

Chronology	
1917	Russian Revolution
8 th May 1945	VE Day
6 th and 9 th August 1945	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
15 th August 1945	VJ Day
1949	The USSR tests their first atomic bomb
1962	Cuba Missile Crisis
1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall
1991	Fall of Communism in the USSR

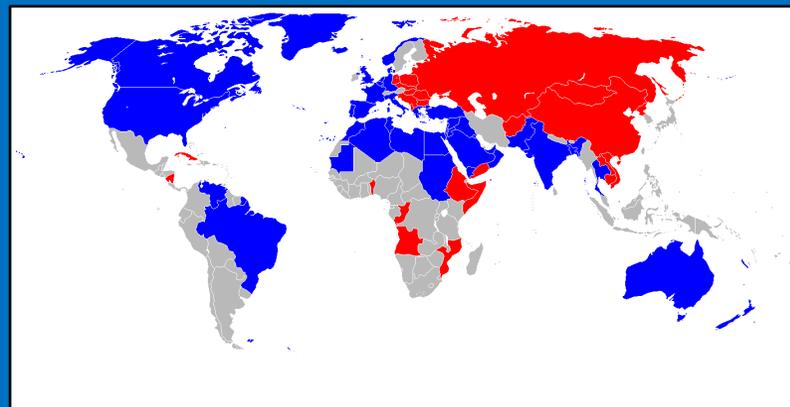
Common Misconceptions

A cold war is a state of tensions between two or more countries which stops just short of going to war. There have been many cold wars in history. The Cold War is one such example between the USA and the USSR. Despite this both sides took part in “proxy wars”, (conflicts where both sides gave support to opposing sides in a smaller war) for example the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

There is no agreed start or end date for the Cold War but it could be said to have run from 1945 (when the Second World War ended) until 1991 (when the USSR finally collapsed).

Communism and Capitalism are two opposing economic theories (how things should be produced) about how countries should be run. The two sides also had opposing political theories. The USA was a democracy where the people chose the government. The USSR was a dictatorship where the people had no say in who ran their country.

Key People	Role
Harry S. Truman	US President, 1945-53. Made the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan.
Joseph Stalin	Communist dictator of the USSR from the late 1920s until 1953.
John F. Kennedy	US President, 1961-3. Key player in the Cuba Missile Crisis. Assassinated in Dallas, Texas in 1963.
Nikita Khrushchev	Communist dictator of the USSR, 1953-1964. Key player in the Cuba Missile Crisis.
Fidel Castro	Communist dictator of Cuba, 1959-2008. Key player in the Cuba Missile Crisis.
Ronald Regan	US President, 1981-89.
Mikhail Gorbachev	The final communist dictator of the USSR, 1985-1991.



History Cold War

Key Words	Definition
Communism	An economic theory based on common ownership.
Capitalism	An economic theory based on private ownership.
USSR	The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (or Soviet Union). A union of multiple communist states, the largest of which was Russia. The USSR’s capital city was Moscow.
Ballistic Missiles	A rocket-propelled, self-guided weapon, capable of delivering a warhead.
ICBMs	Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. A missile with a range of over 3000 miles (i.e. capable of going between continents).
U-2	A US spy plane.
Blockade	To seal off a place to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving, as President Kennedy did to Cuba during the Missile Crisis.
Protect and Survive	A pamphlet and series of videos covering what to do in the event of a nuclear attack, produced by the UK government and released in 1980.
Berlin Wall	A wall dividing communist East and capitalist West Berlin from 1961-1989.

Key discoveries / ideas

The Cold War was a battle between different economic ideologies, communism and capitalism. Despite the continued existence of a few communist countries, the Cold War can be seen as a victory for capitalism.

The Cold War is a classic example of an arms race. Both sides raced to develop the best weapons, including nuclear weapons delivered by ICBMs.