

**Focused Learning Lesson**  
**Explaining and summarizing key developments and issues in**  
**foreign and domestic policy during the Cold War Era**  
**American History**  
**Grade Level: 11th**  
**H-1B-H14**

**Overview:**

In this focused learning lesson, students will begin to understand cause and effect relationships. The Cold War is a great venue to explore how actions and decisions on a certain issue or activity will lead to far reaching effects both home and abroad. The activity provided for students will let them research and predict how current actions will effect future decisions, policies, and even generations.

**Approximate Duration:**

45 Minutes

**Benchmarks with GLEs:**

H-1B-H14 – Explaining and summarizing key developments and issues in foreign and domestic policy during the Cold War era

GLEs:

43. Analyze the spread of Communism after World War II and its impact on U.S. foreign policy (H-1B-H14)

44. Analyze the conflicts that resulted from Cold War tensions (e.g., Vietnam War, Korean War) (H-1B-H14)

45. Describe the impact of the Cold War on American society and domestic policy (e.g., McCarthyism, Space Race) (H-1B-H14)

46. Analyze the reasons for the end of the Cold War and its impact on the world today (H-1B-H14)

**Objectives:**

1. Summarize the major cause and effect relationships of various Cold War actions and decisions.
2. Predict various results by viewing various cold war actions and decisions.

**Teacher Preparation:**

- Read *Teacher Attachment 1* “Teacher Handout”
- Review *Teacher Attachment 2* “Teacher Resources”
- Make copies of *Student Attachment 1*

**Materials/Equipment/Resources:**

- Pen or pencils
- Copies of the attached students sheets for each student or group
- Class set of American History textbooks for reference
- Optional – Computer resources for additional research

**Lesson Procedures:****Set or Opener**

Open class with a brief discussion on cause and effect relationships. The discussed topic can be of any nature, but a topic that the students can immediately relate with is preferred. This topic can be of a current event nature or can use a real life situation in one of the students' lives. Make sure that students understand how actions will lead to other actions and so on.

**Body of the Lesson**

Give each student or group *Student Attachment 1*. Go over the directions on the handout and answer any questions that may be asked by students. You may allow each group to immediately begin or you may work the first set of questions together, depending upon your students learning level and time available.

Allow students to work on the handout for approximately 25 minutes. Provide any resource material that they may need, such as textbooks, internet, etc.

**Closure**

Once the students have completed the activity or if time is up, go over the handout as a large group and use probing questions to check for student understanding.

**Activities and Handouts:**

- **Teacher Attachment 1** – *Teacher Handout*
- **Teacher Attachment 2** – *Teacher Resources*
- **Student Attachment 1** – *Cause and Effect*

**Assessment Items:**

- Ensure that students understand cause and effect relationships by giving them a blank sheet of paper and have them draw out a cause and effect chart using a cold war topic or individual.
- Evaluate how individual students respond to the questions and class discussion on the student handout.
- Create a quiz on the terms and topics covered on the cause and effect handout.

**Reference Links and Technology Connections:**

- See Teacher Master 1 and 2

## TEACHER HANDOUT

### TEACHER NOTES:

- The activities included in the lesson are intended to let students have some experience with cause and effect relationships. The policies and events mention in the lesson is simply a collection of some of the many actions and events of the Cold War.
- This lesson is intended for the teacher to evaluate students' higher order thinking skills.
- It is highly encouraged to discuss other points and actions of the Cold War and allow students to ask questions not completely associated with the exact lesson in an attempt to encourage teachable moments.

### ANSWER KEY

#### CAUSE AND EFFECT QUESTION SET #1 SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

1. **What are two effects of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan?** *Causes B....note: There were many other causes but these are just two predominant examples*
2. **Why did the United States not win any medals in the 1980 summer Olympics?** *The US boycotted the Olympics because of the Soviet invasion.*
3. **On the back of this sheet write a brief prediction about what effects could develop from an embargo on the Soviet Union.** Make sure you consider both positive and negative effects for both the United States and the Soviet Union. *Students may make predictions that include lack of goods going to the USSR will hurt their already depressed economy and will also mean a lack of luxury items in that country. Also an embargo would hurt some US business because that some companies were selling goods to the USSR and after the embargo lost out on large blocks of costumers. US consumers may also lose many items that are uniquely Russian. Students may also discuss how relationships between the two countries would become more strained and how further actions may be taken by both sides.*

