

Civil defense poster ►

Nuclear fallout shelter sign ►

**WITNESS HISTORY**  AUDIO**The Threat of War**

After the Soviet Union tested an atomic bomb in 1949, President Truman reported to the nation that the nature of war had forever changed:

“[W]ar has undergone a technological change which makes it a very different thing from what it used to be. War today between the Soviet empire and the free nations might dig the grave not only of our Stalinist opponents, but of our own society. . . . Such a war is not a possible policy for rational men.”

—President Harry S. Truman

# The Cold War Expands

**Objectives**

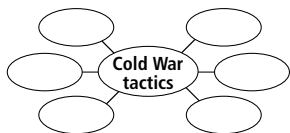
- Describe the causes and results of the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.
- Explain how Eisenhower's response to communism differed from that of Truman.
- Analyze worldwide Cold War conflicts that erupted in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and other places.
- Discuss the effects of Soviet efforts in space exploration.

**Terms and People**

arms race	Nikita Khrushchev
mutually assured destruction	nationalize
John Foster Dulles	Suez crisis
massive retaliation	Eisenhower Doctrine
brinkmanship	CIA
	NASA

**NoteTaking**

**Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas** Identify the tactics used to wage the Cold War.



**Why It Matters** By 1950, the United States and the Soviet Union were the two most powerful nations in the world. The conflicting ideologies and goals of these rival nations led to a worldwide struggle for influence. The policies followed by the two superpowers helped shape the modern history of much of the world, from Latin America to the Middle East. **Section Focus Question:** What methods did the United States use in its global struggle against the Soviet Union?

## The Arms Race Heightens Tensions

A change in the balance of world power is usually gradual, taking place over decades or even centuries. But sometimes, the shift happens in a blink of an eye. Such a major shift in the balance of power in the Cold War took place on September 2, 1949. Instruments in an American B-29 aircraft flying over Alaska detected unusual atmospheric radiation. The radiation cloud was drifting eastward from the direction of Siberia.

American nuclear scientists analyzed the data that the aircraft had gathered. They then reached an inescapable conclusion: The Soviet Union had set off an atomic bomb.

**Communist Advances Shock the Nation** The news shook U.S. leaders. They had believed that the Soviet Union was years away from developing an atomic bomb. Now, the Americans no longer had a monopoly on atomic weaponry.

The news that the Soviets had the bomb was followed the next month by news of the communist takeover of China. In a very short time, Americans sensed that the world was a much more dangerous and threatening place.

**Nuclear Arsenals Expand** Three months later, Truman ordered the Atomic Energy Commission to produce a hydrogen bomb. Developers predicted that the H-Bomb would be 1,000 times as powerful as an atomic bomb. They hoped it would restore the United States advantage over the Soviets.

Some scientists, such as J. Robert Oppenheimer and Albert Einstein, opposed developing the H-Bomb, claiming it would only lead to a **perpetual arms race**. Others argued that Stalin would continue to develop more powerful weapons no matter what the United States did.

In 1952, the United States tested the first hydrogen bomb. The next year, the Soviets tested one of their own. More bombs and tests followed. Most of these tests were conducted aboveground, spewing radioactive waste into the atmosphere. Atomic testing in the American west, at sites such as the Nevada desert, led to increased atmospheric radiation and long-range health problems for people living downwind of the test sites.

During the next four decades, the United States and the Soviet Union developed and stockpiled increasingly powerful nuclear weapons. They armed planes, submarines, and missiles with nuclear warheads powerful enough to destroy each other many times over. Both sides hoped that this program of **mutually assured destruction** would prevent either country from actually using a nuclear device against the other. Still, the threat of nuclear destruction seemed to hang over the world like a dark cloud.



**Checkpoint** Why did the United States government decide to build a hydrogen bomb?

## Eisenhower Introduces New Policies

President Dwight Eisenhower knew firsthand the horrors of war and the need to defend democracy. He had led the World War II Allied invasions of North Africa, Italy, and Normandy. Having worked with top military and political leaders during the war, he was capable of speaking the language of both.

