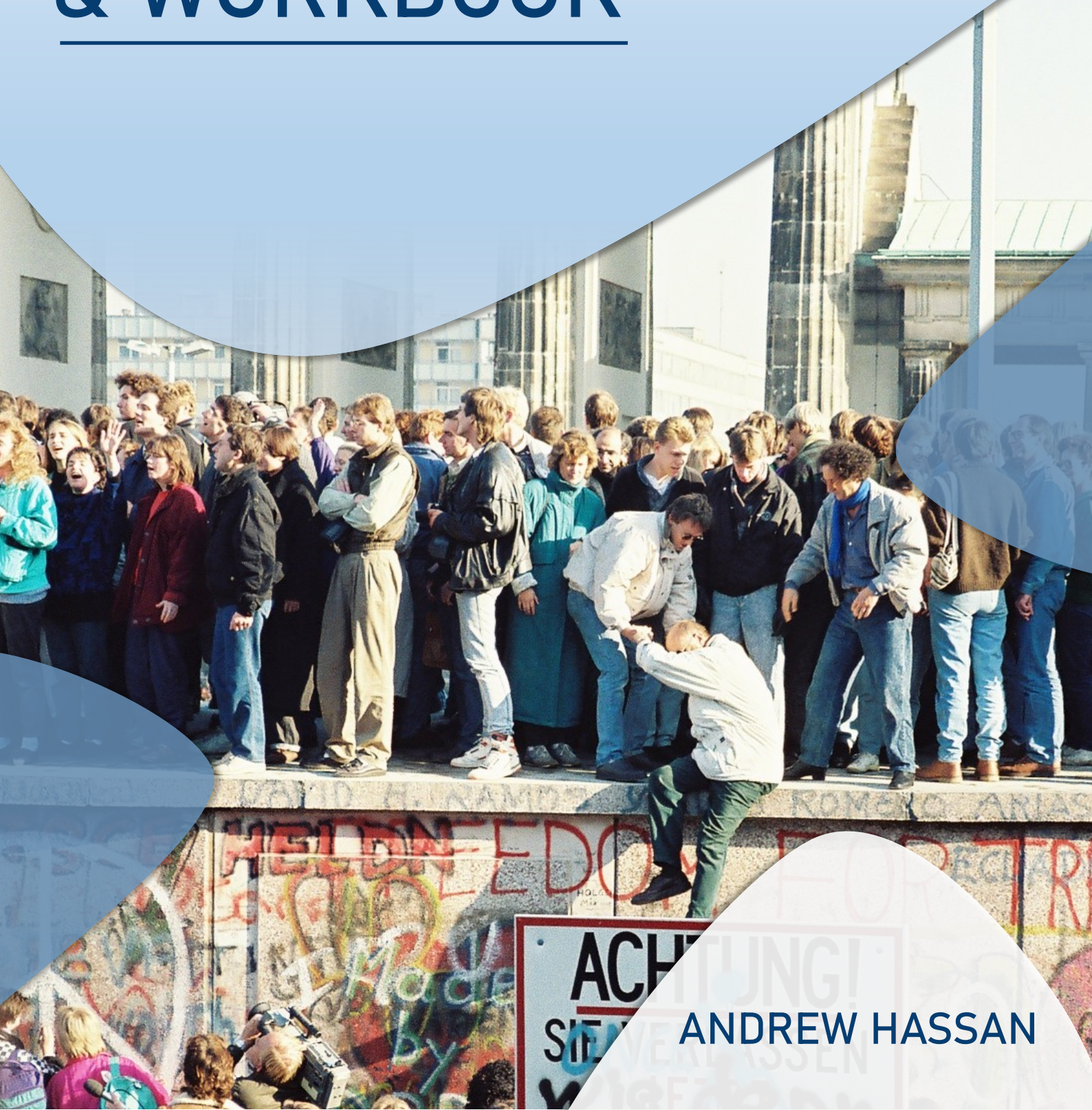


SUPERPOWER RELATIONS AND THE  
COLD WAR 1941-91

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# REVISION GUIDE & WORKBOOK

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ANDREW HASSAN

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How to use this book 3

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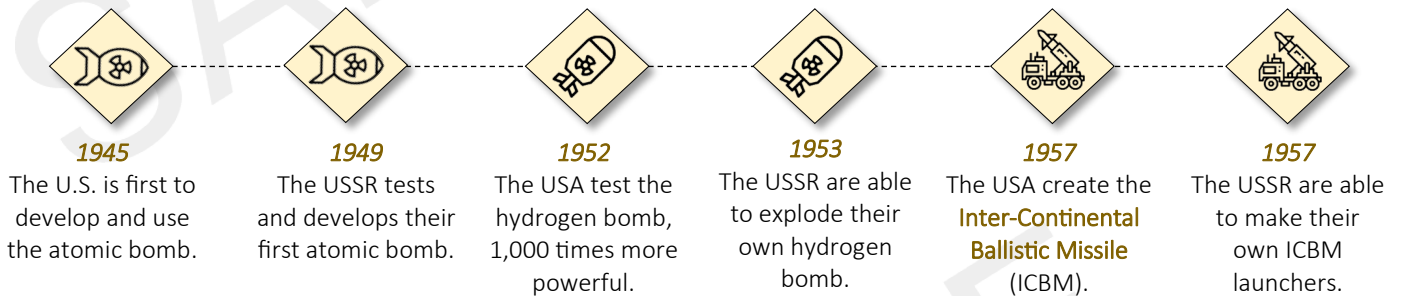
## 1.3.1 The 'Arms Race'

### What was the Arms Race?

- An **arms race** is a competition between different countries over who can develop and hold the most powerful armies and weapons.
- In the Cold War, the U.S. and the USSR competed to increase not only their nuclear weapons stocks, but their **conventional weapons**; submarines, tanks, planes and guns.

### Why did the arms race begin?

- The revelation of the U.S.' nuclear capability at the **Potsdam Conference** pushed Stalin to begin discovering the secrets for himself.
- Without atomic weapons, the USSR was at a tactical and military disadvantage to the U.S.
- The impact of the atomic bombs on Japan accelerated Stalin's ambition to develop his own.



### What was MAD Theory?

- MAD, or **Mutually Assured Destruction**, was a theory that began because of the increase in nuclear weapons.
- It stated that if both the U.S. and USSR went to war, they would be able to wipe each other out. Therefore, building more and more nuclear weapons was a way of preventing a war, for fear of mutual devastation.

### Were there consequences of the arms race?

- Both sides went on to create stronger nuclear weapons. The U.S. tested **Castle Bravo** in March 1954, the largest U.S. bomb, while the USSR tested the **Tsar Bomb** in October 1961, the largest weapon ever exploded.
- The arms race increased tensions between both sides and was one of the principle reasons for the creation of **NATO** (1949) and the **Warsaw Pact** (1955) for mutual protection.
- As time went on, both sides stockpiled nuclear weapons and created more complex ways to use them. The arms race would last more than 50 years, right up until the end of the cold war.



