

# Cold War

1945-1991

- The **Cold War** was a time of political tension and rivalry rather than military combat between the United States and the Soviet Union.
- It never became a “hot war” because both sides knew it would likely result in nuclear conflict. The threat, however, constantly lingered.
- Each side attempted to thwart the other using political methods and propaganda.
  - For example at various times both sides backed governments that had similar political aims to themselves
    - **Korea**
    - **Vietnam**
    - **Afghanistan**
- In addition, each side looked to best the other in the “**space race**.”
- Though the Cold War lasted less than 50 years, it cast a shadow over the second half of the 20th century and left a legacy that can still be felt today.

# U.S. and USSR: Allies Become Enemies

- Different economic systems
  - **Capitalism** vs. **Socialism**
- Ideological differences
  - **Individual Freedom** vs. **State Controlled Collective Society**
- Growing mutual suspicions
  - Militarism and Atomic capabilities



A U.S. government poster from WWII portraying the Soviets as friendly

# The Soviet Bloc



- The USSR felt that by controlling “**satellite**” nations, it could stop future western invasions
- Communist governments installed in much of central and eastern Europe

# The Partitioning of Germany



West Germany (blue)  
and East Germany  
(red)



- Western part of Germany became Federal Republic of Germany in May 1949
- Eastern part of Germany became the German Democratic Republic
- Berlin lay entirely within East Germany

# The Berlin Airlift



American C-54s await orders to take off from  
Tempelhof Air Base, Berlin

# Origins of the Berlin Airlift

- Germany divided after WWII
- City of Berlin lay in Soviet zone
- Soviets closed all rail and highway routes into city
- Air corridors remained open



