NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV BECAME LEADER OF USSR AFTER STALIN’S DEATH. HE DENOUNCED THE CRIMES OF STALIN IN A FAMOUS 1956 SPEECH AND SET OUT TO REFORM USSR. ALTHOUGH HE ADVOCATED “PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE” THERE WERE SEVERAL SERIOUS ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER POWERS WHILE HE WAS IN OFFICE. IN 1956 HE ANNOUNCED AT A UN SPEECH THAT “WE (USSR) WILL BURY YOU (US)”
OCTOBER 23, 1956 THE PEOPLE OF HUNGARY ROSE UP AGAINST THEIR USSR COMMUNIST IMPOSED GOVERNMENT. FOR A SHORT TIME IT APPEARED THAT THE REVOLT MIGHT SUCCEED BUT ON NOVEMBER 4TH SOVIET TANK ARMIES INVADED AND CRUSHED THE REVOLT. A SIMILAR 1952 REVOLT IN POLAND WAS ALSO DEFEATED BY RUSSIAN TANKS.
In July of 1956, Gamal Abdul Nasser, the nationalist leader of Egypt, nationalized the Suez Canal, after the US refused to fund the Aswan Dam project, taking it away from the Suez Canal Company. Britain and France feared that he might close the vital canal entirely and decided on military action. This led to the Suez crisis.
BRITAIN, FRANCE AND ISRAEL ATTACK EGYPT AND SEIZE THE SUEZ CANAL, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1956.

They were forced to withdraw in March of 1957 under pressure from the US. This marked a turning point in history as the balance of power shifted away from Britain and France toward the two new super powers, the US and USSR.

It also hastened the end of colonialism as Britain and France soon withdrew from their remaining colonies.
ON JANUARY 1, 1959 REVOLUTION IN CUBA SUCCESSFULLY OVERTHREW THE GOVERNMENT. ON JANUARY 6TH FIDEL CASTRO BECAME PREMIER AND LATER COMMUNIST DICTATOR OF CUBA. MANY CUBANS FLEE TO THE US.
CASTRO STARTED BRINGING CUBA CLOSER TO THE COMMUNIST USSR STARTING WITH A VISIT ON FEBRUARY 6TH 1960 BY SOVIET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANASTAS MIKOYAN. THE VISIT RESULTED IN A TRADE AGREEMENT IN WHICH THE SOVIET UNION AGREED TO PURCHASE 5 MILLION TONS OF SUGAR OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. THE SOVIETS WOULD SUPPLY CUBA WITH CRUDE OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS WHEAT, IRON, FERTILIZERS, AND MACHINERY. THEY ALSO PROVIDED CUBA WITH $100 MILLION CREDIT AT 2.5 PERCENT INTEREST. THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AUTHORIZED A CIA PLAN TO OVERTHROW CASTRO USING CUBAN EXILES LIVING IN THE US.
CASTRO DECLARES HIMSELF A COMMUNIST AND ALLIES CUBA WITH THE SOVIET UNION

CASTRO AND KHRUSHCHEV
1950 COLD WAR TIMELINE

JANUARY 31: TRUMAN APPROVES THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HYDROGEN BOMB.
FEBRUARY 7: THE STATE OF VIETNAM AND THE KINGDOMS OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA ARE FORMALLY RECOGNIZED BY UNITED STATES.
FEBRUARY 15: SINO-SOVIET PACT CREATES A BILATERAL DEFENSE COMMITMENT, SETTLES HISTORIC TERRITORIAL ISSUES BETWEEN CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION, AND INITIATES MODEST PROGRAM OF SOVIET AID TO CHINA.
APRIL: NSC 68 REAPPRAISAL OF AMERICA'S STRATEGIC POSITION BY THE NSC. THE DEFINITION FOR THE COLD WAR SHIFTED FROM POLITICAL TO MILITARY, POSTULATING A SOVIET "DESIGN FOR WORLD DOMINATION." NSC 68 CALLED FOR BOTH A BUILD-UP OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND FOR ENLARGED CAPACITY TO FIGHT CONVENTIONAL WARS WHENEVER THE RUSSIANS THREATENED "PIECEMEAL AGGRESSION." IT ALSO CALLED FOR A REDUCTION OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS AND OTHER SERVICES NOT RELATED TO MILITARY NEEDS AND FOR TIGHTER INTERNAL SECURITY PROGRAMS.
MAY 9: INDOCHINA: TRUMAN ANNOUNCES U.S. MILITARY AID TO FRENCH IN INDOCHINA.
JUNE 25: KOREAN WAR: NORTH KOREAN TROOPS CROSS THE 38TH PARALLEL IN A SURPRISE INVASION OF SOUTH KOREA.
OCTOBER 19: KOREA: CHINESE UNITS CROSS THE YALU RIVER INTO KOREA.
DECEMBER 23: VIETNAM: UNITED STATES SIGNS A MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM.
1953

