**The Cold War 1945-1991**

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# Conflicting Ideologies: 1917-1941

* 1917 – Bolshevik Revolution and start of Russian Civil War.
* 1918 – American and British forces land in Russia in support of the anti-communist whites in what became known as Churchill’s ‘Crusade on Communism’.
* April 1922 – Russia signs the Rapallo treaty, revoking the Treaty of Brest Litovsk.
* May 1927 – Diplomatic relations between Britain and the USSR are severed after MI5 raid the All-Russian Co-operative Society (ARCOS) and a soviet spy ring is discovered operating out of their building.
* November 16th 1933 – USSR is finally recognized by the USA.
* August 23rd 1939 – Molotov-Ribbentrop ‘Non-Aggression’ pact signed, dividing Poland and other Eastern European states into Nazi and Soviet ‘spheres of influence’.
* August 1941 – Atlantic Charter signed by Roosevelt and Churchill, defining British and American Post War aims. Neither power would seek territorial expansion; both would support the liberalization of international trade; both would establish freedom of the seas; both would commit to supporting self-determination and the restoration of self-governments in all sates occupied before and during the war.

# Tensions at Yalta: 4th – 11th February 1945

* USSR was only 40 miles away from Berlin.
* The unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany was made the main priority of all three powers.
* It was agreed that Germany would undergo Demilitarization and Denazification after the war.
* A reparation council would be established and located within the Soviet Union.
* Stalin was promised territorial concessions from Poland along the Curzon Line, to be compensated by similar concessions from Germany along the Oder-Neisse lines.
* Outlined the terms for the USSR’s entry into the pacific war within three months of defeating Germany, promising the restoration of Soviet territories lost to Japan in 1904, namely the Southern part of Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands.
* Germany and Berlin were to be divided into four zones, each controlled by a different state.
* A ‘Declaration on Liberated Europe’ was proposed by Roosevelt. Stalin promised to re-organise the Lublin Poles Government installed in Poland during the war and hold free democratic elections.
* “[Yalta] was not a case of what we would let them do, but what we could get them do” - Secretary of State James Byrnes.

# Relations between the ‘Big Three’: 1943-1945

* May 1943 – Comintern dissolved as an act of good faith on the USSR’s part.
* October 1943 – Moscow Foreign Ministers Conference between Britain, the USA, the USSR and China. Included Declarations on Italy; Austria, Atrocities; and four Nations on General Security (A follow up to the 1942 UN Declaration).
* November 28th – December 1st 1943 – Tehran conference took place between the USA, the USSR and Britain. Stalin demanded territorial concessions from Poland and refused to give up territories annexed from the Balkans in 1939, but also agreed to support the Allies in the Pacific. Against Churchill’s advisement, Normandy was chosen over the Balkans as the launch point for Operation Overlord and the opening of the Second Front.
* October 1944 – ‘Percentages Agreement’ gave Britain 90% of Greece; gave 90% of Romania and Bulgaria to the USSR; and divided Yugoslavia and Hungary equally between the two powers. The Agreement was never ratified.
* December 1944 – Franco-Soviet Treat of Alliance and Mutual Assistance.
* “I cannot feel the slightest trust or confidence in them. Force and Fact are their only realties” – Prime Minister Winston Churchill writing to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in April 1944.
* “Averell is right. We can’t do business with Stalin. He has broken every one of the promises he made at Yalta.” President Roosevelt confiding to Anna Rosenberg, regional director of the War Manpower Commission, on March 23, 1945, nineteen days before he died.
* Total Lend-Lease payments to the USSR amounted to $11 billion in materials, of which 17.5 tons came in the form of military equipment. The USSR offered to repay the USA $170 million of the $1.3 billion the USA asked for. Negotiations fell through, and the USA only received $2 million from the USSR in reverse Lend-Lease.
* April 12th 1945 – Roosevelt passed away, and was replaced by Harry S. Truman.

# Potsdam Conference: 17th July – 1st August 1945

* July 16th – USA successfully tested their first Atomic bomb.
* July 26th – Clement Atlee replaced Winston Churchill as British Prime Minister.
* Potsdam Agreement – Sanctioned the shift in Poland’s frontiers along the Curzon and Oder-Neisse lines; established the Council of Foreign Ministers; sanctioned the Denazification, Demilitarization and Decentralisation of Germany; declared that Germany would remain a single economic unit; declared that the USA and Britain would exchange 10% of their reparations for 15% of Soviet food and raw materials.
* Potsdam Declaration – Outlined the terms for the Unconditional surrender of Japan, promising the "prompt and utter destruction" of Japan should they not agree whilst granting the USA sole occupancy of Japan post-victory. Signed by the USA, Britain and China.

# Relations between Truman, Stalin and Attlee: 1945-1946

* As part of his ‘Get Tough’ Policy towards the USSR, Truman replaced any members of his administration that did not conform to his views. Henry Wallace was sacked in September 1946 for criticising the ‘Get Tough’ Policy, and in January 1947 Secretary of State James Byrnes was replaced by George Marshall.
* Stalin refused to be lenient towards Italy, threatening to Annex Libya, an Italian Colony. Italy was fined $360 million, of which the USSR received $100 million in reparations.
* April 25th – June 26th 1945 – UN Conference on International Organisation in San Francisco leads to the conception of the UN Charter.
* January 24th 1946 – UN Atomic Energy Commission founded.
* March 1st 1946 – Soviet Union fails to withdraw from Iran by the agreed upon deadline. The USA takes the issue to the UN and the Soviets withdraw by May 1946.
* June 1946 - Truman proposes the ‘Baruch plan’. It is rejected by the Soviets and fails to go through.
* July 1946 – Clifford-Elsey report is published, confirming the Cold War consensus i.e. that the world was divided into two camps; capitalists and communists; and the Soviets ultimate goal was that of world domination.
* August 1st 1946 – Truman signs the McMahon Act, prohibiting the sharing of any information regarding America’s Atomic Energy programmes.
* 1946 – USA gave $12 million in aid to the Greek Monarchists, and a further $100 million to Turkey.
* 1948 – Strategic Air Command established to provide 24-hour readiness in the event of a nuclear strike against the USA.

# Soviet Actions in Eastern Europe: 1940-1949

* April-May 1940 – Katyn Woods Massacre saw 4000 Polish officers killed and a further 11,000 go missing. By the end of the war an estimated 2 million German women had been raped by the Red Army.
* 25 million Russians had been killed during the war, with ¼ of capital resources being destroyed, and agricultural output having halved.
* May 1945 – Tito’s forces marched upon Trieste, a disputed region with Italy. The USA protested to the USSR and Stalin ordered Tito to withdraw.
* June 28th 1945 – In line with his promises at Yalta, Stalin had the Lublin puppet government in Poland transformed into the Provisional Government of National Unity, containing multiple parties from across the political spectrum.
* 1946 – The Communist Party received 38% of the popular vote in Czechoslovakia’s free elections.
* January 1947 – The Polish Communists were merged with the Polish Socialists to become the dominant political party in Poland.
* 1948 – Polish Deputy Prime Minister Wladyslaw Gomulka spoke out against the Soviets and was subsequently replaced by Pro-Soviet Boleslaw Beirut.
* September 1947 – Cominform is founded in response to the Marshall Plan and the 1946 Zhdanov Doctrine, the latter of which suggested the world had divided into two camps: The American Imperialists and the Democratic Soviets. The Molotov Plan was developed to provide economic assistance to the Eastern Bloc, and COMECON was established to promote Trade Agreements.
* September 26th 1947 – Bulgarian Agrarian Party leader Nikola Petrov executed for espionage.
* October 1947 – Bulgarian Agrarian Party won 20% of the popular vote in the October elections.
* February 1948 – Stalin approved a pro-communist coup in Czechoslovakia to remove all opposition to Moscow.
* June 1948 – Edward Benes resigns as leader of Czechoslovakia, leaving pro-Moscow communists in control.
* June 1948 – Yugoslavia is expelled from Cominform.
* October 15th 1949 – Hungarian Communist Minister Lazlo Rajk executed for ‘Anti-Soviet’ activities.
* 1950 – 15 million had emigrated to the West from the Eastern Bloc.
* 1947-1952 – 350 intellectuals had been purged in Hungary.
* 1945-1953 – Soviets received $14 billion in net transfers from the Eastern Bloc. No promotions to higher ranks were made within the USSR. Between 1947 and 1952 the Politburo never met.
* 1953 – Trade with the Eastern Bloc made up 37% of the USSR’s international trade.

# Kennan’s Long Telegram: February 22nd 1946

* Kennan had lived in Moscow since 1933 as a second ranking officer to the US embassy. He was a string anti-communist and believed that the USA needed to stop “babying the Soviets”.
* “They have learned to seek security only in patient but deadly struggle for total destruction of rival power”.
* “In the name of Marxism they sacrificed every single ethical value in their methods and tactics”.
* “In the long run there can be no permanent peaceful coexistence”.
* Subsequent ‘X’ article called for the systematic focused containment of Soviet expansionism. The Telegram was received as a “splendid analysis”
* Kennan predicted a number of Soviet policies: Increasing strength via armament; participation in international organisations; weakening capitalist influences; development if Soviet representation in other countries; and a strive towards autarky.

# Iron Curtain Speech: March 6th 1946

* Delivered in Truman’s home town: Fulton, Missouri.
* “What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their powers and doctrines”
* Stalin responded in Pravda ten days later.
* By 1946 opinion polls in America showed a decline from 55% - 35% in the number of Americans who trusted USSR.

# Greek Civil War and The Truman Doctrine: February-March 1947

* February 1947 – Britain declares it can no longer support the Monarchists against the Greek Communists in the Greek Civil War.
* March 12th 1947 – Truman announces his Doctrine on Containment in an attempt to deter Stalin from entering the Greek Civil War. The Doctrine led to Congress approving Truman’s request for $400 million in economic aid for Greece and Turkey.
* September 18th 1947 – CIA founded.

# Marshall Plan: 1947-1952

* May 1947 – Under Secretary of State Clayton and Kennan’s Policy Planning staff it was concluded that the key problem facing Europe was the Economic Devastation Caused by the Second World War.
* June 5th 1947 – George Marshall announces the European Recovery Programme. The ERP took up 10% of US Government spending.
* 1947-1952 – Marshall aid provides $13.5 billion in aid to European countries, of which 70% was spent on US exports.
* 1947 – In reward for not accepting American Marshall Aid, Stalin rewarded Poland with $4.4 billion and 200,000 tons of grain.
* The average economic output of Marshall Aid recipients rose by 35%.
* West Germany received 11% of all Marshall aid, whilst France received $4.7 million in response to the 1.7 million members of the French Communist party in 1947.
* 1948 – In Italy the CIA promoted Marshall Aid through Operation Bambi, a series of puppet shows. The CIA funded the Italian Cristian Democrats, by subsidising anti-communist newspapers and distributing American grain amongst peasants from trucks decorated in American liveries.