# “Operation Vittles”

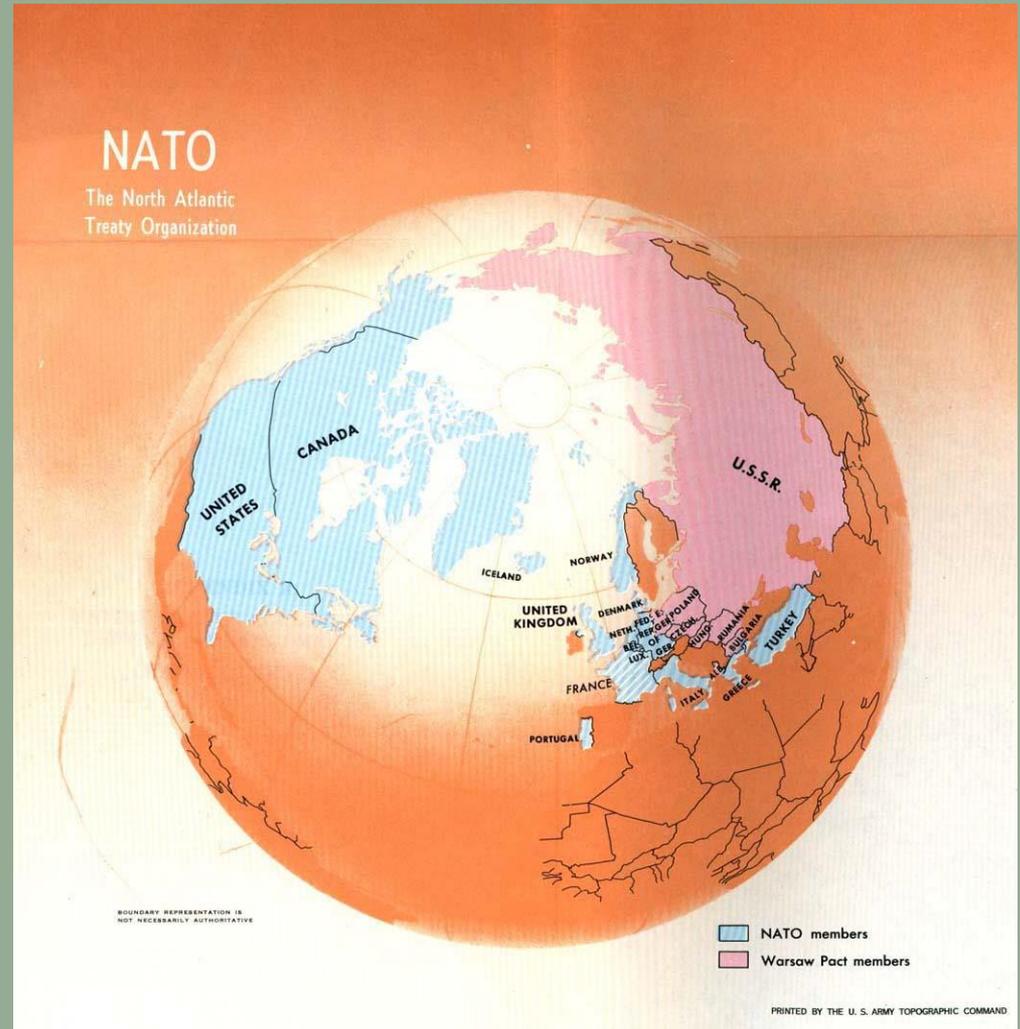


Germans watch as an American bomber flies overhead

- U.S. code name for the airlift
- U.S., British forces dropped supplies into Berlin
- Many Germans called planes *Rosinenbombers* (raisin bombers)
- Germans and Americans became allies

# NATO and the Warsaw Pact

- NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- Twelve original member states in a mutual defense alliance (now 26)
- Soviets developed the Warsaw Pact in response



# The Chinese Civil War



This map shows the final push by Chinese Communist forces against Chiang's Nationalist armies

- Nationalists and Communists had fought Japan together in WWII
- American aid to Nationalists and Chiang Kai-shek ineffective
- Mao Zedong's forces victorious
- Chiang's forces fled to Formosa (Taiwan)

# The Korean War

- Korea divided after World War II
  - North Korea (communist)
  - South Korea (non-communist)
- North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950
- UN forces supported South Korea



# UN Forces Advance



- North Korean forces drove UN forces to Pusan
- MacArthur's daring invasion at Inchon forced North back
- UN forces pushed to Yalu River (border between North Korea and China)

U.S. Marines go over the top at Inchon

# Truman vs. MacArthur

- Truman supported “limited war” policy
- MacArthur assured Truman that China wouldn’t enter war
- China joined war in late 1950
- MacArthur critical of Truman’s policies
- Truman fired MacArthur



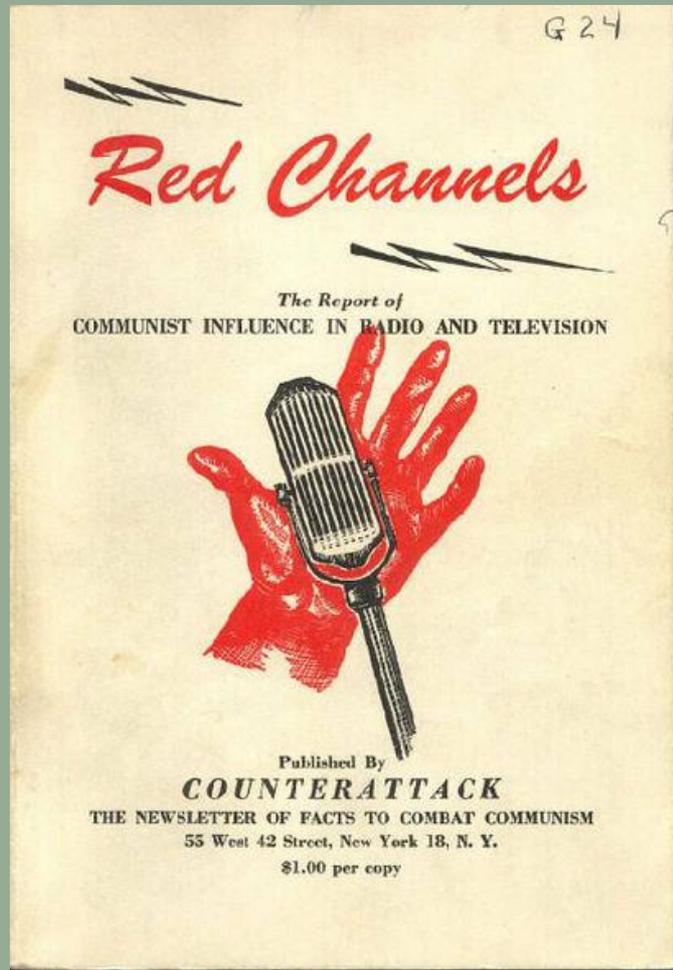
Truman meets with MacArthur at Wake Island, October 1950

