*Identifications & Timeline Semester 4*

Russia 1917-1991

Key Terms:

* **Backwardness**: The state a country is in, when economic sectors such as agriculture or industry are immensely underdeveloped compared to other countries at the time.
* **Berlin Blocade**: took place from 24 June 1948 to 12 May 1949. The Soviet Union the allies’ ways of transportation to their sectors in Berlin. The allies solved the problem by starting the airlift and the blocade is seen as one of the first crises of the Cold War.
* **Berlin Wall**: a wall that was erected by the German Democratic Republic (a Russian satellite state) as a barrier between West Berlin and the surrounding GDR and hindered the emigration of East Germans into the West. It lasted from August, 1961 until November, 1989.
* **Bolsheviks**: split from Social Democrats. They were Marxists who favored a socialist party that was directed from the top by a small, elite core led by Lenin. Seized power after the October Revolution in 1917.
* **Brezhnev, Leonid** (1906-1982): the general secretary of the Soviet Union for 18 years. He is held responsible for the strong increase in Soviet military and global influence but also economic stagnation that led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
* **CFE Treaty**: the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe established limits on the amount of weaponry that both the NATO and the Warsaw Pact were allowed to own and called for the destruction of excess weaponry.
* **Chernobyl Disaster**: a nuclear power plant disaster that occured on the 26 April 1986 in Chernobyl, Ukraine. It contaminated large parts of eastern Europe with radioactive particles and is seen as the worst nuclear accident in history.
* **Collective Farming**: system for agricultural production where the the holdings of several farmers are unified into one large cooperation to make the agricultural sector more efficient. Stalin applied collective farming during his dictatorship and it was popular in many socialist states throughout the 20th century.
* **Comecon**: The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance was founded under the leadership of the Soviet Union together with the Eastern Bloc countries as well as several other Communist countries to improve the economic situations of the member states.
* **Cominform**: the Communist Information Bureau was an international forum of the communist movement that was Soviet-dominated and confirmed the creation of an Eastern Bloc.
* **Comintern**: Initiated in 1919, the Communist International was an organization that intended to overthrow the bourgeoisie and establish an international Soviet republic as a prestep to a society without a government. It was dissolved in 1935 by Stalin.
* **Command Economy**: an economy that lies in the hands of the party leading the country. Unlike the capitalistic system it does not follow the ethic of supply and demand but rather the party orders what has to be produced.
* **Communism**: extremist ideology that desires a classless, moneyless, stateless social system with common ownership of means of production where the workers rule. It succeeds the stage of socialism.
* **Congress of People’s Deputies of the USSR**: highest body of state authority from 1989 to 1991. It was installed by Gorbachev to achieve political reforms. It met twice a year to elect the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, which was a smaller legislative body that made most political decisions and changes.
* **Cuban Missile Crisis**: Known as one of the major confrontations during the Cold War, it was a 13 day dispute between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in Cuba that almost begann a nuclear war between the two. After the U.S. had tried to overthrow the Cuban government, Khrushchev wanted to store nuclear missiles there but the United States noticed this and wanted them removed. When the U.S. promised never to invade Cuba, the USSR removed their weapons.
* **Dekulakization**: A campaign of repression that took place from 1929-1931 that deported more than 1,8 million kulaks (wealthy peasants) who were considered “class enemies”.
* **De-Stalinization**: movement after Stalin’s death that aimed at reversing his policies.
* **Duma**: national parliament created in Russia in the aftermath of the revolution of 1905. It was progressively stripped of power during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II and ultimately failed to forestall further revolution.
* **February Revolution**: First part of the 1917 Revolutions. Centered in the Russian capital Petrograd (now St. Petersburg). It was a spontaneous peasant uprising that managed to overthrow Tsar Alexander II and install a Provisional Government for a Russian Republic.
* **Five Year Plan**: Nation-wide centralized economic plans constructed by the ruling party of a socialist state that aims at rapidly increasing productivity of economic sectors by setting goals for production that have to be kept. Stalin implemented the First Five Year Plan from 1928 to 1932 thereby installing a “revolution from above” to help Russia progress economically and get rid of backwardness. The Third Five Year Plan only lasted three years from 1938-1941 due to the German invasion into Russia.
* **Gorbachev, Mikhail** (1931-present): While being the General Secretary of the Communist Party from 1985 to 1991, he was also the last president of the Soviet Union. He initiated the perestroika and is seen as a responsible figure for the dissolution of the USSR.
* **Glasnost**: A political policy introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in the mid-1980’s that made Soviet politics more transparent and open.
* **Great Purges**: Brutal repressive measures applied by Joseph Stalin in the late 1930’s to get rid of any opposition. They included the Moscow Trials, a purge of the army and repressive measures against peasants.
* **KGB**: Committee for State Security of the USSR. It was the agency for internal security, intelligence and a secret police of the Soviet Union until its fall in 1991. It was notorious for its ruthless pursuit of anti-Soviets within the Union.
* **Khrushchev, Nikita** (1894-1971): first secretary of the Communist Party after Joseph Stalin. He carried out the movement of de-stalinization, helped the Soviet Union progress in its space program and slightly liberated domestic policies. He was removed from office in 1964.
* **Lenin’s New Economic Policy**: a capitalist-socialist hybrid in both the rural and urban areas that stimulated economic growth and brought Russia to the production level it had before World War One by 1928.
* **Lenin, Vladimir** (1870-1924): leader of the Bolsheviks during the October Revolution and afterwards the head of state in the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic aka Soviet Russia which was the core of the later Soviet Union. His adaptation of Marxism became known as Leninism.
