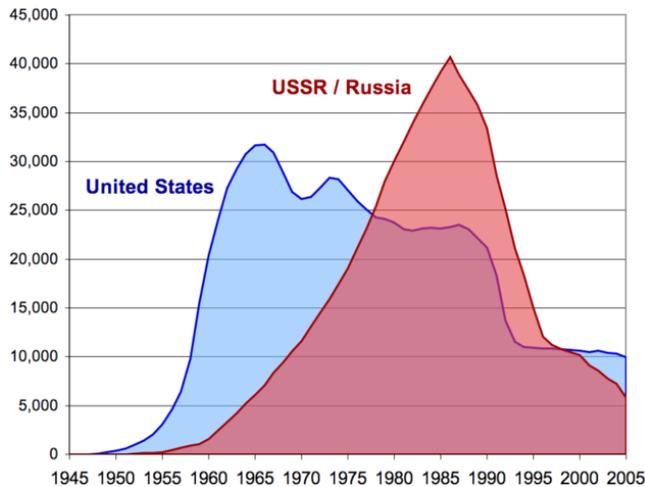


The Arms Race and Changes in Foreign Policy

In August 1945, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan to end World War II. **By 1949**, the Soviet Union had developed an atomic bomb and **the nuclear arms race began**. The two nations started stockpiling both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons. In 1952 the United States exploded a **hydrogen bomb**, the Soviet Union doing the same one year after.

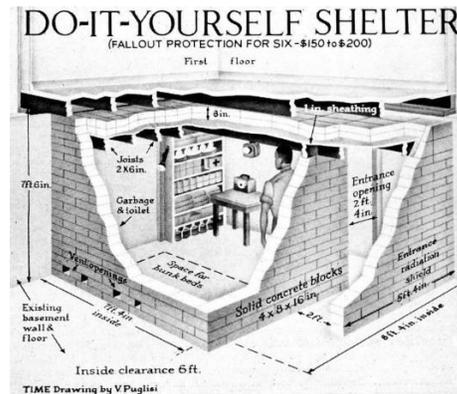
The balance of power now became a balance of terror.

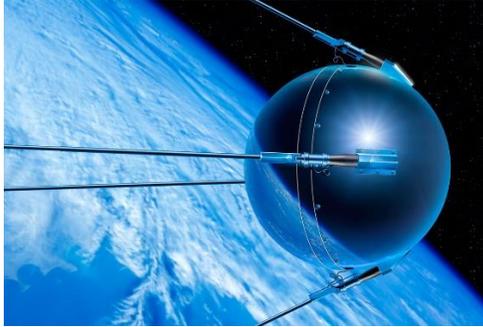


Warhead Comparison Chart



In 1953, President Eisenhower announced the **Atoms for Peace Plan** at the United Nations where the U.N. was to supervise the world as it explored peaceful uses for nuclear technology but the **Soviet Union refused** to cooperate. In fear of a nuclear war, Americans began to build **fallout shelters** in their homes. Schools and public buildings were redesigned and converted to also create fallout shelters in their basements in case of nuclear attack.





In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first satellite, **Sputnik**, into orbit around the earth. The arms race now became the **space race** and America rushed to create and launch its own equivalents for military use.

After Joseph Stalin died in 1953, the new Soviet leader, **Nakita Khrushchev**, changed Soviet policy and the nuclear tensions began to ease as he focused more on improving life in the Soviet Union.

In 1955 the leaders of the United States, Soviet Union, Great Britain and France held a joint conference in Geneva, Switzerland where they began **disarmament talks** and pushed for a suspension of nuclear testing.

The Revolutions of 1956 in Poland and Hungary and the subsequent Soviet use of their military began to change the peaceful relations between the two super-powers. An attempt to bring back peaceful relations was seen in 1959 when Khrushchev visited Eisenhower in the United States and held lengthy talks at **Camp David** about the threat of nuclear war. Goodwill emerged and both men promised to meet again in 1960 at Paris, France.

The Paris Summit proved to be a disaster. Just before the conference started, the Soviet Union shot down an American **U-2 spy plane** that was flying deep inside Soviet territory. The captured pilot admitted that he had been spying on Soviet Military bases.



The Revolution in Cuba during 1956 also changed relations negatively between the United States and the Soviet Union. When **Fidel Castro** began the revolt over the dictator **Fulgencio Batista**, the United States quickly recognized Castro's new government. However, Castro soon adopted communist policies that angered the Eisenhower administration. **Castro limited civil liberties and jailed any political opponents.** Castro also nationalized industry and turned towards the Soviet Union for economic aid. Thousands of Cubans refugees fled the island and came to Florida, many working towards to actively end Castro's rule.

In 1960, after Eisenhower's two terms in office, **John F. Kennedy (Democrat) won the election** in a very close race against Eisenhower's Vice-President, Richard Nixon.