## Leader Spotlight - Dwight Eisenhower



Eisenhower was the 34th President of the U.S.

- **Dwight D. Eisenhower** (1890-1969) was U.S. president from 1952 until 1961.
- Eisenhower served as the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe during World War Two and was ultimately the person in charge of ensuring the success of D-Day in 1944.
- He was more lenient towards communism than **Harry Truman** had been because he had seen first hand the deadly effects of war and realised the danger nuclear weapons could pose.
- Would not back down to pressure from the USSR, but was more willing to compromise.



Khrushchev was a passionate speaker and often captured attention with his strongly worded speeches.

- ◆ **Nikita Khrushchev** (1894-1971) was the leader of the USSR from 1953 to 1964.
- ◆ Khrushchev rose to power after World War Two, having fought in some of the key Russian battles against Nazi Germany.
- ◆ During his time in power, the USSR began building deadlier nuclear weapons and sponsored the early space program.
- ◆ Khrushchev faced some of the most important moments of the Cold War, such as the building of the **Berlin Wall** and the **Cuban Missile Crisis**, while meeting presidents **Eisenhower** and **Kennedy** to try and calm tensions.
- ◆ Due to his perceived failures over Cuba, he eventually lost power in 1964 and **Leonid Brezhnev** took over as leader.

## 1.3.2 The 'Space Race'

### What was the Space Race?

- ◆ The **Space Race** was the competition between the U.S. and the USSR to make advancements in the field of space exploration and discovery.
- ◆ It was linked to the **arms race** and both countries poured money into outdoing the other.



The Apollo 11 crew who landed on the Moon: Neil Armstrong (left), Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin (right).



**1957**

The USSR launched the world's first **satellite**, **Sputnik 1**, which orbited Earth in just 90 minutes.



**1957**

The USSR launched the first animal in space, Laika the dog, aboard Sputnik 2.



**1958**

The USA launched its first satellite, Explorer 1 and increased space and missile funding by 20%.



