The Cold War

Guide Information
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Description: The Cold War began shortly after the end of World War II and lasted until 1991, a span of over 4 decades that was riddled with high tensions, intense rivalry, multiple changes in political leadership and fears of imminent nuclear destruction.
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Introduction

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Introduction

The Cold War refers to the post World War II hostilities between the Soviet Union and the United States that eventually led to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Throughout the 45 year period, although no real battles were fought between the two superpowers, there was a threat of nuclear war on both sides, participation by proxy in the wars of their allied countries, a race for supremacy in space exploration, intense missile and nuclear weapon rivalry and economic competition in the form of American capitalism vs. Soviet Communism.

This libguide is not meant to be a comprehensive resource on the Cold War. Rather, it aims to provide an overview of the events leading up to the Cold War, the impact it created within and outside of Europe and how it was eventually resolved. This guide is divided into four sections, covering these themes:

- Origins of the Cold War
- The Korean War
- The Cuban Missile Crisis
- End of the Cold War

Editorial Notes

Books and texts are often mainstays of resource guides as these provide introductory and comprehensive information on a particular topic. In the creation of this libguide however, effort was also made to recommend resources that are highly accessible, such as, ebooks, journal and newspaper articles, authoritative websites, among others. Please find below a brief write-up of the resource formats, as well as, how to access them.

- Print materials from both the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, as well as, NLB’s Public Libraries. Just click on the given links to activate NLB’s online catalogue showing availability of the items. Apart for the reference books at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, books recommended in this guide can be reserved online and brought to the library branch of your choice for a small fee of $1.55 (just click on “Reserve this item”).

- Journal Articles from the library’s eResources service (http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg). Most of the recommended journal articles are from Proquest Central and JSTOR as these databases are accessible from home. Just click on the given links to be brought to the relevant section of the eResources site. Thereafter, register (if you are new to the service) or log-in >> click on the relevant database (e.g., JSTOR, Proquest Central) >> conduct a search using the article’s title.

- Newspaper articles from the Factiva database, as well as, the NewspaperSG database. Factiva is available via our eResources service and articles within can be accessed in the same manner as that for journal articles (described above). Newspapers from NewspaperSG can be accessed via (http://newspapers.nlsg). Articles from 1831 - 1989 can be accessed from home (direct links to the articles are provided) while those after 1989 can only be accessed onsite at the libraries.

- RSS feeds. Listings of the most recent articles from reputable websites. Simply click on the link to be brought to the webpage.

- Embedded videos. A picture speaks thousand words, what more a video? Click the play button on the embedded videos (from reputable sources) for some visual learning.

For more detailed information on accessing our print resources and electronic databases, please go to the section on “Accessing the Resources” in this same guide.
Origins of the Cold War

In the News!

These articles can be retrieved from the NewspaperSG database. To access NewspaperSG, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on NewspaperSG.

- Marshall plan begins Monday
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19480403/2.20.aspx
  Source: The Singapore Free Press, 3 April 1948, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  President Truman is expected to sign the European Recovery Act on Monday. Congress completed action on the Marshall plan this evening. In its final form the bill is a compromise worked out by Senate and House foreign policy experts. The Senate agreed to accept the House plan of packaging all foreign aid in one bill.

- Cold front War between East & West
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19480517.2.34.2.aspx
  Source: The Singapore Free Press, 17 May 1948, Page 4
  Database: NewspaperSG
  Latin America has become a front in the "cold war" between the East and West, in the opinion of the Chilean government. Diplomatic observers in Santiago believe the Communists are trying to profit from political and social unrest in many Central and South American republics to prevent the formation of an anti-Russian bloc in the Western Hemisphere.

- Truman's Pacific Doctrine To Guard Peace
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19500223.2.19.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 23 October 1950, Page 2
  Database: NewspaperSG
  The Wake Island Conference between President Truman and General MacArthur has produced a Pacific Doctrine comparable in importance to the "Truman Doctrine." Washington observers believe the "Truman Doctrine" guaranteed aid to Greece, Turkey, and other Middle East countries to help fight Communism.

- MARX, LENIN AND STALIN: SOVIET SURVEY
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19480714.2.62.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 14 July 1948, Page 6
  Database: NewspaperSG
  In the centenary year of Marx's "Communist Manifesto," communism is an official creed in an area covering half of Europe and Asia. From an aspiration of intellectuals it has become a well-organised force. Any survey of the Communism of 1948 must begin with Russian communism.

- THE SOVIET PATTERN IN NEW STATES
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19480715.2.68.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 15 July 1948, Page 6
  Database: NewspaperSG
  Before 1939 the communist parties in eastern Europe were driven underground by persecution. The Czechoslovak party existed until Munich, but in the other countries between Germany and Russia Communists had been outlawed earlier. The parties relied on small, disciplined, and devoted secret organisations.

- 2,000,000 People Depend On It
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19490706.2.48.aspx
  Source: The Singapore Free Press, 6 July 1949, Page 4
  Database: NewspaperSG
  Last Tuesday the Berlin Airift - or Operation Plainfill - celebrated its first birthday, and this joint Anglo-U.S. operation of unparalleled magnitude and breadth of vision entered into its second year of operation.

- Nato approves radical shake-up of forces
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19510529.2.12.3.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 29 May 1951, Page 4
  Database: NewspaperSG
  The North Atlantic Treat Organisation (NATO) yesterday approved the most radical shake-up of its forces since the alliance was founded, including the formation of a multinational "rapid" reaction unit to face potential threats in Europe.

- Soviet target to dismantle Warsaw Pact's army structure
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19710213.2.6.4.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 13 February 1971, Page 2
  Database: NewspaperSG
  The Soviet Union said yesterday that it had agreed with its Warsaw Pact partners to dismantle the alliance's military structure by April.

- How writer 'X' shaped an era
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/20050331.2.35.2.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 31 March 2005, Page 26
  Database: NewspaperSG
  Mr George Frost Kennan has been widely acclaimed as the greatest Sovietologist the United States ever produced. Yet the famed Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at Harvard University, which acknowledges his expertise, does not have Soviet in its title.

- POTSDAM PACT IS BROKEN', RUSSIA
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19460711.2.5.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 11 July 1946, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  Russia's Foreign Minister, Mr Molotov, has bitterly attacked the proposed American 25-year treaty to enforce German disarmament. He called the treaty "wholly inadequate in every way" and denounced the American and British foreign policy toward Germany generally.

- 15-year plan to upgrade Soviet bloc economies
  http://www.newspaper.sg/cgi-bin/newspress/19851220.2.14.27.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 20 December 1985, Page 7
  Database: NewspaperSG
  The Soviet Union and nine communist allies launched a 15-year programme yesterday to modernise their economies in areas from microelectronics to atomic energy in an attempt to close the technology gap with the West.

Websites

- Cold War Timeline
  http://www.history-timelines.org.uk/events/timelines/53-cold-war-timeline.htm
  This timeline lists significant developments and events that occurred during the Cold War period from 1945-1991. A link is also provided to the timeline for the Cuban Missile Crisis.

