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# The Cold War

Specialized Historical Committee

HMUNC XVIII



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## Letter from the chairs

Arjun Sharma-

Welcome to HMUNC XVIII! I am extremely excited to be chairing the Cold War Historical Crisis Committee with my co-chairs, Rania and Jacob! I have been a part of Herricks Model UN since my freshman year, and this will be my first time chairing. In the past, I have attended several high school conferences as well as BUSUN and CMUNCE. I have always been interested in global affairs and international politics. Outside of school, I like reading, baking, and playing tennis. As your chair, I look forward to moderating our committee sessions and seeing what it will have in store for us, and I hope it will be a fun experience for everyone!

Rania Gupta-

My name is Rania Gupta and I will be one of your chairs for this committee. Currently, I am a freshman and this is my first year in Model UN. I have participated in HoMMUNC, NHSMUN, and BUSUN conferences. Outside of school hours, I participate in clubs such as DECA, SADD, NHD, MUN and additionally, I also play volleyball on a club team. I am also a big time fan of Taylor Swift. While this is my first year chairing, I am excited to see where this conference goes, good luck!

Jacob Shushter-

This year is my first year being a part of Model UN, as a result I am greatly appreciative to be able to be your chair. This year I have participated in the Disarmament and International Security Committee in both the HoMMUNC and NHSMUN conference. I am a freshman at Herricks High School. My favorite subject is science, more specifically physics, biology and chemistry, with social studies a close second. Outside of school, I enjoy participating in the Science Olympiad and Model UN. Despite this being my first year participating in Model UN, I have always held a keen interest in politics and history. Specifically, my main historical interest lies in the time periods spanning from World War I to the modern-day battlefield.

Our Committee Email: [thecoldwar.hmunc@gmail.com](mailto:thecoldwar.hmunc@gmail.com)

Good luck! We hope you will enjoy HMUNC XVIII!



## **How to Navigate the Background Guide:**

The background guide is structured as a general historical overview of the Cold War. The table of contents should make navigation easy. Our background guide is written to make it seem as if we are IN the Cold War, which is when our committee will pick up debate. Make sure to interpret our guide correctly; for any external research, be sure that all information is relevant to this time period (Cold War) and not current information. To get a better understanding of your specific country's position on the topic, please take a look at our bloc positions, they will present an introduction to each country's view on these topics. We recommend that you print out this background guide and annotate it so you may use your notes during the committee. Good luck!!

## **How to write a position paper:**

Position papers may seem intimidating, especially if you've never written one. Position papers should include a brief introduction and a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed in committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions. These papers should only be around one page in length - get right to the point but do not only include only facts or only opinions. A favorable position paper should follow this format:

Paragraph 1:

- Overall background on your country's position on the topic



- Citations from any major documents such as the UN Charter or other treaties that are relevant to your country's position and the topic being discussed during committee. (Not required but recommended)
- Explain why this issue is controversial to this committee and the global community - examples statistics are appropriate here

Paragraph 2:

- How the issue affects your country
- How your country's policies correlate to the issue and your country's justification for these policies
- Quotes from your country's leader on the issue
- Statistics/examples to backup your country's position on the issue;
- Actions taken by your government in regards to the issue;
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified

Paragraph 3:

- What your country believes should be done to address the issue (what actions would your country like the global community to take to address this issue)
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee

**Please email all Position Papers to: [thecoldwar.hmunc@gmail.com](mailto:thecoldwar.hmunc@gmail.com) by May 15th.**



## Background to the Cold War

During the later stages of and following the end of World War II, the world faced another challenge: The Cold War. The Cold War did not involve actual combat between the 2 main parties, but stemmed from the fundamental ideological differences and political differences between them.<sup>1</sup> The two ideological combatants were capitalism versus communism. The cold war lasted over forty years and ended on December 26, 1991, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

During the war, the USSR, or the Soviet Union, demonstrated the success of communism and tried to persuade many countries to turn to communism, while the United States tried to persuade countries to turn to capitalism. In addition, the United States sought to contain the spread of communism, thus they were willing to support governments that were against communism and aided anti-communist groups within already communist countries. As a response, the Soviet Union sponsored the pro-communist governments in putting down the anti-communist groups within their countries.<sup>2</sup> Image



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<sup>1</sup>Gaddis, Lewis John. . Pehuin Press, 2018, ia803100.us.archive.org/33/items/thecoldwaranewhistory/The%20Cold%20War%20%20a%20new%20history.pdf. Accessed 7 May 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Kissinger, Henry J. . Simon and Schuster, 1994. , euroclassworks.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/download-kissingers-diplomacy.pdf. Accessed 7 May 2023.



Although US-backed groups and Soviet Union-backed groups often fought one another, the US and USSR never formally fought each other because of the development of Mutually Assured Destruction (M.A.D.) by the early 1960s. MAD, or mutually assured destruction, was a doctrine in which a full-scale use of nuclear weapons by one side would cause the total annihilation of both combatants. As a result of MAD, the US and Soviet Union engaged in a proxy war, where the superpowers aided groups by sending weapons or troops instead of participating in open combat.<sup>3</sup> The aid sent to these groups or countries could be secret (often associated with clandestine operations that did not follow international law) such as CIA operations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, or public such as Vietnam.

There are many examples of proxy wars such as Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Korea, but there are also lesser-known examples in Congo, Nicaragua, Chile, and Angola. The term Cold War stems from the idea that the major countries involved in the war could not enter open conflict due to the deterrent of nuclear weapons and MAD.

## **The Effects of World War II and the Birth of Superpowers**

The division of Germany had a major impact on the Second World War. Following the Potsdam Conference, the victors divided Germany into four zones: a large Soviet Union zone (which would act as a buffer to capitalism entering the east), a



<sup>3</sup> Gaddis, John L. *The Cold War: A New History*. Penguin, 2018. 31



British zone, a French zone, and an American zone. Inside the Soviet zone, the capital of Germany, Berlin, was also divided amongst the four major victors of World War II. The French, British, and Americans would later unite their zones to create the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) while the Soviet Union would create the German Democratic Republic (East Germany).

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became known as superpowers. One of the main factors that contributed to the emergence of the United States as a world superpower was its economic strength. During the war, the United States had become the world's largest industrial producer, and its economy continued to grow in the post-war years. This economic power allowed the United States to provide significant aid to other countries through programs such as the Marshall Plan, which helped to rebuild Europe after the war. Another factor that contributed to the United States' rise to superpower status was its military strength. The United States possessed the world's most powerful military, with advanced technology and a large standing army.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, emerged as a superpower largely due to its military strength. The Soviet Union suffered greatly during the war, with an estimated 27 million casualties<sup>4</sup>. However, it had also emerged as a major military power, with a large standing army and advanced military technology. This military power allowed the Soviet Union to exert significant influence over Eastern Europe and other countries that fell within its sphere of influence.