**1961**

The USSR put **Yuri Gagarin**, the first person, into space.



**1965**

The USSR's **Alexei Leonov** became the first person to leave a space shuttle in a space suit.



**1969**

The USA sent the first people to the Moon. **Neil Armstrong** led **Apollo 11** in a 'small step for man, and a giant leap for mankind.'



### Were there consequences of the space race?

- ◆ It increased tensions on both sides. They poured money and resources into it, trying to outdo each other.
- ◆ It heightened fears of a nuclear war, as many feared space would be used as a base to fire upon each other.
- ◆ Eventually, the U.S. would overtake of the USSR. With the proposal of the **Strategic Defence Initiative** by **Ronald Reagan** in 1983 (see p. 59), the USSR finally conceded the space race.

## 1.3.3 New Leaders for the major superpowers

### Why were people optimistic at the arrival of the 'new leaders' in 1953?

The year 1953 saw U.S. President **Dwight D. Eisenhower** replace **Harry Truman**, and **Nikita Khrushchev**, replace **Joseph Stalin**, who had died that year. People were optimistic because:

- ◆ This was a fresh start for relations. Two new leaders might find ways of ending the tensions between them.
- ◆ In the U.S., even though Eisenhower still wanted to block communist expansion, he seemed more willing to work with the USSR. He understood the dangers of nuclear weapons.
- ◆ In the USSR, Khrushchev had talked of a 'peaceful coexistence' where both countries could learn to live together as long as they respected each others' **spheres of influence**.
- ◆ To add to this, Khrushchev began criticising Stalin's methods and began a process of **de-Stalinisation**; the removal of Stalin's statues, reduction of the **secret police** and an increase in trade goods. To those in both nations, it looked as if the strict communism might be ending, leading to better relations with the West.

### Were there consequences?

- ◆ Tensions did ease, but it was temporary. Khrushchev personally met Eisenhower at two major **summits**, a successful one in America in 1959 and a dreadful one in Paris in 1960 (*see p. 36*). The two fell nations fell out.
- ◆ Despite the anticipation of the easing of tensions, hopes of an end to the Cold War dissolved with the creation of the **Warsaw Pact** in 1955 and the separation of Europe into two armed camps.
- ◆ Khrushchev's 'leniency' was actually an illusion. He crushed the 1956 **Hungarian Uprising** brutally (*see p. 30*).

## 1.3.4 The creation of the Warsaw Pact

### Why was the Warsaw Pact created?

- ◆ In 1955, the **Federal Republic of Germany** (West Germany) were allowed to join **NATO**. The USSR feared a strong, powerful West Germany on their borders.
- ◆ The Warsaw Pact was a defensive alliance, with members pledging to come to each other's aid, in the same way NATO did for the Western allies.
- ◆ Only communist countries could join.

### Were there consequences?

- ◆ Europe was now split into two armed camps, just like in WW1 and WW2. This made nuclear war more of a likelihood.
- ◆ The Soviets controlled the militaries of the Pact countries, giving Khrushchev a tighter grip over Eastern Europe.



The Warsaw Pact countries are shown in dark yellow, although Albania left in 1968. NATO countries are shown with a pattern. Yugoslavia never joined the Warsaw Pact so remain white on the map.

## 1.3.5 The Hungarian Uprising

### Why did Hungarians dislike communist rule in Hungary?

- ◆ **No Political Freedom** - The USSR had rigged the 1947 election and communism had been forced on the people. It was a system which took resources from the country and benefitted the USSR.
- ◆ **Matyas Rakosi** - Had been the leader since 1948. He had brought in a strict Soviet-style government based on Stalin's methods. He cruelly used the **AVO** (secret police) to make over 200,000 political opponents disappear. More than 2,000 died in **purges**.
- ◆ **Social Issues** - All of Hungary's industry had been fixed under a five year plan to produce resources to aid the USSR. Very few consumer goods were produced. Standards of living had become worse. Freedom of speech and the press had been removed.
- ◆ **Economic Failure** - The country was still war-torn but had not been allowed to apply for **Marshall Aid**. Instead, **Comecon** had forced Hungary to sell raw materials at crippling cheap rates. Hungary was now financially dependent on the USSR.



### Who was Matyas Rakosi?



- ◆ **Matyas Rakosi** (1892-1971) was Hungarian dictator from 1948 until 1956.
- ◆ A strict follower of **Joseph Stalin**, he used murder, the secret police and terror to control the people.
- ◆ Lost power in 1956 in the Uprising and was replaced by **Imre Nagy**.