Eisenhower accepted much of Truman's foreign policy. He believed strongly in a policy to actively contain communism. Eisenhower's secretary of state, **John Foster Dulles**, was an experienced diplomat who had helped organize the United Nations after World War II. Dulles endorsed the President's vision of the role the United States should play in the world.

In their approach toward foreign policy, Eisenhower and Dulles differed significantly from Truman and his Secretary of State, Dean Acheson. Both teams of men considered the spread of communism the greatest threat to the free world. But Eisenhower believed that Truman's approach to foreign policy had dragged the United States into an endless series of conflicts begun by the Soviet Union. These limited, regional conflicts threatened to drain the country's resources.

**Eisenhower Favors Massive Retaliation** Eisenhower opposed spending billions of dollars on conventional forces, such as troops, ships, tanks, and artillery. Instead, he focused on stockpiling nuclear weapons and building the planes, missiles, and submarines needed to deliver them. He assumed that if there were a major war, it would be nuclear.

Ike's new policy drew some criticism: Conservatives felt that downgrading conventional forces would weaken American defense, while liberals feared that preparing for nuclear

### Vocabulary Builder

**perpetual**—(per PEHCH oo uhl)  
*adj.* constant; continuing without interruption



### The Arms Race

#### Nuclear Warhead Proliferation

Year	U.S.	USSR	Britain	France	China
1945	6	0	0	0	0
1950	369	5	0	0	0
1955	3,057	200	10	0	0
1960	20,434	1,605	30	0	0
1965	31,642	6,129	310	4	1

**Chart Skills** The chart above shows effects of the arms race. *How did the Soviet Union's development of nuclear weapons affect U.S. defense spending? How did Eisenhower's policies affect defense spending? Explain.*

SOURCE: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

war made such a war more likely. Still, Eisenhower's approach did save money by providing a "bigger bang for the buck." In 1953, the defense budget was \$50.5 billion; in 1955, it dropped down to \$35.8 billion.

In 1954, Dulles announced the policy of **massive retaliation**. The United States would respond to communist threats to its allies by threatening to use crushing, overwhelming force, perhaps even nuclear weapons.

**Primary Source** "A potential aggressor must know that he cannot always prescribe battle conditions to suit him. . . . The way to deter aggression is for the free community to be willing and able to respond vigorously at places and with means of his choosing."

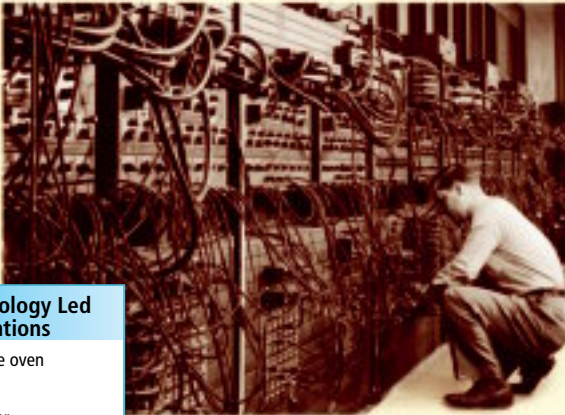
—John Foster Dulles, 1954

Dulles believed that only by going to the brink of war could the United States protect its allies, discourage communist aggression, and prevent war. "You have to take some chances for peace, just as you must take chances in war," he said in 1956. Dulles's approach became known as **brinkmanship**.

## INFOGRAPHIC

# Domestic Uses Of COLD WAR Technology

To give their nations a military advantage, Cold War scientists rushed to invent advanced weaponry, transportation, and communication. Inventions whose origins go back to the Cold War include space travel, satellites, the Internet, and more.



