FALLOUT: The Psychological Impact of the Cold War on America, circa 1960

1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000

- 1945 **Yalta Conference;** meeting of the 'Big Three', FDR, Churchill and Stalin; Soviet Union has control of Eastern Europe. The Cold War begins
- 1945 **U.S. drops two atomic bombs on Japan**
- 1945 **World War II ends**
- 1945 **Potsdam Conference;** Truman, Stalin and Churchill divide up Europe
- 1945 **United Nations (U.N.) founded** in San Francisco
- 1946 **First East European Communist government** formed in Albania
- 1946 **Operation Crossroads** was the first public demonstration of America's atomic arsenal
- 1946 **Winston Churchill delivers "Iron Curtain" Speech**
- 1947 **Communists seize power** in Poland
- 1947 **Truman Doctrine** announced; active roll in Greek Civil War
- 1947 **Marshall Plan** is announced to help countries combat poverty, disease and malnutrition
- 1947 **Rio Pact;** U.S. meets 19 Latin American countries and creates a security zone around the hemisphere
- 1948 **Communists takeover in Czechoslovakia**
- 1948 **Truman's Loyalty Program** created to catch Cold War spies
- 1948 **Brussel Pact organized** to protect Europe from Communism
- 1948/49 **Berlin Blockade and airlift**
- 1949 **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** established
- 1949 **Soviet Union explodes its first atomic bomb**
- 1949 **Communists win Chinese Civil War** forming The People's Republic of China
- 1950 **Nuclear fears spread;** Paul Nitze issues National Security Council report predicting a Soviet nuclear attack
- 1950 **Senator Joe McCarthy** begins Communist witch hunt in America
- 1950 **Korean War begins;** first armed conflict in the Cold War
- 1950 **Pledge of Allegiance** is changed to include the words "under God"
- 1951 **Federal Civil Defense Administration** is established
- 1952 **Atomic Bombs developed by Britain**
- 1952 **U.S. exploded its first hydrogen bomb;** a weapon hundreds of times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Japan
- 1953 **Korean War ends**
- 1953 **Soviets develop Hydrogen bomb**
- 1953 **Rosenbergs executed;** accused of leaking atomic bomb technology to Soviets
- 1954 **Vietnam split at 17th parallel**
- 1954 **President Eisenhower publicly describes the "Domino Theory"** that holds that the fall of one nation to Communism might lead to the fall of neighboring nations
- 1954 **Soviet Union forms the KGB**
- 1954 **CIA helps overthrow unfriendly regimes** in Iran and Guatemala
- 1955 **Warsaw Pact formed;** Communism's response to NATO
- 1956 **U.S. develops U2 Spy Plane**
- 1956 **Rebellion put down in Communist Hungary**
- 1956 **Egypt takes control of Suez Canal;** U.S. refuses to help
- 1957 **Soviet Union launches Sputnik;** the first man-made object to orbit the Earth starting the Space Race
- 1957 **Khrushchev demands withdrawal of troops** from Berlin 1958
- 1958 **U.S. creates NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration** 1958
- 1958 **U.S. launches its first satellite, *Explorer*** 1958
- 1959 **Cuban is taken over by Fidel Castro;** establishing a Communist regime 1959
- 1960 **Soviet Union reveals U.S. spy plane shot down** over Soviet territory 1960
- 1960 **John F. Kennedy elected President** 1960
- 1960 **Atomic Bombs developed by France** 1960
- 1961 **Berlin border closed and Berlin Wall** construction begins 1961
- 1961 **Bay of Pigs Invasion;** failed attempt at overthrowing Castro in Cuba 1961
- 1962 **Cuban Missile Crisis** 1962
- 1963 **President Kennedy assassinated** 1963
- 1963 **U.S. and Soviet Union install a hot-line** between the two countries 1963
- 1963 **Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ratified** 1963
- 1964 **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution;** granting President Johnson authority to send troops to South Vietnam 1964
- 1964 **Atomic Bombs developed by China** 1964
- 1965 **U.S. Marines sent to Dominican Republic** to fight Communism 1965
- 1968 **North Korea captures U.S.S. *Pueblo*** 1968
- 1968 **Soviet troops crush Czechoslovakian revolt** 1968
- 1968 **Richard Nixon elected President** 1968
- 1972 **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty I (SALT I) signed;** by the U.S. and Soviet Union limiting the proliferation of weapons, including nuclear missiles 1972
- 1973 **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) secretly helps overthrow Chile's socialist government** 1973
- 1973 **Egypt and Syria attack Israel;** Egypt requests Soviet aid 1973
- 1974 **President Nixon resigns** 1974
- 1975 **North Vietnam's Communist forces defeat South Vietnam** 1975
- 1979 **SALT II signed;** calls for additional disarmament of U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons 1979
- 1979 **Shah of Iran overthrown;** Iranian hostage crisis 1979
- 1979 **Soviet forces invade Afghanistan** 1979
- 1983 **President Reagan proposes Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars";** a space-based defense shield 1983
- 1983 **U.S. troops overthrow regime in Grenada** 1983
- 1985 **Iran-Contra Affair;** arms sold to Iran, profits used to support contras in Nicaragua 1985
- 1985 **Mikhail Gorbachev ascends to power** in Soviet Union; initiating a campagin of openness called "glasnost" 1985
- 1986 **Reagan and Gorbachev resolve** to remove all intermediate nuclear missiles from Europe 1986
- 1987 **Reagan and Gorbachev agree** to remove all medium and short-range nuclear missiles by signing treaty 1987
- 1989 **Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan** 1989
- 1989 **China puts down protests for democracy** 1989
- 1989 **Poland and Hungary become independent** 1989
- 1989 **Berlin Wall falls** 1989
- 1989 **Communist governments fall in** Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania 1989
- 1989 **Soviet empire ends** 1989
- 1990 **Germany reunited** 1990
- 1990 **Lithuania becomes independent** 1990
- 1990 **Boris Yeltsin elected to presidency** of Russia 1990
- 1991 **End of Soviet Union, Cold War ends** 1991
- 1991 **Warsaw Pact ends** 1991

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