* **Marx, Karl** (1818-1883): Prussian-German thinker who together with Friedrich Engels came up with the concept of class struggle where the country is divided into an owner-class that had power over the lower class due to capitalism (dictatorship of the proletariat) but that would ultimately lead to such inner tensions that it would be replaced by socialism (dictatorship of the proletariat) and if expanded further, to communism.
* **Mensheviks**: split from Social Democrats. Marxists who wanted a socialist party where the masses participated in all aspects of the party structure.
* **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact**: Officially known as the “Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Soviet Union”, this pact assured uninvolvement by Russia in the Second World War and forbade Germany to ally with Japan. It remained in effect until June 22, 1941, when Germany invaded Russia.
* **Moscow Trials**: A series of three show trials held in Moscow between 1936 and 1938 initiated by Stalin to kill any oppositional party members for crimes they had not committed. In the first trial 16 prominent former party leaders such as Grigory Zinoviev were sentenced to death, in the second 17 lesser figures known as the “anti-Soviet Trotskyite-centre” also recieved this sentence and after the third trial another 21 prominent political leaders died.
* **Nicholas II** (1868-1918): Last tsar of Russia. Was determined to rule with absolute authority. Relied heavily on the secret police and heavy-handed tactics to maintain order. Appointed a Duma. Lost his power in the revolutions of 1917 and was executed along with the rest of his family under the order of Lenin.
* **October Manifesto**: Manifesto issued in 1905 by Nicholas II in an attempt to reduce the amount of strikes and revolts by promising freedom of speech and assembly and installing the Duma.
* **October Revolution**: Second part of the 1917 Revolutions. Also known as the Bolshevik Revolution. It was an armed insurrection in Petrograd that overthrew the provisional government and gave power to the Bolsheviks.
* **Perestroika**: Literally translated it means “restructuring” and was a policy during the 1980’s mainly by Mikhail Gorbachev that was supposed to make socialism more efficient. It allowed independent actions by many different ministries and freed the market.
* **Prague Spring**: period of political liberalization in Czechoslovakia in 1968 led by Alexander Dubček. It was ended by the invasion of most states from the Warsaw Pact into the country that disliked the reforms that had been made.
* **Russian Civil War**: Started in November 1917 after Bolsheviks had seized claim to the government. Newspapers in favor of a constitutional monarchy called people to arms to save the revolution resulting in loyalist troops battling Bolshevik forces outside of Moscow. The opposing forces were the revolutionary “red” and the conservative “white” armies. Ended in 1922.
* **SALT**: Stategic Arms Limitation Talks. Two talks held between the United States and the Soviet Union about armament control. The first talk (SALT I) prescribed the allowed number of balistic missile launchers both countries could own but the second talk (SALT II) did not reach any mutual agreements.
* **Satellite States**: Countries that are officially independent but are controlled economically and politically by another. They often serve as a buffer zone between the controlling country and its enemies. During the Cold War the Soviet Union had numerous such states in eastern Europe.
* **Scorched Earth Policy**: Defensive strategy used by the Russian military during Hitler’s invasion in World War Two that helped Russia fight off the Germans. It consisted of completely destroying and evacuating the western agricultural areas of the Soviet Union so the invading armies froze and starved to death. It had also been used to defeat Napoleon Bonaparte in the 19th century.
* **Secret Speech**: A speech helt at the 20th Party Congress in 1956 in which Khrushchev denounced Stalin’s repressive policies and called for slightly more liberal future methods.
* **Soviet Union**: Also known as Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (USSR) was the constitutionally socialist state that was founded in 1922 and lasted until 1991. With Moscow as its capital, it consisted of 15 provinces and later several Satellite States, and was governed in a one-party system by the Communist Party throughout. It successfully fended off an invasion by the Third Reich in 1941 and was the opposing force of the United States of America during the Cold War.
* **Space Race**: Competition between the Soviet and United State’s space programs. It was sparked when the USSR launched the first satellite into orbit in 1957 and ended in 1975 when the two countries started their first cooperative space project with the Apollo-Soyuz Mission.
* **Stakhanovism**: a trend amongst workers that began during the second Five Year Plan where workers over-achieved their quotias through hard work or by applying strategies for more efficiency. It was named after Aleksei Stakhanov, a worker who mined 102 tons of coal in six hours.
* **Stalin, Joseph** (1878-1953) : became dictator of Soviet Russia after Lenin's death. Wanted to spread communism throughout the world. He brought Russia out of recession and forced rapid industrialization, Great Purges, and collectivization.
* **Three Calamities**: Problems Russia had suffered from when Stalin gained power. They are World War One, the Civil War and a weak economy due to War Communism.
* **Tsar**: Constervative, traditional emperor of Russia.
* **Trotsky, Leon** (1879-1940): Became member of the Bolsheviks in 1917, founded the red army during the Russian Civil War and was Stalin’s rival for power after Lenin’s death. His talent in speaking won him the support of the people and Lenin favoured him over Stalin but Stalin nevertheless managed to seize power and Trotsky had to flee the country
* **Virgin Lands Campaign**: Plan introduced by Khrushchev in 1953 with the aim of inceasing agricultural production by ordering the cultivation of 13 million hectares of untouched Russian land. It did succeed in its original purpose but did not reach its maximum potential that Khrushchev had wished for.
* **Warsaw Pact**: As the military complement to the Comecon, this was a mutual defense treaty between the Communist countries. It lasted from 1955 until 1991.
* **Yalta Conference**: A conference held by the heads of government from the USSR, Great Britain and the USA from February 4-11, 1945 in Yalta, Crimea to discuss Europe’s post-war reorganization.