- BBC - History: Cold War
  http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwar/coldwar/
  This website provides information on 4 aspects of the Cold War:
  1. The Korean War 1950-1953
  2. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962
3. Weapons of the Cold War

- The Cold War Museum
  http://www.coldwar.org/index.shtm
This museum serves to preserve Cold War history and to honour the people who were casualties of the war. Although this is a physical museum located in the United States, there is available online, a virtual museum, photo galleries and links to collections of Cold War related material.

- Documents Relating to American Foreign Policy - The Cold War
  http://www.nationalmuseum.ax.net/html/coldwar.htm
This site provides links to American foreign policy documents related to the Cold War, from US Presidents' speeches to letters, interviews and conference notes from summits held during the 40 year period, from pre-1945 to 1991.

- Cold War
  http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/cold_war.htm
This website provides a decade-by-decade overview of the Cold War from 1945, with links to a Cold War timeline, glossary and references for further reading.

- Cold War Studies at Harvard University
  http://www.fas.harvard.edu/prof/index3.htm
Contains archival research on Cold War events and themes. Also provides links to an exhibit on nuclear weapons history and to the Journal of Cold War Studies, which "features peer-reviewed articles based on archival research in the former Communist world and in Western countries".

**Overview**

Events leading up to the Cold War began when the alliance between the Soviet Union and its World War II allies, United States, France and Britain broke down in the years immediately after the war. Besides the clash in the diametrically opposing communist and democratic forms of government, Russia's expansionist ambition to conquer the whole of Europe, beginning with setting up communist governments in Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia) raised alarms among the Western democratic countries, who perceived Stalin and his ideology as threats to democracy. America and Russia also disagreed over the issue of nuclear weapons disarmament.

The Truman Doctrine, released on March 12, 1947, approving US$400m to be given to Greece and Turkey to aid their fight against communism, signaled a "formal declaration of cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union" (The Origins of the Cold War). For the next three decades, America adopted a policy of containment against the Soviet Union, using political, economic and military strategies to stop the spread of communism in Europe and in Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union and its allied communist governments in Europe refused to participate in America's Marshall Plan (1947), which aimed to provide financial aid to Europe to help them re-build their economies that had been devastated by World War Two.

The Berlin Blockade (24 June 1948 – 12 May 1949) was another attempt by the Soviet Union to gain control over another European country, Germany, which had been divided into four sectors after World War Two: the French sector, British sector, American sector, and the Soviet sector. This blockade however failed due to the Western allies' Berlin Airift operation, which succeeded in providing supplies to people in West Berlin after the Soviet Union had blocked railway and road access to areas under Allied control.

The formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949, with the United States pledging her commitment to protect Europe in the event of any attacks, further increased the antagonistic tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both countries intensified the rebuilding of their military forces, which soon escalated to a nuclear arms race. As a result, with both nationalities vying to be the first to develop the most deadly of all bombs - the hydrogen bomb. In response to the Western alliance's NATO, the Soviet Union established the Warsaw Treaty Organization of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance or Warsaw Pact in 1955, a defence strategy joined by eight communist states in Eastern Europe. These two opposing blocs and the continuing rivalry between both countries thus gave shape to the developments of the Cold War.

The sources on this page provide references to the origins of and developments in the Cold War in Europe after World War Two.

**Books**

Books and texts are often mainstays of guide guides as these provide introductory and comprehensive information on a particular topic. The books below provide insight to understanding the events that led to the outbreak of the Cold War between the USSR and the United States.

- Through the history of the Cold War : the correspondence of George F. Kennan and John Lukacs by John Lukacs
  Call Number: R 809.825 KEN
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=13602197
  This book contains over 50 years of correspondence that John Lukacs (historian) wrote to George Kennan (ex-US Ambassador to the Soviet Union), to discuss Kennan's strategy of using containment rather than military confrontation to resolve the Cold War. Through these letters, readers will get an insider perspective of the participants (US and the Soviet Union) involved in the Cold War.

- A question of balance : how France and the United States created Cold War Europe by Michael Creswell
  Call Number: R 327.73044 0906 CRE
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=12896703
  Creswell discusses the role that France played to challenge the US government's objective to restore military power to Germany after WWI, as an added defence against the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

- The first cold war : Harry Truman, containment, and the remaking of liberal internationalism by Elizabeth Edwards Spalding
  Call Number: R 973.19002 SPA
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=12775617
  Spalding's book, Truman is denoted as the key decision maker during the initial Cold War period between 1945 and 1950. She attributes this with crediting Truman's political beliefs and leadership style with the creation of crucial strategies and operations such as the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airift and the formation of the National Planning Council.

- The atomic bomb and the origins of the Cold War by Campbell Craig, Sergey Radchenko
  Call Number: R 309.825 CRA
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=13603661
  The authors show that the unleashing of the atomic bomb by the US during WWII led to deep disillusion and suspicion between the two superpowers and ultimately to the Cold War as the Soviet Union was spurred into embarking on their own nuclear weapon development.

- War plans and alliances in the Cold War : threat perceptions in the East and West by Vojtech Mastny, Sven G. Holling, and Andreas Wenger
  Call Number: R 355.03344 09045 WAR
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=12743152
  This volume of compiled essays "reviews the threat perceptions, military doctrines, and war plans of both the NATO alliance and the Warsaw Pact during the Cold War, as well as the position of the neutrals, from post-Cold War perspective." (Extracted from book summary).

- NATO divided, NATO united : the evolution of an alliance by Lawrence S. Kaplan
  Call Number: R 355.03015 0151 KAP
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=12544449
  Kaplan traces the history of NATO, whose formation was based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949. Of particular interest is NATO's involvement in the Korean war, the period of détente during the Cold War (1968-1980) and the ending of the Cold War (1980-1990).

- Europe, Cold War and coexistence, 1953-1965 by Willibroth Loth
  Call Number: R 309.825 EUR
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=12568487
  This volume focuses on the period 1953-1965, when different countries in Western Europe sought to improve relations with each other to move towards a European détente. The essays also cover European reactions to the Berlin and Cuban crises (1960-62), the alliance of Western European Communist parties in the Cold War (1957-68), negotiations between East and West Europe over security issues and the normalization of relations between the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and Eastern Europe.

- Cultural exchange & the Cold War : raising the iron curtain by Yale Richmond
  Call Number: R 303.4275 04709 0954 RIC
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=12448784
  This book describes how cultural exchange programmes between 1958 and 1988 helped the Soviets and the Americans to establish a mutual understanding and appreciation for each other's cultural and political beliefs and paved the way towards the Cold War resolution.

- The Cold War
  Call Number: R 909.825 COL
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=11806560
  This five volume series provides a fairly comprehensive guide to the history of the Cold War: vol 1 covers the origins of the Cold War; vol 2 covers the national security policies from the US Presidents of Truman to Reagan and from the Soviet leadership of Stalin to Gorbachev; vol 3 covers the major conflicts in the Cold War, such as the Korean war, the Cuban missile crisis and the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan; vol 4 covers Cold War espionage and spying and vol 5 covers Cold War culture and society, such as postwar mass culture and TV political fantasy.