#### CAUSE AND EFFECT QUESTION SET #2 CONFLICTS AND COMPETITION

1. **Which bubbles do you think would be Effects B?** *USSR gives military support*

*to Cuba, US takes spy photos of Cuba, USSR stations ICBMs in Cuba*

**2. What do you think would have happened if the United States had not taken spy photos over Cuba?** *Students may predict that somehow the US would have found out about the missiles and taken action. Some answers may state that the missiles would have never been found or used. Some students may state that the USSR would have established missiles for a pre-emptive strike against the US, and we would have been attacked if we had found proof that the missiles existed. Let students' imaginations run wild, and let them use prediction skills to decide possible actions. After all of the answers are discussed, refocus students by discussing probable outcomes and realistic actions. Remind students that foreign policy is a very complicated activity.*

**3. Use the conclusion summary on the next page and the information on the chart to predict what information should go in the empty bubble on the above chart.** *The empty blank should include information about how the two leaders compromised peace. In secret correspondence, the two leaders agreed to remove missiles from Cuba if the US would remove weapons very quietly from Turkey, a neighboring country of the USSR.*

### **CAUSE AND EFFECT QUESTION SET #3 COLD WAR POLICY**

- 1. Using your textbook or other resources, research the following terms or events and write a brief description of each on a separate sheet of paper.**
  - a. Containment Policy – The idea that the US and other free nations should contain communism where it existed and not let it spread.
  - b. Increased development of nuclear weapons – When the USSR begins to develop its first nuclear weapons, the US and USSR enter into an arms race to offset each other's nuclear arsenal. By the end of the Cold War, the US had approximately 10,000 nuclear warheads, while the USSR had approximately 14,000 nuclear warheads!
  - c. Domino Theory – The idea that if one nation fell to communism, other nations would follow. This theory became the legitimacy of the Containment Policy, which would lead to the Korean and Vietnam Wars. This would also be used as a reason to back rebel groups who fought communism, such as the fighters in Afghanistan.
  - d. Berlin Airlift – In June 1948, the USSR made an attempt to halt all US and Western movement to Berlin, which was in the Soviet occupied sector of Germany. After WWII the Soviets occupied the section of Germany that contained the capital city of Berlin. The allies decided to give the entire area around Berlin to the USSR but divide up Berlin among all the Allies. Once the cold war started, the USSR decided to flex its muscle by forcing a standoff for access to Berlin. President Truman had many options,

including war, but chose to use an airlift to move supplies and people to and from the US sector of Berlin. Flying over USSR airspace, the standoff was tense, but for months the airlift worked. It is estimated that a flight landed every three minutes in Berlin during the standoff. The standoff ended when the Soviets backed down and grudgingly allowed access to Berlin.

- e. Increased military spending – With an increased need for protection, the US began to build its peacetime military to unmatched proportions. No longer isolationist, the US was now a major force in world politics and activities. With the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the creation of NATO, the US was now sworn to protect not only itself, but also its neighbors and allies overseas. Coupled with the increase in competition for undeveloped allies, and funding military activities, the US began spending large percents of its budget on the cold war.
- f. NATO – First overseas military organization that the US entered into after World War II. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created to repel a Soviet invasion of Western nations in Europe. The creation of NATO also leads to the creation of the Warsaw Pact by the Soviet Union, which was created to prevent a NATO attack on Eastern Europe.
- g. US support for Afghanistan – After the USSR invaded Afghanistan, the US placed some economic embargos and withdrew from the 1980 Olympics. This also became a contested site in which the US informally supported rebels in Afghanistan with weapons and funds. This was a hotspot during the Reagan Administration when the Iran-Contra Scandal surfaced. This war would later be known as the Russian Vietnam after the Soviets withdrew in defeat in the late 1980's.
- h. Red Scare – Due to the actions of Senator Joseph McCarthy, many people lost their positions and credibility because of the hunt for communists in our country, especially, according to McCarthy, in Hollywood. In fact one of the actors that Senator McCarthy claimed to be communist was Ronald Reagan, the president arguably known for his defeat of Communism.
- i. Korean War – Korea was occupied by the US and USSR after World War II. After each country withdrew from Korea, the North continued to be communist and the South continued to be democratic. On June 25, 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea and a war began. The United States along with the United Nations responded by sending troops to South Korea's aid. After extreme swings of success for both sides, a cease-fire was proposed which ended the war in the same place that it started.
- j. Competition for Allies – With third world countries becoming more developed, the US and USSR began to compete for allies in the Cold War by offering military, economic, and political assistance to countries. Many third world nations benefited from this competition, and some even would play both sides of the fence and take assistance from both countries.
- k. Truman doctrine – with the threat of communism facing the country after World War II, President Truman created a policy that the US would

