

Cold War/Decolonization Timeline of Events

- Sept. 1943: Soviet spies know US has bomb
Feb. 1945: Yalta
Apr. 1945: FDR dies; Victory in Europe
Feb. 1946: Am. Amb. to USSR sends telegram discussing the issue of containment
Mar. 1946: Churchill gives “iron curtain” speech
July 1946: Alamogordo test of atomic bomb successful; Potsdam conference
1947: Partition of India
Mar. 1947: Truman Doctrine
Apr. 1948: Marshall plan signed by Truman (for Eur. ec. recovery).
June 1948: Communist monolith broken—Tito breaks with Stalin; Stalin blockades W Berlin
1948-49: NATO formed; Dutch withdraw from Indonesia
Feb. 1949: Communists control all of China N of Yangtze
May 1949: Stalin lifts blockade of Berlin.
Sept. 1949: Soviets explode an atomic bomb
Feb. 1950: Alliance between Mao and Stalin
Apr. 1950: NSC-68—new aggressive app. to foreign policy—includes calling for dev. of the H-bomb, build-up of conventional forces, more taxes, creation of systems of alliance, undermine Soviets by making Russian people our friends.
June 1950: N. Korea invades S Korea
Aug. 1950: US decision to cross 38th parallel
1952: US tests h-bomb
1953: USSR test h-bomb ; problems in British Malaya, (US) Philippines, and French Vietnam. Also nationalist PM Iran nationalizes oil industry—CIA intervention. End of Korean conflict.
1954: CIA action in Guatemala, Vietnam divided at 17th parallel
1955: Geneva Summit—sets some ground rules for Cold War; Warsaw pact; Baghdad Pact; Bandung Conference of Nonaligned States
1956: Suez Crisis erupts—US attention on Middle East, while Khrushchev crushes rebellions in Poland and Hungary
1957: Eisenhower announces the Eisenhower Doctrine; USSR launches first artificial satellite into orbit; Ghana-independent, first British colony in Africa to do so.
1959: Revolution in Cuba
1960: Struggle against S African apartheid intensified; Nigeria independent
1961: East Germany builds Berlin Wall; Kuwait independent; First American personnel arrive in Vietnam
1962: Cuban Missile Crisis; Algerian independence
1964: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution; Mandela sentenced to life in prison
1971: Bangladesh secedes from Pakistan; Independence for UAE
1975: Helsinki Accords; end of Vietnam War
1979: Iranian Revolution
1989: Demise of Communism in E Europe; China crushes pro-democracy mvt.
1990: Mandela released
1991: Gulf War; end of USSR
1992: Yugoslavia disintegrates
1994: Maya uprising in S Mexico; NAFTA
1999: Kosovo crisis