

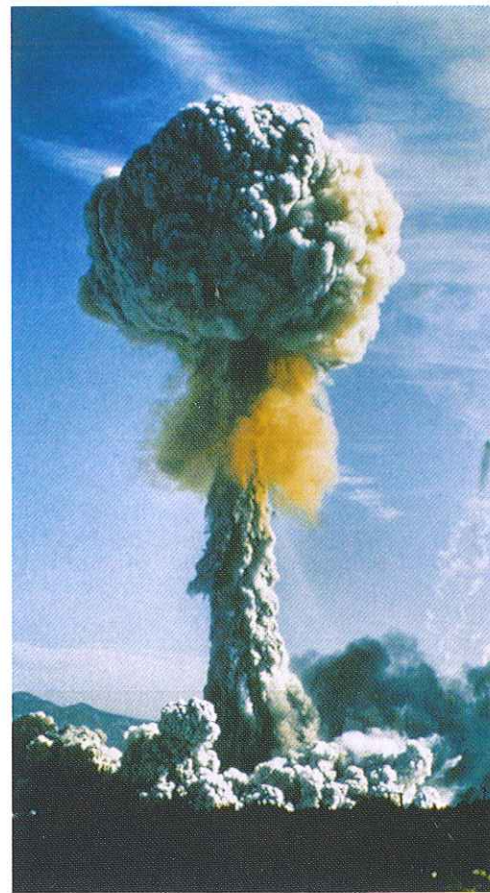
The Cold War

After World War II, the Communist and anti-Communist nations of the world opposed each other in what came to be called the **Cold War**.

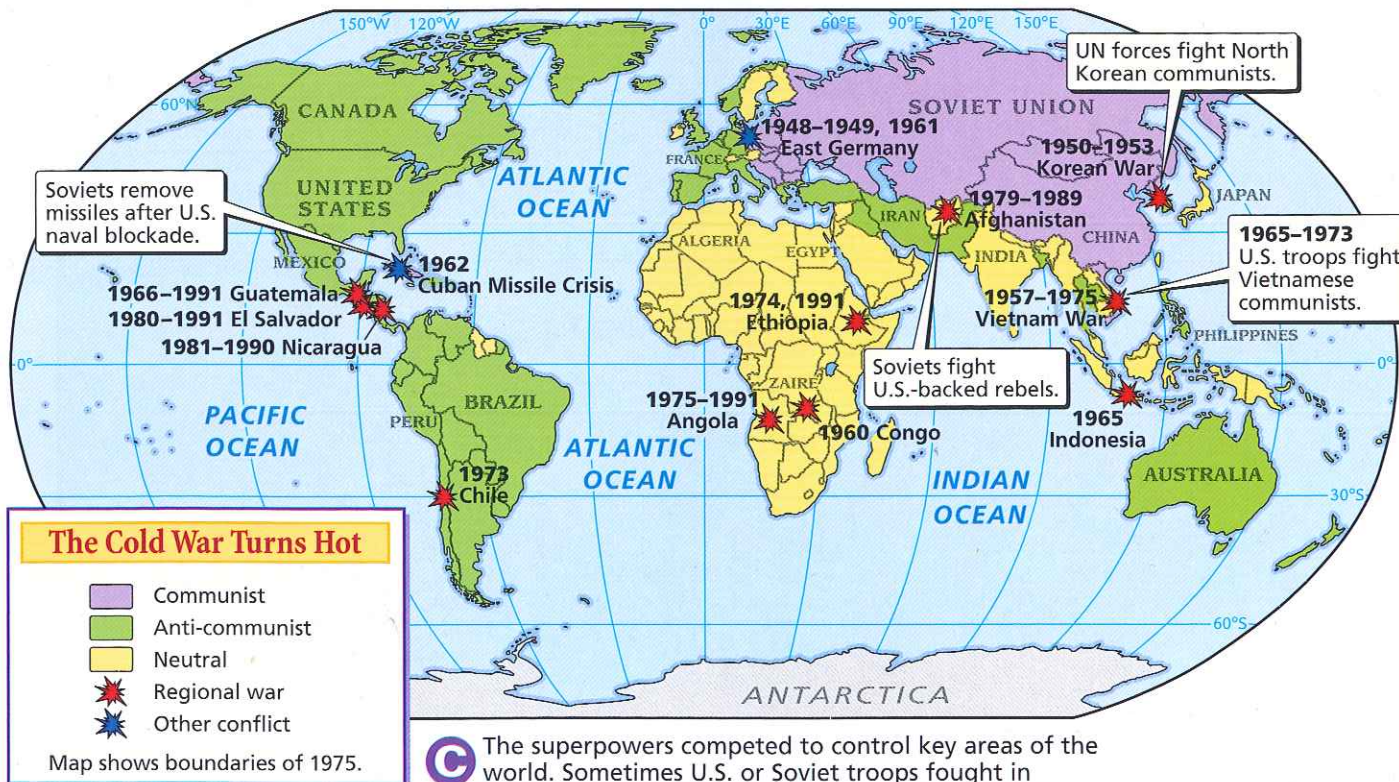
- The two main opponents were the Soviet Union and the United States, the **superpowers** that had been allies in World War II.
- The Cold War was mainly a political and economic struggle, but sometimes it erupted into regional shooting wars.
- The Cold War ended when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991.



A The Berlin Wall was built to prevent people from escaping from communist East Germany to democratic West Germany. The wall became a symbol of the division of Germany, Europe, and the world.

