The Cold War
1945 - 1991
The Cold War

End of WWII:
Status of Europe, Russia, and U.S.
Decolonization --> impact on Europe
Soviet consolidation
  *development of Eastern bloc - buffer?
  *Iron Curtain
Division of Germany
Marshall Plan & Rise of Western influence
NATO & the Warsaw Pact
Creation of the "welfare state" --> change?
Nuclear Arms race ★
Space Race & Western ★ scientific advantage
"The War Ends"...or does it??

*Alta Conference*

- “the Big Three” - U.S., Great Britain and Russia plan for life after war
- agree on division of Germany

*Establishment of two major world powers*

- U.S.A. & U.S.S.R.
- Conflicting ideologies
  - USA - democracy and capitalism
  - USSR - totalitarianism and communism
- Each sees the other as a threat to their way of life
- Each seeks to expand their influence in the world
Division of Germany

Germany is divided into 4 zones
Capital--Berlin--is divided into 4 zones (British, French, Americans and Russians)

- British/French/Americans zone
  combined into one democratic sector
  called West Germany --> prospers
- Russian zone is communist and called
  East Germany, --> grows weaker
Establishment of the United Nations
Based on the League of Nations
Includes the United States
Now has the ability to raise a military force in order to carry out its decisions
Led by the G-5 (U.S., England, France, China, USSR)
The Cold War

- "Cold War" - a state of diplomatic hostility between two nations that does not result in a physical confrontation
- "Hot War" - a conflict between two nations that is settled through military force
- "Proxy War" - a conflict between two nations that is resolved through indirect physical conflict
Germany

They divided into 4 sections between the Allied

Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech

Indicates a clear division between Communists & Non-Communists

China begins

Nationalists (supported by U.S.) led by Chiang Kai-Shek
Communists (supported by U.S.S.R.) led by Mao Zedong

Nationalists are more popular with the Chinese people

Trials

Trials of 22 Nazi officials and officers

Guilty of “violating the laws of war”, and “crimes against humanity”

Initially claimed they should not be punished because they were followers of the regime

Sentenced to death, hung, and cremated at the Dachau concentration camp
An Doctrine and policy of "containment" - stopping the spread and influence of Communism from reaching other countries

Marshall Plan
12.5 billion given to help foreign countries that might be tempted to take up communism in order to repair their country
An Airlift to West Berlin after the Soviets blockaded the city.

- Airlift lasts for 11 months.
- 277,000 flights.
- 2.3 million tons of supplies dropped.
of rival alliances: NATO & Warsaw Pact

Arms race begins
- Soviets get atomic bomb early in 1949
- Americans build Hydrogen bomb at the end of 1952
- Soviets build hydrogen bomb in the summer of 1953
- “Deterrence” - horrible weapons will “deter” people from going to war

Civil War ends
- Communists defeat Nationalists
- Nationalists are exiled to the island of Taiwan
- Soviets continue to support Nationalists
- Americans continue to support Communists
Communist China begins to conquer neighbors
  o Invade Mongolia, Tibet and India
  o Communism is SPREADING!!

Rosenbergs
  o Julius and Ethel are arrested, convicted and executed for selling atomic secrets to the Russians
  o Confirms Americans worst fears - there are communists IN THE U.S.!!!!
1950 Korean War begins in June
- North Korea (communist) invades South Korea (democratic)
- The 2 areas are divided by the 38th parallel
- U.S. comes to the aid of South Korea

1951 - U.S General MacArthur demands a nuclear attack on China

1953 - Armistice signed in Korea War
- New border is within a few miles of pre-war line (de-militarized zone)
- 5 million soldiers died
- North Korea remains communist to this day
- South Korea remains democratic
- U.S. continues to have troops in the DMZ
1953

Joseph Stalin dies
- Nikita Khrushchev takes over
- “destalinization” begins

1954

McCarthyism
- U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy begins a “witch hunt” for domestic Communists
- Accuses actors, directors, generals and others for having communist affiliations
- Eventually is found to be a fraud, but the result is widespread paranoia for American citizens
The Vietnam War begins

- The French attempt to re-colonize Vietnam
- The Vietnamese defeat the French at Dien Bien Phu
- Ho Chi Minh becomes the new communist leader of North Vietnam
- Ho Chi Minh and the Vietcong fight in an attempt to unify all of Vietnam
- U.S. President Eisenhower explains his "domino theory" --- if one country falls to communism, others will follow
The United States overthrows the "communist" government of Guatemala in order to keep Chiquita Banana in business.

The Space Race begins 🌟

Russians build first ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile)
Russians put first satellite into orbit ("Sputnik I")

Americans launch their own satellite

Fidel Castro takes power in Cuba and institutes communism.
U2 incident
Russians shoot down American spy plane flying over Russia. Americans lie and say we weren’t spying on Russia. Russians bring out captured pilot and embarrass the U.S.

