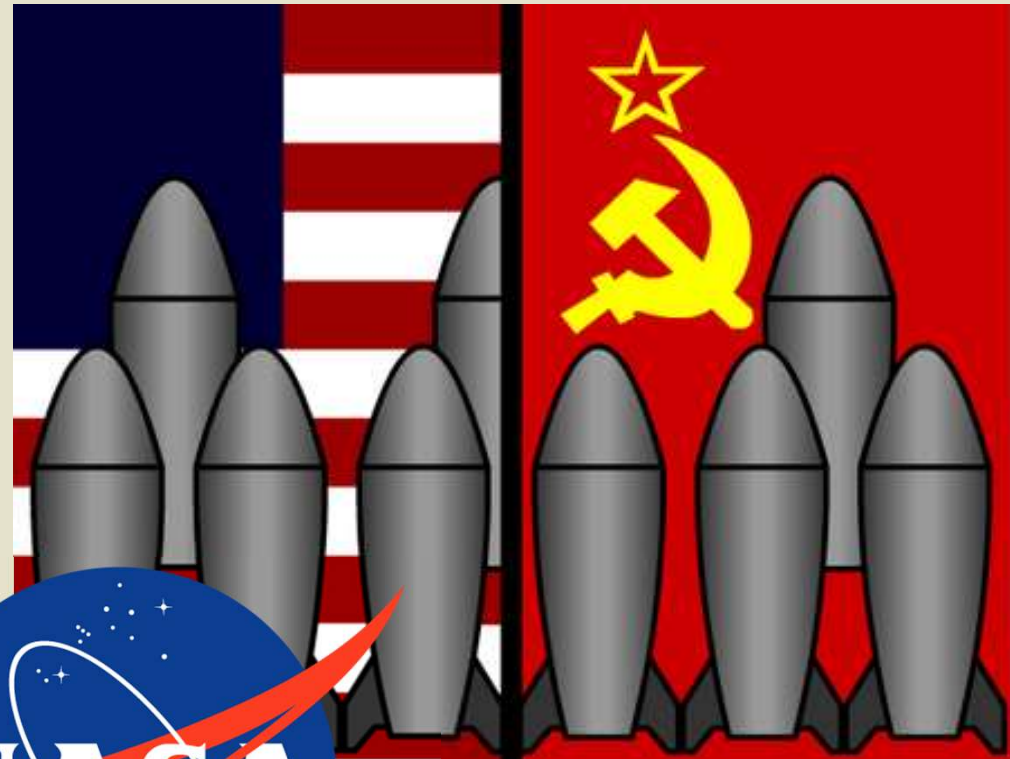
- In 1949, ten western European nations joined the U.S. and Canada to form a defensive military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (NATO)
- In response, the Soviet Union and other communist countries formed the Warsaw Pact.



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- Both sides continued to strengthen their military and develop large numbers of nuclear weapons.
- In 1957, the Soviets launched the first satellite, Sputnik. The U.S. pushed to catch up and the space race began.



Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

The Cold War Divides the Berlin

- After the war, Germany was divided into four zones of occupation. These zones were administered by the U.S., Great Britain, France, and the U.S.S.R. The city of Berlin was also divided into four zones.
- In 1948, France, Britain, and the U.S. withdrew to allow their zones to form one nation.
- The Soviets objected and cut off all access to West Berlin. The city was left to starve.



Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

The Cold War Divides the Berlin

- In 10 Months:
 - 277,804 Flights
 - Averaged 600/day
- 32 Planes were in the air at once.
- Plane was arriving or departing every 90 seconds.

Specials flew food and
The Berlin Airlift lasted
and lifted the
two countries: West



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The Cold War Divides the World

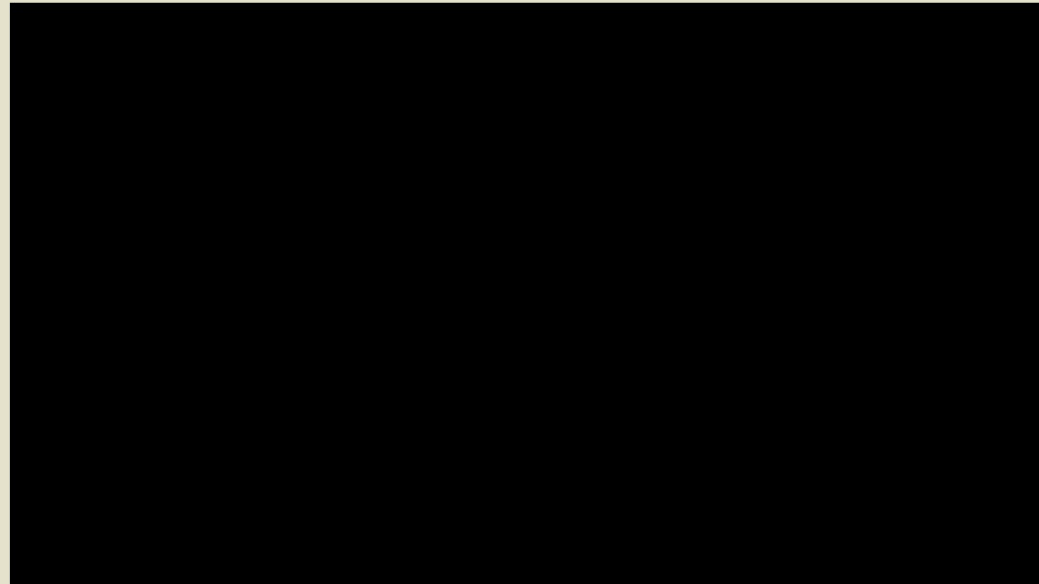
- Germany remained split into two countries: West Germany and East Germany.
- In 1961, East Germany built a wall to separate East and West Berlin.
- The Berlin Wall prevented East Germans from traveling to the west for 28 years.



Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

The Cold War Divides the World

- In 1987, U.S. President Reagan stood before the Berlin Wall and demanded: “Mr. Gorbachev, _____!”
- In November, 1989 the Berlin Wall came down and Germany began the process of reuniting as one nation.
- This and other events around Eastern Europe combined to eventually bring about the fall of the Soviet Union.



Cold War: Super Powers Face Off

The Cuban Missile Crisis

- In 1962, the Soviet Union began to build missile sites in Cuba. An American spy plane discovered the construction sites.
- President John F. Kennedy demanded they be removed and announced a blockade of Cuba.
- The two countries were on the brink of nuclear war before Soviet leader Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles.