# Stalemate



- UN and Chinese forces launched various offensives near 38<sup>th</sup> parallel
- War dragged on in a stalemate
- Stalin died; Eisenhower elected president
- Armistice signed in 1953
- **DMZ** (Demilitarized Zone) established along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel

# “McCarthyism” and the “Second Red Scare”



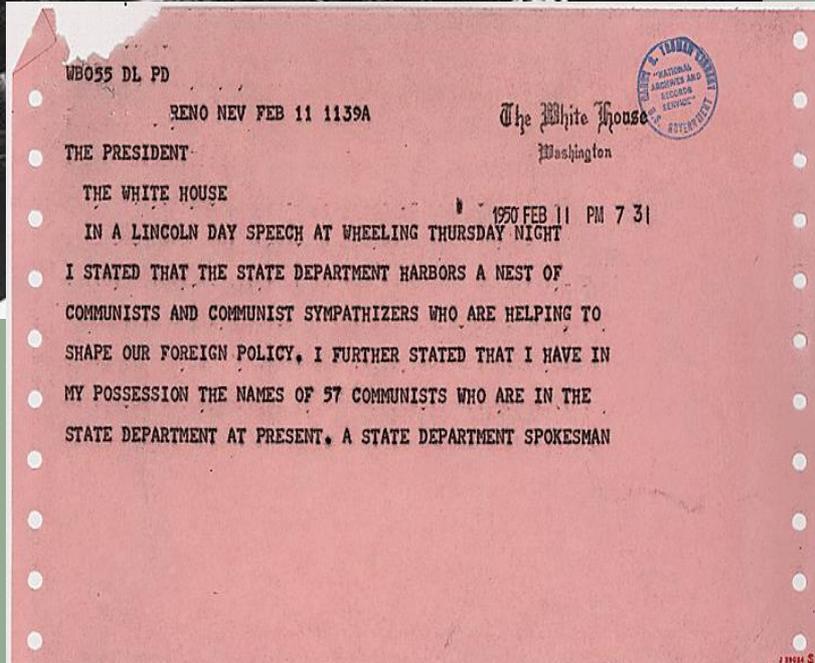
A 1950 publication that claimed to identify communists in the media

- Period of intense anti-communist suspicion in the late 1940s and early 1950s
- Many innocent people in the government, military, and media were accused of communist ties
- Almost all were falsely accused

# Joseph McCarthy



- Republican senator from Wisconsin
- Claimed that communists had infiltrated several government agencies



- McCarthy televised hearings accusing many led to **censure** (formal expression of disapproval) by the Senate

# Responses to “Internal Threats”

- House Un-American Activities Committee (**HUAC**)
  - Alger Hiss
  - McCarran Act
  - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg
- **Blacklisting**-Denying suspect communists employment
  - Hollywood was especially targeted
  - Charlie Chaplin, Orson Welles and others were blacklisted