# Tensions in Germany: 1946-1949

* Each zone was coordinated via the Allied Control Committee.
* The Soviet Zone consisted of four parties: The Communists (KPD); Social Democrats (SPD); Liberals (LDPD); and Christian Democrats (CDU).
* February 1946 – The SPD and KPD were forcibly merged into the German Socialist Unity Party by the Soviet Military Association, a move which violated ACC policy and faced by much opposition from within the SPD.
* Other Unilateral policies were carried out, including Land Reform; Nationalisation of industrial production; and the compulsory tuition of Russian in German Schools.
* The British Zone had a population of 22.5 million and included the port of Hamburg and the Ruhr, the industrial heart of Germany. As such it was considered the centre of economic recovery in Germany. However, it was expensive for Britain to feed and uphold its region. Not wishing for it to fall under French/Soviet influence, Britain became more open to merging its zone with the US’s into Bizonia.
* May 1946 – Reparation payments to the Soviet zone are halted after delays in the delivery of raw materials from the Soviets.
* June 1946 – Loan negotiations completely broke down after the USSR refused to lift Eastern European trade barriers and compensate the USA for assets seized in Bulgaria and Romania
* August 26th 1946 – Britain’s Military Governor created the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.
* January 1947 – Bizonia formed
* Spring 1947 - Lucius Clay, deputy for the Office of Military Government, United States (OMGUS) had refused Soviet demands for the Ruhr to be placed under joint allied control; the continued depravation of German people in the British and American Zones; and the centralisation of Germany.
* September 1947 – West Germany given control over its coal production.
* March 1947 – Moscow Foreign Ministers Conference failed to resolve growing tensions over Bizonia and the formation of a centralised state of Germany.
* November 1947 – London Foreign Ministers Conference again failed to resolve tensions and alleviate the Society’s desire to centralise.
* June 7th 1948 – London Conference, held between Britain, France, the USA and the Benelux states concluded that West Germany should have its own constituent assembly and subsequently led to the USSR’s withdrawal from the ACC.
* June 23rd 1948 – Deutschmark was introduced into West Germany.
* June 24th 1948 – Stalin commenced the Berlin Blockade.
* Allied aircraft supplied West Berlin with 9000 tons of supplies daily in 272,000 flights.
* April 4th 1949 – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) formed as an alliance between non-communist states, which Soviet ambassador to the United States Alexander Panyushkin called an “aggressive organisation”.
* May 12th 1949 – The Berlin Blockade was halted.
* May 23rd 1949 - West Germany (FRG) was formally established under the leadership of Konrad Adenauer, under an occupation statute that created a High Commission in which Britain, France and the USA authority over the country’s final decisions.
* October 1949 – East Germany (GDR) was founded under the SED as the party of voter’s choice.

# Containment in Asian: Japan, 1945-1954

* August 6th & 9th 1945 – Atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively
* August 9th 1945 – Honouring his promises from Tehran and Yalta, Stalin declared war on Japan and sent an army of 1,577,225 men into Manchuria, precisely three months after the surrender of Germany to the USSR.
* August 15th 1945 – Japan surrendered to the Allies.
* 1946-1949 – The USA provided Japan with $500 million in aid per annum as a part of the ‘Reverse Course’ policy adopted towards the rehabilitation of Japan.
* December 1949 – NSC 48/1 called for a positive policy towards communist states in South East Asia, seeking to establish a trade triangle between the USA, Japan and South East Asia.
* 1949 – General MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers (SCAP) was given directives to stabilise Japan’s economic rehabilitation. This included: Trade regulation; A balanced budget; Education reform; Wage controls; and Price controls.
* Joseph Dodge was appointed as Economic Advisor to SCAP and given responsibility over the implementation of MacArthur’s plan. Alongside Japanese Finance Minister Hayato Ikeda, he set a target surplus of 157 million Yen/$4 million, termed the ‘Super Balanced Budget’.
* Japan was forced to join the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), providing access to trade with western allies whilst prohibiting trade with China.
* September 1951 – San Francisco Treaty was signed by John Foster Dulles and Shigeru Yoshida. The Treaty did not: Infringe upon Japan’s sovereignty; restrict its future political model; place blame on Japan for the Second World War; or limit rearmament. The treaty did however make Japan renounce their claim over the Kurile and Paracel islands (though it did not assert Soviet jurisdiction over the former either). The USSR and China were the only two allies to not sign the Treaty.
* The treaty was accompanied by the US-Japan Security Treaty. This gave the USA unrestricted access to Japanese military bases; control over Okinawa; and the right to interfere in any internal dispute with military force and Veto Japanese offerings of military bases to other nations.
* MacArthur ordered the establishment of a 75,000 strong National Police reserve, to be trained by US personnel.
* August 1952 – Japan established a force of 110,000 ground troops and 7600 maritime personnel under the Nation Safety Agency.
* July 1954 – A 140,000 strong Self-Defence force was created, supported by US funding to the tune of $240 million.

# Policies towards China and Taiwan: 1945-1950

* September 1945 – 50,000 US Marines sent to Northern China to secure transport routes for Chinese Nationalists.
* July 30th 1949 – Dean Acheson’s ‘white paper’ declares the loss of China inevitable, and commits the USA to continuing support for Jiang Jieshi in a covert manner. The USA had spent $3 billion funding the Chinese Nationalists, having trained 500,000 of their troops.
* October 1st 1949 – Mao Zedong creates the People’s Republic of China.
* January 12th 1950 – Acheson omits South Korea and Taiwan from his Defensive Perimeter Strategy in a speech to the National Press Club.
* February 15th 1950 – The Sino-Soviet Treaty was signed, with the CCP having announced its allegiance to Stalin in June. Attached to the Treaty was a $300 million loan.
* August 29th 1949 – USSR successfully test their first atomic bomb.
* April 1950 – NSC-68 calls upon for the expansion of the USA’s conventional armed forces in response to the growing strength of communist forces in the far east, following a largely apathetic policy towards the region by Truman in an attempt his attempts to redirect military spending on domestic policy and reduce taxation.

# Build-up to the Korean War: August 1945-May 1950

* August 1945 – Korea is placed under US-Soviet trusteeship following the removal of Japanese rule, as proposed at Yalta and Sanctioned by Potsdam.
* December 1945 – Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers establishes the US-Soviet Joint Commission, dividing Korea along the 38th parallel.
* Korean Political Parties: NKPC (Northern Communists) – October 1945; KPR (Diverse, anti-Japanese) – 1945; KDP (Japanese collaborators) – September 1945; KPG (Pro-Gov led by Syngman Rhee, anti-Japanese) 1919; and KCP (Southern Communists).
* February 1946 – Rhee founded the anti-trusteeship Representative Democratic Council (RDC), which included all political parties in the South except for the Korean People’s Republicans, whose popularity was overshadowed by their socialist ties. In response, Kim Il Sung founded the North Korean Interim People’s Committee.
* May 1947 – USA and USSR agree to exclude any party opposed to the Moscow Accords from reunification elections.
* 1947 - United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK) founded. The organisation prevented the USA from holding separate election in the South, and was not even recognized by the Soviets in North.
* 1947 – Kim Il Sung purged the Domestic Communists.
* June 1947 – Truman refuses to disqualify the RDC from elections despite Kim Il Sung and Stalin’s persistence.
* August 1947 – Stalin rejects Truman’s proposal to hold secret elections, knowing that the North would lose (North Korea had a population of 8 million, South Korea had a population of 20 million).
* 1948 – Kim Il Sung absorbs the North Korean Workers Party, led by famed Pak Yon Hon, an anti-Japanese rebel.
* August 1948 – USA establishes the Capitalist Republic of Korea in the South under leadership of Syngman Rhee, who “has always refused to deal with the communists”.
* August 15th 1948 – The Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG) is formed to train and organise the South Korean military under US supervision.
* September 1948 – The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is founded in the North, led by Kim Il Sung, leader of the North Korean Provisional People’s Committee. Founded in October 1945, the NKCP emerged as the dominant political party in the North.
* In the North, Kim Il Sung relied upon People’s Committees (made up of peasant and workers) to allocate and appoint leadership positions.
* In the South, Kim Il Sung had 200,000 communist supporters who he used to create instability. By 1949, Rhee was convinced that an invasion could successfully be mounted against the North.
* March 1949 – Stalin rejected Kim Il Sung’s proposal to invade the south, where 7500 American troops were still stationed.
* December 1949 – All remaining American troops were withdrawn from South Korea.
* February 1950 – South Korea receives $150 million in economic aid delayed from 1948.
* February 1950 – Stalin gives North Korea 1600 artillery pieces; 178 Military aircraft and 258 T-34 Tanks, but refused to commit any ground troops in April. This added to the NKPA’s force of 135,000 troops, 36 Yak-9 Planes and 5 airfields, 4 of which were located along the 38th parallel.
* May 1950 – National Assembly elections suggested the support for Rhee had diminished.

# Outbreak and resolution of the Korean War: June 1950-July 1953

* June 25th 1950 – North Korea invades South Korea and UN passes a resolution 9-0 stating that the NKPA must cease hostilities. Blair House Meeting called for the evacuation of all US personnel’s families; deployed the Air Force and Navy to defend Rhee’s government and the 580 remaining US advisors; drafted troops from Japan; and had the 7th fleet repositioned off the coast of Taiwan to deter Chinese aggression.
* 27th June – Seoul, capital of South Korea fell to the NKPA and a second UN resolution was passed calling for intervention by the US Joint Command Force to intervene. 29 UN members pledged military, economic and medical support, and Truman was made executive agent for the UN Security Council, with General MacArthur acting as commander in the field.
* October 1950 – 300,000 Chinese troops were sent into North Korea via the Yalu River.
* February 1951 - The UN condemned China as an aggressor in the conflict.
* April 1951 – MacArthur was dismissed by Truman after advocating for the use of nuclear weapons against North Korea.
* July 1951 – Armistice negotiations commenced.
* March 1953 – Stalin died and was replaced by Georgy Malenkov.
* July 27th 1953 – The Panmunjom Armistice declared that there was to be a military demarcation with a demilitarized line that ran 2km either side along the 38th parallel roughly; all forces were to withdraw to their respective nations; and the repatriation of POWs would begin. USA had suffered 130,000 casualties.
* “Communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations” – Harry S. Truman, President of the USA.

# McCarthyism in the USA: 1945-1951

* 1945 – The House of Un-American Activity was made permanent, investigating the infiltration of communism into American society, often attacking innocent high-profile individuals as a means of scaremongering.
* January 21st 1950 – Alger Hiss convicted of perjury in regards to passing on information to the USSR.
* January 24th 1950 – Klaus Fuchs is convicted of spying on the Manhattan Project for the Soviet Union.
* February 1950 – Senator McCarthy claimed to have a list consisting of the names of 57 individuals influencing US policy making who were in fact loyal Communists.
* May 3rd 1950 – 1400 people celebrated a day under communism in Mosinee, Wisconsin.
* 1954 – McCarthy claimed that the US Army had been infiltrated. He was subsequently coted out of the Senate having brought the body into disrepute in December.
* June 1951 – US Supreme Court upholds the conviction of the US Communist Party under the Smith Act.
* McCarthy attacked Truman’s inability to contain Communism successfully, particularly in South East Asia. As such, an emphasis was placed on South East Asian in American foreign policy.
* The new extremes the USA were willing to go to made Britain less willing to commit themselves past what was necessary to maintain ties with USA.

# Dominance in the UN: 1945-1949

* Of the 50 original members, 20 were capitalist states.
* Many Middle Eastern members were also Pro-Western: Iran; Iraq; and Egypt.
* Many Western European and other allies were also present, including Greece; India; Canada; Australia; and New Zealand – many of these states would be recipients of Marshall Aid.
* The lack of de-colonisation efforts at the time of the UN’s formation limited the presence of any non-aligned/Pro-Soviet states.
* Poland was the only Eastern European state to have joined the UN assembly in 1945. Of the 16 Soviet states that Stalin requested be given seats, only Ukraine and Belorussia were given their own seats in the General Assembly.
* In the Security, the power of the Veto was used by the USSR 75 times, whilst China only used it 1 time, and France used it 2 times.
* In 1949, the People’s Republic of China was denied a seat in the UN in place of the exiled Government based in Taiwan. As a result of this, the USSR boycotted the UN Security Council.

