

THE BEGINNING OF THE COLD WAR. FIRST CRISIS

No power can agree to negotiate what it considers to be the very condition of its existence

Henry Kissinger

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

After the end of the Second World War, at the Conference from Paris (1946), the leaders of the great victorious powers made decisions with the reorganization of the post-war world. Basically, the world was divided into two spheres of influence: one controlled by the USSR, which imposed communism in several countries, turning them into its satellites; other dominated by the USA, leader of the grouping of Western democratic states. For almost half a century, between these two opposing systems there was a political, economic and ideological rivalry, a state that remained known in history as the Cold War

After the war Germany was divided into occupation zones between France, Great Britain, USA and USSR, the city of Berlin being also divided into 4 zones. The border between the two systems passed through the middle of Germany and through the middle of Berlin

The French, American and British sectors were an enclave in the area of Soviet occupation and therefore a point of accumulation of tensions corresponding to the collapse of the Western alliance with the Soviet Union during the war.



BERLIN'S DISPUTE

BERLIN BLOCK (JUNE 24 1948)

- ▶ One of the first crises of the Cold War with international impact was caused by the Soviet Union blocking road and rail access to West Berlin.
- ▶ Western powers had not negotiated a pact with the Soviets to guarantee the rights of free movement.
- ▶ To increase the pressure, the territory under the influence of the western powers was isolated from the city's electricity network, blocking the access of the inhabitants to electricity for domestic or industrial purposes

THE AIRCRAFT BODY THAT SAVED WEST BERLIN

- ▶ An airlift, consisting of hundreds of planes, dubbed raisin bombers by the local population, was used to transport a wide range of supplies. As well as over 1.5 million tons of coal. Sick children were picked up on return flights.
- ▶ Realizing that the blockade did not have the expected effect, Stalin decided in mid-April to allow road and rail access to West Berlin. On May 12, 1949 the blockade ceased.

THE CONSEQUENCES

Areas administered by the British, Americans and French merged in 1949 to form the Federal Republic (FRG).

The Soviet zone became Democratic Republic of Germany (GDR or "East Germany")

Construction of the Berlin Wall - 1961

- Tensions rose again in 1961, when East German authorities erected the Berlin Wall



POLITICAL-MILITARY ALLIANCES

The Cold War meant an indirect political, diplomatic and military confrontation between the "capitalist bloc", made up of democratic states and led by The US, and the "socialist camp", consisting of communist states in Eastern Europe and Asia, led by the USSR

NATO

- ▶ In 1949, by the Treaty of Washington, The United States, Canada and a number of democratic states in Western Europe have laid the foundations of the Organization North Atlantic Treaty (NATO)

THE WARSAW PACT

- ▶ In 1955, at the initiative of the Soviet Union, it was formed the organization of the Warsaw Pact (Warsaw Pact), made up of the USSR and the "socialist camp", with the exception of Yugoslavia.

MEMBER STATES OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT



The Korean War (1950-1953)

In 1950, communists in North Korea, backed by Communist China and the USSR, invade South Korea

South Korea had the United Nations as its ally, and North Korea was supported by the People's Republic of China with military aid from the Soviet Union.





The division of the peninsula by the Americans as a result of the capitulation of Japan. American troops occupied the south, and Soviet troops occupied the north.



Establishing a communist government in North Korea



The failure to hold free elections throughout the peninsula in 1948



On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea.

The first major armed conflict in the Cold War

In protest of the representation of China by the Kuomintang, the government of Chinese nationalists who took refuge in Taiwan after the latter's defeat in the Chinese Civil War, the Soviet Union boycotted the UN Security Council. In the absence of a Soviet voice, which could have vetoed the decision, the United States and other countries adopted a resolution authorizing military intervention in Korea.

- ▶ The United States helped UN forces repel the invasion.
- ▶ Suffering heavy losses, in two months, the defenders were pushed back, in a small area in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula, known as the Pusan Perimeter.
- ▶ A swift counter-offensive by Democrats-backed Southerners pushed North Koreans beyond the 38th parallel, prompting the People's Republic of China to go to war on North Korea's side. The Chinese, in turn, launched a counteroffensive that led the United Nations forces to retreat behind the 38th parallel. The Soviet Union supported both the People's Republic of China and North Korea with arms.
- ▶ In 1953 the war ended with an armistice and a fortified demilitarized zone was created between the two countries. A peace treaty has not been concluded yet, the armistice is in force. Small sparks from this conflict are still manifested in this area

CUBA ROCKET CRISIS

OCTOBER 14, 1962

The USSR had brought missile launchers to Cuba to threaten the United States

The missiles, carrying nuclear warheads, posed an imminent danger because, having an average range (2000 km), they were able to hit a large number of very important American cities, such as Washington

The United States has announced the introduction of a naval blockade of Cuba to prevent Soviet ships from carrying weapons on the island, and explained that the United States will no longer tolerate the existence of missile launch sites. Cuba's naval blockade began on October 23

The UN Secretary-General has called on Kennedy and Khrushchev to "refrain from any action that could aggravate the situation and risk a war."

However the Soviets work continued on the missile bases in Cuba.

The American General Staff was prepared for war.

Khrushchev told Kennedy that the USSR was ready to end the crisis and that the missile bases would be dismantled in exchange for the US promise not to invade Cuba and to withdraw the missiles from Turkey.

Following the negotiations of the American president, his Soviet counterpart Khrushchev ordered the withdrawal of the missiles

The threshold of an atomic war was exceeded following a period of relaxation