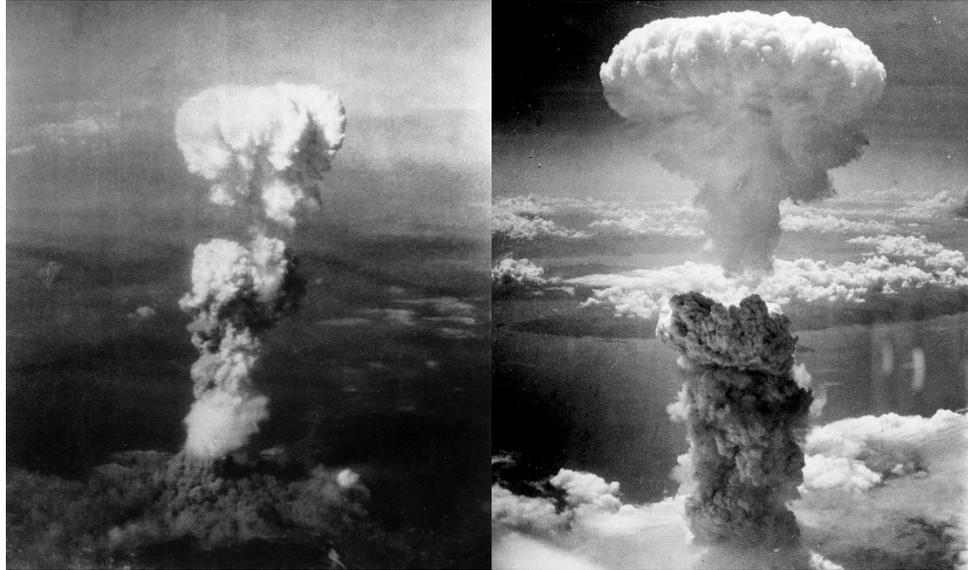


Decisions at Yalta

- The February 1945 Yalta Conference was the second wartime meeting of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- During the conference, the three leaders agreed to demand Germany's unconditional surrender and began plans for a post-war world.
- Stalin also agreed to permit free elections in Eastern Europe and to enter the Asian war against Japan
 - for which he was promised the return of lands lost to Japan in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05. Although most of these agreements were initially kept secret, the revelations of the conference particulars became controversial after Soviet-American wartime cooperation degenerated into the Cold War..