support any nation that opposed communism. This policy would be criticized because it opened up the US to becoming allies with nations or dictators, which were not very good, but the US saw it as a situation of choosing the lesser of two evils.

- l. Eisenhower doctrine – With the increase of Soviet sponsorship in the world, President Eisenhower attempted to protect the Middle East from what he saw as an increasing influence from communism. The doctrine stated that the US would go to war to protect any Middle Eastern ally against a communist invasion.
- m. Espionage – during the Cold War espionage was the primary battlefield of the USSR and US. Each country performed extensive and intensive intelligence gathering on each other.
- n. Star Wars Program (SDI) – In the 1980's, President Reagan called for the development of a defense shield that could protect the US against a Soviet missile attack. This shield development was termed the Star Wars Program after the popular space movie, but was officially called the Strategic Defense Initiative. SDI was well ahead of its time, and the technology, even today, is still not good enough to produce a good system. This program brought criticism because of its cost and, in the eyes of the USSR, its aggressive tone.

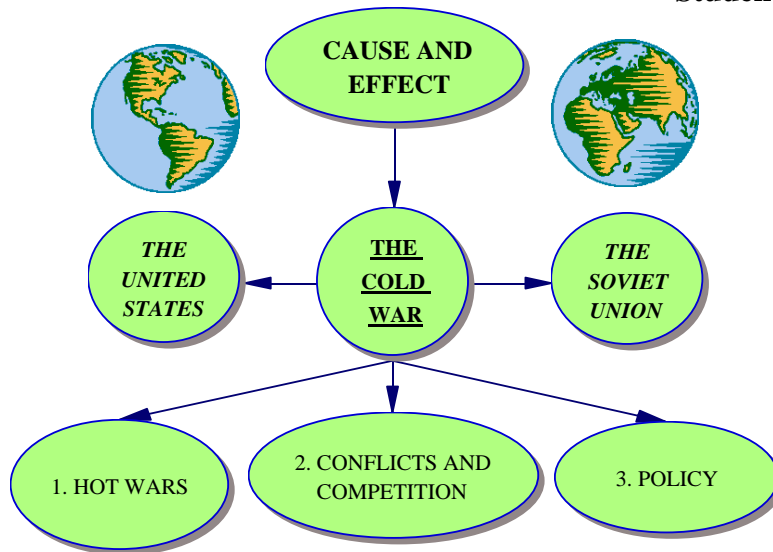
## TEACHER RESOURCES

### WEBSITES

- <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/> This is the ultimate look at the Cold War in a complete sense. This site is packed with interactive activities and multimedia.
- <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/coldwar.htm> - Huge collection of primary documents dealing with the Cold War.
- <http://history.acusd.edu/gen/20th/coldwar0.html> - Summary of Cold War Policy.
- <http://library.thinkquest.org/11046/> - Cuban Missile Crisis Site.
- <http://www.usnewsclassroom.com/resources/activities/act991018.html> - various resources for the Cold War.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Students who have internet access and teachers who have time could explore primary documents of the Cold War era by accessing the websites above.
- Have students create their own timeline of Cold War actions and events.
- Have students create their own Cold War cause and effect charts. Once the students create the charts, they can then develop their own questions to ask other students about the events which they researched.
- Have students use the CNN Interactive site listed above and browse the cultural effects of the Cold War. Pay special attention to the kinds of movies and TV shows that were influenced by the Cold War.