# Non-Alignment: June 1948-October 1956

* “To tilt without toppling” – Historian John Lewis Gaddis.
* June 1948 – Following his expulsion from Cominform, Josip Bronz Tito made Yugoslavia the world’s first non-aligned state.
* The US 6th was operating just off the coast of Yugoslavia, and Tito happily accepted US aid so long as he did not become too dependent on the USA.
* “He may be a son of a bitch, but he’s our son of bitch” – Dean Acheson on Tito.
* In 1954, he accepted apologies by Khrushchev for Stalin’s actions. In 1956, Khrushchev made a dangerous plane journey to Yugoslavia to seek Tito’s approval before suppressing the Hungarian Uprising.
* Following India’s independence in and split with Pakistan in 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru maintained India’s non-alignment in the Cold War. He rebuked America and Pakistan, the latter of whom had joined both SEATO and CENTO, whilst not taking a side in Cold War.
* In China, non-alignment was supported by Zhou Enlai, who did not want China to become too dependent on the USSR as their sole means of support against the US backed nationalists in Taiwan.
* April 1955 – First non-aligned states conference took place in Bandung, Indonesia. Colonel Nasser of Egypt was also invited.
* Nasser persuaded the USA to offer funding for the construction of the Aswan High Dam. Britain and the USA offered a loan of $270 million in exchange for Nasser resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. Realising this was unfeasible, Nasser turned to Khrushchev.
* September 27th 1955 – Having rejected the USA and Britain’s offers to finance the construction of the Dam, Nasser negotiated an arms deal with Czechoslovakia.
* December 1955 – Britain and the USA offered Nasser $14 million and $56 million respectively.
* June 1956 – USSR offered Nasser $1.12 billion at 2% interest for the construction of the dam.
* July 19th 1956 – Britain and the USA retracted their financial offers, having all been rejected by Nasser.
* July 16th 1956 – Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal.
* October 29th- November 7th 1956 – Suez Canal Crisis: France, Israel and Britain the Suez Canal fearing that Nasser would restrict their access routes. Khrushchev threatened to use nuclear weapons against the three invading states should they not withdraw, and facing condemnation from Eisenhower, they withdrew.
* 1958 – USSR commenced funding for the Dam.

# Cold War Alliances: November 1949-May 1956

* November 1949 – The FRG joined the Council of Europe, giving them direct representation in the Organisation of European Economic Cooperation.
* May 1952 – The General Treaty was signed, granting the FRG full sovereignty.
* 1953 – NATO banned the trade of military equipment to the USSR.
* September 8th 1954 – The South East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) founded by John Foster Dulles as a collective security organisation, in response to Khrushchev’s visits to China in May 1953 and promise to supply China with defence related technology.
* SEATO consisted of many South East Asian states as well as Britain and Australia, but also excluded states such as Burma, South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, all of whom were at risk of falling to communism.
* May 1955 – The FRG was admitted into NATO.
* May 14th 1955 – Warsaw Pact formed as a collective security strategy and was technically a non-threatening alliance of Eastern European states, consolidating political and economic ties between the USSR and its satellite states.
* May 1956 – The FRG was permitted to rearm, building an army of 170,000 by 1962.

# Eisenhower and Brinksmanship: November 1952-January 1955

* 1950 – A government report suggested that in the event of nuclear war with the USSR, 65% of the American population would require medical assistance.
* November 1952 – Eisenhower is elected as President of the United States.
* The ‘New Look’ Policy sought to surpass containment by actively enforcing the principles of liberating nations from communism, rather than just preventing its spread.
* 15th-19th August 1953 – Iranian Coup D’état was financed by the CIA to protect the USA’s oil interests after democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh attempted to reform and nationalize the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. After Iran signed the Oil Consortium Deal in 1954, the USA provided a further $40 million.
* October 1953 – NSC 162/2 asserted that the best way to deter communist aggression was to display the determination to use absolute force where necessary in any given situation.
* January 12th 1954 – Dulles coins the term “Massive Retaliation”.
* Dulles was pro-diplomacy, flying 500,000 miles around the world as Secretary of State. In 1950, he published ‘War or Peace’, an open criticism of containment.
* “Results too horrible to contemplate” & “exactly as you would use a bullet” – President Eisenhower’s Clausewitzian views on nuclear weapons.
* NATO only had 2.6 million ground troops, 13,000 tanks and 10,750 artillery units, compared to the Warsaw Pact’s 4 million, 42,500, and 31,500 respectively.
* “Like sausages” & “We threatened with missiles we didn’t really have” – Khrushchev and his son Sergei reflecting on Soviet attitudes towards the status of their nuclear arsenal.
* 1954 – Eisenhower explains his ‘domino theory’ at a press conference whilst justifying America’s support for France in Indochina.
* September 1954 – China begins bombarding of Taiwan. Dulles resolves the Quemoy & Matsu/Taiwan Strait Crisis by threatening China with nuclear force should they fail to desist, having withdrawn the 7th fleet.
* January 29th 1955 – Formosa Resolution gave Eisenhower the Authority to defend Taiwan.
* January 16th 1956 – Dulles defines brinksmanship.
* January 1957 – Eisenhower Doctrine promised “aid against overt armed aggression from any nation controlled by international communism”.
* 1958 – USA sent 15,000 troops to Lebanon following President Chamoun’s request for support against his communist opposition.

# Guatemalan Coup d’état: 19th-27th June 1954

* Saw the democratically elected Jacobo Arbenz overthrown in a US sponsored military coup. Prior to his reforms, which included the legitimization of the Communist Party, 3% of the population owned 90% of the land. In his land reforms, 1 million acres of United Fruit Company land were redistributed. Arbenz went on to by arms from Albania.
* Received between $5-7 million dollars in CIA funding, having been granted £2.7 million.
* Came about following lobbying efforts by the US owned United Fruit Company, which held a monopoly on the exportation of fruits in Guatemala, and controlled the countries ports and rail transportation systems.
* Would lead to the genocide of the Native Maya people, with 166,000 people being killed under US backed Authoritarian regimes over the next 30 years.

# Indochina and the Geneva Conference: 1950-1954

* 1950 – Ho Chi Minh declares the existence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.
* 1952 – France had suffered 90,000 casualties.
* 1954 – USA shouldered 75% of the total costs, spending $1 billion and providing 300,000 units of light munitions.
* May 1954 – France lost the battle of Dien Bien Phu.
* July 1954 – The Geneva Conference paved way for a ceasefire. Vietnam was divided along the 17th parallel with elections to take place in 2 years’ time. The USA and new southern regimen led by Ngo Dinh Diem refused to sign the treaty.

# Khrushchev and Peaceful Coexistence: February 1956-November 1956

* 1955 – Soviet troops were withdrawn from the Neutral Finland.
* February 25th 1956 – Khrushchev delivers his ‘Secret Speech’ to 1500 Communist leaders at the 20th Congress, calling for peaceful coexistence and destalinization.
* “Indeed there are only two ways: either peaceful coexistence or the most devastating war in history” – Khrushchev during his ‘Secret Speech’.
* April 1956 – Khrushchev visits UK.
* June 28th 1956 – Worker’s go on strike in Poland protesting wage cuts and poor working conditions. The strike escalates into an armed uprising.
* October 1956 – Wladyslaw Gomulka was elected First Secretary of the Polish United Workers Party.
* Gomulka met with Khrushchev, who threatened military intervention should Gomulka refuse to cooperate. A compromise was met, and Gomulka was allowed to remain First Secretary so long Poland remained a part of the Warsaw Pact and Gomulka did not institute any reforms that would undermine communist rule in Poland or the Soviet Bloc. Despite having Soviet troops ready to move on Warsaw, so such maneuverer was made. The peaceful resolution can partially be attributed to the support from Beijing towards the Polish Communist Party.
* October 22nd 1956 – Students in Budapest demonstrated and listed 16 demands, including: The election of Imre Nagy as Prime Minister; Freedom of speech and press; and multi-party elections.
* October 23rd 1956 – The demonstration escalated into an armed revolt and demonstrators were fired upon by the Hungarian Secret Police. Workers joined the students and seized power from local authorities.
* October 24th 1956 – Imre Nagy was appointed Prime Minister and immediately met with a Soviet Delegation.
* October 28th 1956 – Nagy convinced Khrushchev of Hungary’s loyalty, and soviet forced began to withdraw from Budapest, in part due to further pressures from China.
* October 31st 1956 – Moscow reversed its decision to withdraw troops from Hungary.
* November 1st 1956 – Nagy announced that Hungary had withdrawn from Warsaw Pact and declared its neutrality.
* November 3rd 1956 – 15 divisions of the Red Army and 4000 tanks surrounded Budapest. 4000 Hungarians were killed and a further 200,000 went into self-imposed exile. Janos Kadar was put into power, a hard-line communist loyal to Moscow.
* 1957 – USSR hosted 130 countries in the World Festival of Youth.
* 1960 – Khrushchev sought to cut military spending by 1/3.
* 1962 – Khrushchev allowed the publication of the first uncensored book on soviet gulags.

# Summit Diplomacy I: Killing the Kurgan, May 1955-July 1961

* October 5th 1954 – Trieste Agreement resolved tensions between Italy and Yugoslavia. The Agreement was brokered by the UK and USA in London.
* May 1955 – Austrian State Treaty led to the withdrawal of all occupying forces from Austria, and the declaration of its neutrality.
* September 1955 – The Geneva Summit saw the USSR, France, Britain and the USA come together to discuss key issues pertaining to Europe. Eisenhower’s ‘open skies proposal’ was rejected by Khrushchev, and no progress was made in discussing the future of Germany,
* September 1959 – Khrushchev became the first Soviet leader to visit the USA during the Camp David Talks, discussing issues like disarmament and Berlin.
* May 1960 – Paris Summit took place, and China declared that they would not adhere to any agreement that it had not been involved with. The summit collapsed after a U2 spy plane was shot down over the USSR.
* January 1961 – John F. Kennedy becomes President of the United States.
* June 1961 - Kennedy and Khrushchev meet for the first time.
* 25th July 1961 – Kennedy called for a build-up of NATO forces, tripled the budget for NASA and asked Congress for $3.25 billion to increase the size of the army by 125,000 men.

# The Berlin Crisis: July 1953-August 1961

* July 1953 – 40,000 East Germans went on strike, and were supressed by 20,000 troops, killing 55 people. In the first half of the year, over 300,000 people had fled to the West.
* 1954 – CIA conducted Operation Gold, in which 1200 hours of Soviet communications were intercepted, having tunnelled beneath Eat Berlin. In 1956 the tunnel was raided and the Operation ended.
* 1955 – The USSR recognizes the GDR as an independent nation and the Hallstein Doctrine is announced by the FRG, stating that it would regard the recognition of the GDR by any other state as an unfriendly act, and would cut-off diplomatic relations with any such state.
* 1956 – A further 150,000 skilled workers fled from East Germany to West Germany.
* November 27th 1958 – Khrushchev issues his six-month Berlin Ultimatum, demanding that all Western troops be withdrawn from Berlin, which was to be declared a free city. Should the Western powers fail to comply and reach a settlement over the issue of Germany, Khrushchev would sign his own treaty with the GDR, thus threatening access to West Berlin, whilst transferring all Soviet power in Berlin over to the GDR.
* December 31st 1958 – The Western Powers rejected the ultimatum.
* May 1st 1960 – Gary Powers’ U2 spy plane is show down whilst plying over the USSR, causing the Paris Peace talks to break down, whilst also revealing that the USSR’s true nuclear capabilities had been grossly exaggerated.
* July 1961 – Vienna Summit with Kennedy.
* August 13th 1961 – Berlin wall began construction.
* August 14th 1961 - Kennedy urged Rusk to take steps “to exploit politically propaganda-wise” the closing of the border: “This seems to me to show how hollow is the phrase free city and how despised is the East German government, which the Soviet Union seeks to make respectable…It offers us a very good propaganda stick which if the situation were reversed would be well used in beating us. It seems to me this requires decisions at the highest level.”
* 1949-1961 – 3.5 million East Germans had fled to the country, inflicting a loss of $7-9 billion upon East Germany. After the wall’s construction, only 5000 people fled the GDR, with GDP increasing by 50% over the next decade.
* “Why would Khrushchev put up a Wall if he really intended to seize West Berlin?” he said privately to his aides. “There wouldn’t be any need of a Wall if he occupied the whole city. This is his way out of his predicament. It’s not a very nice solution, but a Wall is a hell of a lot better than a war”– Kennedy’s response to the construction of the Berlin Wall.
* October 27th 1961 – A passport incident escalated as Soviet and American tanks stood off at Checkpoint Charlie for 16 hours, and SAC alert levels were raised.
* June 1963 – “There are many people who don’t understand the difference between the free world and the communist world. Let them see Berlin” – Kennedy.