### Military Technology Led to These Inventions

- 1946 • Microwave oven
- 1946 • Computer
- 1948 • Hang glider
- 1958 • Nuclear energy plant
- 1960 • Communications satellite
- 1970s • Smoke detector
- 1980s • Global Positioning System

### ▲ MONSTER COMPUTERS!

This 1946 computer calculated artillery trajectories and other military computations. Unlike today's laptop, it filled an entire room, required extensive wiring, and weighed about 30 tons.



### ▲ 5-FOOT-TALL MICROWAVE!

In 1946, a scientist working on radar-related military research noticed that the candy bar in his pocket had melted. Knowing a good thing when he saw it, he eventually invented the "Radarange." The early model above was about 5 feet tall.

### Connect to Your World

How did military technology indirectly affect the way of life in American homes?

**Stalin's Death Eases Tensions** On March 5, 1953, Joseph Stalin died, setting off a short power struggle. **Nikita Khrushchev** soon emerged as the new head of the Soviet Union. Although a communist and a determined opponent of the United States, Khrushchev was not as suspicious or as cruel as Stalin. He condemned the excesses of the Stalin regime and inched toward more peaceful relations with the democratic West.

In July 1955, Khrushchev met with Eisenhower at a conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Although the meeting yielded few significant results, it did seem to be a small move toward “peaceful co-existence” of the two powers.

✓ **Checkpoint** How was Eisenhower's approach to foreign affairs different from that of Truman?

## The Cold War Goes Global

Peaceful co-existence was easier to imagine than it was to practice. The United States and the Soviet Union remained deeply divided. The Soviet Union would not allow free elections in the areas it controlled, and it continued to attempt to spread communism around the world. Dulles talked about “rolling back” communism and liberating the countries under Soviet rule.

**Unrest Explodes Behind the Iron Curtain** American talk of “rolling back” communist borders and Khrushchev's talk of “peaceful co-existence” were taken seriously by people in Soviet-dominated countries behind the iron curtain. People in Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia resented the control exerted by the Soviet Union. Many hungered for more political and economic freedom.

In 1956, two uprisings shook Eastern Europe. First, workers in Poland rioted against Soviet rule and won greater control of their government. Since the Polish government did not attempt to leave the Warsaw Pact, Soviet leaders permitted the actions.

Then, encouraged by Khrushchev's words and Poland's example, Hungarian students and workers organized huge demonstrations. They demanded that pro-Soviet Hungarian officials be replaced, that Soviet troops be withdrawn, and that noncommunist political parties be organized. Khrushchev responded brutally, sending Soviet soldiers and tanks to crush the Hungarian revolution. The Soviets executed many of the revolution's leaders, killed hundreds of other Hungarians, and restored hard-line communists to power.

Americans could only watch these events in horror. Eisenhower's massive retaliation approach was powerless. The United States would not use nuclear weapons—or any other weapons—to guarantee Hungarian independence from the Soviet Union.

The Hungarian revolt added a new level of hostility to international relations. At the 1956 Olympic Games, held that November in Melbourne, Australia, the bitter feelings surfaced. A water-polo match between the Soviet Union and Hungary turned violent. Sportswriters called it the “blood in the water” match.

**The U.S. Defuses the Suez Crisis** The United States found itself involved in another world conflict, this time in the Middle East. As Cold War tensions increased, Egypt's president Gamal Abdel Nasser tried to use the U.S.–Soviet rivalry to his advantage.

Nasser wanted to construct a dam on the Nile River at Aswan. The United States and Britain initially offered to fund the project, but when Nasser recognized the People's Republic of China and

### Revolt in Hungary

Americans admired the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives fighting against Soviet domination in Hungary. *Time* magazine even chose the Hungarian Freedom Fighter as its “Man of the Year” for 1956.



opened talks with the Soviet Union, the Eisenhower administration withdrew its offer. In response, Nasser **nationalized** the Suez Canal, placing it under government control. The canal, which connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, had originally been managed by a British-French company and was protected by British armed forces.

