

The Cold War (1945-1989)

- this was not a war like we normally think
 - this was an 'arms race' – two countries who fought a secret war of espionage and weapon building
 - it was a war of not only politics, but of ideologies and economic systems, and fear
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- there were two world superpowers after WWII:

1. Soviet Russia – COMMUNIST

- left wing
 - believed in *collectivity* in economics
 - government owned industry
 - everyone was equal (egalitarianism)
- of course, we know that politically this was not the case entirely – Stalin was a monster (fascist) and the state was a dictatorship

2. United States – CAPITALIST

- right wing
- believed in everyone making as much money as possible (capitalism) – “American Dream”
- government stayed out of people's business and let them do what they want
- democracy

- after WWII, these two countries step it up and vie for who was going to control the world...

- how did the world's superpowers not fight for peace, but instead break down into separate nuclear blocs staring each other down over a divided Europe?

- after WWII, the Soviets and the Americans did NOT get along over the handling of Germany

- Soviets wanted it Communist in their image

- US wanted it democratic in their image

- there was the fear that the other would re-shape Europe

- the US influenced western Europe

- the Soviets influenced (and took over) eastern Europe

- ta-da, the Cold War begins...

- the Communists believed that a revolution would overtake the world, and Capitalism would fall – they hoped they would start it with global control

- the US, Canada, Britain etc. formed NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) to battle the spread of Communism

- hint: it's still around today

- prepared to send troops to whatever corner of the world that needed freedom from Communism

- the Soviets, in return, formed the Warsaw Pact to protect themselves and spread Communism

- mainly a trading bloc

- also had 'buffer countries' installed to protect Russia in eastern Europe

Canada and the Cold War

- Canada never really took a real role in the Cold War
- politically, we were aligned with the US, but we never took part in arms races
- **McCarthyism** in the US was rampant
 - o purpose was to hunt out “red” threats in the homeland
 - o scare tactics – public trials and denunciations, very much like witch hunts
 - o Commies could be blacklisted, fired, or persecuted
- it did spread to Canada, but not with the same fervency
- to be different than the US, Canada never did outlaw the Communist Party
- however, we did have parts of society who were accused of being Communists
 - o union leaders
 - o artists
 - o activists
 - o intellectuals
- when Canada defeated the Russians at the Summit Series in 1972 this was a HUGE psychological blow in the Cold War
 - o Canada, a US friend, defeated the Communists at a game they said they were the best at
 - o for Canada and the western world, this was a massive victory for not just hockey, but freedom in general