

Was the world ever in real danger from the Cold War?

Key Words	Definitions
Cold War	A war in which there is no active combat.
Communism	A system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.
Iron Curtain	The symbolic and physical division between Western Europe (democratic/capitalist) and Eastern Europe (communist) during the Cold War.
Marshall Plan	A U.S. program that provided financial aid to Western European countries.
Satellite state	A smaller country that is influenced or controlled by a larger, more powerful country, just like a satellite orbiting a planet. It's a country that, while officially independent, has to share some of its decisions and actions with the larger country.
Coup	A sudden and forceful takeover of a government, often by the military, against the will of the people.
Berlin Wall	A physical barrier built in 1961 by East Germany to prevent East Germans from escaping to West Berlin.
Potsdam Conference	A meeting held in July-August 1945 between the Allied leaders (Stalin, Truman, and Churchill/Attlee) to decide how to run Germany and Europe after World War II.
Unanimous	To be in complete agreement about something.
Cuban Missile Crisis	A 13-day confrontation between the governments of the USA and the Soviet Union.
Indochina	The name given to former French colonies in South East Asia, including Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos
Viet Cong	The North Vietnamese soldiers

Dates	Key events
1940	USA begins developing their own nuclear weapons
1949	Soviet Union had build their first successful nuclear weapon.
1949	Formation of NATO
1955	Formation of Warsaw Pact
12 – 13 August 1961	Berlin Wall built
October 1962	The Cuban Missile Crisis
1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Vasili Arkhipov	Second in command on a Soviet submarine. He prevented a unanimous decision to launch a nuclear torpedo that would have turned the cold war "hot".
John F Kennedy	President of the USA during the Cuban Missile Crisis
Nikita Khrushchev	Premier of the Soviet Union during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
Ronald Reagan	President of the USA from January 1981 - January 1989
George H W Bush	President of the USA from January 1989 – January 1993. He saw in the end of the Cold War.
Mikhail Gorbachev	The last Premier of the Soviet Union from March 1985 – August 1991