- Beginnings of the Cold War arms race : the Truman administration and the U.S. arms build-up by Raymond P. Oijeriks
  Call Number: R 355.03373 03004 OJU
  http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding.sphp?sid=12385599
  Oijeriks relates chronologically, the events that led to the Cold War arms race and analyses the causes and effects of the military build-up on both sides towards the aim for conventional and nuclear parity.

http://libguides.nlsg.print_content.php?pid=228924&sid=1893221&mode=g
Videos

This is part I of a 10 part documentary on the Cold War.

Videos

This is an edited extract on the Berlin blockade from the BBC and CNN series, "Cold War."

Videos

Fallout 1955 (Full 15 min Cold War Documentary)

This is a "cartoon/live action Public Service Film produced by the Civil Defense Department trying to educate the good citizens of the USA on what to do after a full fledged Nuclear Exchange. Nostalgic and disturbing at the same time this period piece gives you and idea on what life was like in Eisenhower's America."

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The Korean War

In the News!
These articles can be retrieved from the NewspaperSG database. To access NewspaperSG, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on NewspaperSG.

- **Probing For The Truth In The Korean Strife**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 4 July 1950, Page 6]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  "...This itching desire on the part of North and South Koreans to get at each other's throats arises from the fact that the clash there is basically a deep-seated social conflict, sharpened and twisted by "cold war" tensions...

- **U.S. ACCEPTS RED TRUCE PLAN**
  [Source: The Singapore Free Press, 8 June 1951, Page 1]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  President Eisenhower announced yesterday that the Communist plan for a Korean truce is acceptable to the United States and urged South Korea to join the United Nations in bringing the war to a halt.
  The U.S. President wrote to President Syngman Rhee, of South Korea, that the United Nations would not be justified in prolonging the war to force the unification of that country.

- **'2 precious victories in Korea' says Ike**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 8 August 1953, Page 3]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  President Eisenhower said last night that the winning of the Korean truce proved that "the collective force of the free world can and will meet aggression in Asia -- or anywhere in the world..." the United States did not get the truth with "wild rejoicing".

- **Is General Kim a Red Imposter?**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 29 July 1950, Page 9]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  "...The original Kim Il Sung was a bold and cunning bandit who ruled a fierce horde of expatriated Koreans in the secret fastnesses of the rugged White Mountains across the Yalu river, which separate North Korea from Manchuria...

- **THE GUNS ARE SILENT**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 29 July 1953, Page 1]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  Peace came to Korea today and at one minute past ten tonight (8.30pm Malayan time) the guns were officially silenced. Twelve hours earlier, Gen. Harrison, for the United Nations, and Gen. Nam Il for the Reds, signed the truce in a pagoda-like building.

- **SEOUL FALLS TO THE REDS**
  [Source: The Singapore Free Press, 27 June 1950, Page 1]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  Communist North Korean tanks have entered the South Korean capital of Seoul, according to the latest despatches received in New York today on the fighting in Korea. The South Korean Government this morning announced its removal to Suion, 25 miles to the South.

- **U.S. TROOPS RUSH NORTH**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 4 July 1950, Page 1]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  "...the Korean war today became the international operation ordered by the United Nations with Australian fighter planes escorting U.S. bombers across North Korea, British and American warships in joint actions off the East Korean coast, and naval vessels being raced from New Zealand...

- **ALLIES LAND BEHIND RED LINES**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 16 September 1950, Page 1]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  United Nations forces have landed in the heart of Communist South Korea, and were today driving for Seoul, the capital, spearheaded by paratroops. Kimpo town and airfield, only 10 miles from Seoul, was in United Nations hands after a spectacular airborne assault.

- **8 Nations Offer 30,000 Troops**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 11 August 1950, Page 3]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  "...eight nations have pledged nearly 30,000 fully equipped ground troops for the Korean war and more are expected soon... This was in addition to the United States divisions totalling about 90,000 men which are either engaged in combat or about to enter into action...

- **WEST HAILS SEATO PACIFIC SILENT**
  [Source: The Singapore Free Press, 9 September 1954, Page 2]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  Western countries last night welcomed the South-East Asia defence pact signed in Manila yesterday as a step towards peace and security in Asia, but Communist sources attacked it as an "aggressive military bloc."

- **Yalu River may expand Korea war**
  [Source: The Singapore Free Press, 2 July 1952, Page 3]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  Yalu River power plants bombed by United Nations planes are nerve channels into Manchuria that lap over into Korea. A bomb dropped on them does not violate the border but it probably does more damage to Manchuria than if it landed in the middle of a Mukden blast furnace.

- **KOREAN WAR UNITES MAO AND STALIN**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 24 October 1950, Page 8]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  "...The Korean war has radically changed the pattern of relations between the veteran and the novice in world politics - Moscow and Peking. They are now fighting allies.

- **WHITHER MacARTHUR?**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 2 February 1951, Page 6]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
  The searching winds of blame are at last blowing ungratefully around that great, lonely and complex figure General Douglas MacArthur. Is his legendary career now drawing to a close in the treacherous yellow quicksands of Korea?

- **WHY I FIRED MacARTHUR—TRUMAN**
  [Source: The Straits Times, 13 April 1951, Page 1]
  [Database: NewspaperSG]
President Truman said last night that he fired General MacArthur because "the cause of world peace is much more important than any individual... the American policy in the Far East was designed to prevent a third world war.

- The shadow of Mao is over these lands
http://www.nipsop.ni.jp/Display/Article/stratistics/19931009.2.128.aspx
Source: The Straits Times, 9 October 1993, Page 6
Database: Newspaper/SG
There are few illusions in the capitals of the western world over the basic motives behind Communism's decision to bring a halt to the war in Korea.

- What Korea Red are really like
http://www.nipsop.ni.jp/Display/Article/stratistics/19930514.2.93.aspx
Source: The Straits Times, 14 May 1993, Page 6
Database: Newspaper/SG
War and violence have projected Korea into world politics, but even now little is known about the country, and particularly about the North Koreans. What are they really like, these North Koreans who three years ago crossed the 38th parallel and started the war which even now has not ended?

Websites

- The Korean War: An Overview
http://www.woac.org.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/korea_hickey_01.shtml
The website offers a quick overview of how the Korean war started, China's intervention in the war and the casualties sustained on both sides.

- Korean War Project
http://www.unashes.org/
This website offers a wealth of information on the Korean war to veterans, families, researchers, and students of military history. Links are provided to memorials, KIA-MIA (Killed-in-action, Missing-in-action) databases and research materials on the weapons used and military forces involved in the war and to government resources.

- The Korean War, June 1950 - July 1953
http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/kowar/kower.htm
This website gives an overview of the involvement of the US naval forces in the Korean war, including some naval photographs of the military in action.

- The Korean War, 1950-1953
http://www.history.army.mil/books/abjambagh.25.htm
This chapter extracted from the "American Military History" (Army Historical series), documents the beginnings, progress, the end and aftermath of the Korean war.

- Army Quartermaster Corps' 50th Anniversary Commemoration Korean War 1950-1953
http://www.army.mil/army_history/koreanwar.htm
This website provides information on the US Quartermaster Corps' involvement in the Korean war, focusing on how petrol, water and food were sent to troops at the frontline, the types of uniform and clothing worn by the soldiers and details of the aerial delivery operations.