**MARCH 5:** JOSEF STALIN DIES.

**JULY 27:** ARMISTICE IS SIGNED ENDING THE KOREAN WAR. KOREA REMAINS DIVIDED AT THE 38TH PARALLEL, CREATING THE DMZ (DE-MILITARIZED ZONE).

**AUGUST 14:** SOVIET UNION EXPLODES A HYDROGEN BOMB.

1954

**MAY 8:** FALL OF DIENBIENPHU: THE FRENCH ARMY IS DEFEATED IN VIETNAM.

**JULY 17-28:** GENEVA ACCORDS END FRENCH COLONIALISM IN INDOCHINA; VIETNAM DIVIDED AT THE 17TH PARALLEL.

**SEPTEMBER 7:** SEATO: AUSTRALIA, BRITAIN, FRANCE, PAKISTAN, THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED STATES FORM AN ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE AGAINST "MASSIVE MILITARY AGGRESSION."

**OCTOBER 23:** WEST GERMANY IS INVITED TO JOIN NATO AND BECOMES A MEMBER ON

1955

**MAY 14:** WARSAW PACT SIGNED, CALLING FOR THE MUTUAL DEFENSE OF ALBANIA, BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY, POLAND, RUMANIA, AND THE SOVIET UNION.

**JUNE 15:** CIVIL DEFENSE: UNITED STATES STAGES FIRST NATIONWIDE CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISE.

**JUNE 29:** B-52 INTERCONTINENTAL BOMBER DEPLOYMENT BEGINS IN THE UNITED STATES.

**NOVEMBER 19:** BAGHDAD PACT SIGNED BY GREAT BRITAIN, IRAN, IRAQ, AND TURKEY.
1956

FEBRUARY 14: KHRUSHCHEV DENOUNCES STALIN IN SPEECH TO THE 20TH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION.

JULY 26: NASSER NATIONALIZES SUEZ CANAL.

OCTOBER 29-31: BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND ISRAEL ATTACK EGYPT.

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 4: HUNGARIANS REVOLT AGAINST COMMUNIST RULE AND MAKE FUTILE PLEAS FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE AS SOVIET FORCES CRUSH THE RESISTANCE.

NOVEMBER 17: "WE WILL BURY YOU" STATEMENT MADE BY KHRUSHCHEV TO WESTERN DIPLOMATS.

1957

JANUARY 5: EISENHOWER DOCTRINE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS, ALLOWING THE PRESIDENT TO COMMIT TROOPS TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO PREVENT COMMUNIST AGGRESSION THERE.


AUGUST 26: ICBM: MOSCOW ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST SUCCESSFUL ICBM TEST.

OCTOBER 4: SOVIET UNION LAUNCHES SPUTNIK, FIRST SATELLITE TO ORBIT EARTH.

DECEMBER 17: ICBM: FIRST SUCCESSFUL TEST OF ATLAS ICBM.

DECEMBER: GAITHER REPORT TO THE NSC STATES SOVIET UNION HAS ACHIEVED SUPERIORITY IN LONG-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES LEADING TO FEARS OF A "MISSILE GAP."

1958

JANUARY 31: FIRST U.S. SATELLITE, EXPLORER I, IS LAUNCHED INTO ORBIT.

MARCH 30: SOVIET UNION SUSPENDS ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTING.

OCTOBER: UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN SUSPEND ATMOSPHERIC TESTING.