Timeline:  
1917, February: February Revolution  
1917, March: Tsar Nicholas II abdicates and the Provisional Government is established  
1917, October: October Revolution  
1917, November: Russian Civil War begins  
1918, February: Separation of the church and state and Russia adopts the Gregorian Calender  
1918, March: Peace Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed, marking end of Russian participation in

WW1  
1918, July: Lenin’s constitution is ratified and Nicholas II and members of his family are

executed  
1918, November: End of WW1  
1919, March: Comintern is established  
1920, November: Russian Civil War ends  
1921: Lenin’s New Economic Policy begins  
1922, April; Joseph Stalin becomes secretary general and the USSR is proclaimed  
1924, January: Lenin dies after two strokes and the USSR constitution is ratified  
1926: Leon Trotsky is removed from his position as war commisar  
1927: Leon Trotsky and his followers are expelled from the party and Stalin seizes power  
1928: Stalin launches his First Five Year Plan  
1929: Collective Farming, industrialization and dekulakization begin  
1931: Dekulakization ends  
1933: USA recognizes USSR and the Second Five Year Plan is adopted  
1934: Soviet Union joins the League of Nations  
1935: Stakhanovism begins and the Comintern is dissolved  
1936, August: First Moscow Trial takes place starting the era of the Great Purges  
1937, January: Second Moscow Trial takes place  
1938, March: Third Moscow Trial takes place and Third Five Year Plan begins  
1938: Third Five Year Plan is launched  
1939, August: The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact is signed  
1939, September: The Second World War begins  
1940, June: Annexation of the baltic states Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania by the USSR  
1940, August: Leon Trotsky is murdered in Mexico  
1941, June: Germany invades Russia  
1943, January: German surrender at Stalingrad  
1945, February: Yalta Conference  
1946: Fourth Five Year Plan is adopted  
1947, September: Cominform is fouded in Poland  
1948: Czechoslovakia joins the Soviet Bloc  
1948, June: Yugoslavia is expelled from Cominform and the Berlin Blocade begins  
1949, January: Comecon is established  
1949, May: End of the Berlin Blocade  
1949, August: USSR tests its first atomic bomb  
1951: Fifth Five Year Plan begins  
1953, March: Joseph Stalin dies and Nikita Khrushchev becomes First Secretary  
1953: De-Stalinization begins  
1954: Khrushchev’s Virgin Lands Campaign begins and KGB is formed  
1955, May: Warsaw Pact is established  
1956, February: Khrushchev’s Secret Speech and Sixth Five Year Plan begins  
1957, October: First Sputnik 1 satellite is launched and the Space Race ensues  
1959: Khrushchev begins his Corn Campaign that was similar to the Virgin Lands Campaign  
1959: Seven Year Plan  
1961, August: Yuri Gagarin is the first man in space  
1961, October: Berlin Wall is built  
1962, October: Cuban Missile Crisis  
1964: Khrushchev is removed from office and Brezhnev becomes first secretary  
1966: Eighth Five Year Plan begins  
1968, January - August: Prague Spring resulting in invasion of Czechoslovakia by the USSR  
1971, February: Khrushchev dies and Ninth Five Year Plan begins  
1972, May: SALT I treaty is signed and SALT II negotiations begin  
1975, July: Apollo-Soyuz Mission ends the Space Race  
1976: Tenth Five Year Plan begins  
1977, November: Brezhnev Constitution is ratified  
1979, December: Soviet Union invades Afghanistan  
1980: 64 countries boycott the Summer Olympics in Moscow to protest against Afghanistan

invasion  
1981: Eleventh Five Year Plan begins  
1982, November: Brezhnev dies  
1983: Yuri Andropov becomes general secretary  
1984: Andropov dies and Konstantin Chernenko becomes general secretary  
1985: Chernenko dies and Mikhail Gorbachev becomes general secretary  
1985: begin of the Perestroika and Glasnost  
1986: Twelth Five Year Plan is adopted  
1986, April: Chernobyl Disaster occurs  
1988: Ethnic unrest in the Baltic Republics  
1988, May: Soviets begin pullout from Afghanistan  
1988, June: Gorbachev is elected president  
1989, March: first multi-candidate elections; Gorbachev wins  
1989, April: Georgia, Ukraine and the Baltic states demand independence  
1989, May: Congress of People’s Deputies of the Soviet Union begins reforms  
1989, November: The Berlin Wall falls  
1990, June: Declaration of Independence of Russia  
1990, November: CFE Treaty signed  
1991, December: independence of all Soviet republics

China 1927-1971

Key Terms:

* **Chiang Kai-shek** (1887-1975): He was leader of the socially conservative and nationalistic KMT or Nationalist Party in China since 1925 and tried to win over communist Mao in the Chinese Civil War. After his defeat in 1949, Chiang retreated to Taiwan, where he imposed martial law and established a dictatorship under his rule. Chiang persecuted critical journalists, politicians and instances during what was known as the “White Terror” years of his reign. Until his death in 1975 he was the secure ruler of Taiwan and sought to regain his party’s power in mainland China.
* **Chinese Civil War** (1927-1950): The Civil War represented the ideological split in Chinese politics, namely between the KMT’s nationalism and sympathy for the West and the CCP’s communist agenda. The last three years (1947-1950) are known as War of Liberation, since the eastern areas that Japan controlled during WWII were to be reclaimed and “liberated”, Mao and Chiang superficially cooperated during this period, but both of them tried to gather and mobilize their followers and supporters. Ultimately, the CCP proved to be the stronger one and the KMT was forced to retreat to Taiwan, where they could start a rightist dictatorship, meanwhile Mao became ruler of mainland China and declared it to be his People’s Republic.