- Korean War - The Chinese Intervention
http://www.history.army.mil/army_history/koreanwar/ch5.htm
This website describes the involvement of the China Red army in the Korean war from 3 Nov 1950 to 24 Jan 1951 and how the United Nations army forces were forced to retreat from North Korea under the failed leadership of General Douglas MacArthur.

- Why Truman Fired General MacArthur
This website traces the history of how General MacArthur, once the Commander in Chief of the Far East in World War II, was relieved of his command of the UN forces during the Korean War due to his "insubordination" against the Truman presidency.

- Cold War International History Project
http://www.wisconsin.edu/program/cold-war-international-history-project
Presents an extensive collection of historical documents, conference papers, publications and research findings on the Cold War in its Digital Archive, on topics such as China's involvement in the Cold War and the impact of the war on countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East and the American continent.

- The National Security Archive
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/
Contains an extensive digital archive of declassified U.S. documents pertaining to the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Korean War as well as on issues related to the US national security, foreign policy, diplomatic and military history and intelligence policy.

- Truman Library
http://www.trumanlibrary.org/chishteto/copy_study_collections/koreanwar/index.php
Contains declassified scanned primary documents, photographs and links that chart the chronological timeline of the Korean war from 1945 - 1953.

- Teacher's resource from Truman Library
Presents 13 teacher lesson plans for different grade levels on various aspects of the Korean War, such as the US involvement in the war, Korean War propaganda, the disposal of Gen MacArthur and the execution of the US Presidency powers during the war.

Overview

At the end of World War Two, Korea was divided into two along the 38th parallel - the communist-occupied North (then called The People's Democratic Republic of Korea) and the South (The Republic of Korea). The Korean war began on 25 June 1950, with the invasion of North Korea (supported by the Russians) in to the South and the capital, Seoul, fell to the communists in three days.

15 member countries (with American soldiers forming the bulk of the army) under the United Nations Security Council, sent in troops in an attempt to end this war and ultimately stop the threat of Communist expansion into Asia. When the UN troops under General MacArthur advanced towards the north near the Chinese border at Yiku River, the Chinese Peoples Liberation Army retaliated and forced the UN forces out of North Korea. Both sides faced a stalemate along the border separating the North and the South during the peace talks at Panmunjom that lasted for 2 years.

Two events in 1953 caused a breakthrough in the peace talks - the death of Joseph Stalin, Premier of the Soviet Union and the election of new US President, Dwight Eisenhower. An armistice signed in 1953 finally brought an end to a war that had lasted for 3 years (June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953). Casualties on both sides were heavy, with over 150,000 deaths among the UN troops and close to 4 million Korean civilians killed.

This section provides reference sources that discuss the causes of the Korean war, how and why it was exacerbated after the intervention of the UN forces and how a peace agreement was reached after 3 war-torn years.

Books

Books and texts are often mainstays of resource guides as these provide introductory and comprehensive information on a particular topic. The books below provide insight to understanding how the Korean War began, why USSR, China and USA intervened and how a peace agreement was finally achieved.

- Redshifting the Korean war: a new diplomatic and strategic history by William Stueck
Call Number: R 851.9042 STU
http://eapervice.nlb.gov.sg/item.holding_s.aspx?sid=1181737Stueck analyses major diplomatic and strategic issues in the Korean war, beginning with an examination of the factors that led to the conflict, the problems with containing the war and with ending it. He also covers how the Chinese led to an extension of the war and addresses the impact of the war on foreign relations between the US and Korea.

- The Korean War by Max Hastings
Call Number: R 851.9042 HAS
http://eapervice.nlb.gov.sg/item.holding_s.aspx?sid=1370759?Compiled from interviews with Korean war veterans (Americans, Canadians, British, Koreans, Chinese) and archival research, Hastings focuses on the human and military aspects of the Korean war and documents also the experiences of the prisoners of war. Also included are photographs of battle scenes and key figures in the crisis.
• The unending Korean War: a social history by Dong-Choon Kim
  Call Number: R 951.9424 KIM

• Paths to peace: domestic coalition shifts, war termination and the Korean War by Elizabeth A. Stanley
  Call Number: R 951.9421 STA

• The coldest winter: America and the Korean War by David Halberstam
  Call Number: R 951.9424973 HAL

• The social construction of the Korean War: conflict and its possibilities by Jennifer Miltken
  Call Number: R 951.9421 MIL

• This kind of war: the classic Korean War history by T.R. Fehrenbach
  Call Number: R 951.9424 FEH

• The A to Z of the Korean War by Paul M. Edwards
  Call Number: R 951.9424 EWD

• The Korean War in world history by William Stueck
  Call Number: R 951.9424 KOR

• The diplomacy of war: the case of Korea by Graeme S. Mount
  Call Number: R 951.904 MOU

• MacArthur's war: Korea and the undoing of an American hero by Stanley Weintraub
  Call Number: R 951.9424 WEI

• Red wings over the Yalu: China, the Soviet Union, and the air war in Korea by Xiaoming Zhang
  Call Number: R 951.942428 ZHA

• MacArthur: statescraft and statecraft in America's East Asian policy by Russell D. Buhle
  Call Number: RISEA.355.0922 BHU

• After learning to one side: China and its allies in the Cold War by Zhizhu Shen and Danhu Li
  Call Number: R 327.5104790054 SHE

• The origins of the Korean War by Peter Lowe
  Call Number: R 951.9424 LOW

• The Korean War by Bruce Cumings
  Call Number: R 951.9424 CUM
  ISBN: 0679443575

Journal Articles
Journal articles are often good reads for current developments, specific aspects of a topic, as well as, alternative perspectives of an issue from various authors. The journal articles are from reputable online databases in our eResources service, such as ProQuest. Read the Introduction section for more information on accessing these articles.

• Destined to Fail? How the Division of Korea led to the Korean war
  Author: Rowena Hammar
  Journal: History Review; Sep 2010; 67; Research Library, pg. 28
  Database: ProquestCentral
  Hammar examines how Korea was divided into two and the internal and external factors that led to the outbreak of the Korean War.

• Whose History? An Analysis of the Korean War in History Textbooks from the United States, South Korea, Japan, and China
  Author: Lii Lii, Yai Xian, Malalit Ogawa, John Hooge, filmy Young
  Journal: The Social Studies, Washington; Sep/Oct 2009. Vol. 100, Iss. 5; pgg. 222, 11 ps
  Database: ProquestCentral
  "This article examines how recent history textbooks from the United States, Japan, China, and South Korea present the Korean War. The comparative analysis focuses on four areas: the causes of the Korean War, American involvement in the war, Chinese involvement in the war, and the results of the war. " (Extracted from article abstract).

• The Yalu: Rules of Engagement and the Communist Air Sanctuary during the Korean War
  Author: Kenneth P. Werrell
  Journal: The Journal of Military History. Lexington; Apr 2008. Vol. 72, Iss. 2; pg. 451, 25 ps
  Database: ProquestCentral

http://libguides.nl.sg/print_content.php?pid=228924&sid=1893221&mode=g 27/2/2014
Article discusses how the United States air force pilots violated the rules of engagement to restrict the conflict to the Korean peninsula and deliberately crossed in to China's airspace at the Yalu battle. This resulted in reducing the protected air sanctuary in Manchuria for the Communists.