# The Arms race: November 1952-August 1960

* November 1st 1952 – USA detonate their first Hydrogen bomb.
* November 22nd 1955 – USSR detonate their first Hydrogen bomb.
* 1955 – China begin developing their own nuclear weapons.
* July 1956 – USA develop U2 spy plane for aerial reconnaissance.
* March 1957 – Bermuda Conference Agreement leads to the USA placing IRMBs in Britain.
* May 1957 – USSR develops the first ICBM.
* October 4th 1957 – Sputnik is launched into orbit.
* November 3rd 1957 – USSR send a dog into space on Sputnik II for 10 days.
* November 1957 – USA begins to station missiles throughout NATO allies’ countries.
* November 1957 – Gaither report suggests that the USSR have a 100 – 30 lead in the number of ICBMs possessed, an overestimation.
* December 6th 1957 – US Vanguard explodes on take-off.
* September 1958 – US allocate $1 billion to space research.
* October 1st 1958 – NASA becomes operational.
* 1959 – USSR only had 10 SS-6 ICBMs.
* 1960 – USA has 550 bombers and 295 ICBMs. The USSR only have 175 and 75 respectively. The US Army had 2.4 million men and 1400 overseas military bases.
* April 12th 1961 – Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man to enter space and orbit earth.
* 1962 – USA had launched 63 space missions whereas the USSR had only launched 15.
* August 1960 – USA launch satellite Discoverer.

# Beef with Cuba: 1956-1962

* 1956 – 90% of FDI in Cuba came from the USA.
* January 1st 1959 – Castro overthrows the Batista regime.
* May 1959 – Castro implements his Agrarian Reform, seizing US assets in the process.
* February 1960 – Cuba received $100 million in credit with the USSR.
* April 1960 – US oil companies in Cuba are seized, leading to the US implementing an embargo on Cuban sugar, leading to a 95% fall in sugar exports.
* October 1960 – Over $1 billion in US assets seized.
* April 17th 1961 – CIA sponsors the Bay of Pigs Invasion by 1500 Cuban exiles. The invasion fails due to a lack of organised support.
* "the failure of the Bay of Pigs will embolden the Soviets to do something that they would otherwise not do." – Eisenhower to Kennedy.
* November 30th 1960 – Operation Mongoose commenced under Kennedy, aiming to overthrow communist leadership in Cuba by covert means led by the CIA.
* OPLAN 312 & 314 – Land and air invasion plans.
* March 1962 – Operation Quick Kick: a series of military manoeuvres in the Caribbean.

# Cuban Missile Crisis: October 14th – October 28th 1962

* Operation Anadyr – 14,000 troops and an R-12 missile site were established in San Cristobal.
* October 14th 1962 – A U2 spy plane discovered the missile site in San Cristobal.
* October 16th 1962 – Kennedy was informed by National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy, and ExComm was established. A ExComm was divided by the hawks, who called for direct action, and the doves, who favoured diplomacy.
* October 22nd 1962 – Kennedy announced the commencement of the Naval Quarantine.
* October 26th 1962 – Castro ordered anti-air placements to begin firing on American aircraft, leading to the death of Major Rudolf Anderson, an act that the USA was committed to responding to with force.
* October 26th 1962 – Khrushchev sent his first letter to Kennedy, calling for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.
* October 27th 1962 – Khrushchev sent his second letter to Kennedy, stating that the USSR would only remove their missiles from Cuba if the USA removed their Jupiter missiles from Turkey.
* October 28th – After a meeting between Robert Kennedy and Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, Khrushchev agreed to remove his missiles from Cuba in exchange for the removal of Jupiter missiles from Turkey, a concession that would not be publicised.
* 30th October 1962 – Khrushchev proposed a test ban treaty.
* October 1963 - Creation of the Moscow Test Ban Treaty.
* 1963 – A hotline was established between the White House and Kremlin.

# Prelude to Vietnam: August 1955-November 1963

* August 1955 – Ngo Dinh Diem refuses to hold re-unification elections.
* 1955 – Diem rigged elections in South Vietnam, winning 98.2% of the popular vote. He made his brothers Prime Minister and Archbishop (Ngo Dinh Thuc) in May 1963. The Church owned 75% of South Vietnamese land.
* 1955**-**1957 – Diem sent 100,000 political opponents to concentration camps, having a further 12,000 political opponents killed.
* “…because we knew no one better” – Dulles commenting on why the USA chose Diem to lead in South Vietnam.
* August 1956 – Ho Chi Minh apologizes for his Land Reform policies, which led to a revolt in which 6000 people were killed.
* 1957 – As part of Diem’s Five Year Economic Plan, South Vietnam received $1.2 billion in US FDI, of which 75% was spent on military spending, though through tax breaks and subsidies rice production had increased to 330,000 tons by 1960.
* 1958 – Resolution 15 passed by the Vietnam Worker’s Party in North Vietnam, committing the North to a strategy that would lead to the reunification of Vietnam.
* December 1960 – Ho Chi Minh established the National Liberation Front (NLF) in the South, a nationalist political group to oppose Diem’s rule. Between 1961-1963 40,000 communists had infiltrated South Vietnam.
* November 1961 – Kennedy sent General Maxwell Taylor to Vietnam to assess the situation. In his report, he recommended increased training for the ARVN; increased presence conventional forces; and some strategic bombing. This was all in line with Kennedy’s flexible response policy and the development of non-nuclear forces.
* September 1962 – The Strategic Hamlet Programme saw 4 million people placed in 3000 hamlets. The programme was largely unsuccessful and fuelled anti-American sentiments in the country, with NLF membership tripling.
* 1962 – Operation Ranch Hand permitted the use of defoliating agents such as agent orange and agent blue to destroy the forests and crops being used by the Vietcong as cover. 19 million gallons of Agent Orange were used to destroy over 10 million hectares of forest in South Vietnam.
* May 1963 – Diem suppressed Buddhist celebrations on Buddha’s birthday despite having encouraged them for his brother a week earlier. 9 people were killed after the military suppressed a speech by Buddhist leader Tri Quang. This led to a series of Hunger strikes and rallies.
* June 1963 – Buddhist monk Quang Doc self-immolated in Saigon in protest of the Diem regime.
* August 1963 – Diem renewed his assault on the Buddhists.
* November 1st 1963 – Diem was assassinated in a coup led by rebel generals. The CIA knew the coup was being planned but were under directives not to interfere, having given $40,000 to the generals to carried it out.

# Vietnam: Johnson, November 1963-October 1968

* November 22nd 1963 – Kennedy is assassinated and replaced by Lyndon B. Johnson.
* January 1964 – Johnson agrees to the implantation of OPLAN 34A, which aimed to increase pressure on North Vietnam covertly, and increased the number of military advisors from 16,300 to 23,300.
* August 2nd 1964 – USS Maddox came under fire from North Vietnamese patrol boats.
* August 4th 1964 – Johnson called for the bombing of North Vietnamese naval bases in response.
* August 7th 1964 – Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, granting Johnson unlimited power and freedom to carry out his foreign policies in Vietnam.
* By the end of 1964 – China had agreed to supply North Vietnam with military supplies (over 80,000 guns) in December; The USSR had established firm links with the NLF whilst providing the North with more equipment including surface-air missiles, MiG-21 Jets and Artillery systems; The People’s Army of Vietnam (PAVN) began to move down the Ho Chi Minh Trail, running through Laos and Cambodia; the Vietcong had consolidated their positions in South Vietnam; and the ARVN was in a low state of morale due to poor leadership, inadequate training and low pay.
* February 1965 – following an attack on US troops in Pleiku, Johnson sanctioned Operation Rolling Thunder, with ground troops arriving near Danang by March. Rolling Thunder was responsible for over 72,000 civilian casualties.
* April 8th 1965 – North Vietnam offered a four-point proposal to the USA, stating that US troops must withdraw from South Vietnam; neither Vietnamese state could enter an alliance with a foreign power during the country’s temporary division; South Vietnam was to solve its own internal affairs without foreign interference; and that the peaceful reunification of Vietnam could only be settled by the people of Vietnam. Johnson rejected the proposal and ordered 2 Marine Battalions, an air squadron and 20,000 troops to be deployed in Vietnam.
* July 28th 1965 – Johnson publicly announced his decision to escalate US involvement in Vietnam.
* November 1965 – Battle of Ia Drang Valley.
* 1965-1968 – Bomb tonnage increased from 63,000 tonnes to 226,000 tonnes; and ground troops increased from 183,310 to 536,000.
* 1967 – 1 million tonnes of supplies were being delivered into Vietnam every month, with the US spending nearly $2 billion monthly.
* October 1967 – 35,000 demonstrators staged an anti-war protest outside the pentagon.
* Tactics like ‘Search and Destroy’ (1965-1968) and Operation Rolling Thunder (1965-1968) were largely ineffective and indiscriminate.
* The USA lacked commitment to the struggle and faced opposition from home.
* The NLF and Vietcong had support from their peasants and were motivated, following the principles laid out in China by Mao Zedong i.e. do not destroy crops; respect peasants etc.
* Moreover, the USA were unable to effectively combat the enemy guerrilla tactics. From 1965-1968 their numbers grew from 850,000 to almost 1 million.
* January-February 1968 – The Vietcong launched their Tet Offensive. 25,000 Vietcong were killed and a further 5000 were captured, placing the North on the defensive. Secretary of Defence Clark Clifford advised de-escalation following the offensive. Johnson’s approval ratings fell from 40%-26%.
* January 31st-February 24th 1968 – Hue city remained under siege.
* March 16th 1968 – My Lai Massacre saw 500 Vietnamese villagers slaughtered by US troops.
* March 1968 – Johnson announced he would not stand for re-election.
* May 1968 – Preliminary peace talks began in Paris.
* October 1968 – Talks had reached a stalemate as no progress was made on the issues of US bombing being halted and who would be represented at the Paris Peace talks. The talks were allegedly sabotaged by Nixon, meaning 22,000 more American Soldiers would die before the war’s resolution.