* **Chinese Communist Party** (CCP): With Mao Zedong as its chairman, the party promised Marxist-Leninist world revolution, increased cooperation with USSR, land redistribution as well as help for rural proletariat. It aimed to end the “Three Big Mountains” capitalism, feudalism and bureaucratic-capitalism and heavily opposed Confucian and traditional Chinese hierarchies. Since their accession to power in 1949 until today, the party is the ruling elite in China and the only official one, trying to realize their political goals by centralizing state, military and media while heavily suppressing opposition.
* **Cultural Revolution**: time of destruction of traditional Chinese culture and establishments by the proletariat.
* **Deng Xiaoping** (1904-1997): Deng was politician as well as economical reformist leader of the CCP and led China towards a market economy. He did that by taking over the leadership of the CCP, directly after Mao’s death in 1976, and is responsible for China having been able to catch up with the rest of the world economy after Mao’s retrogressive and unbalanced reforms had gotten China’s economic development to a halt.
* **Great Leap Forward** (1958-1961): Economic and social campaign, which aimed to use China’s vast population to rapidly transform the country from agrarian economy into a modern communist society through rapid industrialization and collectivization. It ended in a disaster, and is one of the most deadly mass killings in history, resulting in an estimated total of excess deaths between 18 million and 45 million in just four years, mainly due to famine, systematic violence and inhumane working conditions.
* **Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution** (1966-1971): Following the catastrophe of the Great Leap Forward, Mao needed to regain power and support among the growingly skeptical people. The stated goal of this forced revolution was the to strengthen and enforce communist ideology in China by removing traditional, capitalistic and cultural elements from society’s everyday life, but also to impose the Maoist orthodoxy on the CCP. Fanatic groups like the Red Guards formed, terrorizing the public and obsessively enforcing the new movement; the country suffered from social and political paralysis during this period.
* **Kuomintag** (KMT), Nationalist Party: The oldest party in the Republic of China, which it helped found, has been forced out of Chinese government after the communist victory in the Chinese Civil War in 1949 and currently is the ruling party in Taiwan. With Chiang Kai-Shek as their leader, the party tried to enforce their western, nationalistic and capitalistic on mainland China with aid of the US, but failed to win against the Communist movement.
* **Maoism**: Mao Zedong’s teachings are collected under this term. Among many key concepts of Mao’s idea of communism is the role of the peasantry instead of the working class (like Marx saw it) as the revolutionary force able to transform the capitalistic society towards socialism. It encourages rural workers to mobilize and revolt against established institutions and has become famous for the idea that “Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun”. Manifested in the Little Red Book every Chinese was mandated to possess, it spread the basic ideas of communism (Class-free communities, state-owned business etc.) with the appliance to the economic, social and ideological conditions and structures in early 20th century China.
* **Mao Zedong** (1893-1976): Mao became Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and remained its leader until his death and is responsible for the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, following the Chinese Civil War, in which the communists won over nationalists, and marking the beginning of communist China, as it is preserved until today. He coined the term “Maoism” for his own way of implementing the communist ideology into a state and his understanding of the power structure of society. Often referred to as the #1 Mass Murderer in History, with up to 80 million deaths and executions, mainly due to famines, genocide and political opposition, Mao enjoys a rather tainted reputation among western historians while the cult of personality he fostered during his rule is still present in modern China.
* **Red Guards**: The executive of Mao’s will during the Cultural Revolution. Mostly consisting of teenagers, students and young workers, the Red Guards terrorized the public, spread Maoist propaganda and enforced the cultural laws of the Mao regime by destroying traditional public and personal properties, spotting, intimidating and beating up traitors to the ideology and dissidents.
* **100 Flowers Campaign** (1956-57): A period where CCP encouraged the Chinese people to publicly and openly announce their criticism of the system and regime. After this short period of liberalization, Mao’s policy changed abruptly and critics and rightists were sent to prison camps or were publicly discredited. It was an orchestrated campaign to flush out dissidents by encouraging them to show themselves as critical of the regime, and then subsequently imprison them, which led to a more unified socialist spirit in the Chinese people.

