

What is Cold War

Hostility between nations, bringing them just shy of open war

A war of words, threats, economics, and politics

A state of tension between nations without overt fighting

Uneasy peace with constant tension

Cold War and Nuclear War

Soviets have siege mentality against foreign invaders.

Geopolitical disadvantage to a vast country
1/6th of the world's total land surface

Vulnerable to land, air, and sea attacks

Bordered by many hostile/unfriendly nations.

Mongol-Tartar invasion/occupation

Napoleonic invasion, WWI & WWII

Huge losses in WWII

- 20 million dead
- 20 million wounded
- Famine
- Massive destruction of property

Cold War and Nuclear War

Soviets create a buffer zone in Eastern Europe to protect themselves from further invasion.

Cold War tension & hostility increases between Soviets & U.S.

Communist VS. Free World

Warsaw Pact - VS. NATO

Soviets view Capitalism as Exploitive

U.S. distrusts Communism as anti-private property & elitist

Cold War is a Contributing Factor to the Arms Race

Arms Race from U.S. Perspective

Bomber Gap – 1950's

Missile Gap – 1960's

Window of Vulnerability – 1970's–1980's

U.S. Use of Nuclear Threats in Cold War

- 1946- Iran
- 1950- Korea
- 1953- Korea & China
- 1954- Vietnam
- 1958- Lebanon
- 1958- Quemoy & Matsu
- 1961- Laos
- 1961- Berlin
- 1962- Cuba
- 1968- Khe Sanh
- 1969-72- Vietnam (Negotiations)

Lifton, Robert Jay, *Indefensible Weapons: The Political and Psychological Case Against Nuclearism* NY: Basic books. 1982. Page 179

1940-1995 U.S. spent \$5.5 Trillion to prepare for nuclear war

1967- U.S. stockpile of nuclear weapons = 32,500 (peak year)

Poseidon sub carries more firepower than all used in WWII – U.S. has 36.

Deterrence: Threat of punishment or strong defense

An aggressor may be deterred from making an attack by the threat that the retaliation that will be suffered will outweigh the gains.

An aggressor may also be deterred from making an attack by the prospect that it will be thwarted by a strong defense.

Massive Retaliation

US possesses superiority in nuclear capability.

US superiority could threaten massive retaliation against Soviets without fearing extensive damage to themselves.

US holds war fighting – war winning doctrine.

Eisenhower secretly used nuclear threat to cause an armistice in the Korean War.

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

US Recognizes that Soviets have developed massive retaliatory capability.

Balance of Terror

Equilibrium of power among nuclear states stemming from the common fear of annihilation in a nuclear war.

Nuclear war is not an attractive means to achieve a political end.

Effective Deterrent

A threat must be perceived as “credible” by the other side to be effective.

Elements of American Deterrence

US Defense Department stated policy that they will not hesitate to use nuclear weapons if the situation calls for it.
(Threat)

US must be prepared to wage, win, and absorb a nuclear war.

- Civil Defense
- Air raid sirens
- Fallout Shelters
- Distant Early Warning (DEW) system
- Home Shelters
- Duck and Cover drills

Huge military Budget

- Military industrial complex
- Demonstrate superiority – credible threat

Triad Forces – strategic redundancy

- If two legs are destroyed one will serve to retaliate
 - Hardened silos – ICBM
 - Submarine fleets – SLBM
 - Strategic bomber

Other

- The Football
- MIRV
- Cruise missile
- The ELF
- Hand from the grave