

THE BERLIN WALL

East German Flight

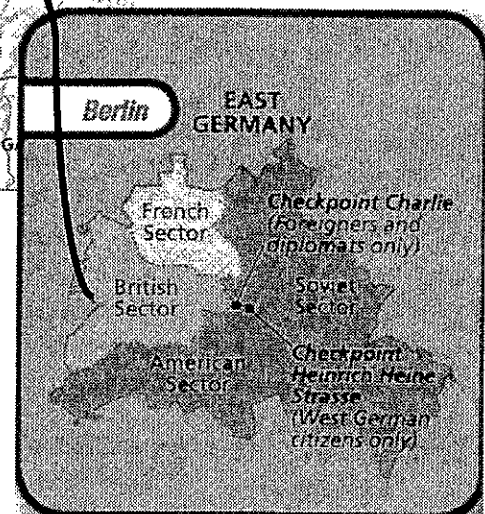
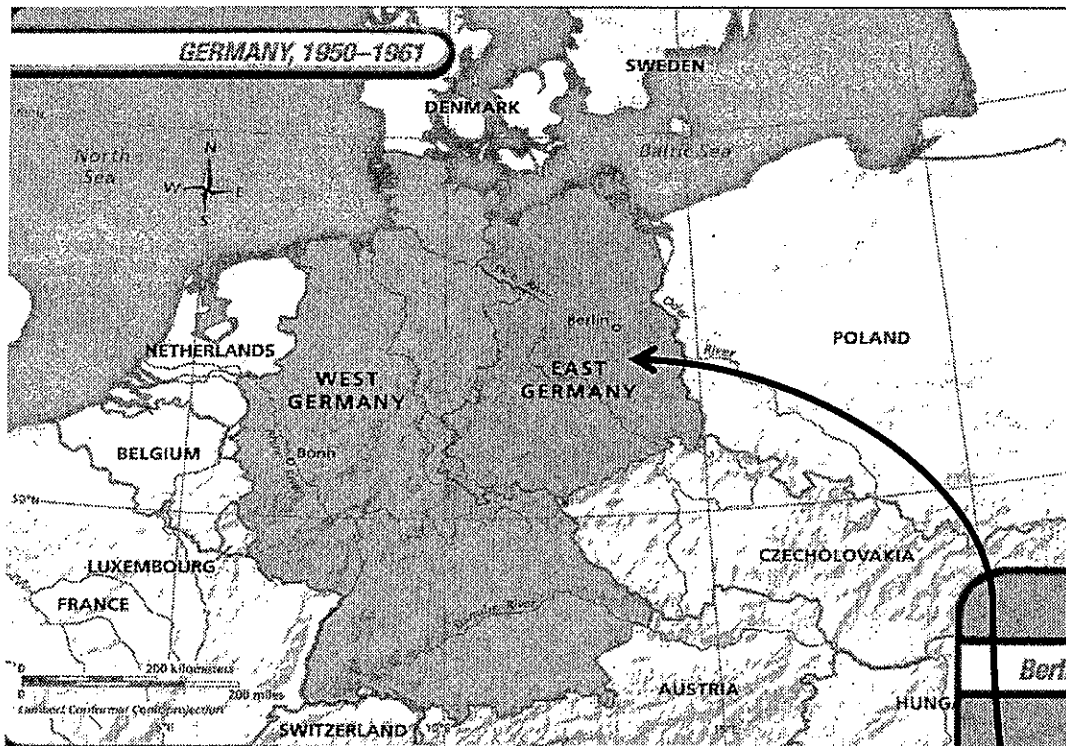
After World War II from 1949 to 1961, about 2.5 million people fled East Germany. Most left to escape Communist rule, fearing growing economic hardships and political repression. Many emigrants were doctors, engineers, teachers, and other professionals. By August 1961 over 10,000 East Germans had fled in a single week. West Berlin was the main escape route, especially for the 60,000 East Berliners who worked in West Berlin. As the population loss began to cause economic problems, the East German government took action.

The Wall Goes Up

On August 13, 1961, East German leaders ordered streets torn up and temporary roadblocks built. They halted all road traffic and train service between East and West Berlin and cut most telephone lines linking the divided city. The thousands of East Berliners who worked in West Berlin had to give up their jobs.