Timeline:  
1912: Proclamation of the Republic of China  
1937-1945: Anti-Japanese War when Japan tried to conquer China during World War Two  
1947-1959: War of Liberation and Peak of Chinese Civil War  
1949: Victory of Mao Zedong and the People’s Republic of China; nationalists forced into

exile  
1950: Chiang Kai-Shek becomes dictator of Taiwan  
1956-1959: 100 Flowers Campaign resulting in prosecution of critics  
1958-1961: Great Leap Forward  
1961: 18 to 45 million Chinese die due to famines or prosecution  
1966-1971: Great Proletariat Cultural Revolution  
1975: Death of Chiang Kai-Shek but Taiwanese one-party system remains  
1977: Deng Xiaoping initiates new plans for economy which led China to the industrial

country of today

Germany 1933-1989

Key Terms:  
*Nazi Germany (1933-1945)*

* **Aktion 1005**: ("Action 1005"), also called the Sonderaktion 1005 ("special action 1005") or Enterdungsaktion ("exhuming action"), was the 1942-44 secret Nazi operation for concealing evidence of their own largest mass-killings.
* **Laborers**: facetiously called "Sonderkommando 1005" – would be taken under guard to a closed death camp to clear the site of structures while a sub-unit, the "Leichenkommandos", were forced to exhume bodies from mass graves, burn the remains (usually on timber and iron-rail "roasts"), and sometimes to grind down larger bone pieces in portable bone-crusher mills. Some Einsatzgruppen mass graves were also cleared out.
* **Aktion Reinhard**: code name for the deadliest phase of the Final Solution, the creation of purpose-built extermination camps. Thought to be named for RSHA chief Reinhard Heydrich.
* **Arbeit macht frei:** "Work will set you free", an old German peasant saying, not invented by the Nazis. It was placed above the gate to Auschwitz by the commandant Rudolf Höß. The slogan which appeared on the gates of numerous Nazi death camps and concentration camps was not "true"; those sent to the camps certainly would not be freed in exchange for their hard labor.
* **Aryan**: the Germanic "master race" or Übermensch, according to Nazi doctrine, derives from terms such as Arisierung (Aryanization), Ehrenarier (Honorable Aryan) Ausrichtung (alignment) - favorite NS word, borrowed from military usage, for external and internal "normalization" of the movement's followers (Volk Comrade). External uniformity of dress corresponded to inner ideological alignment regarding NS goals.
* **Battle of Normandy**: one of the most important events in WWII in June 1944 as the Allied Forces injured the fabric of the Nazi army, hastening the destruction of Nazi Germany, securing the victory of democracy over totalitarianism.
* **Blitzkrieg**: lightning war – quick army invasions aided by tanks and airplanes.
* **Drittes Reich**: Third Reich or "Third Realm". Arthur Moeller van den Bruck coined this term for his book Das Dritte Reich published in 1923. The "Third Reich" was predicted as the next step beyond the "First Reich" (the Holy Roman Empire), 800-1806 beginning with Charlemagne, and the "Second Reich" (the German Empire, 1871–1918).
* **Endlösung**: "final solution”, euphemism alluding to the extermination of all opposition and Jewry.
* **Ermächtigungsgesetz**: "Law to Relieve the Distress of the People and State"; Enabling Act of March 23, 1933, which had the effect of suspending the Weimar Constitution and granting Hitler dictatorial powers.
* **Fascism**: A political ideology which emerged in Italy during World War I, fascism was based on authoritarian leadership, state power, militarism, a partly-managed economy and hostility toward both capitalism and socialism.
* **Führerprinzip**: the "leader principle", a central tenet of Nazism and Hitler's rule, based on absolute hierarchical authority and unquestioning obedience.
* **Functionalism**: Historiographical perspective of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. In contrast to intentionalists, functionalist historians argue that Hitler and the Nazis had no long-term plan; their decision-making was spontaneous, haphazard and made to fit particular circumstances – rather than being part of a ‘master plan’.
* **Germania**: Officially Welthauptstadt Germania; the name Hitler wanted for his proposed world capital city of Berlin—implying planned German dominance of much of the planet. Hitler began sketching grand buildings, memorials, and broad avenues in the 1920s. Architectural model, redevelopment plans, and structural testing by Albert Speer, forced evictions, and preliminary demolitions got underway in the mid-late 1930s. Wartime needs sidelined the project.
* **Himmler, Heinrich** (1900-1945): Reichsführer-SS and chief of the German police, who was highly responsible for the Holocaust and the Perajmos. Between 1943 and 1945, he acted as Minister of Interior Affairs.
* **Hitler, Adolf** (1889-1945): National Socialist anti-Semitic dictator of the German Reich from 1933 and 1945 with perversely romantic ideas of a pure and Jew-free German Empire.
* **Hitlerjugend**: The German youth organization founded by the Nazi Party (NSDAP). Made up of the Hitlerjugend proper, for male youth ages 14–18; the younger boys' section Deutsches Jungvolk for ages 10–13; and the girls' section Bund Deutscher Mädel (BDM). From 1936 membership in the HJ proper was compulsory.
* **Konzentrationslager (KZ)**: The correct abbreviation would be KL, but KZ was chosen for the tougher sound. Concentration camps were established for the internment of those who were declared "enemies of the volk community" by the SS. Nürnberger Gesetze, Nuremberg Laws - 1935 set of decrees which deprived Jews of German citizenship and placed strict restrictions on their lives and employment.
* **Reichsführer-SS**: title held by Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS Schutzstaffel. Equal on paper to the rank of Generalfeldmarschall, but in fact more akin to Reichsmarschall from 1942 onward as Himmler amassed ever greater power. Reichskristallnacht – Crystal Night; refers to the "Night of Broken Glass", November 9–10, 1938, when mob violence against Jewish people broke out all over Germany.
* **Reichsmordwoche, Nacht der langen Messer**: "State Murder Week, Night of the Long Knives" of June–July 1934 during which Hitler assassinated hundreds of party-internal opponents, especially the SA, which was decapitated of its leadership.
* **Reichsparteitage**: "State Party Days", referred to in English as the Nuremberg Rallies, Nazi party rallies, held annually in Nüremberg near the date of the autumn equinox before the outbreak of war in 1939. Joseph Goebbels said of the Nuremberg Rallies, "The Fuehrer and I consider ourselves artists and the German people are our canvas."
* **Schutzstaffel (SS)**: "Protection Squadron"; a major Nazi organization that grew from a small paramilitary unit that served as Hitler's personal body guard into militarily what was in practical terms the fourth branch of the Wehrmacht. It was not legally a part of the military (and therefore wore the national emblem on the left sleeve instead of over the right breast pocket). Made up of the following branches:
* Allgemeine-SS – "General SS", general main body of the Schutzstaffel made up of the full-time administrative, security, intelligence and police branches of the SS as well as the broader part-time membership which turned out for parades, rallies and "street actions" such as Kristallnacht; also comprised reserve and honorary members
* SS-Totenkopfverbände – "Death's Head Units", responsible for the concentration camps
* SS-Verfügungstruppe – military "dispositional" (i.e. at Hitler's personal disposal) troops organized by the SS in 1934
* Waffen-SS: "Armed SS", created in August 1940 with the amalgamation of the Verfügungstruppe, the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler (LSSAH) and the combat Standarten of the Totenkopfverbände.
* **Sturmabteilung (SA) "Storm Detachment" or "Battalion"**: the Stormtroopers, a Nazi paramilitary organisation that was instrumental in bringing Hitler to power; nicknamed the Brownshirts (Braunhemden) after their uniforms. The name originated with the Army's special assault battalions of World War I.
* **Unternehmen Walküre "Operation Valkyrie"**: Originally a Replacement Army emergency plan for maintaining order in the event of an internal revolt, it was quietly altered by a group officers led by Generaloberst Ludwig Beck, General d. I. Friedrich Olbricht and Oberst i. G. Claus von Stauffenberg into a plan to overthrow the Nazi regime following the assassination of Adolf Hitler. Launched on 20 July 1944, the plan failed and resulted in some 5,000 executions.
* **Volksgemeinschaft**: "People's Community"—a concept that means national solidarity; popular ethnic community; classless volk community.
* **Wannsee Conference**: a conference held on January 20, 1942 beside Lake Wannsee in Berlin in which it was decided and made official Nazi policy that the total annihilation of European Jews was the only rational means of a "Final Solution" to the Jewish Question.
* **Wehrmacht "Defence force"**: the name of the armed forces of Nazi Germany from 1935 to 1945. Prior to that time, the Reichswehr. Consisted of the Heer (Army), Kriegsmarine (Navy) and Luftwaffe (Air Force), but not the Waffen-SS or the Police even though they both fielded combat units during the war.
* **Z-Plan (or Plan-Z)**: the name given to the re-equipment and expansion of the Kriegsmarine (Nazi German Navy) as ordered by Adolf Hitler on 27 January 1939. The plan called for 10 battleships, four aircraft carriers, three battlecruisers, eight heavy cruisers, 44 light cruisers, 68 destroyers and 249 U-boats by 1944 that was meant to challenge the naval power of the United Kingdom. The outbreak of World War II in September 1939 came far too early to implement the plan.