Nasser's action threatened the flow of Middle Eastern oil to Europe. Without consulting with Eisenhower, Britain and France plotted to get the canal back into Western hands. They joined forces with Israel, a young nation that had long suffered from raids along its border with Egypt. Britain and France used the **Suez crisis** as an excuse to seize control of the Suez Canal.

President Eisenhower was outraged by these actions. Rather than support his Western allies, Ike criticized them and refused to supply them with U.S. oil. The three nations had counted on Eisenhower's support, and when it did not come, they were forced to withdraw their troops from Egypt.

**Eisenhower Promises Strong Action** In response to Soviet influence in the Middle East and elsewhere, the President made a statement in January 1957 that became known as the **Eisenhower Doctrine**. Eisenhower announced that the United States would use force to help any Middle Eastern nation threatened by communism. Eisenhower used his doctrine in 1958 to justify

## Global Cold War, 1946–1956

**Geography Interactive**  
For: Interactive map  
Web Code: nep-1206



**Map Skills** The Cold War spread globally as the United States and the Soviet Union formed alliances and competed for power around the world. NATO and the Warsaw Pact were the two strongest alliances.

**1. Region** Identify a region where there were many Cold War hot spots. Why do you think there were so many conflicts in that region?

**2. Compare** How was Latin America important to the United States in the same way that Eastern Europe was important to the Soviet Union?


sending troops to Lebanon to put down a revolt against its pro-American government.

The Eisenhower administration also used the **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)** in its struggle against communism. Congress had created the CIA in 1947 as an intelligence-gathering organization. Eisenhower gave it a new task. He approved covert, or secret, CIA operations to protect American interests. In 1953, the CIA aided a coup that installed a new government in Iran. In 1954, it accomplished a similar mission in Guatemala. While both operations helped to place anticommunist leaders in power, they also created long-term resentment against the United States.

**The Cold War Blasts Off Into Space** Although the United States successfully contained the spread of communism on the ground, it did suffer a setback in outer space. On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched a 184-pound steel ball containing a small transmitter into an orbit of Earth. The Soviets named the tiny satellite *Sputnik 1*. The following month they launched a much larger satellite. It carried a dog, named Laika, to see how a living creature would react to life in outer space. Since there was no way to return the satellite to Earth, Laika died in orbit.

The launches shocked many Americans, who had long believed that superior technology would keep the United States ahead of the Soviet Union. Would Soviet space technology give them the rocket power to launch missiles onto American cities?

In a state of crisis, Congress quickly approved the National Defense Education Act, a \$1 billion program intended to produce more scientists and teachers of science. The act authorized money for loans to enable high school and college graduates to continue their education in science. In addition, Congress created the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** to coordinate the space-related efforts of American scientists and the military.

 **Checkpoint** How did the Hungarian and Suez crises of 1956 raise Cold War tensions?



### Russians Succeed in Space

The dog Laika, aboard *Sputnik 2*, was the first living creature to orbit Earth. He was hailed as a Soviet hero.

## SECTION 3 Assessment

### Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice

Web Code: nea-1207

### Comprehension

- Terms** For each term below, write a sentence explaining its importance to the United States during the Cold War.
  - arms race
  - mutually assured destruction
  - massive retaliation
  - brinkmanship
  - Eisenhower Doctrine

### 2. NoteTaking Reading Skill:

**Identify Main Ideas** Use your completed charts to answer the Section Focus Question: What methods did the United States use in its global struggle against the Soviet Union?

### Writing About History

#### 3. Quick Write: Identify Sources

Identify two sources you might use to find answers to research questions about the arms race. One source should be a book from your school or public library. The other should be a reliable site on the Internet.

### Critical Thinking

- Identify Point of View** Do you think that the massive retaliation policy favored by John Foster Dulles successfully deterred the Soviet Union? Explain your answer.
- Contrast** How were the covert operations of the CIA in Guatemala and Iran different from the military operations of the United States Army in Korea?
- Demonstrate Reasoned Judgment** Were Americans justified in being alarmed when the Soviets launched *Sputnik 1*? Explain.