# Vietnam: Nixon, January 1969-August 1974

* January 1969 – Richard Nixon comes into office.
* “I’m going to stop that war. Fast.” – Nixon on the Vietnam War.
* March 1969 – Nixon expands the war into Cambodia. The war incurred heavy losses on North Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh trail, but no strategic gains were made either.
* 1969 – China provides the North Vietnamese with 140,000 guns.
* February 1970 – Kissinger secretly meets with Le Duc Tho, special advisor to North Vietnam during the negotiations, in Paris. No progress was made as the North demanded that a new leader be put into South Vietnam, and Nixon and Kissinger could not be seen to abandon Thieu. By this point only 1/3 of Americans believed intervention in Vietnam was the right decision.
* March 1970 – Pro-US General Lon Nol comes to power in Cambodia.
* April 1970 – Nixon committed 20,000 ground troops to Cambodia to support Lon Nol against Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, whilst later that month 150,000 troops were announced to be removed from Vietnam. 430,000 tonnes of bombs were dropped on Cambodia. However, this committed Nixon to more conflict when he was trying to withdraw from it. The Wall Street Journal warned about the deeper commitment in Asia.
* May 1970 – Protests broke out in America and four students were shot and killed at Kent State University.
* June 1970 – The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was voted out by Congress.
* 1971 – USA sent 119 advisors to Phnom Penh.
* February 1971 – Nixon activated Operation Lam Son, an invasion of Laos by 30,000 ARVN troops supported by the USAF. The invasion failed, mainly due to a lack of strength and motivation, with orders to withdraw after suffering 3000 casualties.
* June 1972 – The number of American troops in Vietnam fell to 47,000 as a part of Vietnamisation, and the ARVN were provided with newer equipment including the M-16 rifle. Wages, benefits and conditions were improved through US funding, and localised units meant soldiers were stationed near their homes. Between 1968-1970 the size of the ARVN increased from 82,000 to 1 million, though corruption, high casualty rates and lack of morale ultimately rendered Vietnamisation ineffective.
* March 1972 – The ARVN successfully resisted the Spring Offensive, suffering 8000 casualties.
* April 1972 – Kissinger secretly visits Moscow but fails to convince the USSR to persuade North Vietnam to come to a compromise.
* July 1972 – Paris Peace Talks formally begin.
* May-October 1972 – Operation Linebacker saw 150,000 tons of bombs dropped on North Vietnam in support of the ARVN.
* October 1972 – Le Duc Tho and North Vietnam finally moderate their stance on Thieu’s removal from power and the Paris peace Agreement is reached (excluding South Vietnam), stating that: A ceasefire would begin in January 1973; Each side would keep the areas they controlled at the time of the ceasefire; Within 60 days the USA would withdraw from South Vietnam and POWs would be exchanged; A commission would be setup to consider the introduction of free elections and self-determination in Post-War South Vietnam; and said elections could lead to the reunification of Vietnam.
* December 1972 – Nixon ordered the bombing of Hanoi and other important northern cities, leading to a 32% fall in his approval ratings and condemnation from the international community.
* January 27th 1973 – The Paris Peace Agreement was formally ratified.
* March 1973 – USA had almost completely withdrawn from South Vietnam, and the Vietcong intensified their guerrilla campaign in the South pressuring the ARVN.

# Aftermath of Vietnam: 1973-1979

* 1973 – War Powers Act passed, giving Congress the right to declare war, whilst preventing the president from doing so without Congressional support.
* The USA promised to provide South Vietnam with $1 billion in armaments as well as other military equipment, giving the ARVN the fourth largest air force in the world.
* April 21st 1974 – Thieu resigned as President and fled South Vietnam.
* August 1974 – Nixon resigned and was replaced by Gerald Ford.
* April 1975 – Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Rouge. USA had dropped 430,000 tons of bombs on Cambodia. The subsequent revolution under the Khmer Revolution led killed 1 million people, with 700,000 Cambodians having already been killed by the war.
* April 30th 1975 – South Vietnam surrendered to the North.
* 58,000 Americans died in the Vietnam War. 2.7 million Americans had served in the war. 100,000 American citizens had fled the USA to avoid conscription, with many fleeing to Canada. War cost the USA $167 billion.
* Vietnamese deaths vary from 1.3 million to 9 million. Government claim is that 1.1 million NVA and Vietcong were killed, and 100,000-330,000 ARVN. Civilian casualties are estimated to be 250,000. Of the 1.5 million people who fled Vietnam, 2/3 went to the USA.
* 643,000 tons of bombs were dropped on North Vietnam. 700,000 tons of bombs were dropped on South Vietnam. 6 million Acres of South Vietnamese land was poisoned by Operation Ranch Hand.
* Ford opposed Vietnam’s entry into the United Nations and imposed a trade embargo upon them which lasted until 1994. Vietnam was not recognized by the USA until 1995.
* 1976 – With the loss of Indochina, SEATO was disbanded.
* December 25th 1978 – Vietnam invaded Cambodia with Soviet support, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge in January 1979.

# Relations with China: 1958-1979

* 1958 – Mao provoked the USA with the bombing of Quemoy and Matsu during the Second Taiwan-Strait Crisis.
* October 2nd 1959 - Khrushchev had supported India in its border dispute with China.
* 1960 – Khrushchev withdrew technological aid from the Chinese by recalling 1400 Soviet experts.
* October 19th 1961 – Zhou Enlai criticized Khrushchev, abandoning the 22nd Communist Party Congress in Moscow 4 days later. As a result the USSR soon halted export deliveries to China.
* 1962 – Khrushchev did not consult Mao before commencing with operation Anadyr.
* By 1962 tension were rising between Khrushchev and Mao, with the former refusing to provide China with a prototype atomic bomb, and the latter accusing the former of weakness and revisionism.
* July 1963 – Sino-Soviet talks broke down.
* 1963-1964 – Mao sent 9 open letter criticizing Khrushchev.
* 1964 – China called for the return or territories historically occupied by the USSR, including part of Siberia. Khrushchev refused this. Brezhnev sent a representative to China to resolve the issues and restore relations, but this failed.
* 1964 – Malinovsky Incident: At Sino-Soviet talks, Soviet Defence Minister Rodion Malinovsky suggested that the Chinese remove Mao as the USSR had done to Khrushchev.
* April 1965 – Brezhnev requested a meeting with North Vietnam and China to discuss a collective response to the USA’s escalation. Mao refused, not wanting the North Vietnamese to shift their dependence from them to the USSR.
* 1966 – Mao embarks on his Cultural Revolution. Justifying the removal of political opponents on the basis of revisionism. The revolution also attacked the USSR for being revisionist. Anything western, dynastic or capitalistic, purging many high-ranking officials and empowering young people. Boys and girls between the ages of 9-18 formed the Red Guard.
* 1967 – 25 divisions of Soviet troops and 1,200 planes were deployed along the Mongolian-Chinese border. So were Chinese forces.
* March 2nd 1969 – Chinese forces ambushed a Soviet border patrol unit near Zhenbao island in East USSR.
* July 1969 – Some trade and travel restrictions on China were lifted by the USA.
* August-September 1970 – Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai achieved a victory over those opposed to China opening improved relations with the USA.
* July 1971 – Kissinger visited Beijing, leading to an agreement to setup a presidential visit and a Sino-American summit meeting in early 1972.
* September 1972 – Mao’ successor, Lin Biao died, strengthening Mao and Zhou’s ability to improve relations with the USA.
* October 1971 – Kissinger made a second visit to Beijing in preparation for Nixon’s visit.
* February 1972 – Nixon visited China.
* January 8th 1976 – Mao dies and is succeeded Deng Xiaoping, who presents his idea of 70:30.
* December 1978 – China and the USA reached an agreement on Taiwan.
* January 1st 1979 – Formal diplomatic relations between the USA and China took effect.
* January 29th-February 4th 1979 – Deng visited USA.

# Build-up to Détente: 1963-1968

* 1963 – Director of the National Security Council’s Net Evaluation Subcommittee General Leon Johnson presented Kennedy with a report which estimated that in the event of a nuclear war the USA and USSR would have a combined 93 million casualties.
* The Mutually Assured Destruction theory came about after the Cuban Missile Crisis, suggesting that nuclear equality was in itself a deterrent to the use of nuclear weapons. As such, it became an objective for Kennedy to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to potentially volatile countries. In 1963, the only nuclear powers were the USA, USSR, China, Britain and France.
* June 1963 – The White House-Kremlin Hotline was established. It was first used in 1967 by Lyndon B. Johnson during the Six-Day War to warn the USSR that the USA was considering sending air support to help Israel.
* August 1963 – Moscow (Partial) Test Ban Treaty signed by the USA, Britain and the USSR. The treaty banned the testing of nuclear weapons in the sea and atmosphere, but not underground. France and China refused to sign the treaty.
* October 1964 – China successfully tested their first nuclear bomb. Khrushchev was overthrown and replaced by Brezhnev.
* July 1968 – The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed, whereby all signatories agreed that they would not supply or encourage the manufacture of nuclear weapons in countries which did not already have them, and that countries that did not already have them would not seek them, though nuclear research would still be permitted for peaceful purposes. Most UN countries signed the treaty, whilst France and China pledged to adhere to its terms.
* Further limitations to nuclear arms were prevented by Brezhnev’s actions in Czechoslovakia and Johnson’s decision to not run for president in 1968.

# Brezhnev in Eastern Europe: 1963-1969

* 1963 – Czechoslovakia records negative economic growth.
* October 1964 – Leonid Brezhnev replaces Khrushchev as leader of the USSR.
* 1966 – Ota Sik proposes economic and political reforms including: an end to centrally planned economic targets for the whole country; allowing individual enterprises to function; a Communist Party that would be more responsive to public opinion; the existence of consumer rights; and greater powers for the workforce.
* January 1968 – Party Leader Antonin Novotny was pressured into resigning by the USSR and was replaced by Alexander Dubcek, who called for “a new start to socialism”. He began replacing key officials with those who wanted reform, without consent from Moscow. He eliminated press censorship, and therefore exposed eastern Europe to the threat of democratic infection.
* In Poland, people coined the phrase “Poland awaits her own Dubcek”.
* April 1968 – Dubcek announced his ‘Action Programme’, calling for basic freedoms of speech, press and movement – including travel to western countries; formal recognition of the state of Israel; freedom for economic enterprises to make decisions based on consumer demand rather than government targets; and increased right to autonomy for the politically repressed Slovak minority. The communist party would retain its leading role, but also recognise non-party organisations such as trade unions; new associations and Club K-231, an organisation made up of former political prisoners.
* To protect his reforms, Dubcek assured Moscow that Czechoslovakia would remain loyal to the Warsaw Pact.
* June 1968 – Warsaw Pact countries began performing military exercises in Czechoslovakia.
* July 14th-15th 1968 – Leaders of Warsaw Pact countries held meeting to discuss what further action should be taken in light of Dubcek’s reforms. The subsequent Warsaw Letter to the Warsaw pact suggested that Czechoslovakia had a right to internal self-determination, but that challenges to socialism in one country that threatened socialism in other countries could not be tolerated.
* 20th-21st August 1968 – Warsaw Pact forces invaded after Dubcek refused to repeal his reforms at Brezhnev’s request. 100 people died and 500 were wounded.
* November 1968 – Brezhnev published his Brezhnev Doctrine, justifying the suppression of the Prague spring.
* April 1969 – Dubcek was replaced by Gustav Husask, who conformed to the Soviet’s policies.

# Israel: 1967-1978

* June 5th-10th 1967 – 6 Day War leads to over 1 million Palestinians being made stateless in Israeli territory. Having launched a surprise attack against Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Jordan, Israel were able to seize the Sinai, the Gaza Strip, Golan heights and the West Bank/East Jerusalem respectively. Under 1000 Israelis were killed, whilst Arab forces sustained nearly 20,000 deaths. 100,000 Syrians were made refugees, whilst 300,000 Palestinians had fled the West Bank. War marked the first time the White House-Kremlin Hotline was used.
* October 6th-25th 1973 – Yom Kippur War launched against Israel by Anwar Sadat. Nixon called upon Congress to grant $2.2 billion dollars in aid to Israel and authorised Operation Nickel-Grass to airlift supplies to Israel, whilst the USSR supported Syria and Egypt with 80,000 tons of supplies, and 2000 military personnel acting in an advisory capacity in Syria.
* September 17th 1978 – Camp David Accords brokered under USA to make peace between Israel and Egypt.