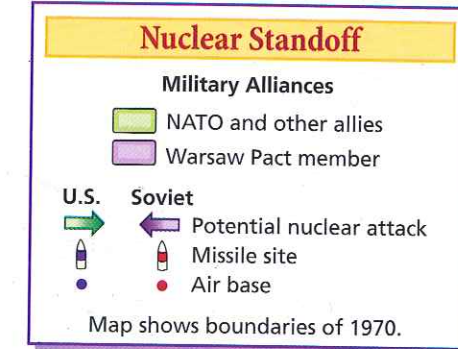


B At first only the United States and the Soviet Union had nuclear weapons. Both countries often tested new bombs above ground until they agreed to ban such tests in 1963.

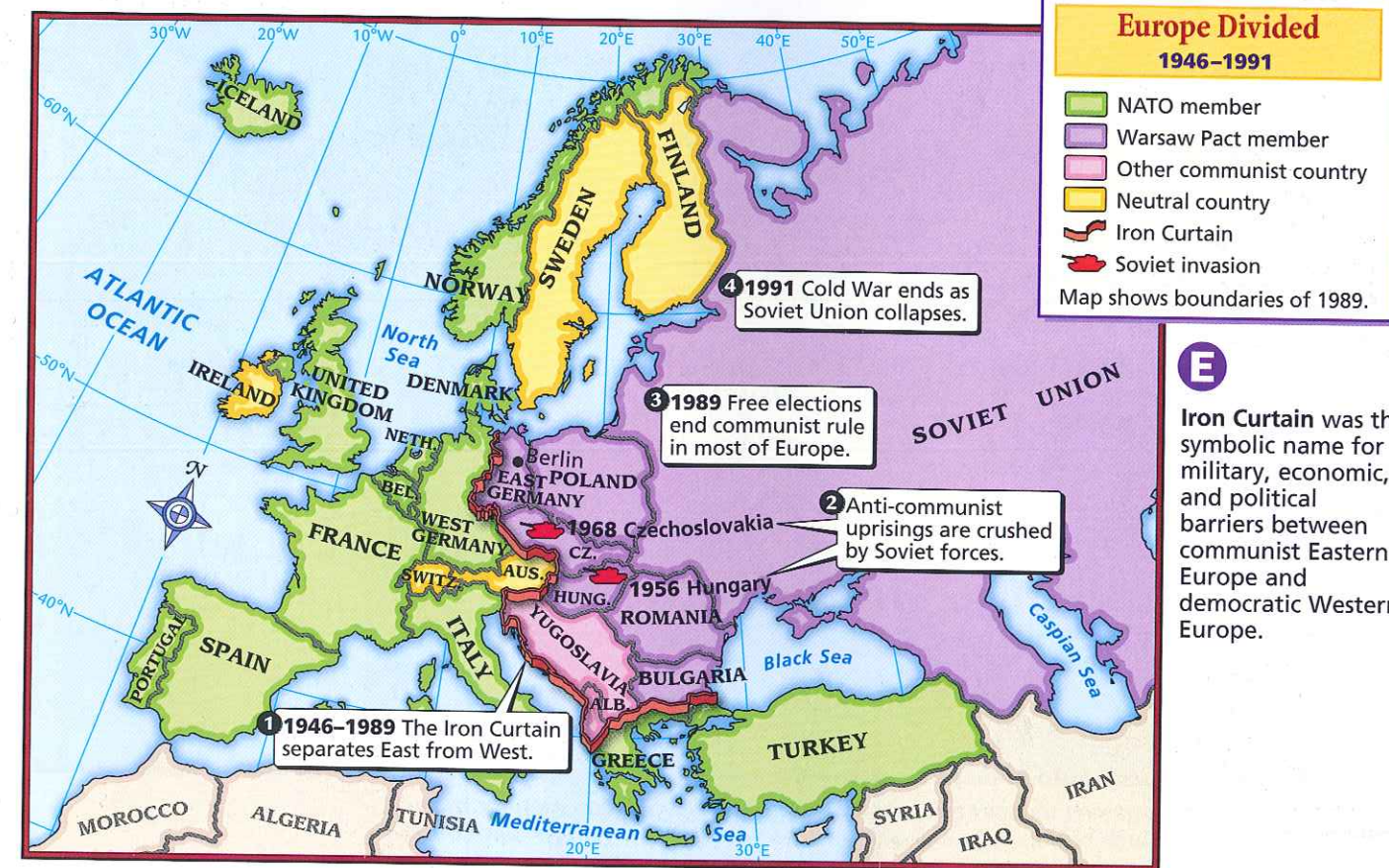


The Cold War Turns Hot
 ■ Communist
 ■ Anti-communist
 ■ Neutral
 ★ Regional war
 ★ Other conflict
 Map shows boundaries of 1975.

C The superpowers competed to control key areas of the world. Sometimes U.S. or Soviet troops fought in regional wars, such as Vietnam and Afghanistan, or supplied weapons to opposing sides, as in Angola.



D The U.S.-led NATO alliance and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact had enough nuclear weapons to kill every person on earth. Neither side could attack the other without risking complete destruction from a counterattack.



Europe Divided 1946-1991
 ■ NATO member
 ■ Warsaw Pact member
 ■ Other communist country
 ■ Neutral country
 ■ Iron Curtain
 ■ Soviet invasion
 Map shows boundaries of 1989.

E Iron Curtain was the symbolic name for military, economic, and political barriers between communist Eastern Europe and democratic Western Europe.