Atomic Bombs Dropped

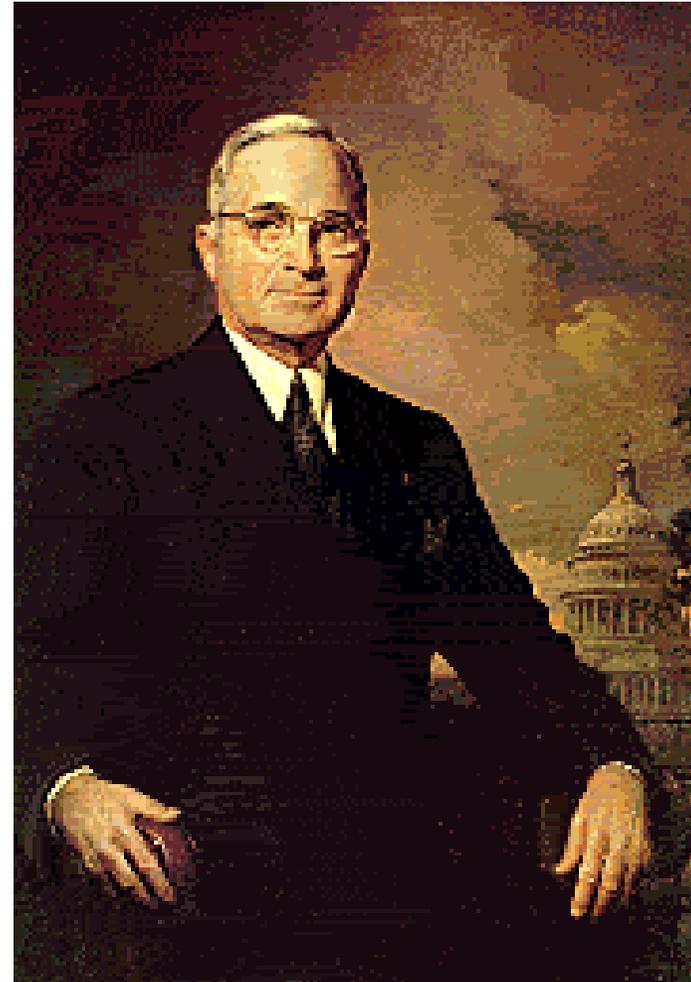


- On August 6, 1945, during World War II (1939-45), an American B-29 bomber dropped the world's first deployed atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima.
- The explosion wiped out 90 percent of the city and immediately killed 80,000 people; tens of thousands more would later die of radiation exposure.
- Three days later, a second B-29 dropped another A-bomb on Nagasaki, killing an estimated 40,000 people.
- Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced his country's unconditional surrender in World War II in a radio address on August 15, citing the devastating power of "a new and most cruel bomb."

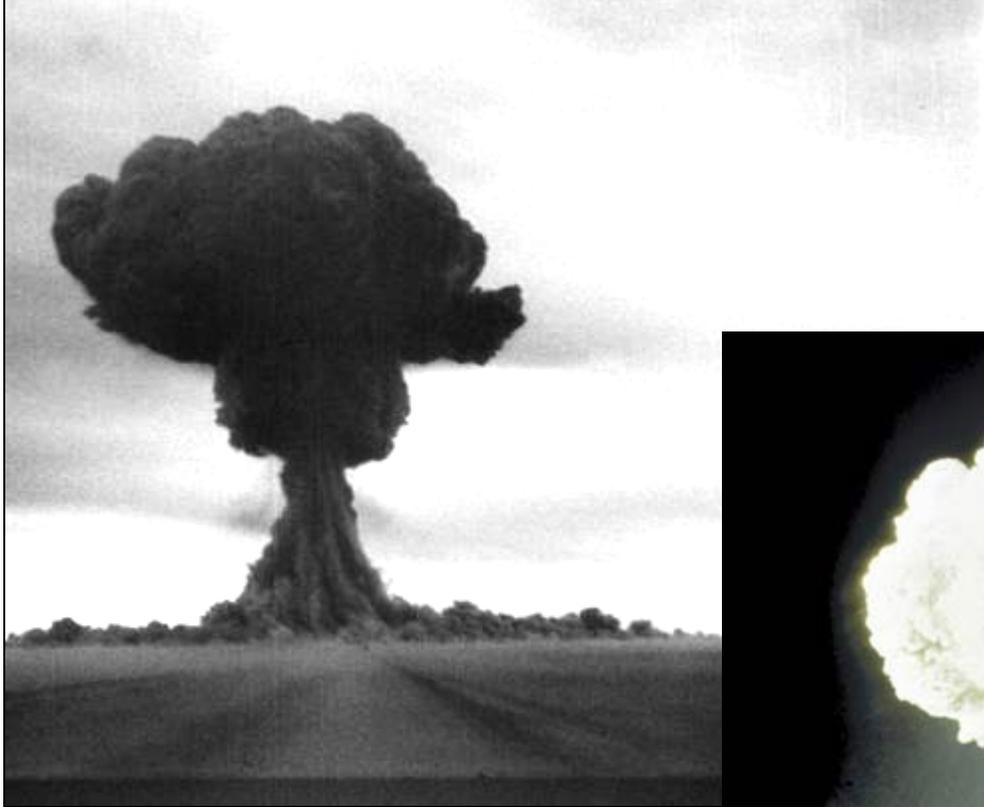


Origins of the Truman Doctrine

- In the Spring of 1947, it looked as though Communist forces may overthrow the governments of Greece and Turkey.
- Truman asked congress for aid packages to prevent this from happening.
- It declared the Truman Doctrine aimed at stopping the further spread of communism.



Soviet Atomic Bombs



- Cold War tensions increased in the US when the USSR exploded its first atomic bomb in 1949.



- Cold War tensions increased in the USSR when the US exploded its first hydrogen bomb in 1952. It was 1000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima atomic bomb.

