

# The Cold War and Decolonization



VECTOR ILLUSTRATION

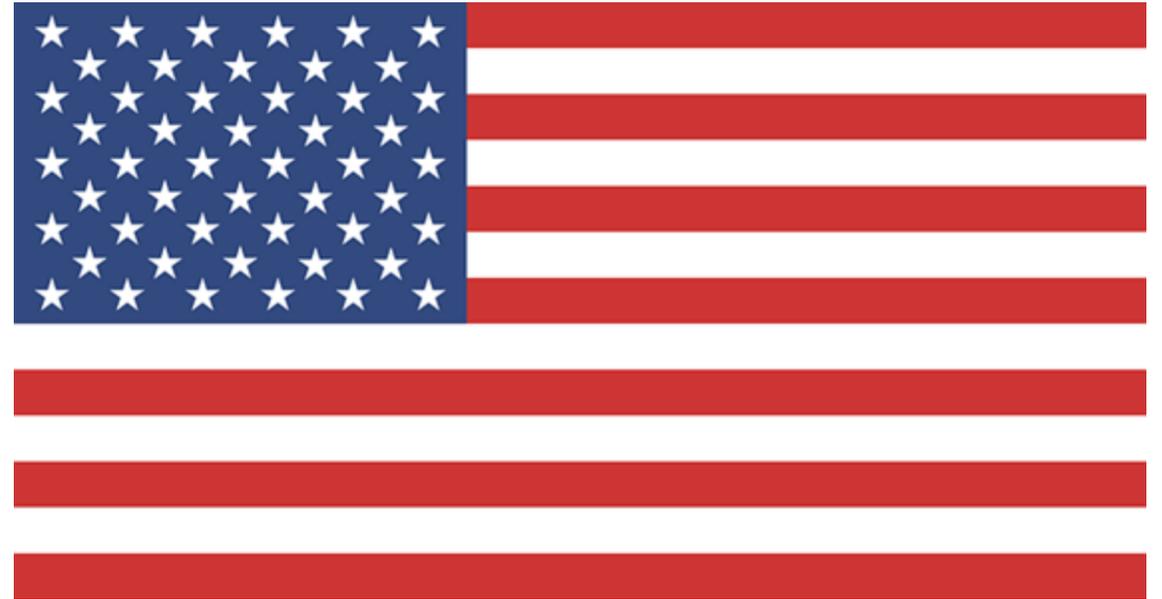
# Social Studies Q3 Assignments

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Fallen of WWII: Video and Questions
- What is Fascism: Video and Questions
- Cold War: PPT and Vocabulary
- What is Decolonization: PPT and Video
- Comparing Decolonization: Reading and Graphic Organizer
- Decolonization in Canada: Graphic Organizer
- Research Project: Topics I Want to Explore Worksheet
- Extension:** Comparing Decolonization Questions from Reading
- Extension:** Space Exploration Booklet
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**What was the Cold War?**

The Cold War was a conflict between a **Communist Bloc** lead by the **Soviet Union** and a **Capitalist Bloc** lead by the **United States**