NOVEMBER: KHRUSHCHEV DELIVERS ULTIMATUM: BEGIN EAST-WEST TALKS OVER THE FUTURE OF GERMANY (A REUNIFIED, NEUTRAL, DENUCLEARIZED GERMANY) OR FACE THE PERMANENT DIVISION OF GERMANY; KHRUSHCHEV SOON BACKS DOWN.

1959

January 1: Cuban Revolution; Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba on January 6.

July 24: Nixon visits the Soviet Union, takes on Khrushchev in the "kitchen debate" on the merits of capitalism vs. communism.

• U2 INCIDENT
• BAY OF PIGS INVASION
• BERLIN WALL CONSTRUCTED
• CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS
• ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS AND THE THIRD WORLD, THE PEACE CORPS
• U.S. INCREASES INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM
• NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY
• 1960s TIMELINES
MAY 1960: THE U-2 INCIDENT

A US U-2 RECONNAISSANCE (SPY) PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS PILOT GARY POWERS CAPTURED AND PUT ON TRIAL.KHRUSHCHEV USED THIS INCIDENT TO CANCEL A PLANNED EAST-WEST SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN PARIS.
JOHN F. KENNEDY BECOMES PRESIDENT OF THE US IN 1961 AND INHERITS A PLANED INVASION OF CUBA FROM THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION
1960 - All US businesses in Cuba are nationalized (taken over by the Cuban government) without compensation. The US breaks off diplomatic relations with Cuba and sees Castro as an enemy of the US.

Eisenhower agrees to a CIA plan for an exile invasion of Cuba to overthrow Castro in March of 1960.
CUBAN EXILES INVADING CUBA WITH THE HELP OF THE US, APRIL 1961. TRIED TO OVERTHROW FIDEL CASTRO

BAY OF PIGS INVASION SITE
THE INVASION WAS A FAILURE AND ALL THE CUBAN EXILE INVASION FORCE WAS EITHER KILLED OR CAPTURED BY CASTRO’S ARMY.

CASTRO’S FORCES ON THE MARCH

CASTRO’S AIR FORCE DESTROYED THE INVADING SHIPS

KHRUSHCHEV THREATENS JFK WITH AN ULTIMATUM ON BERLIN. JFK RESPONDS WITH A US MILITARY BUILD-UP AND A US CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM.
TENSIONS RISE DURING THE REMAINDER OF 1961. ON AUGUST 13th EAST GERMANY BEGINS PREPARING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BERLIN WALL AND ON SEPTEMBER 1 THE USSR RESUMES ATMOSPHERIC TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
IN JUNE OF 1963 PRESIDENT KENNEDY WENT TO BERLIN AND DELIVERED HIS FAMOUS “ICH BIN EIN BERLINER” (I AM A BERLINER) TO SHOW U.S. DETERMINATION TO KEEP BERLIN FREE.
CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS
AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 1962

THE CLOSEST THE WORLD HAS COME TO FULL SCALE NUCLEAR WAR
US INTELLIGENCE BEGINS RECEIVING REPORTS OF SOVIET MISSILES IN CUBA. A U-2 FLIGHT ON AUGUST 29TH CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE BATTERIES IN CUBA. THESE MISSILES WERE DESIGNED TO SHOOT DOWN ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

Figure 2. Soviet ship carrying medium-range ballistic range missiles in its hold.
MAP USED BY JFK AND HIS ADVISORS TO PLOT WEAPONS IN CUBA DURING THE MISSILE CRISIS
DECLASSIFIED 1962 MAP SHOWING THE DISTANCES NUCLEAR ARMED MISSILES WOULD GO IF FIRED FROM CUBA. ALMOST ALL MAJOR US POPULATION CENTERS WERE WITHIN RANGE. MAPS LIKE THIS CONVINCED JFK THAT THE SOVIET MISSILES MUST BE REMOVED FROM CUBA.
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS FROM U.S. SPY PLANES LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE INSTALLING NUCLEAR MISSILES IN CUBA AIMED AT THE U.S.

MRBM FIELD LAUNCH SITE
SAN CRISTOBAL NO 1
14 OCTOBER 1962
Figure 3. U-2 photograph providing the first evidence of medium-range ballistic missile deployment in Cuba.
LOW ALTITUDE VIEW OF MISSILE PREPARATION AREA. THE PILOT TAKING THIS SHOT FLEW AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 250 FEET, AND AT THE SPEED OF SOUND.