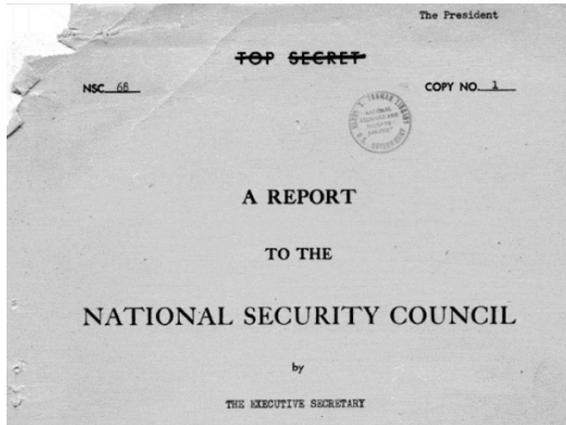
1949 – Fall of China



- In June, Jiang Jieshi defeated by Mao
 - Flee to island of Taiwan
- Oct 1, Mao proclaims People's Republic of China (PRC)
- Two months later, Mao travels to Moscow,
 - negotiates the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance.



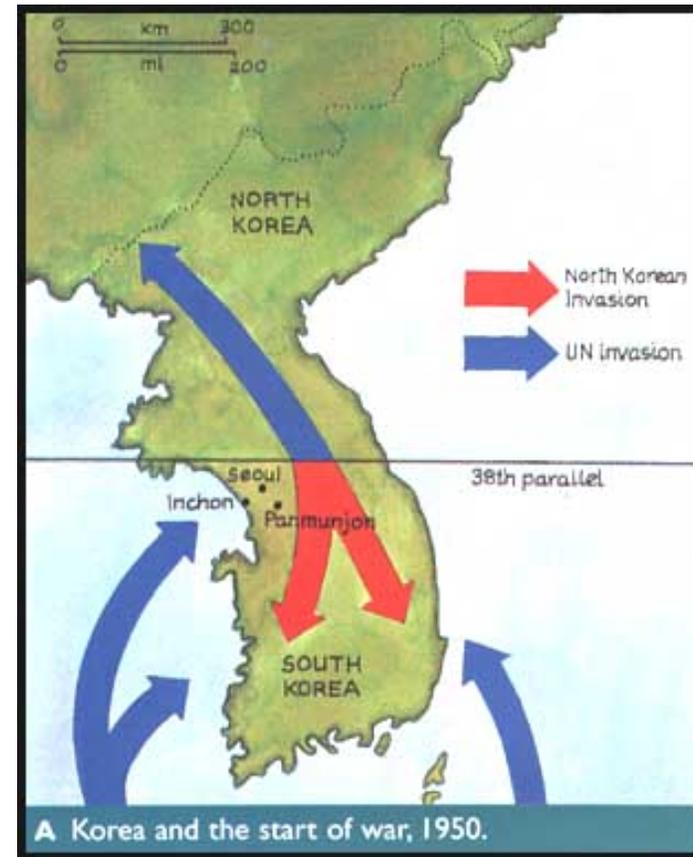
NSC 68



- National Security Council Paper NSC-68
 - (entitled “United States Objectives and Programs for National Security” and frequently referred to as NSC-68)
- A Top-Secret report completed by the U.S. Department of State’s Policy Planning Staff on April 7, 1950.
- The 58-page memorandum is among the most influential documents composed by the U.S. Government during the Cold War.
 - It was not declassified until 1975.
- Its authors argued that one of the most pressing threats confronting the United States was the “hostile design” of the Soviet Union.
- The authors concluded that the Soviet threat would soon be greatly augmented by the addition of more weapons, including nuclear weapons, to the Soviet arsenal.
- They argued that the best course of action was to respond in kind with a massive build-up of the U.S. military and its weaponry.
 - This would allow the United States to attain sufficient strength to deter Soviet aggression.