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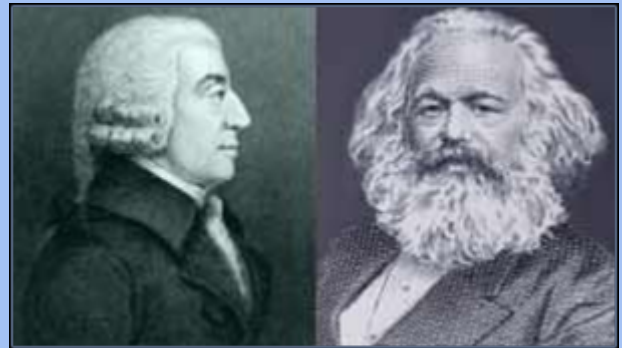
<sup>4</sup>Applebaum, Anne. *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1945-1956*. Anchor, 2012.4





## Ideological Differences

The two main ideologies of the Cold War are communism and capitalism. Communism is an economic and political ideology which establishes a classless society where property and resources are collectively owned and controlled by the community and distribution of goods and services are based on the needs of the people rather than profit. (Smith 56)<sup>5</sup>. The modern idea of communism emerged during the 19th century in response to growing industrialization and exploitation of workers. In the Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx argued that history was driven by class struggle and the only way to avoid this struggle was to destroy the concepts of private property and establish a society where the total production of all goods was controlled by the workers themselves (Marx and Engels)<sup>6</sup>. Communism gained popularity in the early 20th century, after the Russian Revolution of 1917, which saw the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, overthrow the Czarist/Tsarist government and establish the world's first communist country, the Soviet Union which would serve as a model for communism in other countries such as China, Cuba, Vietnam, and other countries<sup>7</sup>. Image



Capitalism is the opposite of communism as an economic system characterized by private ownership of production, free market

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<sup>5</sup>Smith, David. Socialism and communism. Routledge, 2017.

<sup>6</sup>Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. The Communist Manifesto. Penguin Classics, 2002.

<sup>7</sup>Kenez, Peter. A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End. Cambridge University Press, 1999.,98



competition, and profit maximization<sup>8</sup>. It emerged during the 18th century in Europe with the rise of merchant capitalism, the accumulation of wealth through trade and commerce<sup>9</sup>. Adam Smith argued that unregulated free markets were the most efficient way to promote economic growth. Smith's ideas were further developed into the idea of Laissez-Faire capitalism, which was developed by Hayek and Milton Freidman and argued that government intervention in the economy will hurt growth (Hayek 12)<sup>10</sup> However, capitalism can be criticized due to promoting environmental, and social damage in pursuit for profit.<sup>11</sup>

## **Global Scale Effects of Ideological Differences**

Espionage and covert action during the Cold War played a crucial role in shaping global power dynamics of the time. Espionage, or the practice of gathering secret information, was used by both the United States and the Soviet Union to gain strategic advantage. The Soviet Union had an extensive network of spies, including Kim Philby, a British intelligence officer who worked as a double agent for the Soviet Union for over two decades<sup>12</sup>. The United States had its share of spies, such as Aldrich Ames, a CIA officer who was convicted of spying for the Soviet Union in 1994.<sup>13</sup>



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<sup>8</sup>Freidman, Milton. Capitalism and Freedom. University of Chicago Press, 2002, 19

<sup>9</sup>Polanyi, Karl. The Great Transformation: the Political and Economic Origins of Our Time. Beacon Press, 2001, 58

<sup>10</sup>Hayek Friedrich. The Road to Serfdom. University of Chicago Press, 2002.

<sup>11</sup>Marx, Karl. Capital, Volume 1. Penguin Classics, 1990.43

<sup>12</sup>Andrew, Christopher. The Defence of the Realm: The Authorized History of MI5. Penguin, 2009.32

<sup>13</sup>Kessler, Ronald. Spy vs. Spy: The Shocking Story of the FBI's Secret War. St. Martin's Press, 1995.8



In addition to traditional spying, both the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in technological espionage or the theft of technological secrets from each other. This was part of the arms race between as each sought to gain the upper hand in military technology. One famous example of this was the theft of nuclear secrets by Soviet spies, which allowed the Soviet Union to develop its own nuclear weapons.<sup>14</sup>

### **Global Scale Effects: Proxy Wars**

Since the major combatants of the Cold War could not fight in open conflict, these states would involve themselves in wars between two smaller powers, picking a side that represented their ideologies and supplying that side with manpower, weapons, equipment, infrastructure or logistics. This was known as a proxy war.

- The Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953: the United States and other Western countries supported South Korea as part of a UN force, while the Soviet Union and China supported North Korea. The conflict was marked by intense fighting and the use of brutal tactics, including the massacre of civilians by both sides.<sup>15</sup>
- The Vietnam War, which lasted from 1955 until 1975: the United States supported the government of South Vietnam with ground troops, while the Soviet Union and China supported the communist forces in North Vietnam with money and weapons. The

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<sup>14</sup>Rhodes, Richard. Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb. Simon & Schuster, 1995.24

<sup>15</sup>Cummings, Bruce. "Korean War." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 22 May 2004, [www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War](http://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War).



conflict was brutal and cost the lives of millions of people, including over 58,000 American soldiers<sup>16</sup>.

- The Soviet-Afghan War, which lasted from 1979 to 1989: the Soviet Union supported the communist government in Afghanistan with ground troops, while the United States and other Western countries supported the anti-communist mujahideen rebels with weapons and money. The war was incredibly costly for the Soviet Union, both in terms of money and lives, and is often considered a contributing factor to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991<sup>17</sup>.

Proxy wars during the Cold War were not limited to Asia. In Africa, the United States and the Soviet Union supported opposing sides in conflicts in Angola and Mozambique, while in Latin America, the United States supported right-wing governments in countries such as Chile and Nicaragua, while the Soviet Union supported left-wing governments in Cuba and Nicaragua.<sup>18</sup>

### New Technologies

The competition between the US and the Soviet Union sparked a race for technological dominance across many fields including nuclear technologies. ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles) were developed as a means of delivering nuclear warheads to distant targets,



<sup>16</sup>Bender, David. *The Cold War*. Greenhaven, 1992. 12

<sup>17</sup>Rashid, Ahmed. *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*. Yale University Press, 2001.19

<sup>18</sup>McAllister, Carlota. "Latin America." *The Cold War: A World History*, Oxford University Press, 2018, 54



allowing for a more effective and efficient means of striking at an enemy. The United States developed its first ICBM, the Atlas missile, in 1959, followed by the Titan and Minuteman missiles in the 1960s.<sup>19</sup> The Soviet Union responded with the development of its own ICBMs, including the R-7



Semyorka missile, which was capable of carrying a nuclear warhead over a distance of 8,000 kilometers.<sup>20</sup>

MIRVs were a further development of ICBMs, allowing a single missile to carry multiple nuclear warheads that

could be independently targeted. The United States began deploying MIRVs in the 1970s, while the Soviet Union followed suit shortly thereafter.<sup>21</sup>

The deployment of MIRVs increased the destructive power of nuclear weapons and complicated efforts to defend against them.