- The "long pull" Army: NSC 68, the Korean War, and the creation of the Cold War U.S. Army
  Author: Faldus, David F
  Journal: The Journal of Military History. Lexington: Jan 1997. Vol. 61, Iss. 1; pg 93, 28 pgs
  Database: ProquestCentral
  "National Security Paper 68 (NSC 68) of 1950 grew out of Pres Eisenhower's concerns over the deepening rift between the US and the USSR in the late 1940s. NSC 68 furthered the policy of "containment" and was intended as a thorough review of the loss of the US nuclear monopoly and existing US political-military strategy. The importance of NSC 68 for US military and security policies at the dawn of the Cold War is compared to that of the Korean War." *(Extracted from article abstract.)*

- Eisenhower and the rhetoric of postwar Korea
  Author: Ziegi, Kenneth B
  Database: ProquestCentral
  "Dwight D. Eisenhower redefined the meaning of the Korean War from a failure event to a model of foreign policy success, one grounded in both realist and idealistic principles. Eisenhower was able to justify limited conflicts like Korea as realistic/idealistic means of winning the larger Cold War by expanding the circumference around the Korean experience." *(Extracted from article abstract.)*

Videos
This is a 30min historical video footage released by the US Pentagon of the Korean War during June and August of 1951. It focuses on the "cease-fire talks at Kaesong, continuing ground battle and the return of Korean refugees to Seoul."

The Cuban Missile Crisis

In the News!
These articles can be retrieved from the NewspaperSG database. To access NewspaperSG, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on NewspaperSG.

- THE MISSILE RACE
  Database: NewspaperSG
  A comparison of the missile power of the U.S. and the Soviets. The Soviet arsenal boasts missiles of wide variety and range including rockets that now endanger most of Europe and one that soon will bring the Western hemisphere in reach.
• CUBA: U.S. policy lacks wide support
  Source: The Straits Times, 19 April 1963, Page 8
  Database: NewspaperSG
  The United States, searching for a means of immunising the surrounding hemisphere from Communism and determined ultimately to free Cuba of it, again finds itself in disagreement with some of its allies.

• BREAK-UP BEGINS
  Source: The Straits Times, 3 November 1962, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  Dr. Castro told his people last night, that "strategic arms" - as he calls Russia's missiles in Cuba - were being withdrawn but said Cuba had no intention of submitting to an inspection of its defences.

• INVASION THREAT
  Source: The Straits Times, 25 October 1962, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  American Congressional leaders today said plans were "going ahead" for a full-scale invasion of Cuba if the present blockade proved inadequate to neutralise the island as a threat to the United States.

• RAZOR'S EDGE AGAIN
  Source: The Straits Times, 28 October 1962, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ...Reports of a continued build-up at the missile sites kept the crisis near boiling point, and among the possibilities openly discussed was an invasion of Cuba or bombardment of the sites if Russia did not agree to dismantle or remove them...

• Danger still from Soviet bombers
  Source: The Straits Times, 7 November 1962, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  Soviet jet bombers in Cuba may turn out to be a stumbling block in negotiations for removal of offensive weapons from the island, U.S. officials said here today. These officials said there were "strong indications" that Soviet SS-28 medium-range bombers were still being unpacked and assembled in Cuba.

• The arsenal of death at America's doorstep
  Source: The Straits Times, 24 October 1962, Page 8
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ...This nation is opposed to war. We are also true to our word. Our unswavering objective therefore, must be to prevent the use of these missiles against this or any other country, and secure their withdrawal or elimination from the Western hemisphere...

• Eight Nations offer aid
  Source: The Straits Times, 26 October 1962, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  At least eight Latin American nations have offered assistance - ranging from naval units to port facilities - to the United States in its blockade on offensive arms entering Cuba...

• NIKITA ACTS
  Source: The Straits Times, 29 October 1962, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ...Russia has stopped the movement of ships towards Cuba for the time being and America has agreed to try to avoid any "unwise incitement" in the blockade area. Cuba said she would halt construction of the missile bases that sparked the crisis if America lifted her partial blockade...

• The few who faced up to the biggest challenge of all
  Source: The Straits Times, 15 November 1962, Page 7
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ...The bases in Cuba...mark the first entry of Russian nuclear power in Latin America. They circumvent the American early warning system which is based on attack from the north over Canada, rather than the south. They give Cuba the opportunity to disturb the military balance in Latin America. They allow Russia to practice nuclear blackmail against the United States.

• The chief lesson from the Cuban crisis
  Source: The Straits Times, 8 November 1962, Page 8
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ...The balance of nuclear terror may still be the best available basis for world peace but, especially in its present unstable condition, it is still too much left to be relied upon for long...The crisis has also shown...that none of the former great powers can share the centre of the stage with the two nuclear giant in such a drama...

• CRISIS OVER
  Source: The Straits Times, 30 October 1962, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ...President Kennedy, it appeared, got exactly what he wanted - removal of the Soviet bases under international supervision - without the military actions which he clearly was determined to undertake if necessary...
Overview

The Cuban Missile Crisis (14 Oct - 20 Nov 1962) nearly led to a nuclear war outbreak between the Soviet Union and the United States, with Cuba unfortunately sandwiched in the conflict.

In 1962, Soviet Union secretly installed intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Cuba to counter the United States' lead in developing missile weapon technology and also as form of protection for Cuba as a deterrent against any US-led invasions.

Despite repeated and vehement denials from Soviet Union diplomats regarding the missile installations in Cuba, President John Kennedy had irrefutable proof from photographs of their existence and made a televised broadcast on 22 October, 1962, announcing to the world that any missile attack from Cuba would constitute an attack from the Soviet Union and hence would require no action from the Soviet Union.

Many communication exchanges took place between Nikita Khrushchev, First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and President Kennedy before an agreement was reached on 28 Oct, 1962, with the Soviet Union agreeing to dismantle and withdraw all missile installations in Cuba and to remove all Soviet light bombers and US giving their assurance that they would not invade Cuba.

This section provides reference sources that discuss how the Cuban Missile Crisis began, the motivations behind the parties involved and how it was eventually resolved without bloodshed or lives lost.

Books

Books and texts are often mainstays of resource guides as these provide introductory and comprehensive information on a particular topic. The books below provide insight on understanding the events that led to the Cuban Missile Crisis and how it was resolved.

- **High noon in the Cold War : Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Cuban missile crisis by Max Frankel**
  Call Number: R 327.4707309046 FRA
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=12396419Frankel draws on his memories of a reporter who covered the Cuban missile crisis and reflects on "the diplomacy and politics of the Cold War" (p. xi-xii)

- **One minute to midnight : Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro on the brink of nuclear war by Michael Dobbs**
  Call Number: R 973.922 DOB
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=13033606Dobbs paints a thrilling narrative of Black Saturday, October 27, 1962, detailing the mobilisation of troops and military arsenal and immersing the reader straight into the Cold war battle frontline. He also provides perspectives from the different agencies (CIA, NSA, KGB), Castro's headquarters, Khrushchev's house and interviews with Soviet veterans.