Korean War, 1950-1953

- On June 25, North Korean communist forces cross the 38th parallel and invade South Korea.
- On June 27, Truman orders U.S. forces to assist the South Koreans
- The U.N. Security Council condemns the invasion and est'd a 15-nation fighting force.
- Chinese troops enter the conflict by year's end.
- Cease fire eventually brings war to close by 1953



Geneva Conference, (April 26 – July 20, 1954)



- In an effort to resolve several problems in Asia, including the war between the French and Vietnamese nationalists in Indochina, representatives from the world's powers meet in Geneva.
 - As part of the agreement, the French agreed to withdraw their troops from northern Vietnam.
 - Vietnam would be temporarily divided at the 17th parallel, pending elections within two years to choose a president and reunite the country.
 - During that two-year period, no foreign troops could enter Vietnam.
 - Ho Chi Minh reluctantly signed off on the agreement though he believed that it cheated him out of the spoils of his victory.
- Privately, U.S. officials felt that the Geneva Agreements, if allowed to be put into action, were a disaster.
 - They were convinced that national elections in Vietnam would result in an overwhelming victory for Ho Chi Minh
 - The U.S. government scrambled to develop a policy that would keep southern Vietnam from the communists.
 - Within a year, the United States had helped establish a new anti-communist government in South Vietnam and began giving it financial and military assistance, the first fateful steps toward even greater U.S. involvement in Vietnam.