*Post-war Germany (1945-1989)*

* **Allied Control Council**: also referred to as the Four Powers (Vier Mächte), was a military occupation governing body of the Allied Occupation Zones in Germany after the end of World War II in Europe. The members were the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom; France was later added with a vote, but had no duties.
* **Basic Treaty (Grundlagenvertrag)**: Treaty concerning the basis of relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. FRG and GDR recognized each other as sovereign states for the first time in 1972, an abandonment of West Germany's Hallstein Doctrine in favor of Ostpolitik.
* **Berlin Wall**: the barrier splitting Berlin into East and West and marking the borders between the Soviet-controlled Eastern bloc and West Berlin, which was completely surrounded by high concrete walls. Officially referred to as “Antifaschistischer Schutzwall” as a legitimization for the construction of this wall demarcating the borders of the Iron Curtain.
* **Besatzungszone**: a territory occupied by one of the Four Powers after 1945
* **Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BRD)**: West Germany: the state formed by Britain, France, and the USA in the West of Germany. It took on capitalist, democratic structures, according to the model of the modernized West. English: Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)
* **Consumer Socialism**: the new program featured in the Main Task, which was an effort to magnify the appeal of socialism by offering special consideration for the material needs of the working class. The state extensively revamped wage policy and gave more attention to increasing the availability of consumer goods.
* **Demontage**: These industrial plans for postwar Germany were designs the Allies considered imposing on Germany in the aftermath of World War II to reduce and manage Germany's industrial capacity.
* **Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR)**: the state within the Eastern bloc formed as a response to the establishment of West Germany and affirm the permanent separation of East and West. The GDR would take on Socialist ideologies combined with a state-controlled economy.
* **Deutschlandvertrag (General Treaty)**: a treaty between the Western Allies and the FRG, signed in 1954, formally ending Germany's status as an occupied territory and gives it the rights of a sovereign state, with certain restrictions that remained in place until German reunification.
* **Die Wende**: the complete process of the change from the rule of the SED and centrally planned economy to parliamentary democracy and market economy in the GDR around the years 1989 and 1990. It encompasses several processes and events which later have become synonymous with the overall process. These processes and events are:
* the Peaceful Revolution, a time of massive protest and demonstrations (Montagsdemonstrationen – "Monday demonstrations" and Alexanderplatz demonstration) against the political system of the GDR and for civil and human rights in the Fall of 1989.
* the Fall of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989 following a press conference held by the Politbüro during which Günter Schabowski announced the opening of the border checkpoints.
* the transition to democracy in East Germany following the Peaceful Revolution, leading to the only democratic elections to the Volkskammer in the GDR on 18 March 1990.
* **Entnazifizierung (Denazification)**: an Allied initiative to rid German and Austrian society, culture, press, economy, judiciary, and politics of any remnants of the National Socialist ideology. It was carried out specifically by removing those involved from positions of influence and by disbanding or rendering impotent the organizations associated with it. It included the banning of all sub-organizations of the NSDAP and the removal of all fascist symbols.
* **Four Powers Agreement on Berlin (1972)**: laid the foundation for a series of East-West agreements which ushered in the period usually known as Détente. It also reestablished ties between the two parts of Berlin, improved travel and communications between the two parts of the city and brought numerous improvements for the residents of the Western Sectors.
* **Freie Deutsche Jugend**: the official communist youth movement of the German Democratic Republic and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The organization was meant for young people, both male and female, between the ages of 14 and 25 and comprised about 75% of the young population of former East Germany. After being a member of the Thälmann Pioneers, which was for schoolchildren ages 6 to 14, East German youths would usually join the FDJ.
* **Hallstein Doctrine**: established that the Federal Republic would not establish or maintain diplomatic relations with any state that recognized the German Democratic Republic.
* **Honecker, Erich** (1912-1994): responsible for the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961 as part of the security committee. Succeeded Ulbricht as head of state and chairman of the council.
* **Iron Curtain**: a metaphor for the border of the Soviet Union’s range of influence to the American and Western range of influence. Germany served as the platform for this curtain after 1949.
* **Krenz, Egon** (1937-today): the last socialist leader of the GDR (In office from 10/1989-12/1989) Einigungsvertrag (Treaty of Unification) - 31 August 1990, the Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany on 12 September 1990 and finally the joining of the five re-established East German Länder to the Federal Republic of Germany.
* **Munich Massacre (1972)**: an attack that occurred during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Bavaria, in southern West Germany, when 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage and eventually killed, along with a German police officer, by the Palestinian group Black September.
* **Nationale Volksarmee (NVA)**: National army of the GDR from 1956 to 1990 New Economic System (NÖS) – An economic policy implemented by the SED in 1963 to reduce the wastage of raw materials, increase the level of mechanisation used in production methods and, most significantly, to create a system in which quality rather than quantity was foremost.
* **Nürnberger Prozesse (Nuremberg Trials)**: a series of military tribunals held by the Allied forces in 1945, prosecuting prominent members of the political, economic, and military leadership of Nazi Germany.
* **Oder-Neiße line**: the border between Germany and Poland which was drawn in the aftermath of World War II.
* **Ostpolitik**: refers to the relation normalization policies between the West and Eastern Europe, particularly the GDR, beginning in 1969.
* **Pieck, Wilhelm** (1867-1960): the only president of the GDR from 1949 to 1960. The position of presidency was later replaced by the State Council.
* **Politburo**: the executive committee for a communist party.
* **Potsdam Conference**: The post-war conference in 1945 in which the Four Powers split Germany into four occupation zones. This included the French, the British, the Russians, and the Americans. In time, Germans themselves began to play a role in the governing of these zones.
* **RAF (Rote Armee Fraktion)**: Germany's most prominent left-wing militant group founded in 1970 by Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin, Horst Mahler, and Ulrike Meinhof. The RAF described itself as a communist and anti-imperialist "urban guerrilla" group engaged in armed resistance against what they deemed to be a fascist state. As such, members of the RAF generally used the Marxist-Leninist term "Faction" when they wrote in English.
* **Republikflucht**: applies both to the mass desertion of millions who could leave the GDR rather easily before the Berlin Wall was erected on 13 August 1961, as well as those few thousands who made a dangerous attempt to cross over the Iron Curtain (e.g. the Berlin Wall, the Inner German border, or the western border of another country of the Eastern Bloc), or who managed to obtain temporary exit visas and subsequently did not return, from 1961 to 1989.
* **SED (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands)**: the governing party of the GDR from the formation of the Republic on 7 October 1949 until the 1989 revolution, which culminated in the free elections of March 1990. The SED was a communist party with a Marxist-Leninist ideology, considered to be Stalinist in the first years of the GDR's existence. Under its rule, the GDR functioned nominally as a multi-party state with elections that were neither free nor fair, with the SED playing a central leadership role. Other parties in alliance with the SED were the CDU, the FDP, the DBP, and the NDP. In the 1980s, the SED rejected the policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, such as perestroika and glasnost, maintaining its central role in governing the state.
* **Socialism**: refers to an economic system characterised by social ownership of the means of production and co-operative management of the economy. "Social ownership" may refer to cooperative enterprises, common ownership, state ownership, or citizen ownership of equity. There are many varieties of socialism and there is no single definition encapsulating all of them.
* **Stasi (The Ministry for State Security)**: the official state security service of the German Democratic Republic or GDR (informally known as East Germany). It has been described as one of the most effective and repressive intelligence and secret police agencies in the world. The Stasi was headquartered in East Berlin, with an extensive complex in Berlin-Lichtenberg and several smaller facilities throughout the city.
* **Stunde Null (Zero Hour)**: the point after WWII ended in 1945, when Germany ceased to exist as a state and the rebuilding of the country would begin
* **The Main Task**: introduced by Honecker in 1971, formulated domestic policy for the 1970s. The program re-emphasized Marxism-Leninism and the international class struggle. During this period, the SED launched a massive propaganda campaign to win citizens to its Soviet-style socialism and to restore the "worker" to prominence. The Main Task restated the economic goal of industrial progress, but this goal was to be achieved within the context of centralized state planning.
* **Treaty of Moscow (1970)**: the first of several friendship treaties between the FRG and the GDR. Both sides expressed their ambition to strive for a normalization of the relations between the European states while keeping international peace and to follow the guidelines of the article no.2 of the UN Charter.
* **Treaty of Warsaw (1970)**: a treaty in which both sides committed themselves to nonviolence and accepted the existing border—the Oder-Neisse line, imposed on Germany by the Allied powers at the 1945 Potsdam Conference following the end of World War II.
* **Ulbricht, Walter** (1893-1973): prime minister and general secretary of the SED. After Wilhelm Pieck’s death, chairman of the council, thus formally taking supreme power. He crushed all opposition and became so powerful that he was able to block the de-Stalinization movement that swept eastern Europe after the death of the Soviet dictator. He stayed head of state until his death in 1973.
* **Wirtschaftswunder**: the term describing the unusually fast and sustainable growth of the West German economy after the Second World War. A psychological milestone which pushed the trauma of the war into the background and is marked by investor readiness and improvement of living conditions.

