

	1945-53 Poor relations	1953-60 Seemingly improved relations with persisting conflicts	1960-68 Poor relations	1968-79 Détente	1979-85 Poor relations	1985-91 Improved and friendly relations
Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iron Curtain Speech (1946) British Prime Minister Churchill criticized the Soviet Union for erecting an invisible 'iron curtain' between Eastern and Western Europe to block the communications and interactions between the two regions. ● Truman Doctrine (1947) The US needed to take up the role as global policeman to halt the spread of communism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eisenhower Doctrine (1957) The US provided economic and military assistance for the Middle East to replace France and Britain that were on the decline and keep Soviet expansion there in check. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brezhnev Doctrine (1969) The Soviet Union put forward a series of policies to extend its influence and tighten its control over Eastern Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carter Doctrine (1980) Emphasized that the United States would use military force, if necessary, to defend the Persian Gulf against any outside force attempting to control the region 	
Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Berlin Crisis (1948-49) The Soviet Union was upset by the fact that Britain, France and the US merged their occupation zones in West Germany. To demonstrate their opposition, the Soviets imposed a blockade of West Berlin. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● U-2 Incident (1960) The Soviets shot down an American U-2 spy plane in Soviet airspace. ● Construction of the Berlin Wall (1961) The Soviet Union started constructing the Berlin Wall that provoked the West and West Germany. ● Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) In response to American missile deployment in Italy and Turkey in 1959, the Soviet Union established missile bases in Cuba in 1962. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● August Coup (1991) The conservatives staged the coup to register their discontent with Gorbachev's policy of openness.
Regional Wars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greek Civil War (1944-49) The US announced the Truman Doctrine, which entailed a US\$400 million aid program for Greece and Turkey to fight off communist insurgents. ● Chinese Civil War (1946-49) The Soviets handed Japanese weapons they confiscated during the Second World War to the Chinese Communists, while the Americans provided military aids for the Nationalists. ● Korean War (1950-53) The Soviets pressurized China into deploying the People's Liberation Army to support North Korea, while the Americans backed South Korea through contributing troops to the UN forces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suez War (1956-57) Israel, Britain and France declared war on Egypt, which was backed by the Soviet Union. For fear of Soviet expansion in the Middle East, the US announced the Eisenhower Doctrine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vietnam War (1961-75) Sending more than 3 million Americans to war, the US was heavily involved in the Vietnam War. 			
Economic Confrontation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Truman Doctrine (1947) The US provided US\$400 million in aid for Greece and Turkey ● Molotov Plan (1947) Providing economic aid for Eastern European countries as a countermeasure against the Marshall Plan ● Marshall Plan (1948) Providing US\$13 billion in aid for Western European countries ● Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) (1948) Established for the purpose of distributing aid under the Marshall Plan ● Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) (1949) After the Molotov Plan, the Council was establish to prolong Soviet economic control over Eastern Europe. 					

Blockage of communication and interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The USSR from the communist bloc stopped all kinds of transportation, communication and trade between Eastern and Western Europe. It also erected a barrier of barbed wire along the borders of its satellite states to prevent the penetration of liberal ideas. (After WW2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Germany constructed the Berlin Wall (1961) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the US called on the Western countries to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games (1980) The USSR led Eastern European countries to boycott the Los Angeles Olympic Games (1984) 	
Military Alliances or Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treaty of Brussels (1948) Signed by Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, the treaty guaranteed mutual defence in the event of foreign aggression. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (1949) Founded during the Berlin Crisis, the NATO stated that an attack on one member would be considered an attack on all and other members would provide military assistance accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warsaw Pact (1955) When West Germany joined the NATO in 1955, the Soviet Union established the Warsaw Pact. 				
Arms Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945) The Soviet Union successfully tested its first atomic bomb (1949) The US invented the hydrogen bomb (1952) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Soviet Union launched its first artificial satellite (1957) The US launched an artificial satellite (1958) The US started deploying missiles in Italy and Turkey (1959) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Soviet Union deployed missiles in Cuba (1962) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) (1983) 	
Disarmament			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1963) The treaty was signed by the US and the Soviet Union after the Cuban Missile Crisis to limit their nuclear arms race. It prohibited the testing of nuclear weapons in outer space, underwater or in the atmosphere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (1968) Signed by most countries on Earth to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty I (SALT I) (1972) Limited the number of long range missiles possessed by the US and the Soviet Union Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II (SALT II) (1979) Further limited the number of strategic weapons The US Senate refused to ratify the SALT II Treaty in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) (1987) A disarmament agreement between the US and the Soviet Union on intermediate-range missiles Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) (1990) Signed by NATO and Warsaw Pact members, it was a comprehensive disarmament agreement.
Peace Conferences or Treaties		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geneva Summit (1955) The Summit was a meeting of the heads of state of Britain, France, the US and the Soviet Union in Geneva over 'peaceful coexistence'. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helsinki Accords (1975) The signatories made a commitment to respect each other's sovereignty. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malta Summit (1989) Gorbachev declared that 'the Cold War would be dumped down to the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea' and announced the end of the Cold War with US President George Bush
State Visits		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soviet First Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan visited the US (1959) US Vice President Nixon visited the Soviet Union (1959) Soviet head of state Khrushchev visited the US (1959) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US President Nixon paid a state visit to the Soviet Union (1972) Soviet head of state Brezhnev paid a state visit to the US (1973) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gorbachev met US President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (1985)