

## Two Versions of the Origins of the Cold War

### The U.S. Version of the Origin of the Cold War-

Your team represents the United States in a debate over who started the Cold War. Read the facts on this page and prepare your arguments for the debate.

### The Soviet Union is dangerous to world peace-

1917- The Bolshevik (communist) Revolution in Russia set up a government and an economic system that is a dictatorship and prevents human freedom. This communist dictatorship is a threat to all nations and is dangerous to world peace.

1918- The new Russian government abandoned its allies and quit the war against Germany.

1920's and 1930's- The Soviet Union under the leadership of Joseph Stalin supported radical movements all over the world and denied any rights to its own people.

1935-1939- Joseph Stalin put all Russian leaders who disagreed with his policies in jail. Many were killed. No disagreement is allowed in the Soviet Union.

1939- The Soviet Union signed a treaty with Nazi Germany. The Soviet Union agreed to allow Hitler to invade Poland. In return, the Soviet Union was promised peace and Polish territory.

1944-1945- The Soviet army was racing across Eastern Europe trying to conquer and occupy as much territory as possible.

1945- The Soviet Union refuses to go to war with Japan until after the United States has already defeated the Japanese. This forced the U.S. to fight the whole war against Japan.

1945-1948- To rebuild its economy, the Soviet Union steals materials from all over Eastern Europe.

1945-1954- The Soviet Union supports communist revolutions in China, Korea, and Vietnam. The Soviet Union is dangerous to world peace.

1948- The Soviet Union sets up a blockade that prevents the United States from sending supplies to U.S. troops stationed in Berlin, Germany.

1948- The Soviet Union supports a communist take-over in Czechoslovakia.

1949- The Soviet Union starts to test nuclear weapons.

1955- The Soviet Union establishes the Warsaw Pact to insure its control over Eastern Europe. The treaty allowed the Soviet Union to keep troops in the other eastern European countries.

1956- Warsaw Pact troops under Soviet control invade Hungary.

1962- The Soviet Union places nuclear weapons in Cuba, just ninety miles from the U.S.

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### The Soviet Version of the Origin of the Cold War-

Your team represents the Soviet Union in a debate over who started the Cold War. Read the facts on this page and prepare your arguments for the debate.

### The United States cannot be trusted-

1918- After Russia Revolution, the new Bolshevik (communist) government decided to withdraw the country from World War I. Because Russia quit the war, 15,000 United States soldiers participated in allied invasions of the Soviet Union. These invasions tried to bring enemies of the Russian Revolution back to power.

1919- At the peace negotiations at Versailles, United States President Woodrow Wilson supported a plan to take Russian lands away to create the new countries of Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Poland.

1920's- While the Russian people were starving, the U.S. refused to help the Soviet Union rebuild from the destruction caused by World War I and the Russian Revolution.

1930's- The United States stood back while fascist movements gained control of Germany, Italy, Japan and Spain. These new fascist governments were threats to the security of the Soviet Union. Japan continued to occupy islands claimed by the Soviet Union.

1941- The United States stood by when Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June, 1941.

1942-1944- Even after the U.S. entered World War II, it delayed in its invasion of Europe while Soviet soldiers were forced to bear the major share of the fighting against Germany.

1944-45- After the United States invasion at Normandy beach, U.S. forces raced to conquer and occupy as much of Europe as possible. The U.S. wanted to deny the Soviet Union the resources that it needed to rebuild.

1945- Even though the United States and the Soviet Union were allies, the United States kept the secret of the atomic bomb to itself.

1945- After World War II, the U.S. was secretly planning a nuclear attack on Russia.

1945-1948- The wartime allies agreed that the Soviet Union would have a sphere of influence in Eastern Europe to protect its borders. Suddenly the U.S. changed its mind.

1945-1954- The U.S. opposes communist revolutions in China, Korea and Vietnam.

1948-1952- Under the Marshall Plan, the United States rebuilds the economy of Western Europe but ignores the needs of its wartime ally, the Soviet Union.

1948- The U.S., Great Britain and France decided to unify western Germany without talking with the Soviet Union. West Germany would be a new threat to the Soviet Union.

1949- The United States, Great Britain and France found the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO surrounded the Soviet Union with military and nuclear bases. The

1955- West Germany, the enemy in World War I and World War II, was allowed to join NATO.