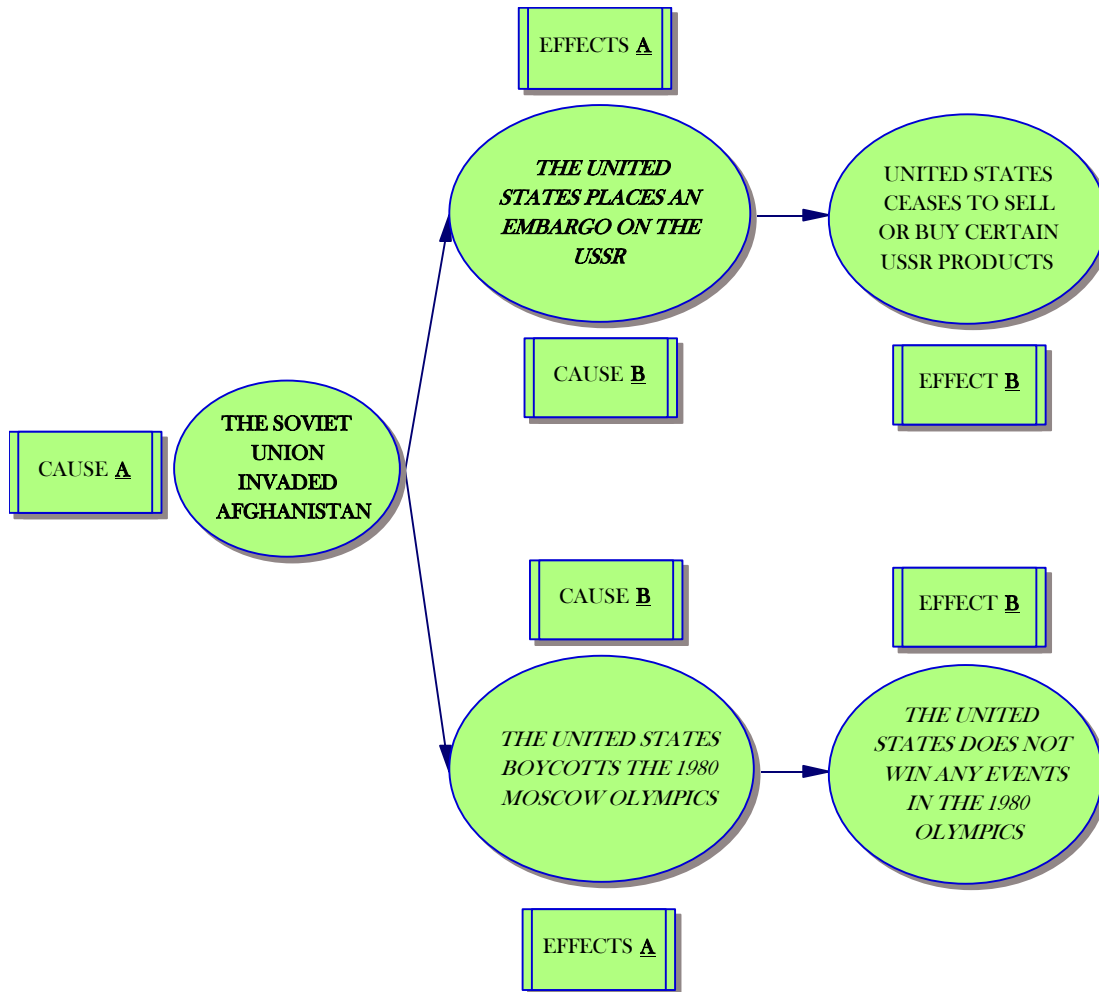
**BACKGROUND:** The Cold War led to many changes in American policies at home and abroad. Even before the conclusion of World War II, the allied powers of Great Britain, the United State and the Soviet Union began to enter into a power play to determine the fate of countries in Europe, and for that matter, the world. With the Axis powers virtually in defeat, Joseph Stalin was preparing to insist that the areas of Soviet occupied Europe and Asia continue to fall under Soviet control after the war (in an attempt to gain the satellite states that Russia has always wanted to defend itself). Great Britain, the great island nation, was considering how it could continue to support its far-flung empire in a period of exhausted national resources and independence movements, while the United States, no longer hearing the insistent calls for isolation that once persisted in her nation, was preparing to inherit the leadership of the free world.