The threat of nuclear annihilation loomed large over the world, leading to a tense and potentially catastrophic standoff between the two superpowers. The arms race between



the United States and the Soviet Union led to a massive buildup of nuclear

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<sup>19</sup>Hardesty, Von. "Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles." Encyclopedia Britannica, [britannica.com/technology/intercontinental-ballistic-missile](https://www.britannica.com/technology/intercontinental-ballistic-missile).

<sup>20</sup>Rogers, Thomas. "R-7 Semyorka." Encyclopedia Britannica, 3 Dec. 2020, [britannica.com/technology/R-7-Semyorka](https://www.britannica.com/technology/R-7-Semyorka).

<sup>21</sup>Freedman, Lawrence. "Multiple Warhead Systems." Encyclopedia Britannica, 5 Feb. 2021, [britannica.com/topic/multiple-warhead-systems](https://www.britannica.com/topic/multiple-warhead-systems).



weapons on both sides,)<sup>22</sup> with the potential to destroy the world many times over.

The end of the Cold War brought a reduction in the number of nuclear weapons deployed by the United States and the Soviet Union and a shift in focus toward arms control and disarmament. However, the continued proliferation of nuclear weapons remains a concern in the 21st century, with 9 countries possessing the capability to deploy these devastating weapons.

### **Mutual Defense Pacts**

The creation of atomic and nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) led both countries to seek the support of allies. In the United Nations Security Council, created in 1945, four of the five permanent members were Capitalist, including Taiwan acting as the Republic of China rather than the People's Republic of China . In response to the Soviet Occupation of Eastern Europe and the creation of the Warsaw Pact, NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was created as a mutual defense treaty between the Western nations. Should one member be attacked, the other members would help by providing aid in a variety of forms. Some of the original members were the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Canada, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Portugal and of course, West Germany.

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<sup>22</sup>"Key Issues: Nuclear Weapons: History: Pre Cold War: Manhattan Project".



# Topic A: The Space Race





## A Brief Foreword: Topic A Specifics

*Our committee will be set in late 1968/early 1969: the so-called "Golden Age" of the Space Race, and more specifically the formative years in which the main superpowers of the Cold War are rushing to claim the title to become the first to reach the moon.*

*What to Expect: Espionage, Missions to the moon, and Disasters*

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## Prelude: Why Space exploration?

Air travel and space exploration are topics that have been met with global interest for centuries. The earliest designs of rockets can be seen in Chinese designs of solid-propellant rockets in 1232 AD<sup>23</sup>, dating back almost nine hundred years.

This worldwide fascination led to the transformation of space exploration into an integral aspect of the Cold War. Both powers viewed space exploration as a way to demonstrate their technological advancements, scientific breakthroughs, and military capabilities on the world stage. The origins of the space race can be traced back to the Missile Race during the 1940's and early 1950's; this was one of the initial components of the Nuclear Arms Race. New technological advancements around the turn of the twentieth century promoted newfound ideas in the field of space exploration; renowned American



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<sup>23</sup>"Brief History of Rockets." NASA, NASA, [https://www.grc.nasa.gov/www/k-12/rocket/TRCRocket/history\\_of\\_rockets.html#:~:text=The%20date%20reporting%20the%20first,of%20a%20solid%2Dpropellant%20rocket](https://www.grc.nasa.gov/www/k-12/rocket/TRCRocket/history_of_rockets.html#:~:text=The%20date%20reporting%20the%20first,of%20a%20solid%2Dpropellant%20rocket)

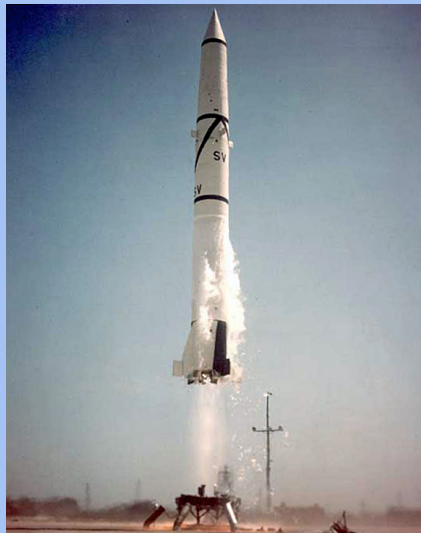




physicist *Robert H. Goddard* launched the first model of a modern, liquid-fueled rocket on March 16, 1926, in Auburn Massachusetts<sup>24</sup>. The first prototypes of Soviet rocket models were created 1921 as a part of a laboratory research program funded by the Soviet Military<sup>25</sup>, with the first trials launching in 1928.

## The Missile Race

The United States and Soviet Union eventually segued into the development of creating missiles with warhead-delivering capabilities-known as ballistic missiles-during the early 1950's. The



creation of the Redstone Rocket program in 1950, funded as a part of the Redstone Arsenal project by the United States Army, were based on historical models of the pioneer V-2 ballistic missile used by Nazi German forces during the 1930's and 1940's<sup>26</sup>. The Soviet ballistic missile prototypes, referred to as the R-2 Ballistic Units, were also derived from the Nazi V-2 missiles and were first

designed in 1953<sup>27</sup>. As both powers sought to assert dominance over each other in the sector of Space exploration, the countries began to research the



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<sup>24</sup> Goddard Space Flight Center." NASA, [www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/about/history/dr\\_goddard.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/about/history/dr_goddard.html). Accessed 5 May 2023.

<sup>25</sup> "CHALLENGE TO APOLLO: THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SPACE RACE, 1945- 1974." NASA, [history.nasa.gov/SP-4408pt1.pdf](http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4408pt1.pdf). Accessed 5 May 2023.

<sup>26</sup> Spaceline. [www.spaceline.org/cape-canaveral-rocket-missile-program/redstone-fact-sheet/](http://www.spaceline.org/cape-canaveral-rocket-missile-program/redstone-fact-sheet/). Accessed 5 May 2023.

<sup>27</sup>. "Soviet Military Power - 1985." Federation of American Scientists - Intelligence Resource Program, [irp.fas.org/dia/product/smp\\_85\\_ch2.htm](http://irp.fas.org/dia/product/smp_85_ch2.htm). Accessed 5 May 2023.



logistics of manned and unmanned-spacecrafts with orbital capabilities. This signified a transition from single-use technology, such as ballistic missiles, to more durable and longer-lasting technology that could withstand the environment of space for longer and multiple periods of time.

## Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1

The launch of the Sputnik I Soviet satellite on October 4, 1957, marked the official start of the Cold War space race<sup>28</sup>. This mission marked the first time a human-made object had been put into continuous orbit around the Earth. The Soviet Union created and launched the satellite program in response to fears brought on that the United States was far ahead in the realm of space exploration.



However, this was untrue, as the launch of Sputnik 1 sent shockwaves through the United States, which was caught off guard by the Soviet Union's technological prowess. Each orbit around Earth of the Sputnik 1 satellite took approximately 98

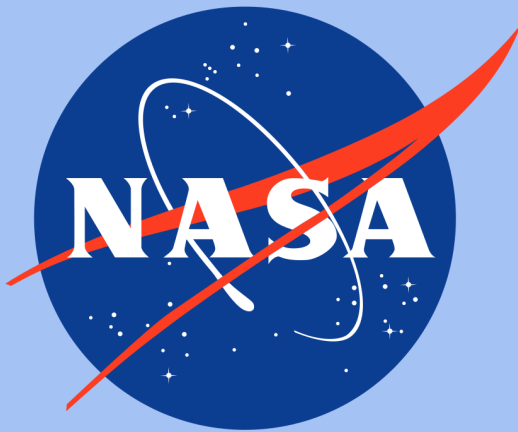
<sup>28</sup> Launius, Roger D. "The Space Race." National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, 2001, [airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/space-race/essay.jsp](http://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/space-race/essay.jsp).



minutes, prompting fears that the satellite served as a continuous source of American top-secret intel to top-level Soviet Union generals in Moscow.

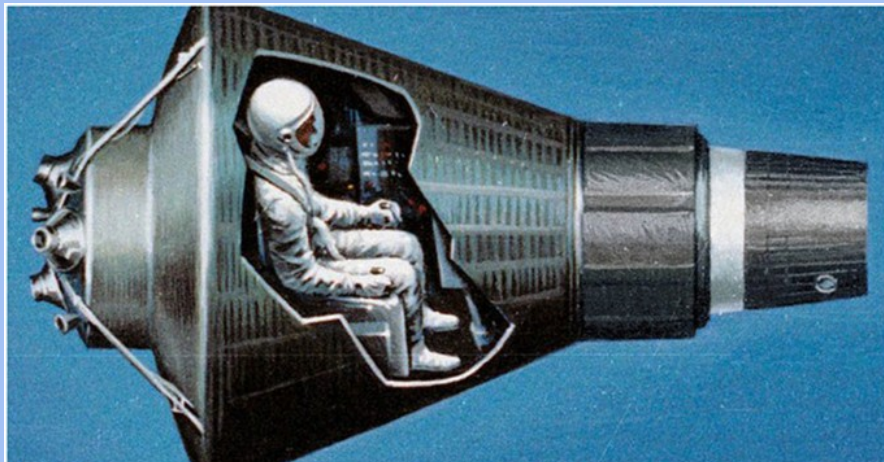
## Response to Sputnik 1

In response to the Soviet Union's technological advancements,



then-incumbent United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower created the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration* (NASA). This organization was aimed to promote and research technological advancements in space exploration so that American space technology could soon bypass the already-advanced Soviet

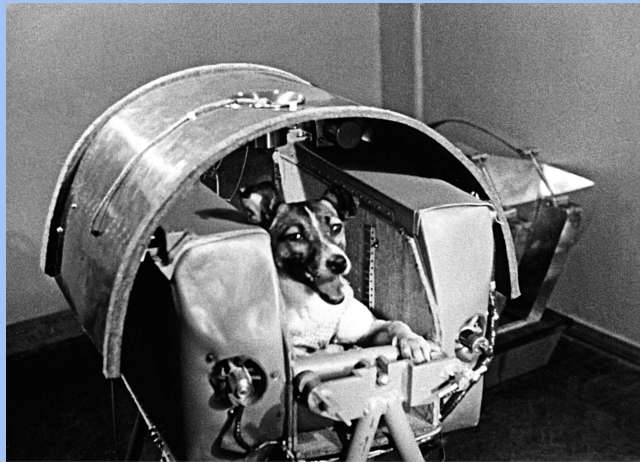
machinery. One of NASA's first major projects was Project Mercury, which opted to bypass the creation of (Soviet-competing) satellites and instead focus on a frontier that was already in its later stages of development at the Soviet Space agency: putting a human into orbit around the Earth.





## Soviet Failures: Sputnik 2 and Soyuz 1

The Soviet mission *Sputnik 2* was the first to launch a mammal into space, on November 3, 1957. A stray dog from the streets of Moscow, named *Laika* was



selected for the mission because scientists believed that dogs would be able to tolerate the stresses of spaceflight better than other animals<sup>29</sup>. The mission was intended to study the effects of spaceflight on living organisms, and while Laika survived for

several hours after the launch, she ultimately died due to overheating from a defect in the spacecraft's thermal systems. Another mission regarded

as a failure of the Soviet Space Agency was the *Soyuz 1* mission. The

mission was the first manned mission of the Soyuz spacecraft on April 23, 1967, with Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov aboard. Due to poor technical design as a result of rushed efforts to compete with American *Apollo* missions, the spacecraft's parachute system failed to deploy upon reentry, killing Komarov on impact<sup>30</sup>



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<sup>29</sup>Smithsonian Magazine. [www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/sad-story-laika-space-dog-and-her-one-way-trip-orbit-1-180968728/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/sad-story-laika-space-dog-and-her-one-way-trip-orbit-1-180968728/). Accessed 5 May 2023.

<sup>30</sup>. [www.nasa.gov/topics/history/features/komarov.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/history/features/komarov.html). Accessed 5 May 2023.



## Race to put the first Human in Space

The Soviet Space Agency once again bypassed the prowess of NASA: one of the most landmark missions in the space race was Yuri Gagarin's flight on April 12, 1961<sup>31</sup>. Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth,



which was a significant milestone in space exploration. The Soviet Union's success with this mission further intensified the space race and motivated the United States to ramp up its own efforts in space exploration. The first flight of the Mercury program was on May 5, 1961, when astronaut

Alan Shepard became the first American to enter space aboard the Mercury-Redstone 3 spacecraft, although his mission never entered orbit and remained suborbital-it ascended about 115 miles above Earth's surface but did not reach high enough to complete a full orbit. Shepard spent a total of nine days, and fifty seven minutes in space.



<sup>31</sup> Launius, Roger D. "The Space Race." National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, 2001, [airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/space-race/essay.jsp](http://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/space-race/essay.jsp).



