

The Cold War

Lesson 4

Two Nations Live on the Edge

Key Terms and People

H-bomb Hydrogen bomb

arms race An international contest between countries seeking a military advantage over each other

Dwight D. Eisenhower 34th president of the United States

massive retaliation Strategy that deterred the United States and Soviet Union from launching a nuclear attack

mutually assured destruction Policy that meant that any attack with nuclear force would result in the total destruction of both countries

John Foster Dulles Secretary of state

brinkmanship Willingness to go to the edge of all-out war

Warsaw Pact Military alliance of the Soviet Union and its satellite nations

Eisenhower Doctrine Policy of the United States that it would defend the Middle East against attack by any Communist country

Nikita Khrushchev Soviet leader

Francis Gary Powers Pilot of an American U-2 spy plane

U-2 incident Downing of a U.S. spy plane and the capture of its pilot by the Soviet Union in 1960

Before You Read

In the last lesson you saw how the fear of communism affected life in the United States. In this lesson you will see how Cold War tensions increased as both the United States and the Soviet Union tried to spread their influence around the world.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on the involvement of the United States in Cold War trouble spots around the world.

Lesson 4, *continued***BRINKMANSHIP RULES
U.S. POLICY****What was the arms race?**

The Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb in 1949. In an effort to maintain an advantage in weaponry, American leaders wanted to develop a more powerful weapon. In 1952 the United States exploded the first hydrogen bomb, or **H-bomb**. The Soviets tested their own H-bomb in 1953.

Leaders in the United States and Soviet Union feared that the other would gain an advantage. This led to an **arms race**, a contest between countries seeking a military advantage.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was president. His foreign policy focused on leading in the arms race, which would allow for **massive retaliation** strategy. He wanted to discourage the Soviets from launching a nuclear offensive. He vowed to launch a counterstrike to any attack. With both countries having matching nuclear capabilities, any attack would result in total destruction of both superpowers. So neither country was willing to attack the other. This was the policy of **mutually assured destruction**.

Eisenhower's secretary of state, **John Foster Dulles**, was anti-Communist. He said that the United States must be prepared to use all of its nuclear weapons against any aggressor. This willingness to go to the edge of all-out war was called **brinkmanship**.

The United States and Soviet Union began making more nuclear weapons. Many Americans feared a nuclear attack.

The arms race affected the American economy, too. Many weapons were produced, which caused munitions companies to grow. Even President Eisenhower became concerned about increasing defense spending and the growth of these companies.

1. Why did the arms race begin?

**THE COLD WAR SPREADS
AROUND THE WORLD****What events increased Cold War tensions?**

With growing dependence on nuclear arms, President Eisenhower began to rely on the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The CIA used spies to get information abroad. It also carried out covert, or secret, operations to weaken or overthrow governments unfriendly to the United States.

One CIA action involved Iran. In 1951 Iran's prime minister nationalized Iran's oil fields. When Great Britain stopped buying Iranian oil, Iran's economy faltered. Afraid that the Iranians would ask the Soviets for help, the CIA convinced the shah, or monarch, of Iran to get rid of the prime minister. The shah turned over control of Iranian oil fields to the West.

In 1954 the CIA took action in Guatemala. Eisenhower believed Guatemala was friendly to the Communists because it had given acres of American-owned land to peasants. The CIA trained an army that overthrew Guatemala's government.

The U.S. government helped many nations fight communism. In Africa and Asia, the United States offered aid to new African and Asian governments to help convince the new countries to form democratic governments. Some of these new nations felt trapped between the United States and the Soviet Union, so they chose to stay unaligned with either country. Other countries were eager to align, however. Governments in Asia

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such as the Philippines, Thailand, and Pakistan joined with the United States, France, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand to fight Soviet domination.

Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin died in 1953. At first, tensions eased between the superpowers. People called it a thaw in the Cold War. But when West Germany joined NATO, the Soviet Union formed a military alliance with its satellite nations in 1955. This alliance was called the **Warsaw Pact**, and it was firmly under Soviet control. The Soviets used it to counter NATO threats and to crush internal rebellions.

In 1955 the United States and Great Britain agreed to help Egypt build a dam at Aswan on the Nile River. When Egypt's head of government tried to pit the Soviets against the United States, however, a crisis developed in the Middle East. Egypt seized control of the Suez Canal. The canal was located in Egypt but owned by Britain and France, who had built it. Egypt's leader, Gamal-Abdel Nasser, refused to let ships headed for Israel pass through. Britain, France, and Israel then invaded Egypt to take the canal back. Both the United States and the Soviets objected to the use of force to regain the canal. War was prevented when the UN stepped in to stop the fighting. The troops withdrew, and Egypt was able to keep control of the canal.

During the crisis, Eisenhower issued a warning known as the **Eisenhower Doctrine**. It said the United States would defend the Middle East against Communist attack.

In 1956 the people of Hungary rose in revolt against the Soviet Union and called for a democratic government. The new government promised free elections. When the Hungarians asked to leave the Warsaw Pact in 1956, Soviet tanks rolled into Hungary. They crushed the reform

movement. Many Hungarian reformers were killed, and others fled the country. The United States did nothing to help Hungary because the containment policy did not extend to driving the Soviet Union out of its satellites.

2. How did hostilities increase between the United States and the Soviet Union during the 1950s?

THE COLD WAR TAKES TO THE SKIES

What was the space race?

The Soviet leader, **Nikita Khrushchev**, came to power after Stalin's death. Unlike Stalin, he believed communism could triumph through peaceful means.

On October 4, 1957, the Soviets leaped into an early lead in a competition for prestige that became known as the space race. They shocked the world by launching *Sputnik*. It was the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth. American scientists worked hard to catch up. The first attempt to launch a U.S. satellite was a failure when the rocket toppled to the ground. Finally, on January 31, 1958, the United States successfully launched its first satellite.

Meanwhile, the United States had been flying spy missions over the Soviet Union. The CIA used U-2 aircraft that flew so high they could not be detected. However, by 1960 U.S. officials knew the Soviets were aware of them. On the United States' last flight, pilot **Francis Gary Powers** was shot down and sentenced to ten years in a Soviet prison. Later, he was released in exchange for a Soviet spy.

This event, called the **U-2 incident**, happened right before a meeting between

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Eisenhower and Khrushchev. At first, Eisenhower denied the U-2 had been spying, but before the meeting, he had to admit it. At the meeting, Khrushchev criticized the United States and walked out. The U-2 incident hurt Eisenhower's ability to deal with the Soviets.

3. In what two ways was the Cold War fought in the skies?

For each event, write your answer to the question in the appropriate box.

Event	How did the United States react, and why?
1. The Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb in 1949.	
2. In 1951 the Iranian prime minister placed the oil industry in Iran under the Iranian government's control.	
3. The Guatemalan head of government gave American-owned land in Guatemala to peasants.	
4. In 1956 Britain, France, and Israel invaded Egypt and occupied the Suez Canal.	
5. Soviet tanks invaded Hungary and fired on protesters in 1956.	
6. In 1957 the Soviet Union launched <i>Sputnik</i> .	
7. In 1960 the Soviet Union brought down an American U-2 piloted by Francis Gary Powers.	