- **Defcon-2 : standing on the brink of nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis by Norman Polmar, John D. Gresham**
  Call Number: R 973.922 POL
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=12723375The authors provide an insightful background to the events leading up to the Cuban missile crisis, detailing events such as the failed Bay of Pigs invasion by the Americans and the shooting down of the US spyplane when it traversed into Soviet air space in 1961. It also provides fairly extensive details about the military maneuvers, battle plans and defence systems of both sides.

- **Maximum danger : Kennedy, the missiles, and the crisis of American confidence by Robert Weisbrot**
  Call Number: R 973.922 W 8 9
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=10421177This book, Weisbrot puts Kennedy's motivations and foreign policies executed in handling the Cuban missile crisis in the context of an insecure and fearful America, whose people were held in the grips of imminent nuclear destruction. The removal of the Jupiter missiles in Turkey is also highlighted as helping to bring an end to the crisis.

- **Kennedy's wars : Berlin, Cuba, Laos, and Vietnam by Lawrence Freedman**
  Call Number: R 973.922 FRE
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=9743888The author traces the foreign policy decisions leading up to the Cuban missile crisis as seen through Kennedy's struggles with high-risk military confrontations to avert a potential nuclear disaster.

- **Essence of decision : explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis by Graham Allison, Philip Zelikow**
  Call Number: R 973.923 ALL
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=9515384Using newly released historical evidence and declassified documents, the authors offer a fresh interpretation of the events that happened during the Cuban Missile crisis, with the aim to help the public understand the decisions made by the US government at that time.

- **One hell of a gamble : Khrushchev, Castro, and Kennedy, 1958-1964 by Aleksandr Fursenko and Timothy Naftali**
  Call Number: R 973.922 FUR
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=8145486Using declassified documents from the Soviet archives, the authors document an exciting narrative of how the world came to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe in 1962. Soviet-American relations are fleshed out, with the revelation that Khrushchev stood by on the night of 22 Oct to order a nuclear attack on the US and how Reagan's diplomatic attempts at appeasement successfully averted the potentiality.

- **The Cuban missile crisis revisited by James A. Nathan**
  Call Number: R 973.922 CUB
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=9669274This volume contains analytical essays from historians, politicians, academicians and researchers on different issues related to the Cuban missile crisis, such as Cuba's perspectives on the crisis, and the blockade imposed by President Kennedy during the crisis.

- **October fury by Peter A. Hutcherson**
  Call Number: R 973.922 HUC
  http://service.lib.gov.sg/item_holding_s.aspx?bid=12273299As a participant himself in the Oct 1962 naval blockade between the US and the Soviet Union, Hutcherson provides a compelling eye-witness account, supplemented with interviews from former Soviet and US navy officers, of the drama that took place on the high seas, when Soviet submarines transporting nuclear warheads to Cuba were forced by the US navy to stand down and return home.

- **Calculating credibility : how leaders assess military threats by Daryl G. Press**
  Call Number: R 355.02 P 8 9

Journal Articles

Journal articles are often good reads for current developments, specific aspects of a topic, as well as alternative perspectives of an issue from various players. The journal articles are from reputable online databases in our eResources service, such as JSTOR and ProquestCentral. Read the Introduction section for more information on accessing these articles.

- **Fifty years after 13 days**
  http://journalresourses.nlb.gov.sg/browse.htm?browse_byA=Z&filter1=P
  Author: Robert S McNamara
  Database: ProquestCentral
  "For many years, McNamara considered the Cuban missile crisis to be the best-managed foreign policy crisis of the last half-century. He still believes that Pres Kennedy's actions during decisive moments of the crisis helped to prevent a nuclear war. He now concludes that, however astutely the crisis many have been managed, by the end of those extraordinary 13 days–Oct 16-28, 1962–luck also played a significant role in the avoidance of nuclear war by a hair's breadth." (Extracted from article abstract).

- **Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro: A participant's view of the Cuban missile crisis**
  http://journalresourses.nlb.gov.sg/browse.htm?browse_byA=Z&filter1=P
  Author: Ernesto P Betancourt
  Database: ProquestCentral
  "Betancourt worked for Fidel Castro around the time of the Cuban missile crisis and acted as a liaison with the Kennedy administration. He offers his view of the events during that trying time." (Extracted from the article abstract).

- **Did Khrushchev bluff in Cuba? No**
  http://journalresourses.nlb.gov.sg/browse.htm?browse_byA=Z&filter1=P
  Author: Emesto P Betancourt
  Database: ProquestCentral
  "Betancourt worked for Fidel Castro around the time of the Cuban missile crisis and acted as a liaison with the Kennedy administration. He offers his view of the events during that trying time." (Extracted from the article abstract).
Author: Garthoff, Raymond L.
Journal: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; Jul 1988; 44, 6; Research Library, pg. 40
Database: ProquestCentral
"An official involved with the Cuban missile crisis disputes the recently published assertion that Nikita Khrushchev had no intention of providing nuclear warheads for the missiles in Cuba." *(Extracted from article abstract).*

**NIGHT SESSION OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 22-23 OCTOBER 1962**

Author: Alexander Fursenko
Database: ProquestCentral

"Fursenko provides details on the meeting at the Kremlin, wherein Russian President Nikita Khrushchev summoned all members of the presidium of the Central Committee on the night of Oct 22, 1962. This rare look at Soviet decision making during perhaps the most dangerous gamble of the nuclear age provides a look at the critical role played by Anastas Mikoyan. Through remarkable political maneuvering within a decision-making apparatus that eschewed differences of opinion, Mikoyan managed to calm the famously emotional Khrushchev and discredit the forceful minister of defense, Rodion Y. Malinovsky. Had this powerful, if nearly solitary, voice of restraint been absent from the emergency Presidium session, one would be hard pressed to conceive of a positive outcome to the Cuban missile crisis." *(Extracted from article abstract).*

**The Cuban Missile Crisis**

Author: John Swift
Journal: History Review, Mar 2007; 57; Research Library, pg. 6
Database: ProquestCentral

Swift analyses the events that led to the brink of a nuclear war, discusses how the missile crisis was resolved and highlights lessons that can be learnt from the crisis.

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**Videos**

**John F. Kennedy - Cuban Missile Crisis speech**

President Kennedy makes a TV broadcast to the American public on 22 Oct 1962 about the Cuban Missile Crisis.

![John F. Kennedy - Cuban Missile Crisis speech](image)

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**Signature Lecture: “This Close to Nuclear War”: Robert McNamara’s Cuban Missile Crisis**

"On the 48th anniversary of the crisis, three distinguished scholars will address these questions: why did the crisis occur? What caused it to spin out of control? How close did the crisis come to nuclear war? What would likely have happened if nuclear weapons had been used by either side in or around Cuba? And what lessons do Robert McNamara’s experience of the crisis—both in October 1962 and in his subsequent historical research—offer to leaders and citizens alike who wish to reduce the risk of nuclear war in the 21st century so that nothing as dangerous as the missile crisis another never happens again?"