Once the war in Europe was over, the battle lines of the Cold War were laid. Many actions by the Soviet Union were perceived by the United States as threats to the balance of power that once existed in the world. These threats were seen as a new aggressive policy by the Kremlin to expand communism by force, rather than the previous belief that communism would spread on its own through the working class. The United States reacted to these threats by increasing its foreign activity and decreasing its isolation. The Soviet Union had always believed that it needed a buffer zone against Europe and foreign nations. The historical lessons which they had learned prior to and during World War II, led to an uneasy mistrust in other nations. The Soviets wanted to support nations that held communist ideals, and they wanted to promote communism in an attempt to protect them from what they perceived to be an increasingly growing power of democracy in the world.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Using the cause and effect charts below, fill out the questions that apply to each chart. You may use any additional resources, which you may have, such as a textbook or the internet, to assist you in answering the questions. If your teacher has allowed you to work in groups, discuss with your group members the possible answers and write down the answers after each question is discussed.

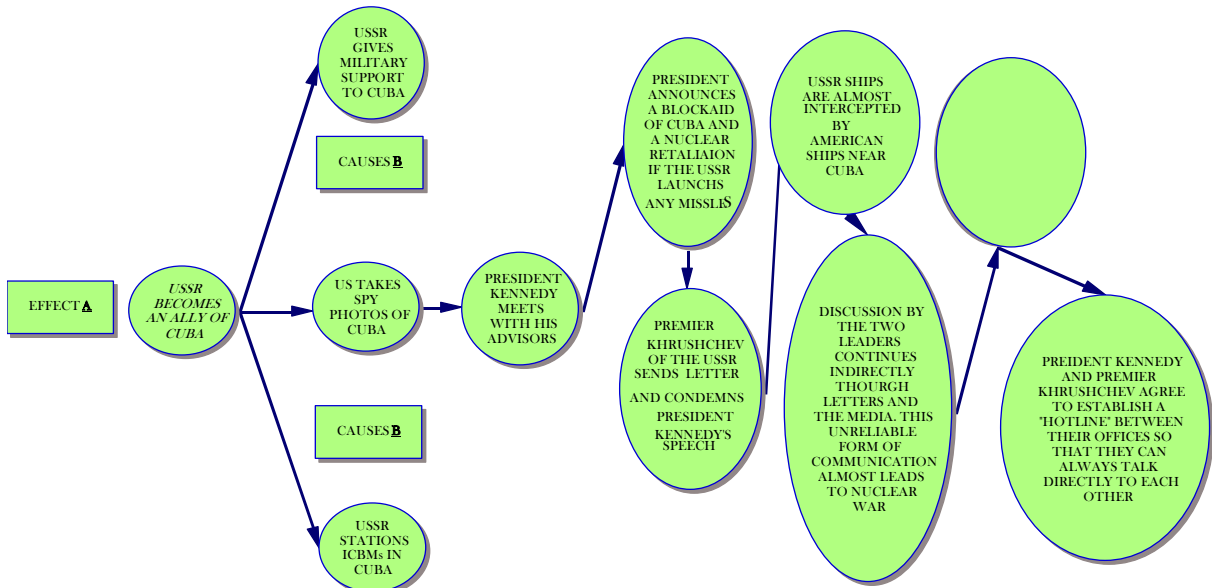
**CAUSE AND EFFECT QUESTION SET #1**  
**SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN**



1. What are two effects of the Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan?
2. Why did the United States not win any medals in the 1980 summer Olympics?
3. On the back of this sheet, write a brief prediction about what effects could develop from an embargo on the Soviet Union. Make sure you consider both positive and negative effects for both the United States and the Soviet Union.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT QUESTION SET #2

### CONFLICTS AND COMPETITION



2. Which bubbles do you think would be Effects B?
3. What do you think would have happened if the United States had not taken spy photos over Cuba?

4. Use the conclusion summary on this page and the information on the chart to predict what information should go in the empty bubble on the above chart.