Arrest photos of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg

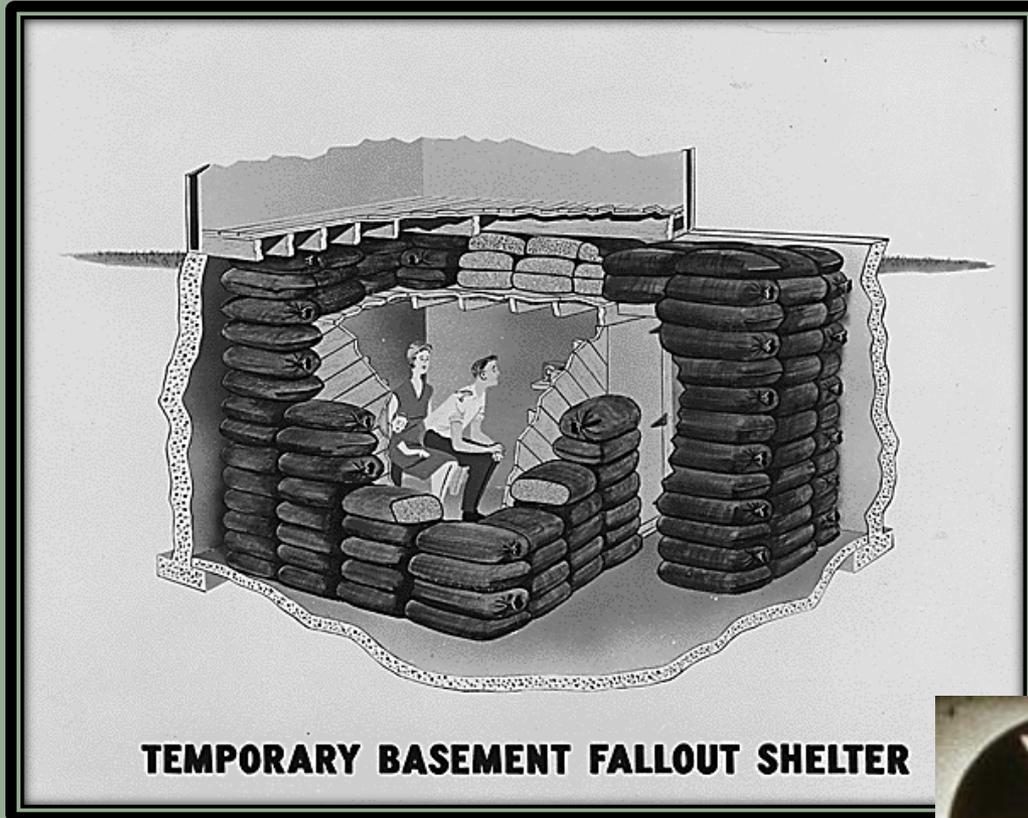
# United States Civil Defense



The U.S. Civil Defense emblem

- Origins of Civil Defense go back to 1916
- Post–World War II CD focused on dealing with threat of nuclear war
- CD encouraged building fallout shelters and storing supplies to survive a nuclear attack

# Fallout Shelters



Cutaway view of CD-designed shelter

- CD provided plans for backyard shelters
- Of questionable effectiveness
- Made public believe a nuclear war was survivable



# Berlin Crisis



The Berlin Wall

- Attempt to stop mass migration from East to West Berlin
- Construction began in August 1961
- East German forces ordered to shoot defectors
- Nearly 5000 successful escapes; nearly 200 killed

