

America: Pathways to the Present

Chapter 19

The Cold War (1945–1960)

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Section 1: Origins of the Cold War

Section 2: The Cold War Heats Up

Section 3: The Korean War

Section 4: The Continuing Cold War

The Continuing Cold War

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Chapter 19, Section 4

- **What were the characteristics of the McCarthy era?**
- **How was the Cold War waged in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America during the 1950s?**
- **How did the arms race develop?**



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The McCarthy Era

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McCarthy's Rise to Power

- Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy, up for reelection raised the specter of Communist conspiracies within the United States.
- McCarthy produced a list of 250 names of presumed Communist-supporting government employees. Later, when scrutinized, this list was reduced to 57.
- Although McCarthy's accusations were usually baseless and unprovable, few were willing to risk their reputations by speaking out against him.

McCarthy's Fall

- In early 1954, **McCarthyism**, the name given to McCarthy's crusade, reached the army.
- Democrats asked that the hearings between McCarthy and the army be televised, hoping to swing popular opinion against McCarthy.
- By mid-June 1954, McCarthy had lost even his strongest supporters. The Senate formally condemned him for his actions.



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The Cold War in the 1950s

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United States involvement around the world, 1947–1956

- **Eastern Europe** — Wary of war with the Soviets, America did not support uprisings in East Germany, Poland, and Hungary.
- **Southeast Asia** — Korean War ends; former French colony of Vietnam is divided into Communist North and anti-Communist South.
- **Middle East** — United States supports Israel, backs groups that restore a pro-American Shah in Iran; the Suez Crisis in Egypt erupts.
- **Latin America** — Organization of American States (OAS) is created; American aid helps anti-Communist leaders gain and retain power.



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The Arms Race

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- Throughout the 1950s, the United States and the Soviet Union competed in an **arms race**, a struggle to gain weapons superiority.
- **Deterrence**, the policy of maintaining a military arsenal so strong that no enemy will attack for fear of retaliation, resulted in the escalating development of powerful nuclear weapons.
- The American policy of **brinkmanship** involved bringing the United States to the brink of war without actually entering into war.



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The Arms Race in the Skies

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- To carry bombs to their targets, the Soviet Union developed long-range rockets known as intercontinental ballistic missiles, or **ICBMs**.
- In 1957, one of these rockets was used to launch the Soviet satellite **Sputnik**, the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth.
- When a Soviet guided missile shot down an American U-2 spy plane, the resulting **U-2 incident** shattered American confidence and prompted a desire to match—and surpass—Soviet weapons technology.



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The Continuing Cold War—Assessment

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Why did the United States choose not to support uprisings in Eastern Europe?

- (A) It appeared that these uprisings would succeed on their own.**
- (B) The Soviet Union supported the uprisings.**
- (C) Senator McCarthy was against such support.**
- (D) Eisenhower felt that doing so would risk war with the Soviets.**

What was the significance of the U-2 incident?

- (A) It motivated the United States to increase the technological development of its military.**
- (B) It provided the first test of Soviet ICBMs.**
- (C) It led to the development of the hydrogen bomb.**
- (D) It began the Cold War.**

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The Continuing Cold War—Assessment

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