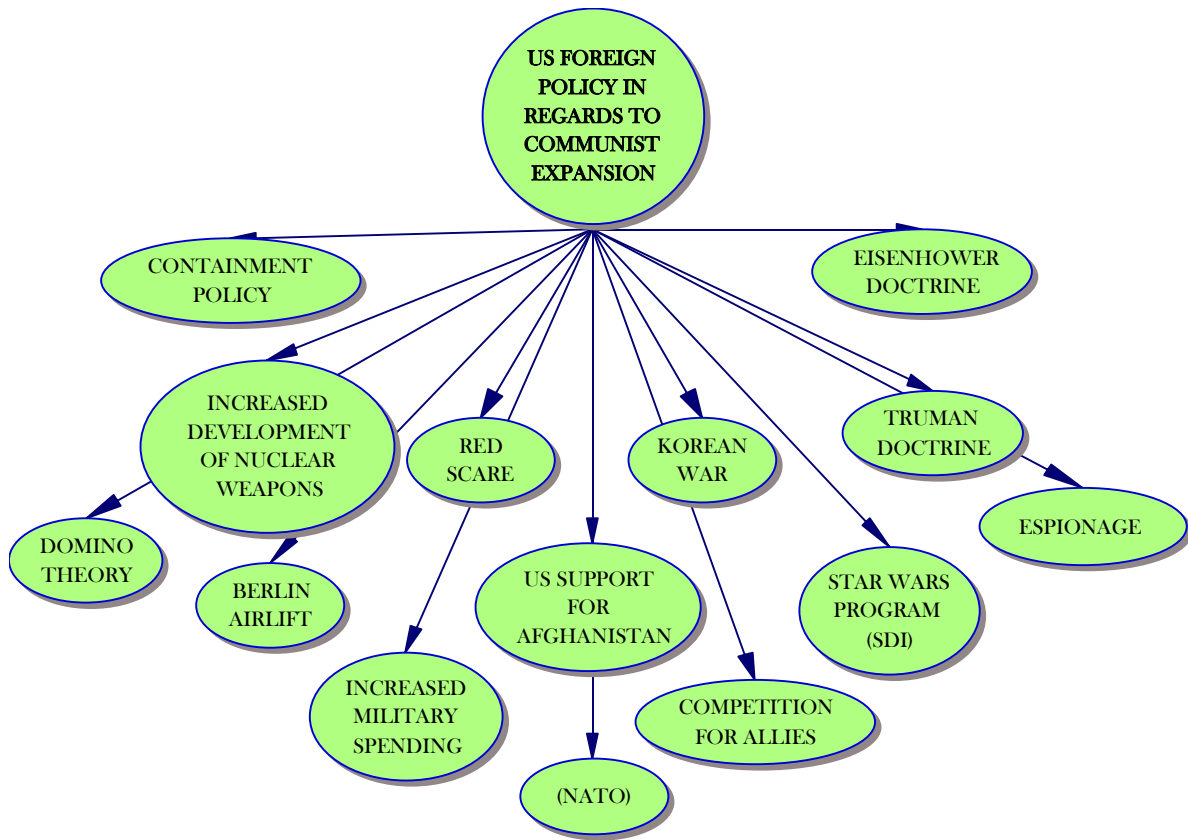
## **CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS**

### **Conclusion**

Poor communication contributed to the escalation of the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1962, there was no direct and immediate link between the American and Soviet leaders. Once the crisis entered its public phase on October 22nd, it took President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev seven days to reach a compromise. They used various written communiqués and television and radio speeches to negotiate with one another. This somewhat unreliable and indirect form of communication nearly led to nuclear war. If Khrushchev had not agreed to remove the missiles, the U.S. would have invaded Cuba within days. In that event, the Soviets would have launched their battlefield nuclear weapons. Then Kennedy would have had no choice but to launch U.S. missiles at Cuba or, more likely, the Soviet Union. Realizing how close they had come to disaster, Kennedy and Khrushchev established the "hot line" between the White House and the Kremlin so they could speak directly. Nine months after the crisis, Kennedy and Khrushchev signed an agreement to ban nuclear testing in the atmosphere. This marked the beginning of what seemed to be a new willingness to cooperate and communicate. However, on November 22nd, 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. Eleven months later, Premier Khrushchev was removed from office by Communist hard liners. One can't help but wonder what would have happened if these two men had stayed in power. Perhaps the same two people who had brought us so close to nuclear war, changed by that experience, could have brought us far from it.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/11046/briefing/index.html>

## CAUSE AND EFFECT QUESTION SET #3 COLD WAR POLICY



2. Using your textbook or other resources, research the following terms or events and write a brief description of each on a separate sheet of paper.