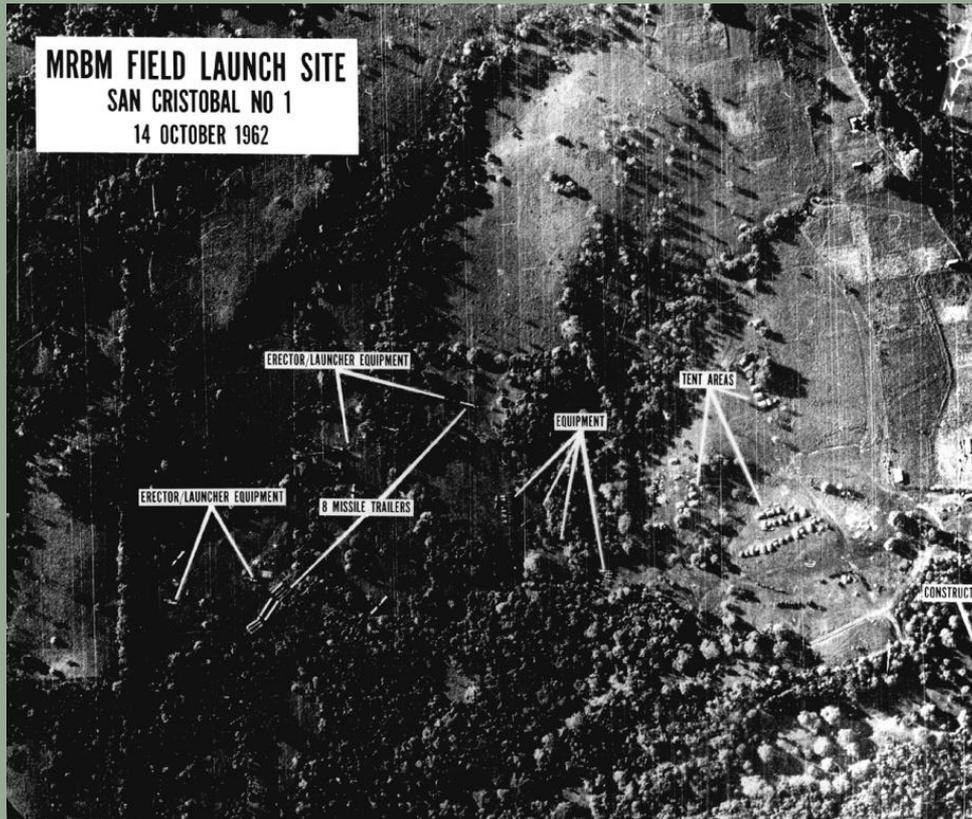
# Kennedy at the Berlin Wall

- 1963 speech by JFK at the Berlin Wall
- Famous quote: “*Ich bin ein Berliner*”
- Kennedy’s speech set tone of defiance against Soviet oppression in Berlin



JFK speaks at the Berlin Wall

# The Cuban Missile Crisis



Arrows indicate suspected Soviet missile installations

- Soviet missiles discovered in Cuba by U.S. reconnaissance flights
- Deemed an unacceptable threat to U.S. security
- JFK decides to Blockade Cuba to prevent any further missiles getting in
- Soviets decide not to run blockade thus avoiding war

# Why Missiles in Cuba?

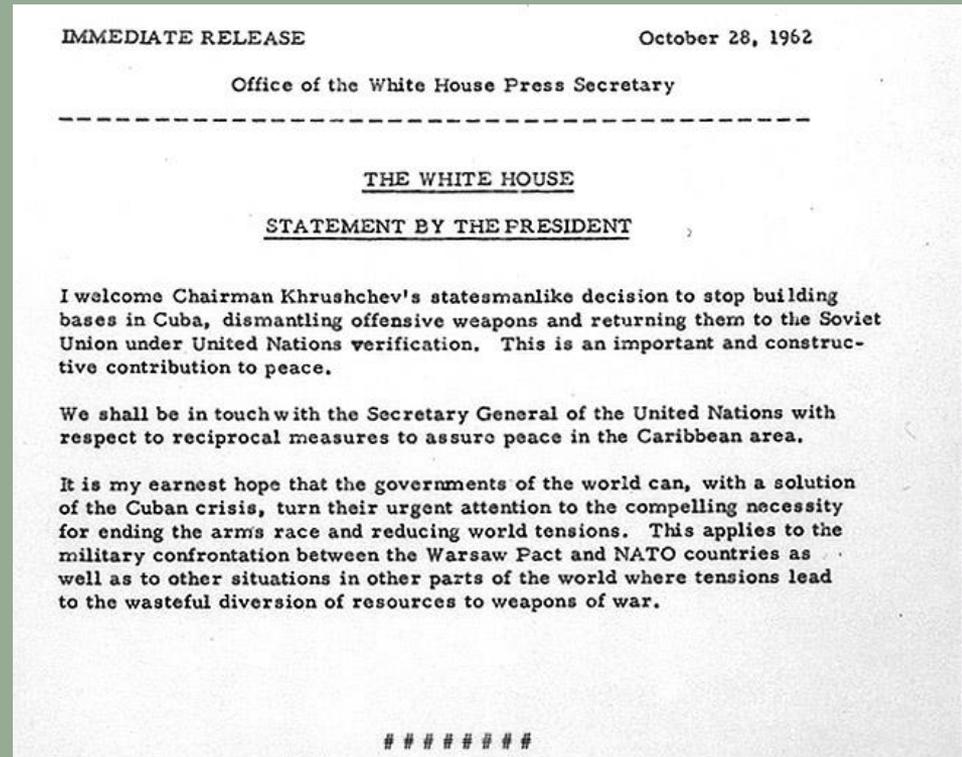


- Failed Bay of Pigs invasion
  - Attempts by U.S. to remove Castro
- Placement of U.S. missiles in Turkey
- USSR lagged behind U.S. in number of missiles