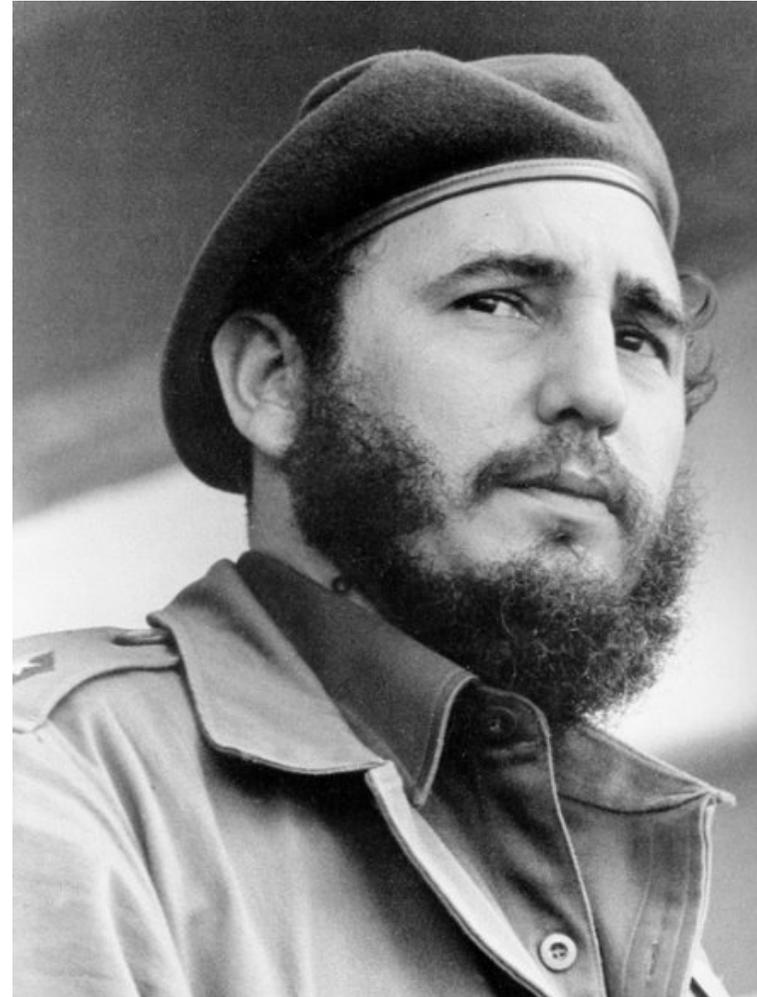
Sputnik

- The **Space Race** was a 20th-century competition between two Cold War rivals, the Soviet Union (USSR) and the United States (US), for supremacy in spaceflight capability.
- It had its origins in the missile-based nuclear arms race between the two nations that occurred following World War II, enabled by captured German rocket technology and personnel.
- The technological superiority required for such supremacy was seen as necessary for national security, and symbolic of ideological superiority.
- Sputnik 1 was the first artificial Earth satellite. The Soviet Union launched it into an elliptical low Earth orbit on October 4, 1957.
- At first the Soviet Union agreed to use equipment "compatible" with that of the United States, but later announced the lower frequencies.
- The White House declined to comment on military aspects of the launch, but said "it did not come as a surprise."
- On 5 October the Naval Research Laboratory announced it had recorded four crossings of *Sputnik-1* over the United States.
- The success of Sputnik seemed to have changed minds around the world regarding a shift in power to the Soviets.
- The successful launch of Sputnik in 1957 by the Soviet Union began an all out race to get to into space.
- The Soviets succeeded in getting the first man into space, Yuri Gregarin.
- In the United States, space was seen as the next frontier, a logical extension of the grand American tradition of exploration, and it was crucial not to lose too much ground to the Soviets.
- In addition, this demonstration of the overwhelming power of the R-7 missile—seemingly capable of delivering a nuclear warhead into U.S. air space—made gathering intelligence about Soviet military activities particularly urgent.



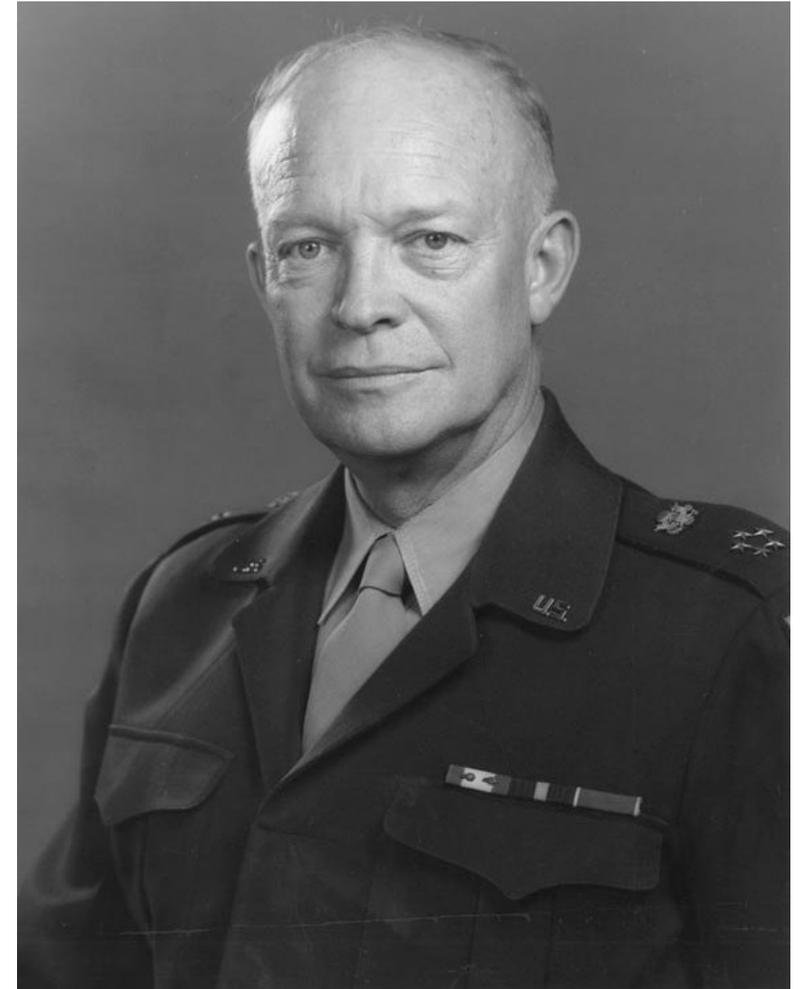
Castro takes power - 1959

- The **Cuban Revolution** (1953–1959) was an armed revolt conducted by Fidel Castro's 26th of July Movement and its allies against the US-backed authoritarian government of **Cuban** President Fulgencio Batista.
- January 1, 1959 leftist forces under Fidel Castro overthrow Fulgencio Batista
- Castro nationalizes the sugar industry and signs trade agreements with the Soviet Union.
- The next year, Castro seizes U.S. assets on the island.
- For the next two years, officials at the U.S. State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) attempted to push Castro from power.