![Signature Lecture: “This Close to Nuclear War”](image)

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**In the News!**

These articles can be retrieved from the NewspaperSG database. To access NewspaperSG, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions on NewspaperSG](http://libguides.nl.sg/print_content.php?pid=228924&sid=1893221&mode=g)
• Peace that came out of the cold
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19920829.2.70.4.8.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 29 August 1992, Page 14
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ... The Cold War, Gaddis points out, was one of the most peaceful periods in European history, if one measures peacefulness by life and treasures lost in armed conflict rather than by the terror felt by oppressed and frightened people...

• Soviet drive against Star Wars just begun
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19850413.2.33.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 13 April 1985, Page 16
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ... The Russians, most experts are convinced, want a continuation of the present military balance in which, if they move prudently, they are able to pursue their expansionist policies to support allies that seek policy goals in accord with those of the Soviet Union...

• Most US allies shun invitation to join Star Wars research
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19850527.2.32.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 27 May 1985, Page 14
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ... A wide segment of European opinion feels SDI will inevitably lead to deployment of anti-nuclear weapons in space and that the Western doctrine of deterrence to keep the peace will be scrapped.
  That doctrine holds that nuclear war can be averted by a rough balance of forces between the Soviet Union and the West.

• Nato debates a shift to conventional arms
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19821014.2.89.1.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 14 October 1982, Page 18
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ... The heart of Nato's problem is that it has a military strategy that cannot be implemented. Under conditions of strategic parity, a Nato nuclear response to non-nuclear Soviet aggression in Europe would be a questionable strategy at best, a self-defeating one at worst. Thus major responsibility for continued deterrence in Europe has shifted to Nato's outnumbered, outgunned and maldeployed conventional forces...

• Star Wars plan raises doomsday risk
  Source: The Straits Times, 5 May 1985, Page 5
  Database: NewspaperSG
  President Ronald Reagan's Star Wars plan for space-based anti-missile defence could increase the risk of nuclear war ... the plan had made arms control agreements more difficult and could lead both superpowers to consider launching a missile attack.

• Historic missile treaty signed
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19871210.2.2.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 10 December 1987, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have signed a treaty banning short and medium range nuclear missiles, and turned their attention to regional issues, human rights and prospects for a strategic weapons pact.

• A unique revolution, not easily replicated
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes20091109.1.27.4.1.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 9 November 2009, Page 19
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ... The 1989 revolt in Czechoslovakia was not about establishing a new ideology, or about reshaping human nature or even the nature of the state; it was a movement largely conducted by intellectuals, with the simple purpose of bringing the country back to the European fold...

• Gorbachev's dilemma
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19890928.2.36.1.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 28 September 1989, Page 26
  Database: NewspaperSG
  The obstacles facing Mr Gorbachev, to be sure, are enormous and could easily overwhelm a man of lesser mettle. Nonetheless, he took a gamble (not lost yet) in pushing for reforms because he felt that there is no other way for the Soviet Union if it is to remain a superpower right into the next century.

• Bush calls for an end to Cold War
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19891124.2.2.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 24 November 1989, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  President George Bush, welcoming the changes in Eastern Europe as "a joyful end to one of history's saddest chapters" has called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to work with him to end the Cold War "once and for all".

• East bloc shows political will for modernisation
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19890323.2.37.6.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 23 March 1989, Page 25
  Database: NewspaperSG
  ...Driven by economic desperation and heeding the liberalisation introduced by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, governments in Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia take new steps almost daily to distance themselves from centrally planned economies and Communist Party Dictatorships...

• World leaders welcome new commonwealth
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19911122.2.4.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 23 December 1991, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  World leaders have welcomed the new Commonwealth of Independent States formed by 11 former Soviet republics on Saturday.

• Gorbachev restored to power; hardline committee collapses
  http://newspaper.nl.sg/DocViewer/Article/stratstimes19901022.2.3.aspx
  Source: The Straits Times, 22 August 1991, Page 1
  Database: NewspaperSG
  The Soviet Parliament yesterday formally reinstated Mikhail Gorbachev as President after the coup against him collapsed in disarray.

Websites

• WHEN DID THE COLD WAR END?
  http://politicalscience.ox.ac.uk/faculty/jmueller/auth FedEx2.pdf
  This paper argues that the Cold War was an ideological conflict and "not about military, nuclear, or economic balance between the East and the West, Communism as a form of government, the need to move the world toward democracy or capitalism, or, to a degree, Soviet domination of Europe".

• Reagan's Cold War Legacy
  http://www.bbpnews.com/articles/200406/10/bernetnews/ma06222398.shtml
  This CBS news report discusses Reagan's hardline strategy for dealing with the Soviet Union and how he was instrumental in establishing cordial relations with Gorbachev and in ending the Cold War.

• At Cold War's End - US Intelligence on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, 1989-1991
  This website from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) offers an overview of the events that led to the collapse of the Soviet empire. It also provides links to "newly declassified US intelligence documents covering the years 1989-1991" and lists a chronology of significant events that occurred during those years.

• Reform, Coup and Collapse: The End of the Soviet State
  http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/soviet_end_01.shtml
  This article gives an account of the transformation of the Soviet economy under Gorbachev and how it led to the end of the Soviet Union.
Overview

Over the course of five decades, the Cold War undertook periods of fluctuating tension and confrontation, entering a period of cooperation during the 1960s and a period of détente during the 1970s. The mid-point of the Cold War was marked by a general easing of strained relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

During the 70’s, leaders of the two superpowers held a series of summits and several treaties were successfully reached through them, such as the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties (SALT I and SALT II), the installation of a direct hotline between Washington DC and Moscow that enabled both countries to communicate with each other in urgent situations and the Helsinki Declaration (also known as Helsinki Accords) signed by 35 nations to improve relations between Communist-led countries and the Western democratic countries.

The period of détente lasted barely a decade as several events led to its dissolution, such as the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in Dec 1979 and the election of Ronald Reagan (who ran on an anti-communist campaign) as the new US President in 1980.

1979 to the mid-1980s marked a return to Cold War hostilities (2nd Cold War) with increased military tensions, due to the introduction of the Reagan doctrine, which included providing support to countries such as Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, who were trying to overthrow their Communist governments. The US also installed cruise missiles in Europe and introduced the Strategic Defence Initiative (also known as “Star Wars”) to shoot down missiles in mid-flight.

The early 1980s also saw an unprecedented surge of military spending by both the Soviet Union (up to as much as 25% of its Gross National Product (GNP) and the United States (up to 6.5% of its GNP) to shore up their military arsenal and armed forces in the midst of increasing Cold War tensions.

The oil glut in the 1980s and unsustainable military expenditures soon led to a stagnation in the Soviet Union’s economy. This was exacerbated by the increasing costs of its involvement in the on-going Afghan War.

1985-1991 marked the final years of the Cold War. When Mikhail Gorbachev became the General Secretary of the Soviet Union in 1985, he came up with several measures to help revive the flagging economy and direct the country’s resources away from the arms race to develop its domestic industries. One economic policy was perestroika (restructuring), introduced in June 1987, that facilitated private ownership of businesses and welcomed the influx of foreign investment and the other was glasnost (openness) that called for press freedom and transparency of government operations.


The Cold War was officially declared over by both superpower leaders, Gorbachev and George W. Bush, at the 1989 Malta Summit.

