**1940s**

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|  | **Important to the Cold War because…**  |
| **1945: February 4 – 11** [Yalta Conference](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/yalta.htm) **Cold War Begins** |  |
| **1945: August 6** United States first used atomic bomb in war |  |
| **1945: August 14** Japanese surrender **End of World War II** |  |
| **1946: March** Winston Churchill delivers "Iron Curtain" Speech |  |
| **1947: June** Marshall Plan is announced |  |
| **1948: February** Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia |  |
| **1948: June 24** [Berlin Blockade](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm) begins |  |
| **1949: 1949: May 12** [Berlin Blockade](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm) ends |  |
| **1949: July** [NATO ratified](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/nato.htm) |  |
| **1949: September** Mao Zedong, a Communist, takes control of China |  |
| **1949: September** Soviets explode first atomic bomb |  |

**1950s**

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|  | **Important to the Cold War because…** |
| **1950: June** [Korean War](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/korea.htm) begins |  |
| **1953: July** [Korean War](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/korea.htm) ends |  |
| **1954: March** [KGB](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/kgb.htm) established (Russian secret police) |  |
| **1954** CIA helps overthrow unfriendly regimes in Iran and Guatemala |  |
| **1954: July** [Vietnam](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) splits at 17th parallel |  |
| **1955: May** Warsaw Pact formed |  |
| **1956: October - November** Rebellion put down in Communist Hungary. |   |
| **1957: October 4** [Sputnik](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/spacerac.htm) launched into orbit |  |
| **1958: November** Khrushchev demands withdrawal of troops from [Berlin](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm) |  |
| **1959: January** Cuba taken over by Fidel Castro |  |
| 1**959: September** Khrushchev visits United States; denied access to [Disneyland](http://www.snopes.com/disney/nikita.htm) |  |

**1960s**

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|  | **Important to the Cold War because…** |
| **1960: May** Soviet Union reveals that U.S. spy plane was shot down over Soviet territory |  |
| **1960: November** John F. Kennedy elected President |  |
| **1961: April** [Bay of Pigs invasion](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/pigbay.htm) |  |
| **1961: July** Kennedy requests 25% spending increase for military |  |
| 1**961: August 13** [Berlin border closed](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm) |  |
| **1961: August 17** Construction of [Berlin Wall](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/berlin.htm) begins |  |
| **1962:** U.S. involvement in [Vietnam increased](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) |  |
| **1962:** October [Cuban Missile Crisis](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/cuba.htm) |  |
| **1963: July** Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ratified |  |
| **1963: November** President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas |  |
| **1964: August** Gulf of Tonkin incident |  |
| **1965: July** Announcement of dispatching of 150,000 U.S. troops to [Vietnam](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) |  |
| **1968: August** Soviet troops crush Czechoslovakian revolt |  |
| **1969: July 20** [Apollo 11](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/spacerac.htm) lands on the moon |  |

**1970s**

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|  | **Important to the Cold War because…** |
| **1970: April** President Nixon extends [Vietnam War](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) to Cambodia |  |
| **1972: July** SALT I signed |  |
| **1973: January** Cease fire in [Vietnam](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) between North Vietnam and United States |  |
| **1973: October** Egypt and Syria attack Israel; Egypt requests Soviet aid |  |
| **1974: August** President Nixon resigns |  |
| **1975: April 17** [North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/vietnam.htm) |  |
| **1979: July** SALT II signed |  |

1980s

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|  | **Important to the Cold War because…** |
| **1983:** President Reagan proposes Strategic Defense Initiative |  |
| **1985:** Mikhail Gorbachev ascends to power in Soviet Union |  |
| **1986:** Gorbachev ends economic aid to Soviet satellites |  |
| **1986: October** Reagan and Gorbachev resolve to remove all intermediate nuclear missiles from Europe |  |
| **1987: October** Reagan and Gorbachev agree to remove all medium and short range nuclear missiles by signing treaty |  |
| **1989: January** Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan |  |
| **1989: June** China puts down protests for democracy; Poland becomes independent |  |
| **1989: September** Hungary becomes independent |  |
| **1989: November** Berlin Wall falls |  |
| **1989: December** Communist governments fall in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Rumania; Soviet empire ends |  |

**1990s**

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|  | **Important to the Cold War because…** |
| **1990: March** Lithuania becomes independent |  |
| **1990: May 29** Boris Yeltsin elected to presidency of Russia |  |
| **1990: October 3** Germany reunited |  |
| **1991: April** Warsaw Pact ends |  |
| **1991: August** [End of Soviet Union](http://library.thinkquest.org/10826/thaw.htm) **Cold War Ends** |  |