Timeline:  
*1933-1945: Germany is under influence of Hitler and the NSDAP*

1933

* Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany
* Gleichschaltung destroys opposition parties and non-Nazi societies
* Reichstag Fire and the subsequent Reichstag Fire Decree the next day
* Enabling Act of 1933

1934

* Night of the Long Knives
* Death of President Hindenburg; Hitler pronounces himself Führer, adding the powers of the President

1935

* Rearmament begins
* Nürnberger Gesetze are declared

1936

* Re-militarisation of the Rhineland

1938

* Anschluss Germany absorbs Austria
* Kristallnacht, Jewish businesses and synagogues heavily damaged by Nazi mobs

*1939 - 1945: World War II*   
1939

* August Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact sets peaceful relations with USSR; agreement on splitting control of Poland and other countries in East Europe
* Sept. Invasion and quick conquest of Poland

1941

* Konrad Zuse builds his first computer, Z3

1942-1945

* Holocaust systematic killing of about 6 million Jews
* 1942-1944 Aktion 1005

1942

* Wannsee Conference plans Holocaust

1944

* Operation Valkyrie

*1945 - 1989: Germany is divided during the Cold War into West Germany and East Germany, as is Berlin*

1945

* Potsdam Conference, Allies settle German boundaries (Besatzungszone)
* Millions of refugees flee from eastern European and many are raped or killed
* Nürnberger Prozesse

1946

* First of the industrial plans for Germany is signed
* U.S. Restatement of Policy on Germany
* Party of Democratic Socialism formed

1948

* Deutsche Mark introduced
* Free Democratic Party (FDP) formed by businessmen

1948-1949

* Berlin Blockade, a Soviet attempt to shut down West Berlin; defeated by the Berlin Airlift of American and British supplies 1949
* German Democratic Republic and Federal Republic of Germany formed (see History of East Germany, Constitution of the German Democratic Republic and Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany)
* Christian Democratic Union of Germany founded
* Konrad Adenauer becomes first post-war Chancellor of Germany

1950s

* German economic miracle in West Germany (WiWu)

1951

* West Germany becomes one of the six founding members of the European Coal and Steel Community, later known as the European Union

1952

* Inner German border is fortified, except around Berlin
* General Treaty “Deutschlandvertrag”

1953

* Uprising of 1953 in East Germany

1954

* West Germany wins Football World Cup - The Miracle of Bern

1955

* Federal Republic joins NATO
* GDR joins Warsaw Pact controlled by Moscow

1956

* Establishment of the NVA

1961

* Berlin Wall is built to stop East Germans fleeing to the West

1963

* Introduction of the NÖS
* CDU/CSU economist Ludwig Erhard becomes Chancellor

1964

* National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) formed

1966-69

* CDU/CSU Kurt Georg Kiesinger becomes Chancellor in Grand Coalition  
  1967-68
* German student movement

1969

* Willy Brandt becomes Chancellor

1970

* Voting age lowered from 21 to 18
* Treaty of Moscow
* Treaty of Warsaw

1970s - 1998

* Red Army Faction operates

1971

* Four Power Agreement on Berlin

1972

* Basic Treaty between West and East Germany
* West Germany hosts the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich. Palestinian terrorists cause Munich Massacre

1973

* East and West Germany join United Nations

1974

* West Germany hosts and wins Football World Cup
* Helmut Schmidt becomes Chancellor

1982

* Helmut Kohl becomes Chancellor

1987

* First ever official visit by Erich Honecker to the Federal Republic of Germany

1989

* Monday demonstrations in Leipzig
* Berlin Wall falls

United States of America (1945-1991)

Key Terms:

**ABM** - Antiballistic missiles, designed to detect and intercept incoming nuclear missiles.

**Arms race** - Competitive buildup of nuclear weapons between the United States and Soviet Union that began after the Soviets exploded their first atomic weapon on August 29, 1949 -- ending the U.S. nuclear monopoly.

**Berlin Wall** - Built by the East Germany to prevent the escape of Germans into West Germany; this made the refugees free and conduced East Germany to failure because the only ones left were infants and the elderly.

**Berlin Blockade** - Stalin closes all railroads and highway that are en route to West Berlin. Only 3 air corridors allow passage, June 1948-May 1949.

**Berlin airlift** - Successful effort by the United States and Britain to ship by air 2.3 million tons of supplies to the residents of the Western-controlled sectors of Berlin from June 1948 to May 1949, in response to a Soviet blockade of all land and canal routes to the divided city.

**Broken arrow** - Any incident that includes the seizure, theft, loss or accidental destruction of a nuclear device.

**CIA** - Central Intelligence Agency, established in 1947 by Truman; conducts U.S. intelligence and counterintelligence missions overseas.