Map showing the range of targets reachable by Soviet missiles in Cuba

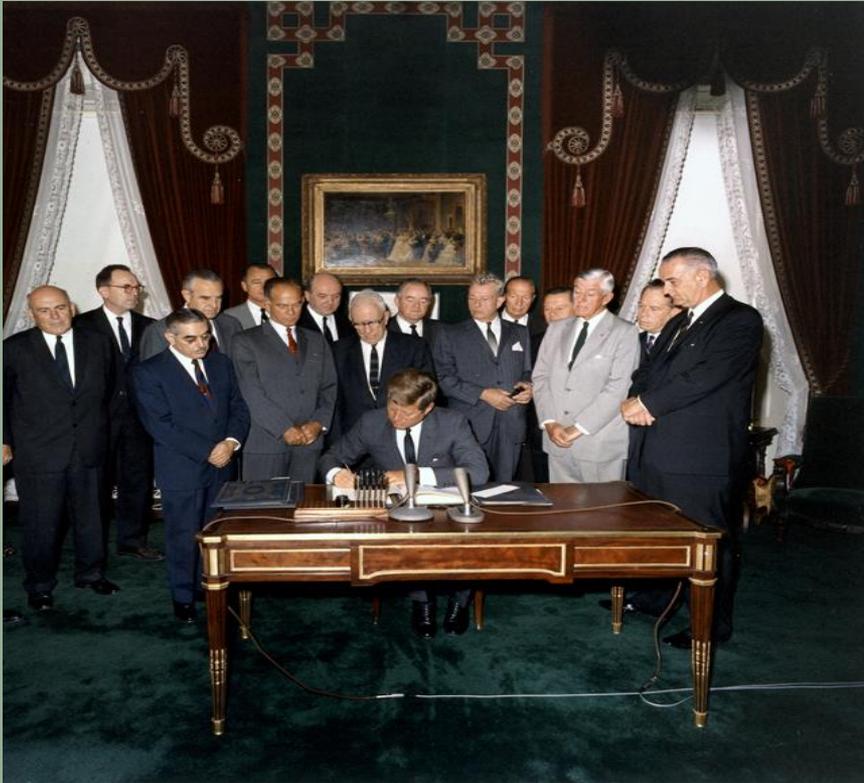
# The Crisis Ends

- Khrushchev sent letter to JFK setting terms for removing missiles
- Second letter much harsher
- JFK answered first letter and ignored second
- Secret deal made to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey
- The “hotline” established



