

Cold War

The Cold War was a period during which the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a global power struggle for dominance. During this time, the two countries avoided direct military conflict with one another, but they engaged in indirect fights through economic, political and propaganda means.

- This "war" was "cold" because neither side's military actually came into direct conflict with each other both wanted to avoid a mutually assured destruction situation where there would be no winners.
- Historians cannot confirm the dates of the cold war. The time period ought to be between 1947, and the year of the Truman Doctrine.
- This doctrine is the foreign policy of the United States that aims to assist the nations that were intimidated by the expansionism of Soviets.
- The Truman Doctrine was announced in 1991, the year that marks the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Causes of Cold War

When the Soviet Union was suffering, the United States surged the military, economic, and diplomatic pressures on the Soviet Union. During the 1980s, Mikhail Gorbachev instituted liberalizing reforms pertaining to reconstruction, reorganization [perestroika], and glasnost [openness] in order to put an end to the economic recession. It also aimed to democratize Soviet society. Check out the causes of the cold war in detail.

- After world war 2 the United States made an appearance as a superpower. The second most possession of power was held by USSR. It has played an instrumental role in combating Germany in war.
- Communist Governments were there in majority of the countries in Eastern Europe. They favored the communist government.
- The world was stratified into two parts such as one in favor of the communist powers and the other that opposed the communist powers.
- The USA started weighing all the developments and viewed them through the lens of favor or opposition to communism.
- The political space was opened that witnessed National Movements in Eastern Europe, that in turn surged pressure in USSR.
- The weakening of Soviet control over Eastern Europe in 1989 led to a cascade of revolutions that peacefully ended communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe. In 1991, Gorbachev resigned as General Secretary of the Communist Party.

Which turn of events did the Cold War lead to?

After world war II marked a division between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union at one side [its satellites] and the USA [NATO allies] on the other side.

- This created what US President Harry Truman called a "polarization" of power, as each side sought to promote its political ideology. This helped to fuel proxy wars, such as the
 1. Korean War (1950–1953)
 2. Vietnam War (1955–1975)
 3. Soviet war in Afghanistan (1979–1989)
 4. Angolan Civil War (1975–2002).
- In his first major speech on foreign policy, delivered in April 1947 at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, Harry Truman announced that the US will be facilitating political, military, and economic assistance to all the democratic nations from the autocratic and tyrannical forces.
- This doctrine, known as the Truman Doctrine, was designed to contain Soviet expansion by offering assistance to countries struggling against communist subversion or invasion.
- The tension between the United States and the USSR during the Cold War never seemed more significant, and those with the political power to do something about it were not sure if their efforts would be enough.