EACH ONE OF THE RUSSIAN MISSILES IN CUBA HAD THE EXPLOSIVE POWER OF 50 HIROSHIMA TYPE ATOMIC BOMBS
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT McNAMARA, SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK AND JFK, THE MAIN POLICY MAKERS DURING THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS ALONG WITH ROBERT KENNEDY.
JFK HAD TWO CHOICES OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IN CUBA:

FIRST: HE COULD ORDER AIRSTRIKES ON THE MISSILE SITES IN CUBA AND RISK AN ALL OUT NUCLEAR WAR WITH THE USSR

SECOND: HE COULD ORDER A NAVAL BLOCKADE AND STOP SOVIET SHIPS FROM BRINGING IN MISSILES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. NO ONE KNEW HOW THE RUSSIANS WOULD REACT TO THIS.

HE CHOSE THE NAVAL BLOCKADE
PRESIDENT KENNEDY SIGNING CUBA QUARANTINE PROCLAMATION. OVAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE, 10/23/1962
OCTOBER 27, 1962: THE SOVIET SHIP GROZNY CROSSES THE QUARANTINE LINE, BUT STOPS AFTER U.S. NAVY SHIPS FIRE STAR SHELLS ACROSS HER BOW.

PHOTOS OF US SHIPS ENFORCING THE QUARANTINE AND (LEFT) SHADOWING A SOVIET SUBMARINE
KHRUSHCHEV GIVES IN TO US PRESSURE AND REMOVES SOVIET MISSILES FROM CUBA FOR A US PROMISE NOT TO INVADE CUBA

SOVIET CARGO SHIP LEAVING CUBA WITH MISSILES VISIBLE ABOVE THE DESK

MISSILES BEING LOADED ON SOVIET SHIPS FOR RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION
ADLAI STEVENSON SHOWS AERIAL PHOTOS OF CUBAN MISSILES TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NOVEMBER 1962.
“THEREFORE I HAVE CALLED ON ALL PEOPLE OF THE HEMISPHERE TO JOIN IN A NEW ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS -- ALIANZA PARA PROGRESO -- A VAST COOPERATIVE EFFORT, UNPARALLELED IN MAGNITUDE AND NOBILITY OF PURPOSE TO SATISFY THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR HOMES, WORK AND LAND, HEALTH AND SCHOOLS - TECHO, TRABAJO Y TIERRA, SALUD Y ESCUELA.”

JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARCH 13, 1961
IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF JANUARY 20, 1961, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY CHALLENGES A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS TO JOIN "...A GRAND AND GLOBAL ALLIANCE...TO FIGHT TYRANNY, POVERTY, DISEASE, AND WAR..." KENNEDY CONTINUES IN HIS SPEECH, "TO THOSE PEOPLE IN THE HUTS AND VILLAGES ACROSS THE GLOBE STRUGGLING TO BREAK THE BONDS OF MASS MISERY, WE PLEDGE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO HELP THEM HELP THEMSELVES."
Confrontation in the Middle East

- Post WW2, U.S. supports Iran Shah Mohammed Reza Pavlavi
- Prime Minister Muhammed Mossadeq resents the west, and forces shah to flee.
- Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini in exile (Iraq), sending tape recorded messages to get support.
- Late 1978 riots in every major city. Shah flees Iran
- 1979 – Khomeini returns to establish an Islamic state.
- Revolutionaries seize the US embassy in Nov. 1979 and capture 60 hostages. Held captive for 444 days, released on Jan 20, 1981.
- Operation Eagle Claw to try to retrieve prisoners failed.
Afghanistan

- Soviets influence Afghanistan in the 70’s, Afghanistan has communist government.
- Islamists threaten to take over, Soviets invade in 1979.
- U.S. is arming rebels called mujahideen (holy warriors).
- US concerned with world oil supply
- Pres. Carter stops grain shipments to Soviets
- U.S. Boycotts 1980 Olympics in Moscow
- Mikhail Gorbachev becomes president in 1985 (Soviet) and withdraws troops in 1989.