# Middle Eastern Beef, not Shawarma: October 1973-January 1981

* October 1973 – OPEC proclaimed an oil embargo after the USA supported Israel in the Yom Kippur War.
* January 19th 1974 – Kissinger negotiated a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai and promised peace negotiations.
* March 1974 – OPEC lifted the embargo.
* January 16th 1979 – Shah of Iran fled the country.
* February 11th 1979 – Iranian Revolution concluded with the overwhelming of the Shah’s loyalists.
* April 1st 1979 – Iran voted by national referendum to become an Islamic republic.
* October 22nd 1979 – Shah was admitted into the USA for cancer treatment.
* November 4th 1979 – The US embassy in Iran was raided by protesting students, and 52 American Diplomats were taken hostage.
* November 14th 1979 – USA freezes the Iranian State’s accounts in US banks.
* December 1979 – Ayatollah Khomeini was proclaimed Supreme Leader of Iran.
* April 24th 1980 – Carter sanctions Operation Eagle Claw, a Delta Force rescue mission which fails, with the death of 8 US soldiers in the process.
* January 19th 1981 – Carter Administration signs the Algiers Accords, negotiating the release of the 52 American hostages in exchange for unfreezing $8 billion in Iranian Assets.
* January 20th 1981 – The hostages are released minutes after Reagan is sworn into office.

# Détente: SALT 1, May 1972

* May 26th 1972 – ‘Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty’ limits the USA and USSR to two fields of Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABMs) each, consisting of no more than 100 missiles per field. One could be placed around a capital city whilst the other could be placed near other Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs).
* May 26th 1972 - ‘Interim Agreement on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms’ limited the USA to 1054 ICBMs; 656 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs); and 450 bombers. The USSR was limited to 1619 ICBMs; 740 SLBMs; and 140 bombers. The agreement was only valid for five years and did not limit Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs) or cruise missiles.
* May 1972 – The Moscow Summit finalised the SALT agreements. Though there was no legal precedent, 12 ‘basic’ principles were set out.
* The first principle stated that both nations would proceed “from the common determination that in the nuclear age there is no alternative to conducting their mutual relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence”.
* The Second principle stated that “they will always exercise restraint in their mutual relations and will be prepared to negotiate and settle differences by peaceful means” i.e. avoid confrontations that could hurt peaceful coexistence.
* The third principle stated that they had a special responsibility to promote peace and prevent the arising of conflicts that may disturb the peace for all countries i.e. neither power would attempt to exploit or perpetuate conflicts in the third world.
* USA considers upgrading the USSR’s trading status. Nixon called SALT “The week that changed the world”.

# Détente: Vladivostok, October 1974-March 1977

* October 1974 – Kissinger, having been retained by Ford, visits Moscow to discuss Soviet and US numbers of missiles and ABMs.
* November 1974 – Vladivostok Summit takes place. Agreement was to last 10 years. Soviets agreed to reduce ICBMs, SLBMs and Heavy Bombers to 2400, equal with the USA. Agreement faced opposition from the Secretary of Defence and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.
* February 1975 – Congress passed resolutions supporting the Vladivostok Agreement.
* July 1975 – Apollo-Soyuz Joint Space Mission.
* 1976 – Ford bans the use of the word ‘Détente’ in his administration.
* January 1977 – Carter entered office as President of the USA.
* March 28th 1977 – Carter’s new proposals were unveiled to the USSR. Proposed further reducing from 2400 strategic weapons each to between 1800-2000; reducing the number of MIRV launchers from 1320 to 1100; reducing the number of modern ICBMs to 150, and the number of MIRV equipped ICBM launchers to 550; banning the testing, development and deployment of new ICBM technology; banning all cruise missiles with an effective range beyond 2500km; and prohibiting any aircraft except heavy bombers from having air-launched cruise missiles with ranges between 600-2500km. These were rejected by Brezhnev.

# Détente: Vienna and SALT II, May 1979-January 1981

* May 9th 1979 – SALT II agreement announced.
* June 1979 – Vienna summit signed and finalised the SALT II agreements. ICBMs, SLBMs and heavy bombers were restricted to 2400 each, with each party agreeing to reduce further to 2250 by January 1981. Both sides also agreed to restrict their different MIRV systems to 1200 each.
* The agreement was never ratified in Congress following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December.

# Ostpolitik and European Détente: October 1979-September 1973

* October 1969 – Willy Brandt elected new Chancellor of West Germany. Brandt wanted to abandon the Hallstein Doctrine, acknowledge the changes that took place in Germany after the Second World War, and establish more positive relations with the GDR.
* August 1970 – Brandt’s talks with the Soviet Union led to a Joint Non-Aggression Pact.
* December 7th 1970 – West-Germany signed a treaty with Poland recognizing the Oder-Neisse line.
* May 1971 – Walter Ulbricht, considered to be the last Stalinist, was replaced by Erik Honecker as Communist Party Chief.
* December 21st 1972 – The FRG and GDR signed an agreement, The Basic Treaty, in which the two states formally recognized each other and attempted to normalize relations. They pledged to develop and maintain good neighbourly relations; to abide by the laws laid out in the UN Charter; and to only settle their disputes by peaceful means. The two states would recognize each other’s sovereignty, and open the doors to possible economic relations in the future.
* February 1973 – The GDR is recognized by Britain and France
* June 1973 – The Basic Treaty comes into effect.
* September 1973 – Both the FRG and GDR were members of the UN.

# Détente: The Helsinki Accords, July-August 1975

* July 30th-August 1st 1975 – Conference on Security and Cooperation took place in Helsinki. 35 states participated, including the USA, Canada, and the whole of Europe excluding Albania. The outcome of the conference was the Helsinki Final Act.
* Basket 1: Security in Europe – Led to a Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States. This consisted of 10 principles regarding inter-state relations: Respect for sovereignty and equality; rejection of the use of threat/force; peaceful settling of disputes; recognizing existing frontiers; recognising/acknowledging territorial integrity; not intervening in other states internal affairs; respecting human rights; giving equal rights and allowing self-determination; cooperation amongst states; and the fulfilment of internal obligations. All signatories also agreed to provide advanced notification of large military exercises/similar plans.
* Basket 2: Cooperation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology, and of the Environment – Addressed economic issues, in relation to trade, industrialisation, etc.
* Basket 3: Cooperation in Humanitarian and other fields – Focused on cultural and educational exchange, encouraging freedom of movement for people, information and ideas.
* First follow-up to Helsinki was planned to take place in Belgrade in 1977.

# Chile: 1964-1973

* 1964 – The USA intervened in elections to ensure a Christian Democratic win.
* 1968 – United States corporate holdings in Chile amounted to $964 million. 28% of this was made up by the Anaconda and Kennecott copper companies. ITT Corporation (International Telephone and Telegraph) had $200 million invested in Chile.
* 1970 – ITT owned 70% of Chitelco, the Chilean Telephone Company and funded El Mercurio, a Chilean right-wing newspaper. ITT gave $700,000 to Allende's conservative opponent, Jorge Alessandri under CIA advisement, whilst offering the CIA a further $1 million to help defeat Allende in the elections.
* 1970 – The 40 Committee established to oversee covert operations undertaken by the CIA seen to be in the USA’s national interests. Two Tracks were devised to undermine Allende in Chile. Track 1 focused on preventing his election. Track 2 was designed to insight a military coup should Track 1 fail.
* Prior to Allende’s election, the CIA had invested $3 million in anti-Allende propaganda, and a further $2.6 million in his predecessor Eduardo Frei.
* September 1970 – The CIA attempted to launch a coup against Salvador Allende, a Chilean socialist, circumnavigating The 40 Committee. The Coup failed, and Allende became the first democratically elected as Leninist president in South America.
* September 1970 – Nixon authorized the use of $10 million to undermine Allende, saying “Do something, anything”.
* Under Allende, millions of hectares of land were seized and re-distributed as farm cooperatives, and Chile’s banking and copper industries were nationalised. In response, the USA withdrew all aid whilst convincing the World Bank not to lend Chile money.
* September 1973 – Allende killed himself after his government was overthrown in a coup led by General Augusto Pinochet, dissolving the Chilean congress on September 13th. Under Pinochet, 3095 people are recorded as having been killed, with 36,948 having survived torture.

# Angola: 1961-1987

* 1961 – Outbreak of Angolan War for Independence.
* April 25th 1974 – Portuguese regime Estado Novo was overthrown following the Carnation Revolution, a military coup which brought the war for independence to an end. Three political factions emerged.
* The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) – led by Agostinho Neto. Marxists based in the capital Luanda.
* The National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) – led by Holden Roberto. Pro-US nationalists based in the North with strong ties to neighbouring Zaire.
* The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) – Led by Jonas Savimbi and supported by the largest ethnic group, the Ovimbundu.
* June 1974 – China sent 120 military advisors, whilst the USA provided $300,000 to aid the FNLA.
* January 15th 1975 - The three parties and New Portuguese Government signed the Alvor Accords, granting Angolan independence under a three-way power sharing government.
* July 1975 – MPLA forcibly removed the FNLA from Luanda whilst UNITA voluntarily withdrew to the South.
* July 1975 – Kissinger persuaded Ford to send $25 million in supplies and $16 in arms to the FNLA.
* August 1975 – The MPLA controlled 11 of the 15 Provincial Capitals.
* November 11th 1975 – Neto declared the independence of the People’s Republic of Angola and Portuguese forces were withdrawn. In Response, UNITA declared Angolan independence as the Social Democratic Republic of Angola based in Huambo, and the FNLA declared the Democratic Republic of Angola based in Ambriz.
* November 23rd 1975 – The FNLA and UNITA formed an alliance and based themselves in Huambo, with Roberto and Savimbi as Co-Presidents.
* Cuba had sent 230 military advisors to support the MPLA.
* October 23rd 1975 – South Africa sent approximately 2000 troops to support an assault on Luanda by the FNLA, capturing 5 Provincial Capitals including Novo Redondo and Benguela. Wanted to prevent the African National Congress from establishing a base in Angola from which they could attack the Apartheid system. In response, 18,000 Cuban troops were sent to Angola in Operation Carlota.
* March 1976 – South Africa were defeated by the Cubans in November and began their withdrawal in Spring.
* December 1975 – Director of Central Intelligence William Colby announced stated that the USA only supported the FNLA and UNITA “Because the Soviets are backing the MPLA”, and Kissinger acknowledged that China and the USA had “parallel views” on Angola.
* January 1976 – There were approximately 12,000 Cuban troops supporting the MPLA in Angola.
* July 1976 – Castro stated that Cuba had “fulfilled our international duty with our brothers of Angola, and we are proud of it”.
* Savimbi - "The real enemy is Cuban colonialism. The Cubans have taken over the country, but sooner or later they will suffer their own Vietnam in Angola.”
* October 1976 – The Soviet Union ratified a 20-year Treaty of Friendship with the MPLA in Angola.
* May 21st 1977 – The MPLA expelled Nito Alves from the party. Alves had opposed Neto's foreign policy of nonalignment, favouring stronger relations with the Soviet Union, to whom he wanted to grant military bases to in Angola. He and his supporters broke into a prison, freeing approximately 150 supporters, and took control of the radio station in Luanda in an attempted coup. Forces loyal to Neto took back the radio and arrested those involved in the coup attempt.
* Cuban troops helped supress the Nitistas coup. Cuban Armed Forces Minister Raúl Castro sent an additional four thousand troops afterwards to maintain stability.
* At least 2000 of Alves’ supporters were executed in the aftermath, with estimates reaching up to 70,000.
* December 1986 – Gorbachev announced the USSR’s decision to reduce support for the MPLA. Still supplied a further $1 billion to the MPLA in arms in response to the USA’s continued support for UNITA.
* September 1987 – USSR encouraged an offensive against UNITA, which led to a South African counter-offensive. Cuba sent 10,000 troops to support the MPLA.
* December 1987 – Negotiations held in New York led to a withdrawal of Cuban and South African involvement.