### What impact did 'de-Stalinisation' have on Hungarian people?

- ◆ **De-Stalinisation** began in February 1956 when **Nikita Khrushchev**, the new leader of the USSR, had made a speech criticising **Joseph Stalin's** brutality and his rule of terror over the communist territories.
- ◆ People in the USSR and Eastern Europe saw this as a proof that Khrushchev was more **liberal** and flexible.
- ◆ The Hungarians saw Khrushchev agree to worker reforms in Poland in 1955 after a revolt and began believing the Khrushchev era might be more lenient. After all, he had criticised Stalin as being too harsh.

### How did the 1956 Uprising break out?

Following Khrushchev's speech, in early 1956, Hungary experienced bad harvests, fuel shortages and bread price increases. Then events moved as follows:

23 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Hungarian students and workers begin protesting outside parliament. They demand free elections, freedom of press and the removal of the AVO. They destroyed Stalin's statues.</li> <li>◆ Fighting breaks out between the AVO police and the protesters. Protests spread around the country.</li> </ul>
24 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Soviet tanks enter Hungary and cause casualties.</li> <li>◆ There are calls for the popular <b>Imre Nagy</b> to become prime minister.</li> </ul>
25-28 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Nagy is appointed and <b>Rakosi</b> is removed.</li> <li>◆ Khrushchev hopes that Nagy will be more popular and the uprising will come to an end.</li> <li>◆ Nagy convinces the USSR to withdraw its troops.</li> </ul>
29 October - 3 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Nagy introduces a series of <b>reforms</b> to satisfy the people, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reinstating freedom of Press and Speech</li> <li>- Allowing Hungary to trade with the West.</li> <li>- Free elections to allow other political parties.</li> <li>- Announcing that Hungary would leave the <b>Warsaw Pact</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



### What were the consequences?

- ◆ Khrushchev was angered by the sudden reforms Nagy had made, feeling they had gone too far.
- ◆ The USSR **invaded Hungary** on 4 November 1956 to undo the reforms.
- ◆ Eventually, **Imre Nagy** would be executed for his role in the uprising.

## 1.3.6 The invasion of Hungary

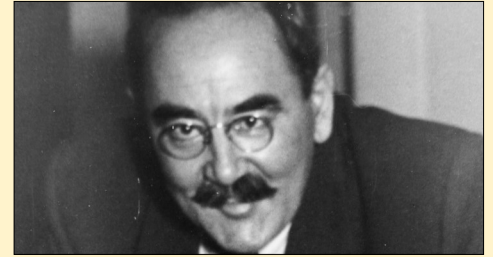
### Why did the USSR invade Hungary in 1956?

- ◆ Khrushchev had been willing to accept some reforms, like freedom of speech and a lessening of the powers of the secret police (**AVO**) if it brought an end to the uprising.
- ◆ However, on 1 November 1956, **Imre Nagy** announced that Hungary would leave the **Warsaw Pact**.
- ◆ The Warsaw Pact was the USSR's main security against **NATO** and Western invasion. For Khrushchev, this was a step too far. If Hungary broke away from the Pact, other **satellite states** might follow and this would put communism in the East in danger. Security of the USSR was Khrushchev's priority.
- ◆ Khrushchev said 'If we depart from Hungary, it will give a huge boost to the U.S.' Clearly the USSR's reputation was on the line.

### What happened during the invasion?

- ◆ On 4 November 1956, Khrushchev ordered 1,000 tanks and supporting troops to enter the capital of Hungary, Budapest.
- ◆ Nagy went on the radio appealing for Hungarian's to be strong and resist. He also pleaded with the U.S. for help. Eisenhower sympathised with the Hungarians and encouraged them to stand up to the USSR.
- ◆ The Hungarian people fought back using guerrilla tactics; they set traps for the tanks, hid and ambushed the Soviet soldiers and even women and children became involved in the fighting.
- ◆ Unfortunately, the Hungarians were overpowered. 20,000 died in the fighting. The wounded were crushed by tanks and bodies displayed by Soviet soldiers. Nagy was arrested and replaced by **Janos Kadar**, a hard-line communist dictator who undid the reforms.
- ◆ No help from the U.S. ever came. The USSR were able to mostly complete the invasion in around a week.

### Who was Imre Nagy?



- ◆ **Imre Nagy** (1896-1958) was the leader of Hungary in 1956 during the Hungarian Uprising.
- ◆ He was a committed communist but wanted to reform Hungary after Rakosi's harsh rule.
- ◆ He was **deposed** from power by the USSR invasion in 1956 and executed in 1958.