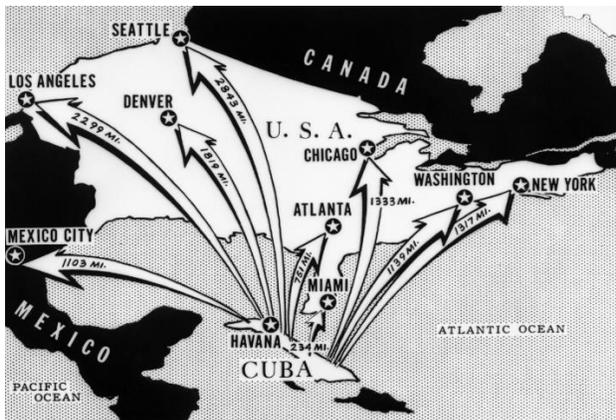
The Kennedy Administration was a crucial time for the United States during the Cold War.

In 1961, the Soviet Union's success with the **first cosmonaut in space (Yuri Gagarin)** made President Kennedy commit to a space program with the goal of America landing **a man on the moon**. In 1962, the American **John Glenn** became the first man to orbit the earth. In July 1969, six years after Kennedy's death, **Neil Armstrong** stepped onto the moon's surface, at a cost of \$25.4 billion.



In the 1960's relations between the United States and countries in **Latin America** were often hostile. President Kennedy tried to improve relations with the region through the **Alliance for Progress**, a plan to stop the spread of communism in the region by pledging \$20 billion in economic development aid. However, funds often went just to governments that were anticommunist.

The Bay of Pigs invasion was a disaster for the United States and the Kennedy Administration. The plan was for the **CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)** to assist Cuban exiles invade and overthrow the Castro Regime. A so-called invasion force was trained, armed, and supplied by the U.S. government but due to a series of errors and failures, no uprising took place. It was an embarrassment for Kennedy and the United States government.



The Cuban Missile Crisis took place in 1962. Fearing another American invasion, Castro agreed to put Soviet nuclear missiles on the island, aimed at the United States. On October 22, 1962, President Kennedy announced that there would be a **naval blockade and quarantine of Cuba** and demanded that the Soviets withdraw its missiles.

This event brought the Soviet Union and the United States to the **brink of war**, but the Soviets eventually backed down and withdrew their missiles and the United States making concessions, especially with missiles in Europe, to pacify the Soviets.

President Kennedy clearly showed during the Cuban Missile Crisis that the United States would not tolerate any Soviet presence in the Western Hemisphere, especially within 90 miles of its coast. His actions did somewhat help the nation recover from the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

In **1963**, the United States, Soviet Union, and Great Britain signed the **Nuclear Test Ban Treaty** where they agreed not to test nuclear weapons in the air, in outer space, or under the sea. Underground testing was permitted!

A Time for Détente

After Kennedy's assassination, his Vice-President, **Lyndon B. Johnson** was sworn in as President but due to his lack of popularity and the Vietnam War, he did not run for a second term in office. In the **Election of 1968**, the Republican, **Richard M. Nixon** won the presidency. Besides ending the Vietnam War, Richard Nixon had other key items on his agenda for foreign policy.

The **Nixon Doctrine of 1969** stated that the United States would no longer provide direct military protection in Asia even though the Vietnam War had not yet ended. There would be no more Vietnams!

President Nixon also focused on opening **diplomatic relations with China** and on February 21, 1972, along with his National Security Advisor **Henry Kissinger**, Nixon arrived in China to meet with **Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai**. The visit reduced tensions between the two countries and now the two nations had new economic and cultural exchanges.



Nixon and Mao Zedong



Nixon and Zhou Enlai

Nixon's Policy and the Soviet Union

Détente means less tension and a better relationship between two countries. The main example of a détente was during the Cold War when in the 1970's, the United States and the Soviet Union improved relations.

In **May of 1972**, President Nixon visited **General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev** of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union, known as the **Moscow Summit** and the first American president since World War II to make such a visit.

While in Moscow, Nixon started **SALT (Strategic Arms Limitations Talks)** which limited the number of defensive missiles and strategic offensive missiles that the Soviet Union and the United States could keep.

However, all of Nixon's plans came to an abrupt halt when the **Watergate Affair** was uncovered and a Senate Committee was close to impeaching Nixon. In addition, during the hearings, Nixon's Vice-President, **Spiro Agnew**, resigned after being charged with income tax evasion. Nixon appointed **Gerald Ford**, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, as his new Vice-President.

The Supreme Court case of **United States v. Nixon** ordered President Nixon to surrender tapes made while in office. To avoid impeachment, Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, and **Gerald Ford** was sworn in as the new president. Once President, **Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon** but the whole scandal meant that Cold War tensions had been secondary to domestic affairs.