## Race to the Moon and the Apollo Missions



As both powers began to display apt capabilities of space-frontier exploration by 1960, President John F. Kennedy committed to having humans land on the moon by 1970<sup>32</sup>. In conjunction with NASA, this affirmation led to the creation of the *Apollo Program* in 1961 and a 500% budget increase for the organization. Additionally, the company grew by over 34,000 employees. The Apollo program conducted a total of fourteen manned missions spanning from 1961 to 1972,

with the first eight comprising of near-Moon orbitals and the last six being attempts at landing on the Moon. However, just like the Soviet Space Agency missions, a number of failures plagued the Apollo missions. *Apollo*



*1*, in 1967, suffered a great catastrophe when three astronauts were killed after their spacecraft caught (Bourne, 56)<sup>33</sup> fire during a training exercise at the NASA base in Cape Kennedy, Florida.

<sup>32</sup>"ADDRESS TO JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS MAY 25, 1961." *John F. Kennedy*, [www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/historic-speeches/address-to-joint-session-of-congress-may-25-1961](http://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/historic-speeches/address-to-joint-session-of-congress-may-25-1961). Accessed 5 May 2023.

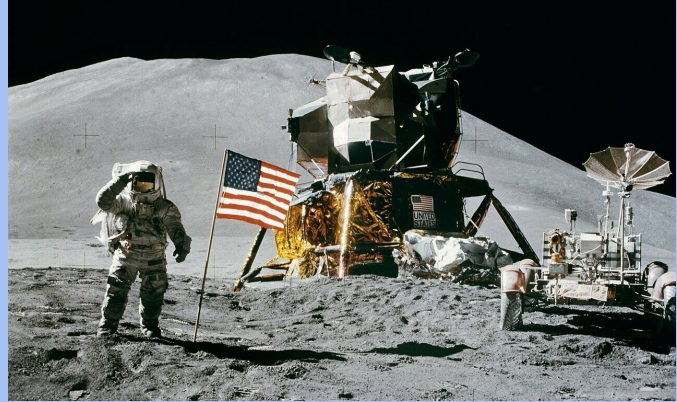
<sup>33</sup> Bourne, 2008 pp. 56-73 <https://NASA.org/apollo>



## The Apollo 11 Mission

NASA made significant progress in the space race with the Apollo program, and kept JFK's nine-year promise to the American people true to its name with the *Apollo 11* flight. The most famous mission in the Apollo program was Apollo 11, which

successfully landed astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin on the moon on July 20, 1969 (NASA, 15). This mission was a significant achievement for the United States and



demonstrated the country's technological superiority over the Soviet Union in space exploration. On July 20, Neil Armstrong became the first human being to ever walk the moon, and famously said, "That's one small



step for man, one giant leap for mankind."<sup>34</sup> This mission was a significant achievement for the United States and demonstrated the country's technological superiority over the Soviet Union in space exploration.

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<sup>34</sup>. [www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/apollo/apollo11.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/apollo/apollo11.html). Accessed 5 May 2023.



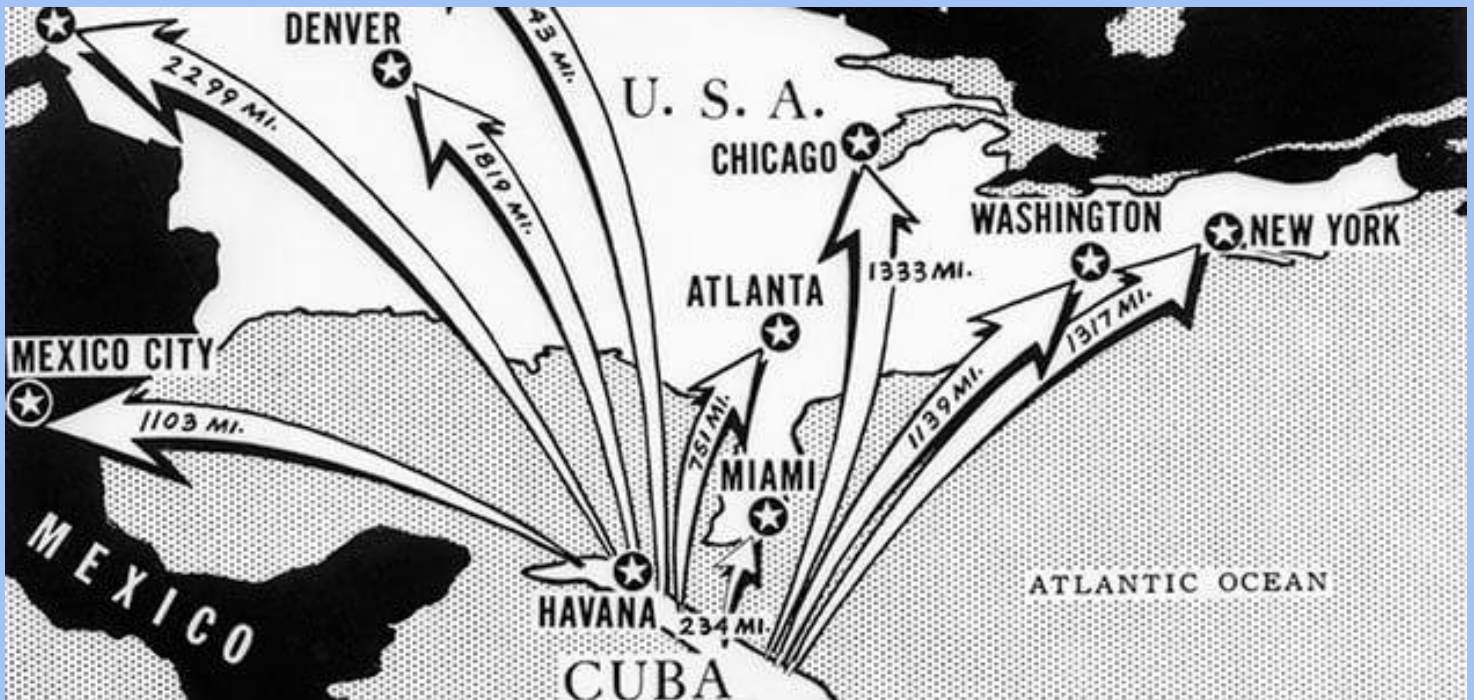
## Questions to consider

- How should the international community respond to the increased competition between the Soviet Union and United States in the Space exploration sector?
- Did the Space Race demonstrate what the priorities of the Soviet Union and United States were during this time period? Why?
- Are there possible solutions to hostility ensued by the Cold War that pertains to the creation of new technologies?
- Is the Space Race even worth pursuing for countries or is it just another competition?





# Topic B: The Cuban Missile Crisis





## A Brief Foreword: Topic B Specifics

*Our committee is set to meet on October 16, 1962, in Dublin, Ireland. We are at the start of President Kennedy's naval blockade on Cuba: the world is currently at the brink of nuclear war. It is your responsibility to draft effective solutions that will diffuse the Cold War and prevent the likelihood of millions of deaths in the event of full-scale Nuclear warfare erupting.*

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The Cuban Missile Crisis was the culmination of a series of global events during the height of the Cold War.