Work began at once on a permanent concrete block wall 15-feet high topped with barbed wire. Hundreds of watchtowers lined the wall, which stretched 28 miles through the city. Another 75-mile-

long section of wall separated West Berlin from the surrounding East German countryside. To reach the wall, East Berliners had to cross a wide open area, often called the "death strip." Guards had orders to shoot anyone seen there. Close to 200 people died trying to escape.



A Changed City

The Berlin Wall cut through almost two hundred streets as well as dozens of rail lines. Workers bricked over windows and doors of houses and churches and bulldozed parks near the wall. Until its fall 28 years later, the wall greatly affected both the land and people of Berlin.

1. Why did the East Germans extend the wall all the way around West Berlin as well as through the middle of the city?
2. How did the separation of the East and West Berlin by the wall affect the economic life of the people and the city?

Political and Economic Change in Latin America

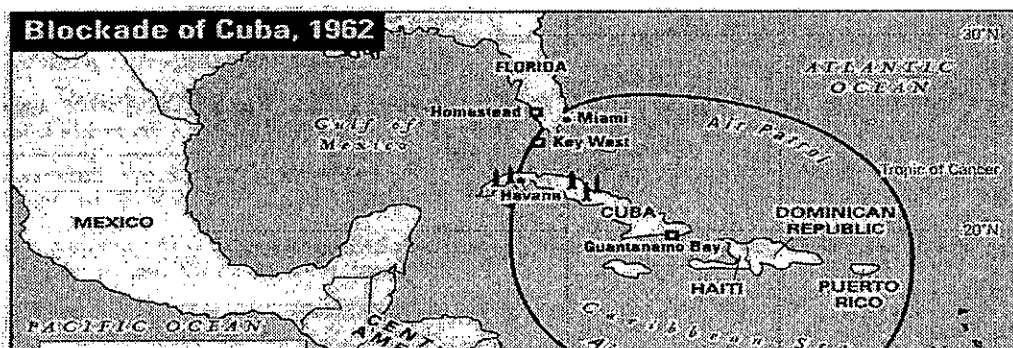
Directions: After each reading answer the questions that follow.

After World War II, rapid industrialization, population growth, and a lingering gap, between the rich and the poor led Latin American nations to seek aid from both superpowers. At the same time, many of these countries struggled to move from dictatorships and military control to democracies.

In the 1950s, Cuba was ruled by an unpopular dictator, Fulgencio Batista, who had U.S. support. Cuban resentment led to a popular revolution, which overthrew Batista in January 1959. A young lawyer named Fidel Castro led that revolution. At first, many people praised Castro for bringing social reforms to Cuba, improving the economy, and raising the standard of living for many Cubans. Yet Castro was a harsh dictator. He suspended elections, jailed or executed his opponents, and tightly controlled the press. When Castro took over U.S.-owned sugar mills and refineries, the United States ordered an embargo on all trade with Cuba. Castro then turned to the Soviets for economic and military aid. In exchange for Soviet support he backed Communist revolutions in Latin America and Africa. Soviet aid to Cuba ended abruptly with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. This loss dealt a crippling blow to the Cuban economy. But the aging Castro refused to adopt economic reforms or to give up power.

1. What are the **three** problems that Latin America faced after World War II?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What changes did Fidel Castro receive a lot of praise for instituting?
3. How did Castro rule like the unpopular dictator Fulgencio Batista?
4. Why did Cuba turn to the Soviet Union for aid?
5. What problems did Cuba face upon the collapse of the Soviet Union?

The Cuban Missile Crisis



In 1962, the world narrowly escaped nuclear holocaust during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The United States and the Soviet Union faced each other in a dispute over Soviet placement of nuclear missiles in Cuba, 90 miles off the coast of Florida.

There are several possibilities why the Soviets placed nuclear missiles in Cuba. First, the missiles could protect Cuba from possible U.S. military aggression. Second, the Soviets would gain a strategic advantage on the United States in case of global nuclear war. Finally, the missiles would counter the U.S. installation of missiles in Turkey, near Soviet territory, in 1959.