# What Was the Cold War?

**Timeframe:** 1947–1991

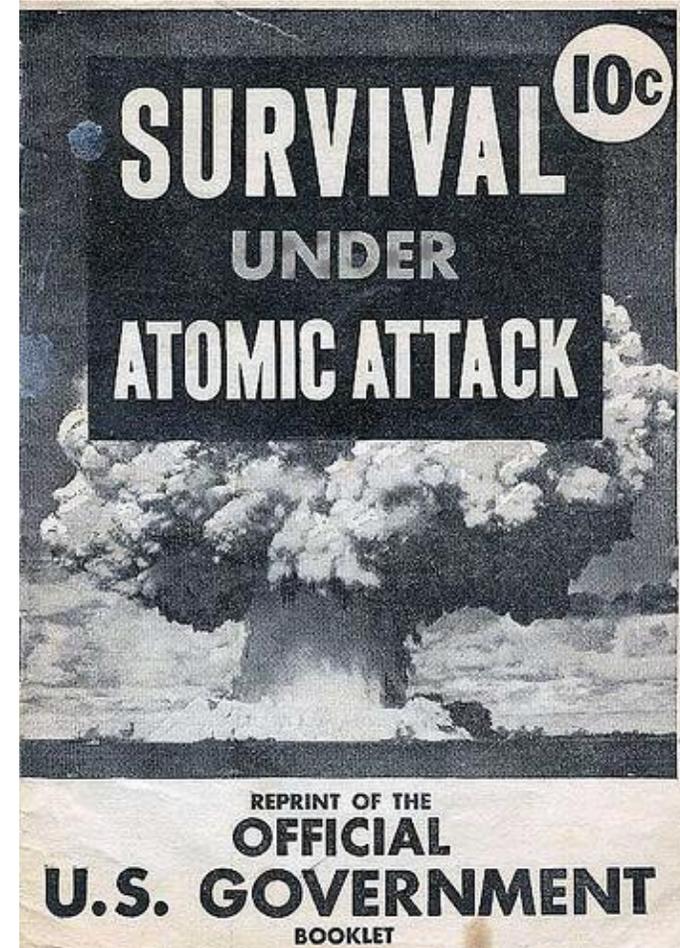
**Definition:** A global **ideological** (political beliefs) struggle between

- **Communist Bloc (USSR)**
- **Capitalist Bloc (USA)**
- Western Europe was no longer the world's leading power

**Why “Cold”?** No direct fighting between superpowers. Conflict through **proxy wars**, espionage, and economic competition

**Communism:** A system where the government controls property and production, aiming for equal sharing of resources among people.

**Capitalism:** A system where individuals and businesses own property and production, and goods are bought and sold in markets for profit.