## Cuban Revolution (1959)

As rebel forces led by Fidel Castro staged a socialist coup against the Batista presidency, the United States government grew more concerned about the spread of communism in the Western Hemisphere. This revolution was the closest communist coup to the American mainland in history and promoted more intense extreme fear of a communist invasion on American soil amongst American citizens and among the government and its allies.<sup>35</sup>



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<sup>35</sup> The Cuban Revolution. [learn.saylor.org/mod/book/view.php?id=54803](https://learn.saylor.org/mod/book/view.php?id=54803). Accessed 8 May 2023.



## Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961)

The Bay of Pigs invasion was a failed attempt by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the Kennedy administration to overthrow



Castro's communist government. The operation involved a group of American-backed Cuban exiles attempting to create a military base on the southern shores of the island. However, due to the invasion's poor planning and execution, the Cuban

military quickly defeated the exiles.<sup>36</sup> The incident further strained relations between the United States and Cuba, and solidified the Castro regime's anti-American stance.<sup>37</sup>

## Creation of a Soviet-Cuban Alliance

The Bay of Pigs invasion made Cuba turn to the Soviet Union for military and economic support. The alliance provided Cuba with military hardware, economic assistance, and Soviet advisors who trained Cuban troops. The United States saw the alliance as a direct challenge to common capitalist ideologies of the Western Hemisphere.



<sup>36</sup> Missile Threat. [missilethreat.csis.org/missile/jupiter/](https://missilethreat.csis.org/missile/jupiter/). Accessed 8 May 2023.

<sup>37</sup> The Cuban Revolution. [learn.saylor.org/mod/book/view.php?id=54803](https://learn.saylor.org/mod/book/view.php?id=54803). Accessed 8 May 2023.



This was a stark contrast to the beliefs of the Soviet premiers, who viewed this alliance as a method to promote communist beliefs across new spheres of the world—Central America and the Caribbean in this instance—and as a method to intimidate the American government. The alliance served as a reminder to the Kennedy administration that, should America attack the Soviet Union<sup>38</sup>, its Caribbean ally, would swiftly retaliate against anything.



## Jupiter Missiles in Turkey

The United States perceived the Soviet-Cuban Alliance as a large threat primarily due to the short distance separating the island from the



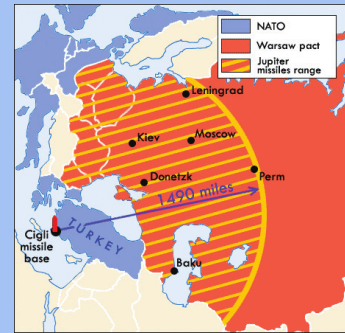
American mainland. In response to Soviet distribution of military hardware & such, the United States government deployed Jupiter missiles in Turkey, which were capable of reaching the Soviet Union. This move was seen as a threat by the Soviet Union and led to increased tensions

between the two superpowers. Since the Soviet Union had such a strong connection right next to the United States, the Kennedy Administration

<sup>38</sup>Missile Threat. [missilethreat.csis.org/missile/jupiter/](https://missilethreat.csis.org/missile/jupiter/). Accessed 8 May 2023.



found it measurable to enact the same intimidationist policy against the Soviet Union. The Jupiter missiles were intermediate-range missiles, and due to their strategic placement in Southern Turkey, important Soviet cities such as Moscow, Kiev, and Baku were well within the missiles' range.<sup>3940</sup>



## Operation Mongoose

In the months following the Bay of Pigs incident, there has been an increased amount of shipments between Cuba and the Soviet Union, including weapons. Concerned about the contents of the shipments, the



United States Government instilled *Operation Mongoose*<sup>41</sup>. The operation was a plan to destabilize the Cuban economy and derail the government, in order to pave the way for the United States to instill a puppet regime with a Democratic

president for the Cuban people. The first step was to send a U-2 spy plane over the island of Cuba to survey potential threat sites and points of interest for the Operation<sup>42</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Missile Threat. [missilethreat.csis.org/missile/jupiter/](https://missilethreat.csis.org/missile/jupiter/). Accessed 8 May 2023.

<sup>40</sup> Office of the Historian. . [history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs](https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs). Accessed 8 May 2023.

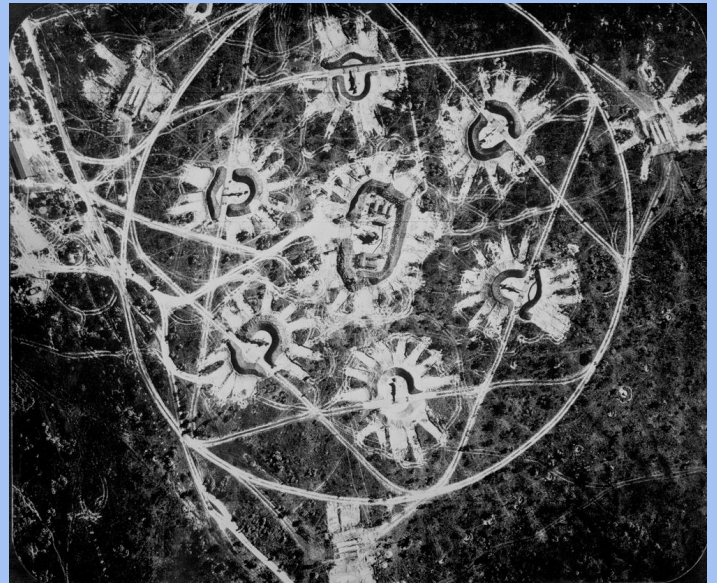
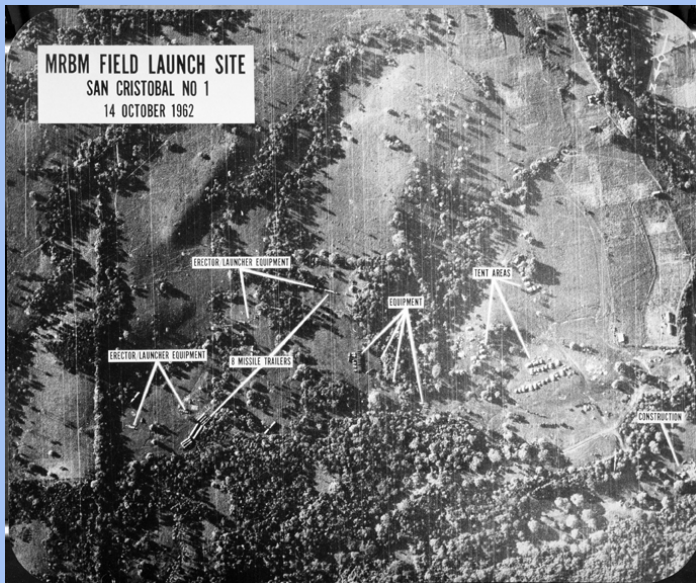
<sup>41</sup>"The Bay of Pigs Invasion and Its Aftermath, April 1961–October 1962." United States Department of State Office of the Historian, [history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs#:~:text=Operation%20Mongoose%20was%20designed%20to,wide%2Dranging%20purpose%20and%20scope](https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs#:~:text=Operation%20Mongoose%20was%20designed%20to,wide%2Dranging%20purpose%20and%20scope). Accessed 6 May 2023.