The U.S. government had an idea Soviets wanted to place missiles in Cuba for some time. However, it was not until August 29, 1962, that a U-2 spy plane confirmed this to President John F. Kennedy. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara proposed three courses of action for the United States. First, it could try to resolve the problem diplomatically by discussing it with the Soviets and the Cubans. Second, it could form an air and naval blockade around Cuba to prevent further shipments of missiles. Finally, it could order an air strike to destroy the missiles and then invade Cuba.

On October 22, Kennedy announced a blockade of Cuba. The United States would seize "offensive weapons and associated materiel" that the Soviets were delivering to Cuba. After six tense days, Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, agreed to halt further shipments of missiles and to dismantle the existing ones in Cuba. He agreed to this only after Kennedy promised not to invade Cuba. Khrushchev also wanted the U.S. missiles removed from Turkey. In formal negotiations, Kennedy refused but then informally agreed to remove them and did so.

Documents released 35 years later reveal that, unknown to both U.S. and Soviet leaders, Soviet field commanders in Cuba had complete authority to fire their missiles. In addition, U.S. military officials undertook several secret sabotage missions in Cuba, and an American aircraft accidentally strayed into Soviet airspace at the height of the crisis. Any of these situations could have triggered a nuclear war.

6. Why do you think the US government wanted to remove Soviet missiles in Cuba?
7. Describe the area of the US blockade.
8. According to the map, how many military bases did the United States have in this area?
9. What are some of the reasons for the Soviet placement of missiles in Cuba?
10. What options did the United States have to counter the Soviet build-up of missiles in Cuba?
11. What were some of the unexpected situations that might have started a nuclear war in 1962?
12. Why do you think Kennedy decided to remove US missiles from Turkey?

Directions: Answer the boxes on the right side of the paper from President Kennedy's speech.

The Cuban Missile Crisis - - Speech by John F. Kennedy

On October 22, 1962, the White House announced that President John F. Kennedy would deliver a speech the "highest national urgency." That evening, the president went on television and radio to inform the American people about the presence of Soviet missile sites in Cuba and his plans to remove them. As you read this excerpt from Kennedy's speech, think about why he demanded that the Soviets withdraw their missiles from Cuba.

Good evening, my fellow citizens. This Government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet military build-up on the island of Cuba. Within the past week unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. The purposes of these bases can be none other than to provide a nuclear strike capability against the Western Hemisphere.

Upon receiving the first preliminary hard information of this nature last Tuesday morning (October 16) at 9:00 A.M., I directed that our surveillance be stepped up. And having now confirmed and completed our evaluation of the evidence and our decision on a course of action, this Government feels obliged to report this new crisis to you in fullest detail.

The characteristics of these new missile sites indicate two distinct types of installations. Several of them include medium-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead for a distance of more than 1,000 nautical miles. Each of these missiles, in short, is capable of striking Washington, D.C., the Panama Canal, Cape Canaveral, Mexico City, or any other city in the southeastern part of the United States, in Central America, or in the Caribbean area. . . .

This nation is prepared to present its case against the Soviet threat to peace, and our own proposals for a peaceful world, at any time and in any forum. . . .

We have in the past made strenuous efforts to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. We have proposed the elimination of all arms and military bases in a fair and effective disarmament treaty. We are prepared to discuss new proposals for the removal of tensions on both sides - including the possibilities of a genuinely independent Cuba, free to determine its own destiny. We have no wish to war with the Soviet Union, for we are a peaceful people who desire to live in peace with all other peoples.

But it is difficult to settle or even discuss these problems in an atmosphere of intimidation. That is why this latest Soviet threat-or any other threat-which is made in the

Why does Kennedy fear the missile bases?

Why do you think Kennedy told Americans how far the missiles could travel?

How did Kennedy try to make Americans feel better about themselves this Cold War conflict?

How has Cuba been affected by the Cold War?

or in response to our actions this week-must and will be met with determination. . . . The path we have chosen for the present is full of hazards, as all paths are; but it is the one most consistent with our character and courage as a nation and our commitments around the world. The cost of freedom is always high-but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender or submission. Our goal is not the victory of might but the vindication of right-not peace at the expense of freedom, but both peace and freedom, here in this Hemisphere and, we hope, around the world. God willing, that goal will be achieved.