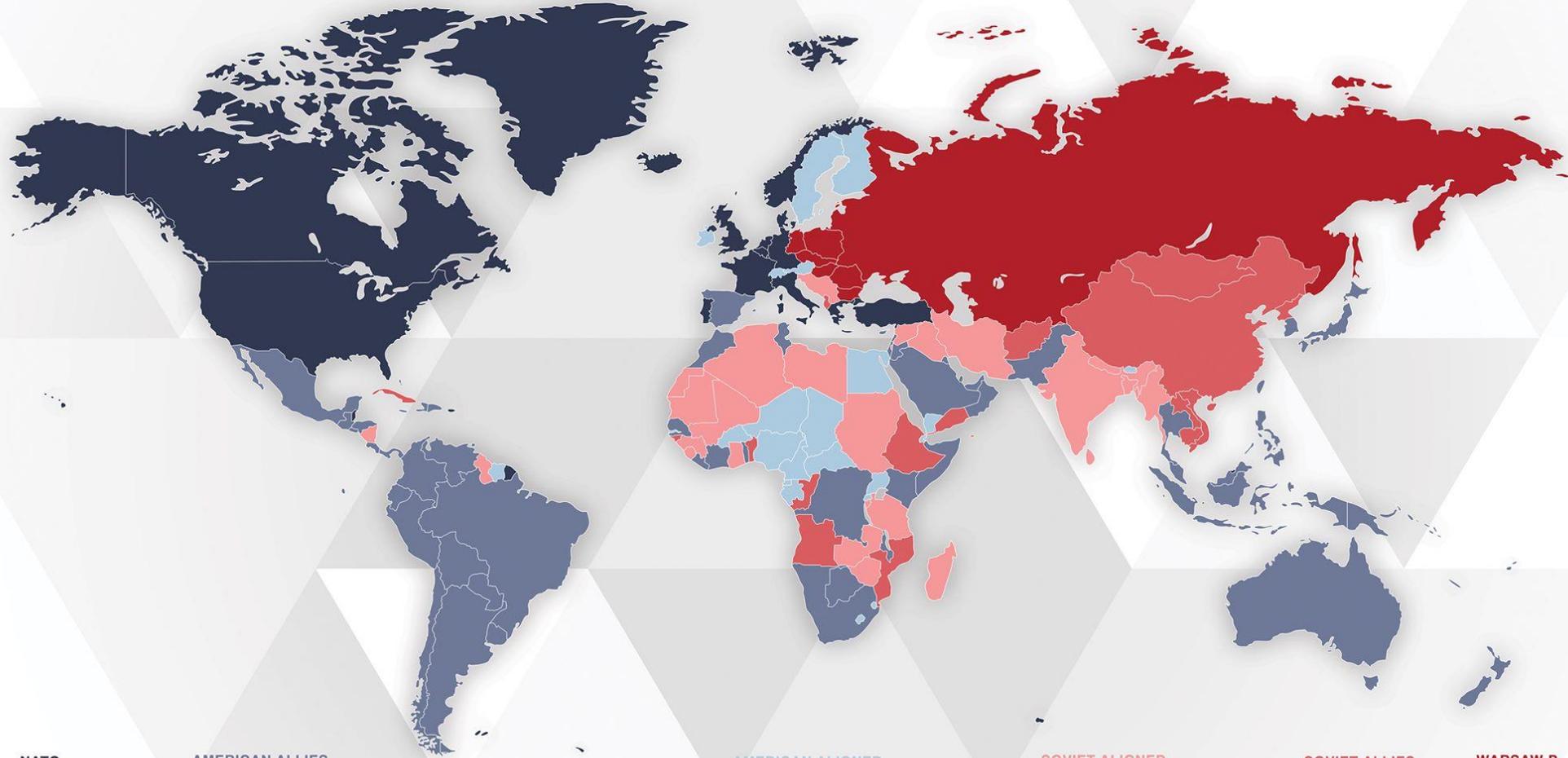


# COLD WAR ALLIANCES

COLD WAR

DIVERSE TRAVEL

1980



## NATO



## AMERICAN ALLIES



## AMERICAN ALIGNED



## SOVIET ALIGNED



## SOVIET ALLIES



## WARSAW PACT



# Key Features:

- **Proxy War:** two major powers fight indirectly by supporting opposing sides in another country's war. Ex: Vietnam War
- **Arms Race:** Nuclear weapons stockpiling between US and USSR
- **Mutually Assured Destruction:** Idea that if US and USSR used nuclear weapons, they would destroy each other (and themselves)
- **Space Race:** Competition for technological dominance in space
- **Iron Curtain:** Symbolic divide Eastern and Western Europe
- **Warsaw Pact:** Alliance between communist countries (in Europe)
- **NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization between western countries
- **United Nations:** International organization to promote peace
- **Berlin Wall:** Wall built to divide Berlin into communist and capitalist blocks

# 2023 ESTIMATED GLOBAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES

The world's nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of over 12,500 nuclear warheads; nearly 90% belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,600 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.



# Major Events and Proxy Wars

## Europe:

- Division by **Iron Curtain**, Berlin Wall
- Eastern Europe under Soviet control

## Asia:

- **Korean War** (1950–1953) – stalemate, divided Korea
- **Vietnam War** (1955–1975) – U.S. withdrawal, Vietnam unified under communism

## Latin America:

- U.S. interventions to stop communist revolutions (Cuba, Nicaragua, etc.)



## Quote about the Vietnam War



"I ain't draft dodging. I ain't burning no flag. I ain't running to Canada. I'm staying right here.  
You want to send me to jail? Fine, you go right ahead. I've been in jail for 400 years. I could be there for 4 or 5 more, but I ain't going no 10,000 miles to help murder and kill other poor people. If I want to die, I'll die right here, right now, fighting you, if I want to die.  
You my enemy, not no Chinese, no vietcong, no Japanese. You my opposer when I want freedom. You my opposer when I want justice."  
-Muhammad Ali

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. What is Muhammad Ali saying about going to jail instead of fighting in the war?**
- 2. Why does Muhammad Ali say he won't travel "10,000 miles" to fight?**
- 3. Who does Muhammad Ali call his real enemy?**

# End of the Cold War

- **1989:** Berlin Wall falls, symbolizing the decrease of Soviet power
- **1991:** Soviet Union collapses
- The **United States** becomes biggest world power
- Former **communist countries** become democratic and capitalist
- Global alliances were reshaped and the world becomes controlled by **capitalism**.
- Ongoing tensions (e.g., Russia–Ukraine 2022)