Eisenhower's Farewell Address

- In his farewell address to the nation, President Dwight D. Eisenhower warns the American people to keep a careful eye on what he calls the “military-industrial complex” that has developed in the post-World War II years.
- Eisenhower began by describing the changing nature of the American defense establishment since World War II.
 - No longer could the U.S. afford the “emergency improvisation” that characterized its preparations for war against Germany and Japan.
- Instead, the United States was “compelled to create a permanent armaments industry” and a huge military force.
- He admitted that the Cold War made clear the “imperative need for this development,” but he was gravely concerned about “the acquisition of unwarranted influence...by the military-industrial complex.”
 - In particular, he asked the American people to guard against the “danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific-technological elite.”
- Eisenhower’s blunt language stunned some of his supporters.
 - They believed that the man who led the country to victory in Europe in World War II and guided the nation through some of the darkest moments of the Cold War was too negative toward the military-industrial complex that was the backbone of America’s defense.
- World War II and the ensuing Cold War resulted in the development of a large and powerful defense establishment.
- Necessary though that development might be, Eisenhower warned, this new military-industrial complex could weaken or destroy the very institutions and principles it was designed to protect.



1961 - Bay of Pigs



Captured Cubans

- the CIA launched what its leaders believed would be the definitive strike against Fidel Castro:
 - a full-scale invasion of Cuba by 1,400 American-trained Cubans who had fled their homes when Castro took over.
- U.S.-organized invasion force of 1,400 Cuban exiles is defeated by Castro's government forces on Cuba's south coast at the Bay of Pig within 24 hrs. of starting the fight
- Launched from Guatemala in ships and planes provided by the United States, the invaders surrender on April 20 after three days of fighting.
- Kennedy takes full responsibility for the disaster.



Cuban leader Fidel Castro watches events during the Bay of Pigs Invasion.