<sup>42</sup> Saylor. [learn.saylor.org/mod/book/view.php?id=54803](https://learn.saylor.org/mod/book/view.php?id=54803). Accessed 8 May 2023



## U-2 Spy Plane Photos

The U-2 spy plane incident was the most crucial event leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis. In October 1962, a U.S. spy plane discovered Soviet missile sites in Cuba<sup>43</sup>, which led to President Kennedy ordering a naval blockade of Cuban ports to prevent further missile shipments. The U.S. and Soviet Union engaged in a tense standoff, known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.



<sup>43</sup> <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/aerial-photograph-of-missiles-in-cuba>



## Potential for Nuclear War

In the past few years, the United States has increased its inventory to contain over 26,000 Nuclear warheads while the Soviet arsenal has only



increased to 3,000 warheads. Combined, they had over 90% of the total nuclear warheads in the world in 1961. The Space Race has led to the development of inter-continental ballistic missiles, which can deliver a nuclear payload in minutes. The possibility of all out

nuclear warfare is real. As the Soviet Union continues to spread the flames of Communism, potential conflict seems inevitable.

## Questions to consider:

- How should the international community respond to the standoff in Cuba?
- Should the US and the Soviets be required to remove their nuclear warheads from such close proximity to each other? Should the US remove their warheads from Turkey and Italy?
- Should the US be allowed to blockade Cuba to prevent further shipments from the Soviets?
- Should the US be allowed to use spy planes to take pictures over Cuba? Isn't this a violation of their sovereignty?
- Should sanctions be placed on either party for bringing the world to the brink of nuclear war?



## Position Descriptions: **Western Bloc**

### United States of America

The United States of America is a capitalist democracy. The Kennedy Administration just recently launched a failed coup on Cuba. This has enhanced the relations between Cuba and the USSR and is becoming a bigger threat to American democracy. As the leader of the NATO alliance and having the largest military in the Western world, the US Army has a stockpile of 26,000 nuclear weapons, 2 million personnel active. (NATO, 43)

### Italy

The Italian Republic is democratic. It is also a member of the United Nations, and the NATO alliance. In an effort to curb the expansion of communism, the administration of current President Giovanni Gronchi agreed to place 30 Jupiter Nuclear warheads in the Italian countryside-on behalf of the United States, a close ally-and has been given the responsibility to deploy them whenever necessary. The Italian government received great funding as a result of the Marshall Plan that the US had orchestrated to stabilize western nation economies to prevent Soviet control. (NATO, 18)

### Turkey

The Republic of Turkey is a developing democratic nation located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Having received a large amount of U.S. aid with the use of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan after WWII, communist insurgents were stopped and the country was able to rebuild. President, Mustafa İsmet İnönü, is serving his third term. In an agreement with the United States, President İnönü agreed to place 15 Jupiter nuclear warheads in Çiğli, an area in Western Turkey. In addition, Turkey possesses the second largest military in the NATO alliance after the United States.(Jaques, 53)





## **France**

The French Republic is a democracy. It is a permanent member of the UN and highly influential in NATO. The administration of incumbent President Charles De Gaulle has a nuclear program currently running tests in Northern Africa, as it is one of the few countries with access to nuclear technology. A key French colony, Algeria, is attempting to break away from imperialist rule, and Algerian militias have sprung up to fight against the 120,000+ French troops deployed in Algeria. (Heimller, 93)

## **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a constitutional monarchy, and the incumbent prime minister is Harold Macmillan. A history of rivalry with the USSR exists due to a mutual fear of expansionism from the eighteenth century. In a deal with the United States, nuclear warheads are being placed in the UK in a plan to deter the expansion of communism. The UK holds a share in the joint territory zones in Berlin and West Germany, and has great influence over its former colonies. (Jackson, 52)

## **West Germany**

The Federal Republic of Germany is an establishment of eleven states from Allied zones occupied by the US, the UK, and France. West Germany also has official control of West Berlin inside East Germany. West Germany's current president is Heinrich Lübke and the chancellor is Ludwig Erhard. The US, UK, and France all have placed several of their own battalions in this country and on the Western side of Berlin. (NATO, 7)

## **Position Descriptions: Eastern Bloc**



## **Soviet Union**

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the Soviet Union, is a communist state that spans the largest land mass in the world and 2 continents. Current leader Mikhail Khrushchev has been building nuclear warheads for Cuba and has been transporting them to the island via ships. Additionally, it is an instrumental competitor in the Space Race and holds the greatest influence over a variety of countries known as "satellite states" that are a part of the Warsaw Pact, and holds numerous communist allies worldwide.

## **China**

The People's Republic of China is one of the largest communist states in the world. A close ally of the Soviet Union, China aided North Korean forces during the Korean War, a proxy war between the United States and the Soviet Union. From 1959–1966, Liu Shaoqi was the Chairman of the Communist Party of China (CCP) but was removed from power by supporters of Shaoqi's predecessor, Mao Zedong, during the Cultural Revolution.

## **Poland**

The Polish People's Republic was essentially a satellite state of the Soviet Union. Although the people of Poland are fundamentally anti-Communist and Catholic, their government is part of the Warsaw Pact and they must follow Khrushchev's lead on foreign policy decisions. From 1952 until his death in office on August 7, 1964, the Chairman of the Council of State was Aleksander Zawadzki, and Edward Ochab assumed office until April 10th, 1968. Marian Spychalski assumed the position of Chairman from 1968 to 1972.

## **Romania**



The Romanian People's Republic is part of the Warsaw Pact and therefore a Soviet satellite state. During the 1960's, the Romanian People's Republic underwent a number of leadership changes, from Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej from 1961-1965, then Chivu Stoica from 1965-1967, and then Nicolae Ceaușescu from 1967 to 1989. The majority of their society and functions are dictated by Soviet leaders. While there have been some anti-communist protests/demonstrations in the past few years, the communist government remains strong. Romania also follows the Soviet lead on foreign policy decisions. (Rasputiv et al, 45)

### **Czechoslovakia**

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is a communist Soviet Satellite state, but its people carry large anti-communist sentiments. Numerous pro-democracy protests eventually culminated in the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, where four Warsaw Pact countries (The Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, The Hungarian People's Republic, and the People's Republic of Bulgaria) invaded the capital city of Prague to prevent Prague Spring liberalization protests and strengthen the authoritarian communist regime. Soviet military presence remained until 1991. You may choose to represent the ideals of the people, or the ideals of the government.