# Ethiopia: 1974-1991

* After the Second World War, Britain awarded the traditionally Somali territory of Ogaden to Ethiopia.
* 1974 – Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown by Colonel Mengitsu Haile Miriam, who established a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.
* July 1977 – Somalia invaded Ogaden. Mengitsu appealed to USSR, who at the time were supporting Somalia, which they subsequently withdrew.
* November 1977 – Castro decided to support Ethiopia, for which he received congratulations from Brezhnev.
* February 1978 – Approximately 15,000 Cuban troops were stationed in Ethiopia.
* March 1978 – Somali troops retreated and a truce was declared.
* 1987 – Mengitsu established the People’s Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, making the country fully Marxist, and led by the Workers Party of Ethiopia. 300 Cuban medical personnel were sent to Ethiopia in the 1980s.
* 1989 – Mengitsu’s regime suffered a series of defeats in the Ethiopian Civil War.
* May 1991 – Mengitsu fled to Zimbabwe and the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front assumed power, receiving US support, despite its Marxist roots.

# Afghanistan: April 1978-May 1989

* USSR shared a 2500km border with Afghanistan. They feared that losing Afghanistan to the USA would harm their geostrategic influence in the middle east. Intervention in Afghanistan was considered adherent to the Basic Principles and Brezhnev Doctrine.
* April 27th 1978 – Afghan army overthrew Prime Minster Mohammad Daoud Khan, executing him alongside his family.
* February 14th 1979 – US ambassador to Afghanistan Adolph ‘Spike’ Dubs was killed after being caught in a crossfire between his hostage takers and Soviet/Afghani rescue forces.
* 1979 – Carter permitted the CIA to spend just over $500,000 on military aid to the Mujahedeen.
* September 1979 – Nur Mohammad Taraki deposed in a coup led by Hafizullah Amin, who became the new president of the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Unlike Daoud Khan, Amin was not loyal to the Soviets, and could not control growing dissent from the Muslim population.
* December 24th 1979 – USSR deployed into Afghanistan.
* December 27th 1979 – 700 Soviet troops dressed as Afghanis launched a coup in Kabul. Amin was killed and replaced by pro-Soviet Babrak Karmal.
* January 3rd 1980 – Carter asked Congress to postpone indefinitely any further consideration of the SALT II agreements. NATO increased defence spending by 3%.
* January 4th 1980 – Carter took further action against the USSR, deferring action on cultural and economic exchanges, restricting Soviet fishing privileges in American Waters, banning the sale of high technology and strategic items to the USSR, placing an embargo on the sale of grain to the USSR, and increasing the military and economic assistance provided to Pakistan.
* January 10th 1980 – First shipment of American weapons to Mujahedeen via Pakistan reached Afghanistan. By the end of the war at least 3 billion US Dollars had been funnelled into Afghanistan to fund training and the purchases of weapons.
* January 23rd 1980 – Carter unveiled the Carter Doctrine, committing the USA to the defence of the Persian Gulf against any further Soviet advance. It called for increases in the strength of US strategic forces, and stronger relations with China. Carter tried to persuade NATO suspend détente, but it was not in their interests to do so as they benefited from trade with the USSR.
* 1980 – The USA led a boycott against the Olympics held in Moscow. Foreign ministers from 34 Islamic nations adopted a resolution which condemned the Soviet intervention and demanded "the immediate, urgent and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops" from Afghanistan. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution protesting the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan by a vote of 104–18.
* 1981 – Carter announced increases in the USA’s defence budget.
* February 1988 – Withdrawal from Afghanistan announced.
* May 1989 – Withdrawal from Afghanistan concluded.
* Between 562,00 - 2 million Afghan citizens and 14,453 Soviet troops died in the war, having sent 620,000 in total over the duration of the war. 1/3 of the Afghan population was forced to flee, making over half the world’s refuges in 1980 Afghani.

# Nicaragua: June 1979-February 1990

* June 1979 – The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), led by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, seized power from General Anastasio Somoza.
* March 1981 – USA began supporting the anti-communist Contrarevolutionarios (Contras), founded by the old Nicaraguan business classes and former Somoza National Guard.
* January 8th 1942 – Reagan signed National Security Decision Directive 17 (NSDD-17), giving the CIA the authority to recruit and support the Contras with $19 million in military aid.
* March 1982 – In response to a major Contra offensive, the Sandinistas imposed press censorship, and introduced universal military conscription.
* December 4th 1985 – After Congress banned further aid to the Contras, Oliver North proposed selling arms to Iran, with two major adjustments: instead of selling arms through Israel, the sale was to be direct, and a portion of the proceeds would go to Contras, or Nicaraguan paramilitary fighters waging guerrilla warfare against the democratically elected Sandinista government, in what became known as the Iran-Contra Affair. $34 million from third countries and $2.7 million from private sources were raised this way.
* 1989 – 30,865 Nicaraguans had died.
* February 25th 1990 – Sandinistas agreed to hold democratic elections. 14 Sandinista opposition parties were influenced by the USA to campaign around Violeta Chamorro, who received over $1 million in US financial support. After her election, she received a further £300 million before US aid was withdrawn from Nicaragua in 1992.

# Grenada: October-November 1983

* October 19th 1983 – Coard faction comes into power through a military backed coup.
* October 25th 1983 – Fearing the safety of the 600 US medical students located in Grenada, Reagan assembled a 7300-strong force, invading Grenada. Approximately 780 Cubans were in Grenada at the time.
* October 27th 1983 – Reagan called Grenada in a televised speech “a Soviet and Cuban colony, being readied as a major military bastion to export terror and undermine democracy. We got there just in time.
* November 2nd 1983 – UN condemned the invasion, with a vote of 108 to 9, calling it "a flagrant violation of international law".
* 19 US soldiers, 45 Grenadian soldiers, 24 Cubans and 24 civilians were killed, 18 of whom died in the accidental US bombing of a mental hospital.

# El Salvador: 1984-1992

* 1984 – Having received $6 million in US funding, Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte was elected amidst the Salvadoran Civil War.
* 1987 – An amnesty law was passed releasing the falsely accused from prison. However, it also absolved members of military death squads, angering the population.
* 1988 – Following the election of Alfredo Christiani, the FMLN launched a new offensive against the government.
* 1992 – Peace Accords were signed and the FMLN became a legitimate political party, under USA encouragement.

# Growing weaknesses of the USSR: 1964-1990

* 1964-1982 – 25% of Soviet GNP was allocated to military spending.
* 1972 – USSR suffered a series of crop failures, leading to food shortages.
* 1975 – USSR suffered further poor harvests.
* 1978 – Polish Pope John Paul II was elected. His first encyclical focused on the dignity of man and the protection of human rights.
* June 1979 – Pope John Paul II visited Poland, where he spoke about the need for peace and reconciliation. Approximately 12 million poles witnessed him speak.
* 1979-1989 – Afghan was costing the USSR $8 billion per annum.
* At the start of the 1980s, the USSR only had 16 million telephones and 15,000 computers, compared to the USA’s 138 million and 170,000 respectively.
* July 1980 – The polish Government imposed 100% rises in food prices in an attempt to slow Poland’s rising foreign debts. In response 300,000 workers went on strike.
* August 14th 1980 – Lenin Shipyard workers went on strike, protesting the sacking of Anna Walentynowicz.
* August 21st 1980 – Strikes spread across Poland leading to an economic standstill.
* August 31st 1980 – Gdansk Agreement permitted the formation of the first non-government trade union.
* September 17th 1980 – Out of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk Solidarity formed, led by Lech Walesa. 10 million workers, equal to 80% of the working adult population joined. Solidarity received international support, receiving $12 million from the CIA. The pope authorised the conversion of $3.5 million from the Vatican bank to be converted into Gold and transported into Poland to fund Solidarity.
* March 1981 – 12 million Polish workers went on strike. In response, the USSR began performing military manoeuvres along the Polish frontier.
* June 1981 – The Soviet Politburo decided not to undertake military intervention in Poland, fearing armed resistance that would lead to worsened Soviet-western relations.
* September 6th 1981 – General Wojciech Jaruzelski became Communist Party leader in Poland, and threatened to impose martial law should Solidarity not desist.
* December 13th 1981 – Jaruzelski and the Military Committee of National Redemption imposed martial law, arresting Solidarity leaders and banning the union. In response, the USA imposed trade embargos on Poland, further damaging trade and tourism.
* November 1982 – Brezhnev died. By the beginning of the 1980s, the average Politburo member age exceeded 70.
* January 1984 – Reagan established diplomatic ties with the Vatican.
* October 19th 1984 – Jerzy Popiełuszko, a Polish Roman Catholic priest with ties to Solidarity was murdered by the Security Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and subsequently martyred.
* March 10th 1985 – Konstantin Cherneko died.
* December 1989 – Gorbachev stated that "The collapse of the Iron Curtain would have been impossible without John Paul II”.
* 1990 – GDP per Capita was $9000 in the USSR, compared to $21,000 in the USA. Over the span of Reagan’s two terms, the US economy saw a reduction of inflation from 12.5% to 4.4%, and an average annual growth of real GDP of 3.4%.

# Reagan, Thatcher and Re-escalation: 1981-1989

* January 1981 – Ronald Reagan entered office as 40th President of the USA. Called Détente a “one way street”.
* February 1981 – Thatcher visited Reagan.
* June 1982 – Reagan visited Britain, calling for a “Crusade for Freedom” in his speech to the Houses of Parliament.
* 1982 – Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) commenced, but were abandoned in November 1983.
* March 1983 – Reagan accused Soviet leaders of being responsible for all levels of international unrest on a global scale. Coined the term “Evil Empire” to describe the USSR.
* March 23rd 1983 – Reagan publicly announced his Strategic Defence Initiative. Thatcher did not initially support SDI, fearing that without the support of the USA’s nuclear arsenal and commitment to MAD, all of West Europe would become vulnerable, creating instability and tension.
* September 1st 1983 – Soviet interceptor shot down South Korean Civil Airliner KAL 007. 261 civilians were killed, including 61 Americans.
* September 6th 1983 – Moscow finally acknowledged that the incident had taken place.
* September 9th 1983 – In a press conference my Marshal Ogarkov, the USSR accused the USA of launching a join spy mission with Japan, which the USSR took KAL 007 to be, attempting to blame the USA for the accident. Reagan capitalised on the incident, which he repeatedly called a “Massacre”.
* November 1983 – ABLE ARCHER 83 took place. Unlike previous ABLE ARCHER scenarios, which the USSR had been given prior notice for, 83 featured new elements including the presence of Heads of Governments, the US Secretary of Defence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and the implementation of new coded communications and radio silences. Tensions were further heightened by the placement of new Pershing II missiles in Europe.
* By the 9th of November, the KGB had sent flash cables to Western Residencies asking for confirmation that the USA and NATO had gone on alert in preparation for a first strike. Oleg Gordievsky, a British double-agent embedded in the KGB made it clear that the USSR had interpreted ABLE ARCHER this way, and crisis was averted.
* ABLE ARCHER 83 showed the USA that the USSR genuinely feared a US surprise nuclear attack.
* 1984 – A survey of Soviet attitudes by CIA director William Casey, informed by Gordievsky, confirmed this. Reagan responded “Do you suppose they really believe that? I don’t see how they cold believe that, but it’s something to think about”.
* 1984 – The Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation was established to oversee the development of SDI.
* 1985 – Negotiate a free trade agreement with Israel, having given aid of $3 billion on an annual basis.
* 1986 – Thatcher agreed to allow the USA to launch F-111 bombers against Libya. In response, the USA agreed to the extradition of IRA members seeking refuge in America.
* 1989 – Reagan Increased defence spending from $134 billion in 1980 to $253 billion in 1989.