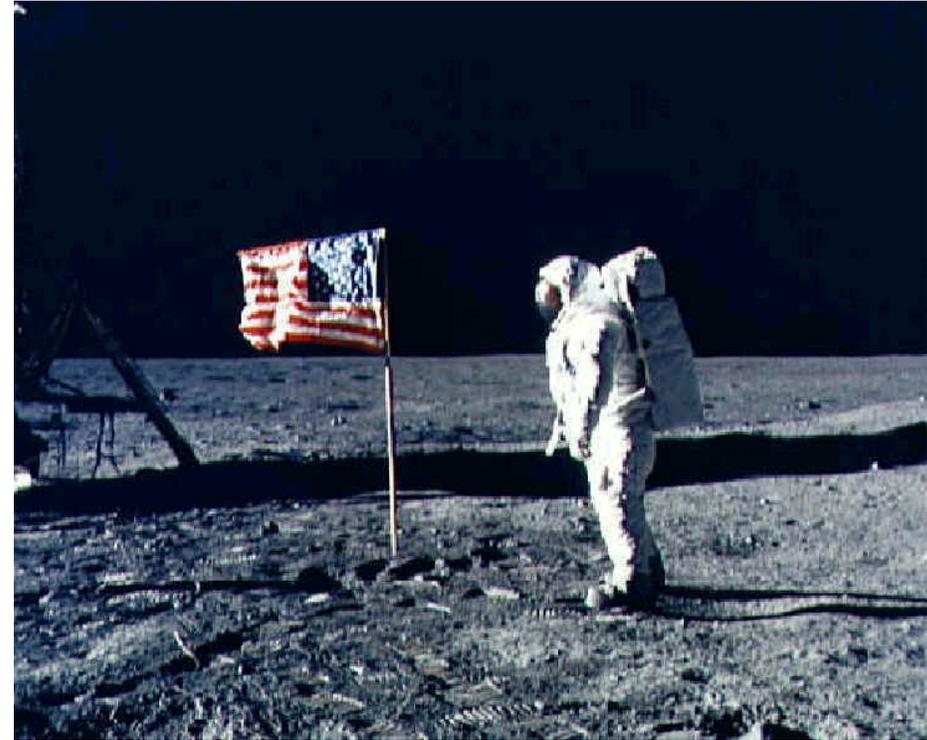
Vietnam Escalation - 1965

- In February 1965, the United States began a long program of sustained bombing of North Vietnamese targets known as **OPERATION ROLLING THUNDER**.
 - At first only military targets were hit, but as months turned into years, civilian targets were pummeled as well.
- The United States also bombed the Ho Chi Minh trail, a supply line used by the North Vietnamese to aid the **VIETCONG**.
 - The trail went through Laos and Cambodia, so the bombing was kept secret from the Congress and the American people.
 - More bombs rained down on Vietnam than the Allies used on the Axis powers during the whole of World War II.
- Additional attacks were delivered
 - defoliating agents such as **AGENT ORANGE** and napalm to remove the jungle cover utilized by the Vietcong.
 - The intense bombardment did little to deter the communists. They continued to use the Ho Chi Minh trail despite the grave risk.
 - They burrowed underground, building 30,000 miles of tunnel networks to keep supply lines open.



The First Moon Landing

- Eventually the United States achieved the first moon landing in 1969.
- By landing on the moon, the United States effectively “won” the space race that had begun with Sputnik’s launch in 1957.
 - For their part, the Soviets made four failed attempts to launch a lunar landing craft between 1969 and 1972, including a spectacular launch-pad explosion in July 1969.
- From beginning to end, the American public’s attention was captivated by the space race, and the various developments by the Soviet and U.S. space programs were heavily covered in the national media.
- This frenzy of interest was further encouraged by the new medium of television.
- With the conclusion of the space race, U.S. government interest in lunar missions waned after the early 1970s.



Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan Interrupts Thaw



Movie poster for *Charlie Wilson's War* about US efforts to support the mujahideen



Mujahideen celebrate the downing of a Soviet helicopter

- In 1978, the USSR invaded Afghanistan and tried to set up a friendly government.
- Soviet troops invaded Kabul on December 25th 1979, on order from Moscow to replace the radical Hafizullah Amin with the Soviet-endorsed Babrak Karmal as head of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.
- It became the USSR's Vietnam, a long war with no clear victory possible and many casualties and high costs.
- Relations between the United States and the Soviet Union reached new lows after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979. Responding to this action, the United States led a boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow and withdrew its support for a new arms-control treaty.
- The US supported the Afghani rebels known as the mujahideen.
 - Mujahideen the term for one engaged in Jihad. In English usage, it refers to guerrilla type military outfits of radical Islamists, specifically in reference to the Taliban in their role as guerrilla force in the Soviet war in Afghanistan.
- In 1989 the Soviets finally withdrew. Islamic extremists used the opportunity to take over the country.
- The defeat weakened the Soviet's economy and morale.

The Wall Falls, 1989



- A wave of rebellion against Soviet influence occurs throughout its European allies.
- Poland's Solidarity movement breaks the Soviet hold on that country
- Hungary removed its border restrictions with Austria.
- Riots and protests break out in East Germany.
- East Germans storm the wall. Confused and outnumbered, border guards do not fight back.
- The wall is breached.
- Eventually East and West Germany are reunited in 1990.



Miracle on Ice

- On Feb. 22, 1980, in an upset dubbed the “Miracle on Ice,” the United States hockey team defeated the Soviets, 4-3, at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y.
- Thirty-five years ago, the U.S. hockey team faced off against the Soviet Union in the medal round of the Lake Placid Olympics. Few expected the untested American squad to challenge the defending champion Russians, but during a match played in the shadow of the Cold War, they made three successive comebacks and pulled off an astonishing 4-3 victory.



Fall of Berlin Wall





The USSR Dissolves

- On December 21, 1991, the presidents of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus signed the Belavezha Accords declaring the USSR dissolved and established the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in its place.
- On December 25, 1991, Gorbachev yielded as the president of the USSR, declaring the office extinct. He turned the powers that until then were vested in him over to Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia.
- The following day, the Supreme Soviet, the highest governmental body of the Soviet Union, recognized the collapse of the Soviet Union and dissolved itself.
 - This is generally recognized as the official, final dissolution of the Soviet Union as a functioning state.



Boris Yeltsin (far left) stands on a tank to defy the 1991 coup



Rocky beats Ivan Drago.