Bay of Pigs Invasion
The CIA trains exiled Cubans how to fight. Cubans to send them back to Cuba to overthrow Castro. Invasion fails and embarrasses the U.S.
61 - Creation of the Berlin Wall

- Surrounds West Berlin
- Built to stop people escaping to West Berlin and West Germany
- People leaving communist Berlin was an embarrassment to the Russian leadership
1962 - Cuban Missile Crisis

The Soviets supply Castro with nuclear missiles
Missiles are within 90 miles of the U.S.
U.S. demands that Cuba/Russia remove the missiles
For 13 days, nothing is resolved & the world is on the brink of nuclear war
1963 - U.S. President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas
  - Communists are suspected, as is the United States government

1964 - Gulf of Tonkin Incident
  - Two American ships are supposedly attacked by the North Vietnamese
  - The U.S. becomes militarily involved in the Vietnam War
  - U.S. is better equipped, but the Vietcong are fighting on home turf
1966 - Chinese "Cultural Revolution" begins
- Attempt to establish an equal society of peasants and workers
- Shut down universities, schools and factories...anything that was "modern"
- Teachers, scientists, factory owners are targeted, exiled, or killed

1969 - Vietnamization
- U.S. President Richard Nixon decides to withdraw American soldiers from the Vietnam War and leave South Vietnam to its own defense
1969 - Space Race comes to an end

- U.S. lands on the moon

- Apollo 11 mission commanded by Neil Armstrong, “Buzz” Aldrin, and Michael Collins (the guy nobody remembers)

“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”
- **Détente** between USSR and USA (lessening of Cold War tensions)
  economies of both countries were beginning to suffer
  had reached the point of MAD (mutually assured destruction)

- The Khmer Rouge take power in Cambodia
  daughter of 2 million people in Cambodia (25% of the country’s population)
  intended to "purify" the country in preparation for communism
  led by Pol Pot
Chinese “Cultural Revolution” ends with the death of Mao Zedong. Thousands are dead and the country is on the brink of another civil war.

- 1989: Soviet Union invades Afghanistan

1978, a communist rebellion overthrows the Afghan government. The United States supports Afghani rebels (mujahideen)

U.S.S.R. sends 100,000 troops to assist pro-communist Afghans

Million Afghani civilians were killed, and more than 5 million were displaced. When the war ended, both countries lost interest, and left the war-ravaged country to fend for itself.
Challenger Explosion

The shuttle exploded 73 seconds after liftoff
all seven crew members died
no shuttles were launched for 3 years after the explosion
the explosion was viewed by a large percentage of Americans
because of the presence of Christa McAuliffe
it called into question the continued need for space exploration

We will never forget them,
for the last time we saw them,
this morning, as they
prepared for their journey and
said goodbye and 'slipped
the surly bonds of Earth' to
'touch the face of God'.

Ronald Reagan
Chernobyl Meltdown

A power plant in Ukraine in 1986 - an explosion results in a nuclear meltdown, and the ensuing radioactive cloud across most of Europe forced the resettlement of 336,000 people. Over 20,000 people were "highly exposed" to radiation. A 30-kilometer radius around Chernobyl, called the "Zone of Alienation" remains restricted to this day, although there are people still there that refuse to leave. The nuclear plant was not permanent, and another radioactive cloud could be released which causes new fears about the use of nuclear power for energy.
- Tiananmen Square Massacre

In April, students gather to protest government corruption & lack of freedom. 100,000 students gather in Tiananmen Square, begin a hunger strike. The Chinese government sends 250,000 troops. 3,000 students choose to remain.

Violence breaks out in June as the troops try to end protest. Casualty estimates range from 400-1000 dead, and several thousand injured. The "massacre" gains world-wide attention, puts pressure on China to repress student movements. Despite increased pressure, however, no significant changes take place.
1989 - The Berlin Wall "falls"
The East German Minister of Propaganda says that East Berliners will "soon" be allowed to cross over into West Berlin within moments, thousands of people rush the checkpoints **Symbolically signals the end of the Cold War**, although the wall is not dismantled until Nov, 1991 prior to this point, hundreds of "mauerspechte" or "wall-woodpeckers" begin to dismantle the wall by hand to obtain souvenirs
The End of the Soviet Union

- Russia's satellite nations declare independence
- Russian leader Mikail Gorbachev authorizes use of force to keep them
- Gorbachev's popularity suffers, Boris Yeltsin elected to be President
- Communist "hard-liners" (conservative politicians) believe this dispute is weakening Russia
- They attempt a "military coup" (armed takeover of the government)
- The Russian people take to the streets and physically stop the coup.
- The soldiers refuse to fight the people
- the Communist Party loses all authority and collapses
- Dec 25, 1991 - the U.S.S.R. ceases to exist, and again becomes "Russia"