**Containment** - Western Nations seek to "contain" the ideas of communism from spreading through the world. US Foreign Policy.

**DEFCON -** System of defense conditions used by the U.S. military, ranging from DEFCON 5, the lowest state of alert, to DEFCON 1, indicating war.

**Detente** - A thaw in Cold War relations between the United States and Soviet Union from 1969-1975, highlighted by the signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) treaty and the Helsinki Accords.

**Eisenhower Doctrine** - Pledge by Eisenhower in 1957 to provide military and economic aid to any Middle Eastern country fighting communism.

**Fallout shelter** - Underground concrete structures, often stocked with food and water supplies, designed to withstand fallout from a nuclear attack; popular in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s.

**First strike capability** - The capacity to launch a nuclear strike without fear of a nuclear counterattack from the enemy; the United States enjoyed first strike capability over the Soviet Union until the late 1950s.

**GDR** - German Democratic Republic, or East Germany; it was proclaimed in October 1949 and encompassed the Soviet occupation zone in postwar Germany.

**Geneva Agreement** - Signed by the Soviet Union, United States, Afghanistan and Pakistan in 1988, it called on the Soviets to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan by February 1989.

**Hot line** - Direct phone line between Washington and Moscow established after the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Hungarian Revolution** - Mass uprising that began with reformist efforts by Hungarian Communist Party leader Imre Nagy; crushed by Soviet troops and tanks November 3-4, 1956.

**ICBM** - Intercontinental ballistic missiles; land-based nuclear weapons with a range of more than 3,500 miles.

**Iron Curtain** - Term used by Churchill in 1946 to describe the growing East-West divide in postwar Europe between communist and democratic nations.

**Jupiter** - Class of U.S. intermediate-range ballistic missiles developed in the 1950s by a team led by Wernher Von Braun, who developed V-1 and V-2 rockets for Nazi Germany.

**KGB** - Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti (Committee for State Security, former USSR)

**KOMSOMO**L - Communist organization for Soviet youths aged 14 to 28; patterned after the Communist Party, its goals were to indoctrinate and train future members.

**Limited Test Ban Treaty** - 1963 agreement signed by the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union that prohibited the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, space and underwater.

**MAD** - Mutual assured destruction, a Cold War theory in which the United States and Soviet Union each used its ability to launch a nuclear counterattack to deter a first strike from the other side.

**Marshall Plan** - Rebuilding the economies of Europe (West); prevents people from leaning towards communism; strong economies make communism less attractive.

**McCarthyism** - U.S. campaign to root out communists in government and society during the late 1940s and 1950s led by Sen. Joseph McCarthy; accusations were often based on rumors and half-truths.

**NATO** - North Atlantic Treaty Organization, begun in 1949 as a military and political alliance of European nations and the United States and Canada designed to protect Western Europe from a Soviet attack.

**NORAD** - Formed in 1958 by the United States and Canada and based in Colorado, the North American Aerospace Defense Command monitors the skies for an attack on the continent.

**Open Skies** - Proposal by Eisenhower to let the superpowers see each other's military blueprints and installations and place reconnaissance units in each other's territory. Khrushchev's rejection led to the U.S. deployment of the U-2 spy plane.

**Ostpolitik** - West German Chancellor Willy Brandt's "Eastern Policy" of improving ties with Soviet bloc nations; it led to treaties with Poland, the Soviet Union and East Germany and won Brandt the Nobel Peace Prize in 1971.

**Perestroika** - Gorbachev's policy of economic restructuring in the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

**Politburo -** Executive committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

**Quiet Diplomacy** - This is what is traditionally practiced by professional diplomats, normally those regularly accredited to governments in foreign capitals.

**Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty** - Started by the United States in the early 1950s in an effort to reach the people of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the service moved its headquarters from Munich to Prague in 1995 and now transmits 700 hours of programming weekly in 23 languages.

**Refusniks** - Soviet Jews and others who were denied exit visas and were persecuted for trying to leave the U.S.S.R.

**SALT** - Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in the late 1960s and '70s that led to the signing of the SALT accords in 1972 by Nixon and Brezhnev; SALT I limited each country's ballistic missile defense and froze the deployment of intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers.

**SDI -** Proposed by Ronald Reagan; use ground/space-based systems to protect US from attack by ballistic missiles.

**Truman Doctrine** - To protect democracy/capitalism, the USA will interfere economically/financially in countries that are threatened by socialism.

**U-2** - Spy plane capable of taking pictures from as high as 80,000 feet; it was heavily used for U.S. intelligence gathering before the development of satellite reconnaissance in the 1970s.

**U-2 Spy Plane Incident -** Soviets shot down a U-2 Spy Plane (US) and blamed America for spying on them. Soviets presented the pilot on National Soviet TV. USSR/US initiate a trade between the spies in Potsdam across a bridge.

**Vladivostok** - Signed by Ford and Brezhnev in 1974, the Vladivostok accords set a limit of 2,400 for the total offensive nuclear weapons each side could possess.

**Yalta** - Second meeting of the Big Three leaders, Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt; they met in the southern Russian town of Yalta February 4-11, 1945, to discuss the occupation of postwar Germany and Eastern Europe.

**Timeline of Key Events:**

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: 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

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: 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
* 1956: October - November -- Rebellion put down in Communist Hungary. Egypt took control of Suez Canal; U.S. refused to help take it back
* 1959: January -- Cuba taken over by Fidel Castro

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) in Cuba
* 1961: July -- Kennedy requests 25% spending increase for military
* 1961: August 13 -- Berlin border closed
* 1961: August 17 -- Construction of Berlin Wall begins
* 1962: -- U.S. involvement in Vietnam increased
* 1962: October -- Cuban Missile Crisis
* 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
* 1968: January -- North Korea captured U.S.S. *Pueblo* (still in possession)
* 1969: July 20 -- Apollo 11 lands on the moon

1970s

* 1970: April -- President Nixon extends Vietnam War to Cambodia
* 1972: July -- SALT I signed
* 1973: January -- Cease fire in Vietnam 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
* 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: November -- Berlin Wall falls
* 1989: December -- Communist governments fall in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Rumania; Soviet empire ends

1990s

* 1990: March -- Lithuania becomes independent
* 1990: May 29 -- Boris Yeltsin elected to presidency of Russia
* 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**

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