JFK's statement at the end of the crisis

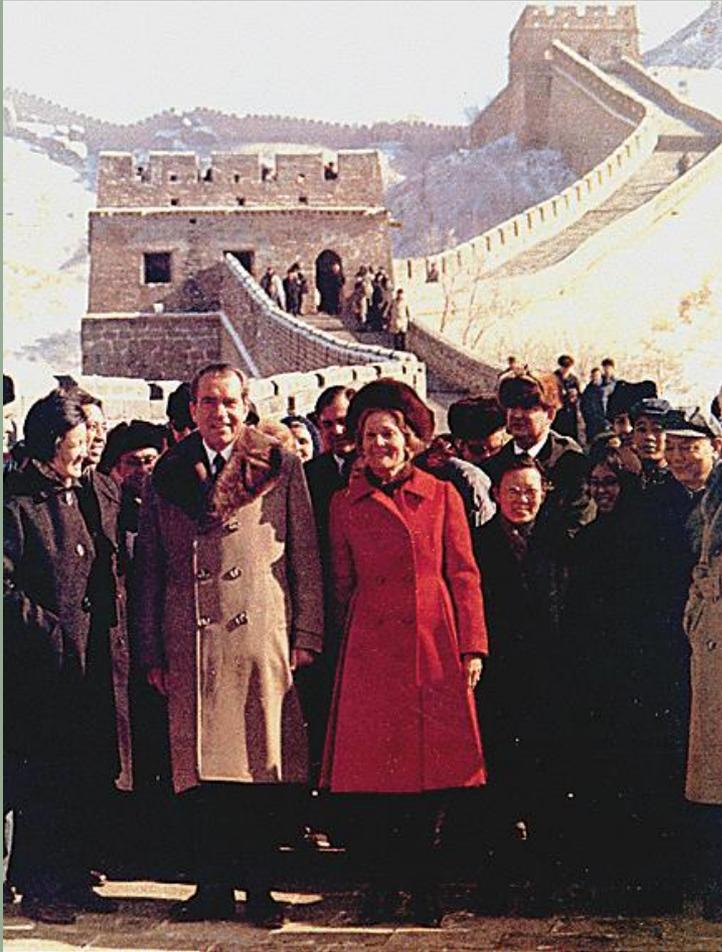
# Limited Test Ban Treaty



President Kennedy signs the Limited Test Ban Treaty

- Negotiations between U.S., UK, and USSR began in June 1963
- Allowed only underground nuclear testing
- JFK signed treaty in October
- Treaty signaled start of improved relations between the superpowers

# Détente



President and Mrs. Nixon at the  
Great Wall of China, 1972

- “Thawing” of Cold War tensions during Nixon Administration
- Included visits by Nixon to China and USSR
- Several arms limitation treaties ratified during period
- Ford continued détente into his presidency

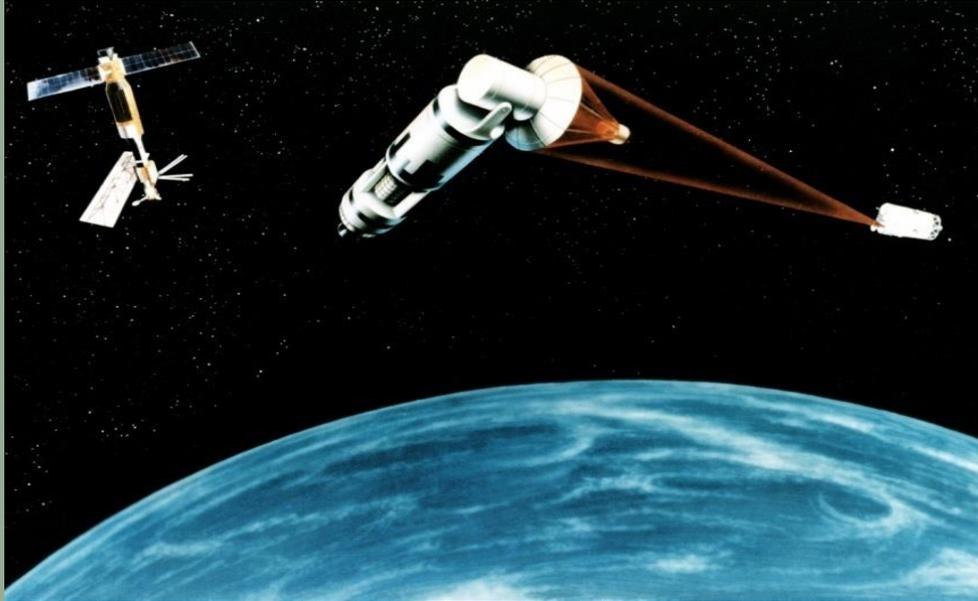
# The “Evil Empire”

- From a speech delivered by Reagan in 1983
- Described the supposed moral divide between U.S. and USSR
- Called the Cold War a struggle of “right and wrong and good and evil”



President Reagan gives his famous “evil empire” speech

# Strategic Defense Initiative



An artist's rendition of how the SDI system would function

- Proposed by Reagan in 1983
- Nicknamed “Star Wars”
- Would provide a “space shield” against nuclear attack
- Shift away from mutually assured destruction
- System never fully deployed

# *Glasnost and Perestroika*

- Policies initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev
- *Glasnost*: “openness” in addressing political issues
- *Perestroika*: “restructuring” of the Soviet economy



Gorbachev and Reagan meet informally at Camp David

# Fall of the Berlin Wall

- East Germans fled to Austria through Hungary and Czechoslovakia
- Public demonstrations began in East Germany
- East Germany allowed passage to West Germany, including West Berlin



Dismantling the Berlin Wall, 1989

# End of the Cold War



Bush and Gorbachev give a joint presentation at a summit in Helsinki, Finland in 1990

- Soviet economy stagnated; defense spending cut
- Bush and Gorbachev announced end to Cold War in 1989
- Communist Party lost political power in USSR
- USSR dissolved in December 1990