Cold War Containment Policies

How did the U.S. respond to the threat of communist expansion?

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Origins of the Cold War

✔ The Cold War set the framework for global politics for 45 years after the end of World War II. It also influenced American domestic politics, the conduct of foreign affairs, and the role of the government in the economy after 1945.

✔ The Cold War was essentially a competition between two very different ways of organizing government, society and economy: the American-led western nations’ belief in democracy, individual freedom and a market economy, and the Soviet belief in a totalitarian state and socialism.
Origins of the Cold War

The Cold War lasted from the end of World War II until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989.

The United States and the Soviet Union represented starkly different fundamental values. The United States represented democratic political institutions and a generally free market economic system. The Soviet Union was a totalitarian government with a communist (socialist) economic system.

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The Truman Doctrine of "containment of communism" was a guiding principle of American foreign policy throughout the Cold War, not to roll it back but to keep it from spreading and to resist communist aggression into other countries.
### Cold War Themes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Containment:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Domino Theory:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Collective Security:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To stop the spread of Communism</td>
<td>The idea that if one nation falls to Communism, its neighbor would fall, and eventually Communism would dominate an entire region and threaten the U.S.</td>
<td>Using an alliance system to prevent aggression (such as NATO)</td>
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<th><strong>Massive Retaliation:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Brinkmanship:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Arms Race:</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using the threat of complete war as a deterrent to attack in order to keep the peace (President Eisenhower). This helped spark the arms race.</td>
<td>Existing near a state of war so that each side would take great care not to upset the balance of peace.</td>
<td>The rapid buildup of weapons and military to deter any attack.</td>
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The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed as a defensive alliance among the United States and western European countries to prevent a Soviet invasion of Western Europe.
Warsaw Pact

✓ Soviet allies in eastern Europe formed the Warsaw Pact and for nearly 50 years both sides maintained large military forces facing each other in Europe.

✓ A defensive alliance system for the Soviet Union, it provided a buffer zone between the “West” and the Soviets.

✓ This produced two large and armed camps in Europe!
Divided Camps:

Map of NATO vs Warsaw Pact

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After the Soviet Union matched the United States in nuclear weaponry in the 1950s, the threat of a nuclear war that would destroy both countries was ever-present throughout the Cold War.

America, under President Eisenhower, adopted a policy of "massive retaliation" to deter any nuclear strike by the Soviets.
Hot Spot: China
The communist takeover in China shortly after World War II increased American fears of communist domination of most of the world.

Rather than strong allies, however, the communist nations of China and the Soviet Union eventually became rivals for territory and diplomatic influence, a split which American foreign policy under President Nixon in the 1970s exploited.

Mao Zedong led the Communist Revolution in China in 1949. This was described as a “terrible loss to America”.
CHINA TODAY:

- China continues to oppress free thought and democracy.
- China put down a pro-democracy march at Tiananmen Square in 1989.
- Communism is fading as U.S. increases its role and trades freely!

This lone man risked his life to defy tanks during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protest. How strongly do you feel about YOUR rights?
American involvement in the Korean War in the early 1950s reflected the American policy of containment of communism.

After WW2, Korea was divided along the 38th Parallel - Communist North and pro-West South.
The Korean War

- After communist North Korea invaded South Korea, American military forces led a counterattack that drove deep into North Korea itself.
- Communist Chinese forces came into the war on the side of North Korea and the war threatened to widen, but eventually ended in a stalemate with South Korea free of communist occupation.

Notice that these American forces are INTEGRATED. Harry Truman finally integrated the armed forces in the late 1940’s.
Korea Today:

- Korea is still a divided country- Communist North and “pro-West” South- still along the 38th Parallel.
- The **armistice** (agreement to stop fighting) has held up, though Americans are still stationed there.
- North Korea most recently has threatened world peace with building and testing nuclear weapons, which threaten China, South Korea and Japan.
Cuba

Another site of Cold War confrontations.
Cuba

✓ Fidel Castro led a communist revolution that took over Cuba in the late 1950s.
✓ Many Cubans fled to Florida and later attempted to invade Cuba and overthrow Castro.
✓ This "Bay of Pigs" invasion failed, and Castro felt threatened!
In 1962, the Soviet Union stationed missiles in Cuba, instigating the Cuban Missile Crisis. President Kennedy ordered the Soviets to remove their missiles and for several days the world was on the brink of nuclear war. Eventually, the Soviet leadership "blinked" and removed their missiles.
Cuba Today:

- Cuba is still a communist nation.
- The U.S. continues its trade embargo.
- There are still many human rights issues in Cuba.
- Will the end of Castro be the end of communist Cuba?