### **Bulgaria**

The People's Republic of Bulgaria was a close satellite state of the Soviet Union. It is occasionally referred to as the "16th Soviet Republic" instead of an independent country due to its proximity with Kremlin leaders. The General Secretary of the one-party communist government is currently Todor Zhivkov. Bulgaria is a member of the Warsaw Pact.

### **Hungary**



The Hungarian People's Republic was a Soviet Satellite State. The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 has just taken place - a harmless uprising against the Hungarian government and its Soviet-ruled policies. Demands for democracy, free elections and the adoption of a neutral foreign policy skyrocketed, but the uprising was crushed by the Soviets. Thousands of people were executed - out of fear and desperate for escape, people left Hungary for the West. Soviet leader Khrushchev instilled a puppet government, Janos Kadar, as prime minister.

### **Cuba**

The Republic of Cuba was considered part of the American sphere of influence particularly following the Spanish American War when the Navy assisted Cuba in their fight for independence from Spain. With the USSR as their new ally, they requested help in protecting Cuban borders against more U.S. attacks. Khrushchev has begun to ship nuclear warhead supplies and they have started to build some of these missiles. As their relationship with the USSR continues to develop, the U.S. has become even more hostile towards them. (Johnson et al, 294)

### **East Germany**

The German Democratic Republic was the state occupied by the Soviet forces following the division of the Weimar Republic. East Germany is one of the primary Soviet satellite states and is also a part of the Warsaw Pact. The current head of government is Otto Grotewohl. (Gladdis, 104)

### **Albania**



The People's Socialist Republic of Albania was a strong supporter of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. This was due to the fact that the First Secretary of the country, Enver Hoxha feared that the western NATO countries posed a big threat of invasion against his country. This led to Albania becoming a part of the Warsaw Pact as Hoxha felt that it was the best decision in order to keep his country protected.

### **Belarus**

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic was the smallest of the three Slavic republics included in the Soviet Union (the larger two being Russia and Ukraine). Belarus wanted to maintain and aid the Soviet Union by spreading communism across the globe as well as asserting their importance as a slavic republic. This country was a member of the Warsaw Pact (Dickson, 54)

**Position Descriptions: Non-Aligned**



## Argentina

The Argentine Republic is a capitalist democracy. During WWII, Argentina broke relations with the Axis powers in 1944 and under US pressure, they joined the Allied side. The current president is Jose Maria Guido, who has just claimed the Presidency with the support of the Argentinian military from fascist Arturo Frondizi. Argentina has recently cut ties with Cuba after US intervention indicating sympathy for the Western side in the Cold War. (Resputibla, 56)

## Yugoslavia

The demographics Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are comprised of a series of rival ethnicities dominated by Serbians. The country's current president is Marshal Tito, who broke ties with the Soviet Union in 1948 even though the government remains communist.. Yugoslavia started the Non-Aligned movement in 1961 and also criticizes NATO and the Warsaw Pact equally. The nation's primary concern is to protect themselves from USSR and NATO influence.

## Ceylon

The Commonwealth of Ceylon is made up of former British colonies. Ceylon has just become a “non-aligned country” as the British removed their air and sea bases from this country. Ceylon’s current Governor General is William Gopallawa. The anti-communists policies that the US Government is acting upon has ceased any aid that they receive and is resulting in an economic crisis. (Jason, 56 )



## Ecuador

The Republic of Ecuador is now facing a period of political instability as the last president had resigned without announcing a successor. Now, after a military coup, their current president is now Otto Arosemana who is insisting in maintaining clear relations with Cuba. Due to pressure from the United States, Ecuador may have to break relations with communist countries such as Cuba, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. (Kelesken, 98 )

## India

The Republic of India holds a leading position in the Non-Aligned Movement and is one of the original members of the United Nations. Jawaharlal Nehru served as Prime Minister from the inception of the nation until 1964, and was succeeded by Lal Bahadur Shastri. He unfortunately died in office two years later and was thereon succeeded by Indira Gandhi. India strongly supported decolonization in North Africa, as they became independent themselves. They still maintain a strong relationship with the United Kingdom and are also a member of the Commonwealth nations. However, because of their rivalry with Pakistan, a strong US ally, they tend to side with the Soviets in foreign policy issues. (Allison, 34)

## Tunisia



The Tunisian Republic just recently gained French independence in 1956 and was a communist country. Tunisia borders another French colony, Algeria, which is also seeking independence and is in a state of turmoil. Tunisia's current president is Habib Bourguiba. Even after independence, they still maintain close ties with the French. (xoblie, 15)

### Portugal

The Portuguese Republic was one of the founding members of NATO and was a stark anti-communist and anti-liberal. As a result of a 1926 military coup d'état that lasted until 1974, the country was ruled under the military dictatorship of Américo Tomás. (NATO, 4)

### Greece

The Hellenic Republic underwent a civil war from 1946 to 1949. Western anti-Communist governments became allies with Greece as they saw the ending of the Greek Civil War as a victory in the Cold War against the Soviet Union. Communists countered that the Soviets never actively supported the Greek Communist efforts to seize power in Greece. Thus, Greece decided to act as a strong NATO supporter. (Werner, 58)

### Norway

The Kingdom of Norway claimed to be neutral in the Cold War, but it supported and aided NATO throughout the twentieth century by utilizing the unique terrain and areas within Norway as NATO simulation grounds. Additionally, The Allied Command Europe Mobile Force, also known as the





AMF, was a brigade-sized force capable of quickly reacting to counter any aggression or threat. The AMF frequently exercised in Norway to display the resolve of the Allies to deter any threat. Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen served as head of state of the Kingdom of Norway for the majority of the 1960's. (Grayson, 56)

### **Switzerland**

The Swiss Confederation was a small and open economy during the Cold War and was therefore heavily dependent on the access to foreign markets. At the same time, during the Cold War, it pursued a policy of strict neutrality between the two blocs, although it considered itself part of the West in economic, political and cultural terms. The Confederation re-elects a prime minister every year. (Gladdis, 98)

### **Finland**

The Republic of Finland proclaimed to be a non-aligned country. However, due to its proximity to the Soviet Union, the Kremlin attempted to maneuver Finland in a position where it could be subjected to a maximum amount of influence from the Kremlin during the Cold War—therefore forcing it to vote against any anti-communist ideals. The term "Finlanization" originated from the Soviet-Finnish relations of the Cold War and refers to international relations where larger, more powerful countries try to assert dominance over their smaller neighbor.