

Timeline of the Cold War

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
- August 15: Emperor surrender broadcast - VJ Day

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
- July 25: America's Test Baker - underwater explosion

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
- September 2: Rio Pact - U.S. meet 19 Latin American countries and created a security zone around the hemisphere

1948 Containment

- February 25 : Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia
- March 2: Truman's Loyalty Program created to catch Cold War spies
- March 17: Brussels Pact organized to protect Europe from communism
- 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

- January 12: Federal Civil Defense Administration established
- 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
- April 15: RAND report on the "Vulnerability of U. S. Strategic Air Power"
- July : Korean War ends
- December 8: Ike's Atoms for Peace speech

1954

- March 1: H-bomb Castle-Bravo test
- 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.
- October 29: Suez Crisis began with Israeli attack led by Moshe Dayan against Egyptian forces in the Sinai
- Egypt took control of Suez Canal

1957

- August 26: Vostok rocket launched 1st ICBM
- October 4 : Sputnik launched into orbit
- November 3: Sputnik II launched - Laika died in space

1958

- January 31: Explorer I launched
- July : NASA began Mercury project using Atlas rocket
- November : Khrushchev demands withdrawal of troops from Berlin

1959

- January : Cuba taken over by Fidel Castro
- September : Khrushchev visits United States; The Kitchen Debate

1960

- A-bombs developed by France
- May : Soviet Union reveals that U.S. spy plane was shot down over Soviet territory

November : John F. Kennedy elected President of USA
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

October : Cuban Missile Crisis

1963

July : Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ratified
November 22: President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas

1964

August : Gulf of Tonkin incident
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 Defence Robert McNamara admits that the US bombing raids had failed to meet their objectives

1968

January : North Korea captured U.S.S. Pueblo
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

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

October : U.S. troops invade 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

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

Source from: <http://www.datesandevents.org/events-timelines/03-cold-war-timeline.htm>