# Gorbachev, Perestroika and Glasnost: 1985-1989

* March 10th 1985 – Mikhail Gorbachev entered office as General Secretary of the USSR. At the 27th Communist Party Congress, he declared that “Without an acceleration of the country’s economic and social development, it will be impossible to maintain our positions on the international scene”.
* One of Gorbachev’s first policies involved reducing alcoholism by raising prices and punishing drunkenness. The black market for alcohol grew in size, outcompeting official producers, leading to a total loss of nearly 100 billion roubles in tax revenues.
* May 1985 – Gorbachev gave a speech acknowledging the USSR’s economic weakness, and the need for restructuring.
* April 26th 1986 – Chernobyl Disaster occurred in Pripyat, Ukraine, forcing the USSR to spend $18 billion to contain it.
* 1986 – Gorbachev began using the slogan “Glasnost” to promote political transparency and openness to criticism within the USSR, making it an official aspect of his domestic policies in 1988.
* June 1987 – Perestroika presented by Gorbachev.
* June 1987 – Soviet Joint Ventures Law allowed for foreign ownership of Soviet enterprises up to 49%, increasing to 100% in 1991. By 1988 the USSR had made 61 joint venture agreements with Western companies.
* July 1987 – Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union passed the Law on State Enterprise, allowing State enterprises to determine output levels based on demand, without having to go through GOSPLAN. The state still held some control over production.
* 1988 – USSR’s budget deficit was 13% of Soviet GNP.
* May 1988 – Law on Cooperatives permitted the private ownership of businesses.
* June 1988 – Comecon negotiations with the European Commission led to the European Commission setting up trade agreements with Comecon members on an individual basis.
* March 1989 – Multiple people were allowed to compete for seats in the Congress of People’s Deputies.
* 1989 – Soviet Growth and Productivity had fallen by 4%.

# Summit Diplomacy II: The Quickening, November 1985-June 1988

* November 1985 – Geneva Summit: 3000 journalists covered the event. Reagan and Gorbachev made the general agreement to attempt cutting their nuclear arsenals by 50%. Other matters discussed included plans for a provisional agreement to limit, and eventually eliminate medium range nuclear missiles; a collaborative effort to end other countries’ nuclear proliferation; a ban on chemical weapons.
* October 1986 – Reykjavik Summit: No concrete plans made as Gorbachev needed Reagan to “kill the strategic defence initiative”. Humanitarian issues were discussed again, and Gorbachev agreed to detach disarmament demands from SDI.
* December 1987 – Washington Summit: Framework for INF had been laid out in upcoming weeks to summit by US Secretary of State George Shultz, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty ended the use of all intermediate-range ballistic and cruise missiles, of which all were to be destroyed by June 1991, by which the USA had destroyed 846, whilst the USSR had destroyed 1846. Both states agreed to bilateral inspections, the USSR tied no conditions to SDI, and the USSR conceded on including France and Britain in the treaty. Summit also laid out plans for the START Treaty, with hopes to limit the number of nuclear weapons to 5000 each.
* May-June 1988 – Moscow Treaty: Several agreements were made on fishing and foreign exchange, but to progress was made in regard to START. When asked if he still though the USSR was an ‘Evil Empire’, Reagan responded “No. That was another time, another era”.

# Loss of the Eastern Bloc: Poland, September 1968-August 1989

* September 1986 – General Jaruzelski granted general amnesty for all political prisoners and ended martial law in Poland, allowing for the legal reconstitution of Solidarity.
* February 1988 – In response to the government raising food prices, peaceful demonstrations were held, using Glasnost as justification.
* February 1989 – Following discussions between the government and Solidarity, non-governmental trade unions were legalised, a position of president was to be established, and a senate was to be formed, of which the 35% of the seats in the Sejm (Lower House) would be freely elected.
* June 1989 – In Polish elections Solidarity won 92 out of 100 seats in the senate, and 160 out of the 161 seats it was allowed to compete for in the Diet (Parliament).
* August 7th 1989 – Lech Walesa demanded a Solidarity led government, which the Soviets granted.
* August 24th 1989 – A new Pro-Solidarity government was formed, led by Tadeusz Mazowiecki. By the end of the year Poland was a multi-party state with a coalition government dominated by Solidarity.

# Loss of the Eastern Bloc: Hungary, 1986-1990

* 1986 – Surveys conducted in Hungary stated that 61% of the Hungarian population described their position as hopeless or continually worsening
* 1988 – Janos Kadar resigned as Secretary-General of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party (HSWP), and was replaced by Miklos Nemeth as Prime Minister after he negotiated a 1 billion Deutschmark loan from West Germany, who introduced a range of political reforms.
* December 1988 – Nemeth declared that “the market economy is the only way to avoid a social catastrophe or a long, slow death”.
* April 1989 – The Soviets agreed to withdraw all military forces from Hungary by 1991.
* May 2nd 1989 – Hungary removed the fence on their border East Germany, allowing East Germans to enter Hungary.
* June 1989 – The HSWP’s leadership agreed that free elections should take place in 1990, believing they held the majority of popular support.
* June 16th 1989 – Imre Nagy was reburied, with 100,000 Hungarians in attendance.
* August 19th 1989 – Pan-European Picnic opened Hungary’s border with Austria for three hours, allowing 600 Eat Germans to cross into Hungary, and the West Germany.
* August 22nd 1989 - Németh flew by helicopter to meet with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, telling him that “Returning the refugees to East Germany is out of the question. We shall open the border, and by mid-September, all East Germans should be able to leave our country”.
* September 11th 1989 – Hungary’s Foreign Minister declared that they would not try to stop East Germans from migrating to West Germany after Hungary officially opened their borders with East Germany.
* September 18th 1989 – Round Table Agreement signed.
* October 23rd 1989 – Republic of Hungary proclaimed.
* November 26th 1989 – Referendum held, regarding the dissolution of the Party Militia, the return of party assets, the elimination of the party from the workplace and whether presidential or parliamentary elections should be held first.
* May 1990 – Elections concluded with the establishment of a multi-party state.

# Loss of the Eastern Bloc: Germany, 1984-1990

* 1984 – East and West Germany made agreements regarding cultural exchanges, and the removal of landmines along their frontier.
* May 2nd 1989 – Hungarian government removed the fence on its border with East Germany.
* September 1989 – 60,000 East Germans had fled to Hungary in search of Asylum in West German embassies. 22,000 fled into Austria after it was announced that they would not be stopped.
* October 1989 – Demonstrations broke out throughout East Germany, reaching numbers up to 100,000 as was the case in Leipzig. As a result, Honecker was forced to resign.
* October 18th 1989 – Egon Krenz became General Secretary of the Party and Chairman of the Council of State. Krenz announced that he would implement democratic reforms, and embrace Perestroika and Glasnost.
* November 1989 – Krenz visited Gorbachev, but failed to receive Soviet economic assistance. GDP Growth had fallen from 5.2% in 1985 to 2.8%.
* November 5th 1989 – East Germany relaxed its travel laws. The public demanded a greater degree of change and the entire Politburo resigned.
* November 9th 1989 – A new travel law permitted foreign travel without advance notice, allowing for free transit through border crossings into West Germany.
* November 10th 1989 – The Berlin Wall was demolished by citizens of East and West Berlin.
* December 1st 1989 – The constitution was altered, removing the clause that gave the Communist Party a dominant role in the government, replacing it with a provisional coalition.
* October 3rd 1990 – Germany was reunified under the FRG.

# Loss of the Eastern Bloc: Czechoslovakia, 1989

* January 1989 – A demonstration was held in Wenceslas Square in memory of a Czech student who had killed themselves. Václav Havel and 13 others were arrested.
* July 1989 – The Czechoslovakian government announced a series of limited economic reforms.
* August 21st 1989 – Demonstrations took place in Prague, with people shouting “Long live Poland” and “Long live Dubcek”.
* November 17th 1989 – Another demonstration took place, with police supressing protestors.
* November 19th 1989 – Havel led the formation of a united opposition group titled the Civic Forum, who produced the ‘Programmatic Principles of the Civic Forum’, which called for free elections, education, the cleaning of the environment and a return to Europe and prosperity. Demonstrations escalated, but remained peaceful. Half of the rivers in Czechoslovakia were polluted, with ¾ of well water being unsuitable for human consumption.
* The Constitution was amended to remove the phrase that gave the Communist Party the lead role in the government. The Civic Forum rejected the Party’s suggestion for a coalition government, and the Communist leadership resigned. The Civic Forum agreed to join a cabinet which was not occupied by a Communist Majority.
* December 28th 1989 – Havel was elected president, concluding the Velvet Revolution.

# Bush on the Block: 1989-1991

* January 1989 – Bush comes into office.
* July 1989 – Bush visited Poland and told his speech writers that he did not “want to put a stick in Gorbachev’s eye”.
* December 1989 – Malta Summit: The USA agreed not to intervene in Germany and the Baltic despite never recognizing the annexations in 1939. The USSR promised not to use force to prevent Eastern Europe states from determining their political futures.
* November 1990 – Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty signed in Paris by Gorbachev, Bush and other European leaders. Treaty ended the USSR’s military superiority in Europe, and limited the scale of military hardware any state could control.
* July 1991 – Moscow Summit: Concluded START 1 and implemented the Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty, which limited both the USA and USSR to 1600 Missile Launchers and 6000 warheads each, with the USSR agreeing to cut their stocks of ASS-20 warheads by 50%. US missile and bomb stocks were reduced from 12,000 to 9000, whilst the USSR reduced them from 11,000 to 7000.

# Collapse of the USSR: 1988-1991

* 1988 – Gorbachev sided with Azerbaijan when Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh demanded separation from Azerbaijan and incorporation into Soviet Armenia.
* 1989 – 20 demonstrators were killed as tensions rose over the issue of Georgian independence.
* May 1989 – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia held a Baltic Assembly in Tallin, Estonia, to discuss a united action to promote economic and political sovereignty from the USSR.
* August 23rd 1989 – 2 million citizens formed a chain named the Baltic Way across their three republics in commemoration of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.
* February 1990 – Lithuania declared its independence.
* March 1990 – Estonia declared its independence.
* May 1990 – Latvia declared its independence.
* January 1991 – Soviet troops were sent into Lithuania and Latvia, killing 12 people in the Lithuaniain capital of Vilnius.
* August 19th-21st 1991 – An attempted coup against Gorbachev took place, ultimately failing to overthrow him.
* August 24th 1991 – Gorbachev resigned as General Secretary.
* December 1991 – The Commonwealth of Independent States was founded by the leaders of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.
* December 26th 1991 – The USSR Supreme Soviet voted to dissolve itself, ending the existence of the USSR, after 11 republics had voted to leave. As a result of the dissolution, 25 million Russians found themselves living abroad.