Shortly after in 1990, the Communist Party, which had retained its stronghold over the USSR for 73 years, surrendered in the face of dwindling Soviet military support. Communist-led countries in Central and Eastern Europe broke away from the USSR and formed the Commonwealth of Independent States in 1991. The Soviet empire was finally dissolved on December 25, 1991.

The resources here explore the developments that led to the resolution of the Cold War.

Books

Books and texts are often mainstays of resource guides as these provide introductory and comprehensive information on a particular topic. The books below provide insight to understanding the events that led to escalation of the 2nd Cold War during the 1980s and thereafter to the end of the Cold War.

- The end of the Cold War era: the transformation of the global security order by Saki Ruth Dockrill
  Call Number: R 909.829 DOC

- NATO in “the new Europe”: the politics of international normalization after the Cold War by Alexandre Gheciu
  Call Number: R 355.031981821 GHE
  http://journal.nib.go.th/item_holding.aspx?id=126460196

- Reinterpreting the end of the Cold War: issues, interpretations, periodizations by Silvio Pons and Federico Romero
  Call Number: R 909.825 REI

- The fall of the Berlin Wall by William F. Buckley
  Call Number: R 943.1558756 BUC
  http://journal.nib.go.th/item_holding.aspx?id=123842396

- The rebellion of Ronald Reagan: a history of the end of the Cold War by James Mann
  Call Number: R 973.827052 MAN
  http://journal.nib.go.th/item_holding.aspx?id=135064897

- The fall of the Berlin Wall: the revolutionary legacy of 1989 by Jeffrey A. Engel
  Call Number: R 909.828 FAL

- The world since 1945: an international history by P.M.H. Bell
  Call Number: R 909.825 BELL

- Cold War endgame: oral history, analysis, debates by William C. Wohlfert
  Call Number: R 940.556 COL

- Soviet failures and lost opportunities: from Stalinism to the new Cold War by Stephen F. Cohen
  Call Number: R 948.084 COH

- The Cold War - Resource Guides at National Library, Singapore

http://libguides.nl.sg/print_content.php?pid=228924&sid=1893221&mode=g
27/2/2014
• After the fall: the failure of communism and the future of socialism by Robin Blackburn
Call Number: RU 335.4309043 AFT
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=148530
Comparing contributions from historians, social theorists, economists and political philosophers, the essays in this volume focus on many issues such as the fall of communism, debates on Leninism and Marxism, socialism and the new world order, the future for post-communist countries and the future beyond capitalism.

• The wall came tumbling down: the Berlin Wall and the fall of communism by Jerry Birnstein
Call Number: 335.430947 BOR
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=548169
Birnstein traces the origins, development and eventual failure of communism in East Germany and the events that led to the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the beginning of the reunification of East and West Germany.

• The Cuban Missile Crisis by Peter Chrisp
Call Number: Y 973.522 CHR
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=10306245
Chrisp discusses the Cold War rivalry between the two super powers, the US and the Soviet Union, highlighting how the Cuban missile crisis almost led to the outbreak of a nuclear war.

• For the soul of mankind: the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War by Melvyn P. Leffler
Call Number: R 327.73047F0645 LEF
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=1510765
Leffler documents the various stages of the Cold War by time periods and provides invaluable insights to the political motivations behind the major actors in each stage, such as Stalin and Truman (1945-48), Malenkov and Eisenhower (1953-54), Khrushchev, Kennedy and Johnson (1962-65), (Brezhnev and Carter (1975-80) and Gorbachev, Reagan and Bush (1985-90).

• The crusader: Ronald Reagan and the fall of communism by Paul Kengor
Call Number: 973.92092 KEN
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=12774166
Kengor tracks the story of Reagan's relentless crusade, beginning from his term as governor of California to his term of office as America's 40th President, to overthrow communism and bring the Soviet Union to ruination.

• America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-1996 by Walter LaFeber
Call Number: R 327.73047 LAF
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=7856064
Using newly released documents from the US, Soviet and Chinese archives, LaFeber discusses why the Cold War began how domestic policies in America and USSR impacted the war and how the battle for economic supremacy almost elevated it to the brink of a nuclear armageddon.

• The origins of the Cold War, 1941-1949 by Martin McCauley
Call Number: R 327.47073 MAC
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=11898363
McCauley gives a good introduction to the post-World War Two events that led to the start of the Cold War and discusses who started it, whether it could have been prevented and how Stalin's spy intelligence network influenced his world view perspective.

• The war that never was: the fall of the Soviet Union 1985-1991 by David Pryce-Jones
Call Number: R 947.085 PRY
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=7965896
Relying on first-hand accounts, Pryce-Jones gives an insider's perspective to the collapse of the Soviet Union and its communist regime and examines Gorbachev's motivations behind his "Perestroika" programme of economic, political, and social restructuring.

• The rise and fall of the Soviet Union, 1917-1991 by Richard Sakwa
Call Number: R 947.184 SAK
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=9034340
Sakwa documents 8 decades of Soviet Union history, detailing significant periods such as the Bolshevik revolution in the early 1900s, the birth of socialism, reform during Khrushchev's leadership, period of stagnation under Brezhnev and the fall of the Soviet system.

• When the wall came down: the Berlin Wall and the fall of Soviet communism by Serge Schmemann
Call Number: Y 943.1087 SCH
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=12745234
From his perspective as a New York Times journalist, Schmemann gives first hand eye-witness accounts of the background history leading to the erection and eventual demolition of the Berlin Wall. Also included are New York Times articles covering the Berlin Wall, the Cold War and the reunification of Germany.

• Cold War triumphalism: the misuse of history after the fall of communism by Ellen Schrecker
Call Number: R 327.73090949 COL
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=12754433
This collection of essays by Cold War historians discuss a variety of issues and brings forth varying and opposing views on topics such as the United States' involvement in the Berlin blockade, America's opposition to selected UN resolutions and treaties, flaws of Reaganomics and the VENONA/Moscow spy disclosures.

• Gorbachev and glasnost: viewpoints from the Soviet press by Isaac J. Taranulo
Call Number: R 947.0854 GOR
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=525769
This book contains a selection of 33 translated Soviet news articles published from 1987-1888, by perestroika supporters and conservative opponents covering issues such democratisation, foreign policy and economic reform.

• Reviewing the Cold War: approaches, interpretations, theory by Odd Arne Westad
Call Number: R 327.7304709045 NOB
http://library.nlb.gov.sg/item_holding_s.asp?bid=9443737
The essays in this book offer different theories about the Cold War, as the writers approach the subject from historical, sociological, cultural and ideological perspectives. Cold War strategies and speculations about the turning points in the Cold War years are also debated.

Videos
The Reagan Legacy: The End of the Cold War

"An overview of President Reagan's role in ending the Cold War and bringing down the Berlin Wall."

"I fought for USSR, but failed": RT interviews last Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

"Mikhail Gorbachev still says his reforms were timely and necessary. "We realized from experience that it was dangerous to wait much longer, that we had to take a risk," he told RT in an interview. "But we couldn't postpone it, we needed changes."

http://libguides.nl.gov/print_content.php?pid=228924&sid=1893221&mode=g
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