According to Kennedy's speech, what is the goal of America and how has this been achieved?

from John Kennedy, U.S., Department of State, Bulletin, Volume XLVII, No. 1220 (November 12, 1962), 715-720. (Address delivered from the White House by T.V. and radio on October 22, 1962.) Reprinted in David L. Larson, ed., *The "Cuban Crisis" of 1962* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1963), 41-46

Directions: Answer the following questions using Herbert Block's political cartoon

Herbert Block drew this political cartoon shortly after the Cuban missile crisis, the most serious U.S.-Soviet confrontation. Notice that, unlike many American politicians and journalists who were severely critical of the Soviet leader at the time, Block depicts Nikita Khrushchev as an equal of President Kennedy in struggling to contain nuclear war.



"Let's Get a Lock for This Thing"
from *Herblock: A Cartoonist's Life* (Lisa Drew Books/Macmillan, 1993).

1. How did Herbert Block show that both Kennedy and Khrushchev struggling to contain nuclear war?
2. What is the significance (importance) of nuclear war's hands?

The Nuclear Arms Race

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/nuclear_arms_race.htm

The nuclear arms race was central to the Cold War. Many feared where the Cold War was going with the belief that the more nuclear weapons you had, the more powerful you were. Both America and Russia massively built up their stockpiles of nuclear weapons

The world greatly changed when USA exploded the H-bomb in 1952. This one bomb was smaller in size than the Hiroshima atomic bomb but 2500 times more powerful. The Russians produced an H-bomb in 1953 and the world became a much more dangerous place.

However, it is possible that the sheer power of these weapons and the fear that they evoked, may have stopped a nuclear war.

USA produced a bomber - the B52 - that could fly 6,000 miles and deliver a nuclear pay-load. Such a development required massive financial backing from the government - something which America could afford to do and which Russia could not. Russia concentrated on producing bigger bombs - a far more cost effective procedure.

In October 1957, the world was introduced to the fear of a missile attack when Sputnik was launched. This was to lead to ICBM's : Inter-continental ballistic missiles. As a result, America built the DEW line around the Artic - Defence and Early Warning system.

At the end of the 1950's, American Intelligence estimated that in a Russian missile attack, 20 million Americans would die and 22 million would be injured.

During the 1960's, the Russians put their money into producing more missiles regardless of quality while America built fewer but better quality missiles - the Atlas could go 5,000 miles at a speed of 16,000 mph. By 1961, there were enough bombs to destroy the world.

Despite this, great emphasis was put on new weapon systems - mobile missile launchers were built, missiles were housed underground in silos and in 1960 the first Polaris submarine was launched carrying 16 nuclear missiles. Each missile carried four warheads which could targeted on different cities; hence one submarine effectively carried 64 nuclear warheads.

In 1967, China exploded an H-bomb. China was a communist country. In the west, NATO felt outnumbered as the table below shows and so had to place her faith in nuclear missiles.

Troops : NATO 2.6 million. Warsaw Pact 4 million

Tanks : NATO 13,000. Warsaw Pact 42,500

Artillery : NATO 10,750. Warsaw Pact 31,5000

During the 1960's the theory of **MAD** developed - **Mutually Assured Destruction**. This meant that if Russia attacked the west, the west would make sure that they would suitably retaliate i.e. there would be no winners.

By 1981, USA had 8,000 ICBM's and USSR 7,000 ICBM's

By 1981, USA had 4,000 planes capable of delivering a nuclear bomb. Russia had 5000.

USA defence spending for 1981 = 178 billion dollars. By 1986, it was 367 billion dollars.

By 1986, it is estimated that throughout the world there were 40,000 nuclear warheads - the equivalent of one million Hiroshima bombs.

British Intelligence estimated that just one medium sized H-bomb on London would essentially destroy anything living up to 30 miles away.

Confronted by such awesome statistics, world leaders had to move to a position where they trusted each other more. Throughout the 1960's and 1970's "detente" had been used to ease bad relations between the superpowers. This was to culminate in the Reykjavik meeting between presidents Reagan and Gorbachev that started real progress in the cut in nuclear weaponry in future meetings (if little was actually gained at the meeting in Reykjavik).

Name _____

Date _____

69 The Korean War