### What were the consequences of the invasion of Hungary?

#### *Consequences for the Participants:*

- ◆ **For Hungary** - Over 20,000 Hungarians had been killed and 200,000 had fled the country for the West. Hungary was now under the strict communist rule of **Janos Kadar**, who maintained a tight grip for 30 years.
- ◆ **The USSR** - Khrushchev's position was stronger. The Soviets had sent a message to the other Eastern European countries that the USSR was in charge and force would be used if necessary. The USSR's control over the **satellite states** therefore increased.
- ◆ **The U.S.** - They looked weak. They had encouraged the Hungarian people to fight back and resist, but had done very little to actually help or stop the invasion.

#### *Consequences for Relations:*

- ◆ The USSR realised that the U.S. policy of **containment** only extended to new countries under threat, not existing USSR-controlled ones. It gave the USSR more confidence in dealing with the **satellite states**.
- ◆ The U.S. condemned the invasion and deaths. It drove a bigger wedge between them and the USSR.
- ◆ Khrushchev was more empowered and would use this new confidence to issue his **Berlin Ultimatum** against the West in 1958 to try and drive them out of the city completely.



# Consolidation & Practice

## Part 1: Do You Know?

1) Explain in your own words what De-Stalinisation meant and what it involved.

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2) What was the purpose and function of the Warsaw Pact?

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3) What is the difference between conventional and nuclear weapons?

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4) Explain the differences between the Space Race successes of Yuri Gagarin and Neil Armstrong.

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5) Who were the AVO in Hungary and why were they a problem for the people?

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6) Give three reforms Imre Nagy made to Hungary in 1956.

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆

7) Why was Imre Nagy executed by the USSR? What in particular had made him a 'threat' to them?

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8) Why might the invasion of Hungary by the USSR have given Khrushchev confidence when dealing with the U.S.?

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## Part 2: Defining Key Words

If you get stuck, look between pages 27 and 31 first. If you still need help, use the glossary at the back of this book.

**ICBM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Arms Race:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Sputnik 1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Hydrogen Bomb:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Deposed:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Consolidation & Practice



## Part 3: Who's Who So Far?

Choose one answer for each of the multiple choice questions below:

1) Who replaced Stalin as leader of the USSR?

- a) Nikita Khrushchev
- b) Leonid Brezhnev
- c) Nicolae Ceausescu

2) Who was leader of Hungary before the 1956 Hungarian uprising?

- a) Harry S. Truman
- b) Imre Nagy
- c) Matyas Rakosi

3) Which U.S. president approved the Marshall Plan?

- a) Franklin D. Roosevelt
- b) John F. Kennedy
- c) Harry S. Truman

4) Who was the first person to fly into space?

- a) Neil Armstrong
- b) Yuri Gagarin
- c) Buzz Aldrin

5) Who was executed after the Hungarian Uprising?

- a) Janos Kadar
- b) Imre Nagy
- c) Matyas Rakosi

6) Which president had previously served as Supreme Allied Commander in World War Two?

- a) Harry S. Truman
- b) Franklin D. Roosevelt
- c) Dwight D. Eisenhower

7) Which superpower leader died in 1953?

- a) Joseph Stalin
- b) Franklin D. Roosevelt
- c) Winston Churchill

8) Which person was NOT on the Apollo 11 mission?

- a) Buzz Aldrin
- b) Alexei Leonov
- c) Michel Collins



## Part 4: The Chronology Game

Study the events below. Work out the correct order and write them from **first to last** on the right. *Can you include the year?*

The Berlin Airlift begins

Comecon is created

The Marshall Plan begins

The Long Telegram is sent

Cominform is created

The Truman Doctrine speech

The Warsaw Pact is created

Stalin launches the Berlin Blockade

The Hungarian Uprising and Invasion

The Potsdam Conference

Write the events below from **first to last**:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_

# Consolidation & Practice

## Part 5: Explaining the Links!

How did the ongoing development of the arms race...



Blank writing area with horizontal lines.



...lead to Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) theory?

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How (and why) did the space race lead to further tension between the U.S. And USSR?

How did the appointment of Eisenhower (U.S) and Khrushchev (USSR) in 1953 lead to optimism in Europe about a cooling of tensions?



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How did the conditions and issues in Hungary lead to the Hungarian Uprising in 1956?

Blank writing area with horizontal lines.

How did the Hungarian Uprising and Imre Nagy's reforms lead to the Soviet invasion in 1956?

Blank writing area with horizontal lines.

