

tary commitment to Europe was the Berlin Blockade. To the Allies this was sure evidence that a stronger and permanent military presence was necessary to prevent Soviet expansion in Europe. The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** was formed in 1949, and was designed almost solely for mutual defence. Each member state contributed to NATO's defence force. The members agreed that an attack on one member would be considered an attack on them all.

b) The Warsaw Pact

The **Warsaw Pact** was developed in response to NATO in 1955, as a defensive alliance of the Soviet Union and its satellite states.

4. THE ARMS RACE

The main feature of the Cold War was the nuclear arms race between the Western bloc (the United States and its allies) and the Eastern bloc (the Soviet Union and its allies). The two alliances were "racing" to develop more atomic bombs, and to improve nuclear technology.

After 1957, with the launch of the first satellite by the Soviets, a major feature of the arms race became known as the space race. In this element of the Cold War each superpower developed ever more sophisticated missiles to deliver nuclear weapons.

Throughout the Cold War, the two alliances tried to maintain a balance of power so that each would have approximately the same level of nuclear armaments. By maintaining **nuclear parity** (equality) it helped to prevent the two alliances from going to war. Nuclear parity made it seem less likely that one country would attack the other, as it knew that it would be attacked in return—this became known as **MAD** (Mutually Assured Destruction). If nuclear weapons were deployed, entire areas of the country would be completely annihilated. Therefore, the concept of MAD kept both sides from going to war. However, MAD only existed when both sides had access to the same weapons so that one didn't have an advantage over the other. It is for this reason that the United States and the Soviet Union "raced" to keep up with each other.

5. THE KOREAN WAR, 1950-53

During the Second World War, Korea was held by Japan. After the Japanese surrender in 1945, Korea was divided. The North soon became communist, and the South, democratic. In 1950, over 100,000 North Korean troops, supported by Soviet-built tanks and aircraft, invaded South Korea. When the North Korean troops refused to withdraw, the United States demanded that the United Nations come to the defence of South Korea. A UN force made up from 32 countries, led by American forces, was sent to fight in Korea. Over 26,500 Canadians served in the UN action in Korea. In total, 1,000 Canadians were wounded, and 400 were killed. By the time the war was over in July 1953, although both sides agreed to an armistice, Korea remained divided between the North and South.

The war in Korea was significant for Canada because it showed that Canada supported the United Nations and was willing to fight to support those goals. The **Korean War** was especially important because it demonstrated to the world that members of the United Nations, unlike the League of Nations, were willing to take action when required.

6. THE SUEZ CRISIS, 1956

In 1956, Egyptian President Nasser seized the Suez Canal (a vital trade route) from Britain and France. So, in response, Britain and France joined with Israel to attack Egypt. The Soviet Union sided with Egypt and demanded that they withdraw. Lester Pearson, acting as Canada's Minister of External Affairs, went to the United Nations and suggested creating a **United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF)** that would keep the combatants apart while a settlement to the **Suez Crisis** was worked out. As a result, battle forces were withdrawn and replaced with UN peacekeeping forces. Lester Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in 1957.

7. CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, 1962

As part of the Cold War, both the United States and the Soviet Union stockpiled their nuclear weapons in various countries around the world. In 1962, the United States spotted Soviet missiles in Cuba through aerial surveillance. Advance warning of a possible Soviet nuclear attack on the United States had now been reduced from half an hour down to a few minutes. The United States set up a naval blockade around Cuba, thereby defying Soviet ships to continue bringing in missiles to Cuba. The crisis intensified as Soviet ships steamed toward Cuba—these ships were undoubtedly protected by Soviet submarines. Everyone was concerned that this crisis could lead to a nuclear war.

However, as a result of the blockade, the Soviet ships turned back—but the crisis wasn't over. American President Kennedy and Soviet leader Khrushchev wrote letters to each other in which the Soviets promised to remove the missiles if the Americans would issue a promise not to invade Cuba. Nuclear war was averted.

8. THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

On November 22, 1963, President **John F. Kennedy** of the United States was being driven down a street in Dallas, Texas. Kennedy smiled and waved to the crowd when everyone heard a deafening crack. People turned to find the President sprawled inside his car, with a bullet in his head. The assassination of President Kennedy stunned the world. Coverage of the assassination was shown incessantly on television sets across North America. It was said that even in Canada everyone could remember exactly what they were doing at the moment when they heard about the assassination. Two days later, the shooter, Lee Harvey Oswald, was shot dead in the Dallas police station by a nightclub owner. In the years to follow, a series of assassinations of American public figures occurred: Kennedy's younger brother Robert was shot in a Los Angeles hotel in 1968, and the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., a black civil rights leader, was shot the same year.

9. THE VIETNAM WAR, 1954 -- 1975

The Indochina War between France, the colonial power, and the Vietminh, the Communist guerrillas (see sidebar) in Vietnam, lasted from 1946 until the defeat of the French forces in 1954. In 1954, Vietnam was divided between the North, held by the Communist government led by Ho Chi Minh, and the South, which was anti-Communist and partially democratic. A war between North Vietnam and South Vietnam began almost immediately. South Vietnam was supported by the United States and soon the fighting escalated to include Communist countries that supported the North, and non-Communist countries

Guerrilla Warfare:

This term refers to a type of war in which ordinary people (not regular army) form their own armies to fight an enemy in non-conventional ways. They do not have the fire power of the enemy so they strike and retreat. Guerrilla forces are almost always made up of ordinary citizens who return to their everyday tasks when a mission is over. It is very difficult for regular army to deal with them because the enemy is hard to identify.

that supported the South. By 1963, there were 15,000 Americans in South Vietnam because the United States was determined to stop the Communists. After the South Vietnamese leader was assassinated, a series of new leaders followed. The United States supported each new leader, and sent more troops every year. The Americans were trying to "contain" communism in Southeast Asia because they believed in the domino theory; if South Vietnam fell to the Communists then other nearby countries would soon follow. American involvement in Vietnam was called a **Client War**—a war in which the Americans fought on behalf of the South Vietnamese client. While neither the Chinese nor the Soviets sent troops to Vietnam, they did support the communists in Vietnam with massive shipments of supplies. In this way, the two super powers avoided a direct military confrontation.

Americans at home witnessed the inability of the American troops to win the ground war in Vietnam, in addition to the widespread suffering among Vietnamese civilians. TV images of the conflict appeared daily on American television. By 1969, there were 543,000 American troops in Vietnam. Due to the inability of the American forces to win this war and the growing number of casualties, the American people began to turn against the war. Anti-war protests were held throughout the United States. Some people did anything they could to avoid the draft—including making a move to Canada. Thousands of young Americans evaded the military draft and came to Canada. These people were called **draft dodgers**.

During the last four years of the Vietnam war, the United States reduced its combat troops on the ground and turned the war into an air war. They hoped to bomb North Vietnam into submission. During this phase of the war the Americans dropped a greater tonnage of bombs on North Vietnam than the total of all the bombs used by all sides during the Second World War. Finally, in 1973 a cease-fire was reached, and in 1975, the last of the Americans left Vietnam as the Viet Cong took over Saigon in the South. All of Vietnam quickly came under the control of the communists from the North.

10. CYPRUS, 1964—1993

In 1964, a civil war broke out on the Mediterranean island of **Cyprus**, between the Greek majority and the Turkish minority. While Canadian troops were initially sent in 1964, the last of the troops were not withdrawn until 1993. Since 1993, the Cypriots have lived in relative harmony. For Canada the operation was expensive—Canada spent almost \$600 million to maintain its forces in Cyprus, and 30 Canadian soldiers lost their lives.

11. THE RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA

In 1949, the communists, led by Mao Zedong, took over the government of China. However, the United Nations, pushed by the United States, refused to recognize the communist government, thereby allowing the former government (which was by this time in Taiwan), to hold one of five permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council. This issue was a source of much tension between the competing superpowers. While some countries (including Canada) recognized the communist government as the official government of China, others, such as the United States, refused to do so. Finally, by 1971, under world pressure, the Americans finally allowed Red China (the communist government) to replace Taiwan on the Security Council.