**Cold War Vocabulary**

**1. Cold War-** The state of hostility, without actual warfare, that existed between the United States and the Soviet Union from the end of World War II until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**2. Containment Policy-** U.S. foreign policy of checking the expansion or influence of the Soviet Union and the spread of communism, as by the creation of strategic alliances or support of client states in areas of conflict or unrest.

**3. Truman Doctrine-** President Truman’s foreign policy of financially supporting Greece and Turkey to help them fight Soviet communist threats

**4. Marshall Plan-** U.S. gave over $13 billion ($140 in current dollar) in economic assistance to help rebuild Western Europe after WWII

**5. Berlin Airlift-** The supply of West Berlin in Germany by American and British planes during a Soviet blockade in 1948.

**6. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-** A defensive military alliance with the West European nations and the US. (opposite was Warsaw Pact)

**7. McCarthyism-** Known as the Second Red Scare, the practice of making accusations of subversion or treason against those believed to be Communists without proper regard for evidence in the United States

**8. House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)-** A committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to investigate alleged disloyalty and subversive activities on the part of private citizens, public employees, and those organizations suspected of having communist ties. Investigated communist influence in the movie world and the sneaking in of propaganda into films.

**9. Arms Race-** A competition between nations to expand and develop their stock pile of weapons in order to gain a military superiority over other nations.

**10. Space Race-** 20th century competition between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. for dominance in space flight capabilities

**11. Iron Curtain-** The "boundary" that divided Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe from Western European nations not under Soviet domination.

**14. Subversion**- Secret attempt to overthrow or undermine a government or political system

**15. Sputnik-** Created by Soviet Union, first satellite to orbit the Earth launched in 1957 causing the “space race”

**16. 38th Parallel-** Line that divides North and South Korea

**17. Korean War-** 1950 to 1953 war between North Korea (with the support of China and the Soviet Union) and South Korea (with the support of the U.N./U.S.)

**18. Fidel Castro-** Cuban revolutionary and politician who was leader of Cuba from 1959 to 2008. Ideologically a Marxist-Leninist and Cuban nationalist; under his administration, Cuba became a one-party communist state, industry and business was nationalized, and state socialist reforms were implemented throughout society

**19. Domino Theory-** Idea that if one nation comes under Communist control, then neighboring nations will also come under Communist control.

**20. Berlin Wall-** Guarded concrete barrier that divided the city of Berlin from East (communist) to West (anti-communist) from 1961 to 1989; symbolized physically the “Iron Curtain”

**21. Bay of Pigs Invasion-** Failed military invasion of Cuba sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) intended to overthrow the increasingly communist government of Fidel Castro in 1961

**22. Cuban Missile Crisis-** Confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union concerning Soviet ballistic missile deployment in Cuba; often considered the closest the Cold War came to a full-scale nuclear war

**23. Viet Cong-** Communist political organization in South Vietnam who fought against the U.S. and South Vietnamese governments during the Vietnam War

**24. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution-** Passed by Congress in 1964, gave U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson the power to use conventional military force in Southeast Asia without a formal declaration of war by Congress

**25. Tet Offensive-** One of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War in which the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese army led a surprise attack against South Vietnam during the Tet holiday, the Vietnamese New Year

**26. Vietnamization-** Policy of U.S. President Richard Nixon to end U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War by equipping/training South Vietnamese forces while steadily reducing the number of U.S. combat troops

**27. Fall of Saigon-** Capture of the capital of South Vietnam in 1975 by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces; ended the Vietnam War and started reunification of Vietnam under a communist regime

**28. Ho Chi Minh Trail-** System that ran from North to South Vietnam through the countries of Laos and Cambodia which provided manpower and material to support the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese army

**29. War of Attrition-** Military strategy that attempts to win a war by wearing down the enemy

**30. Napalm-** Flammable mixture of a gelling agent and gasoline used extensively in U.S. airstrikes on Vietnam

**31. Guerrilla Warfare-** Irregular fighting in which a small group of combatants use military tactics such as ambushes, sabotage, raids, hit-and-run attacks, and mobility to fight a larger traditional military

**32. My Lai Massacre-** Mass murder of between 347 to 504 unarmed Vietnamese civilians (men, women, children, and infants) in South Vietnam by U.S. Army soldiers, some bodies were raped and mutilated

**33. War Powers Resolution-** A federal law intended to check the President’s power to commit the U.S. to an armed conflict without the consent of Congress; requires the President to notify Congress 48 hours of committing armed forces to military action and forbids armed forces from remaining for more than 60 days

**34. Proxy Wars-** an armed conflict between two states or [non-state actors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-state_actor) which act on the instigation or on behalf of other parties that are not directly involved in the hostilities

**35. The Non-Aligned Movement-** a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.

**36. Indochina War-** Also known as the Anti-French Resistance War in Vietnam, it began in French Indochina from 1946 to 1954 between French forces and their [Việt Minh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vi%E1%BB%87t_Minh) opponents ([Indochinese Communist Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indochinese_Communist_Party) as a national [united front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_front) in Vietnam). At the end, the Việt Minh made an agreement which effectively gave the Việt Minh control of [North Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Vietnam) above the [17th parallel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnamese_Demilitarized_Zone). The south continued under Bảo Đại. The agreement was denounced by the [State of Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_Vietnam) and by the United States. A year later, Bảo Đại would be deposed by his prime minister, [Ngô Đình Diệm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ng%C3%B4_%C4%90%C3%ACnh_Di%E1%BB%87m%22%20%5Co%20%22Ng%C3%B4%20%C4%90%C3%ACnh%20Di%E1%BB%87m), creating the [Republic of Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Vietnam) (South Vietnam). Soon an insurgency, backed by the north, developed against Diệm's government. The conflict gradually escalated into the [Vietnam War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War) (1955–1975).

**37. Potsdam Conference-** meeting held in Germany in 1945 to allow the three leading Allies to plan the postwar peace, while avoiding the mistakes of the [Paris Peace Conference of 1919.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Peace_Conference_%281919%E2%80%931920%29) The participants were the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States. They were represented respectively by General Secretary [Joseph Stalin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Stalin), Prime Ministers [Winston Churchill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winston_Churchill) and [Clement Attlee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clement_Attlee), and President [Harry S. Truman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_S._Truman). They gathered to decide how to administer Germany, which had agreed to an [unconditional surrender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unconditional_surrender) nine weeks earlier. The goals of the conference also included establishing the postwar order, solving issues on the peace treaty, and countering the effects of the war.