

hi this is astronptune, the creator of this timeline. hopefully this is accurate and helpful. i understand that the syllabus has changed somewhat but i hope some parts of this can still be helpful. i spent very few days (before o levels) making them while cramming history so if there's any discrepancies and errors, it's all on me. i am not infallible. do fact check before assuming i am God.

unfortunately history did not go so well for me—I got a b3. although i'm not really in the position to give tips,

here's some tips:

- **TIME MANAGEMENT** is CRUCIAL!!!!!!! i cannot emphasise this enough. i've always had a problem with time management. i would spend too much time on the essays only to come back to the sbq with barely enough time. during o levels, this was the worst because i could hardly finish a good number of the sbqs. so please!!!!!!!
- to manage your time better, write more essays and time yourself. if you're unable to write a full essay, at least write an essay outline that encompasses your main points, examples and elaboration. while writing this essay outline, **be conscious and try to come up with your content as fast as you can**. this will help, i promise.
- **consult your teachers please**. take the essays you've written or the essay outlines you've come up with, and ask your history teachers to at least review them. so if you have any misconceptions or errors, it can be immediately eradicated
- be concise. do not infodump. instead **always ask yourself "SO WHAT?" in relation to the question/topics**. eg, so what if there was a reichstag fire? **what was the significance?** what did it lead to? how did it allow hitler to consolidate his power?
- **try** not to study only one book.

most of these things have already been said but i just wanted to give some tips lol.

most importantly, **YOU WILL BE OKAY. YOU WILL BE FINE**. do not panic. try your best to stay calm no matter the circumstance. take deep breaths. get a drink next to you while you study and hydrate yourself constantly. take breaks after studying for long periods. this will prevent burnout. you will be ok.

O LEVELS WILL LEARN TO FEAR **YOU**. YOU CAN DO IT!!! ALL THE BEST <3

TREATY OF VERSAILLES

28 JUNE 1914	Assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand—the future ruler of Austria-Hungary.
28 JULY 1914	Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Start of WWI.
29 JULY 1914	Due to their alliance, Russia entered the war on the side of Serbia
1 AUGUST 1914	Germany declared war on Russia to help its ally Austria-Hungary
3 AUGUST 1914	Germany attacked France through Belgium. Britain ordered Germany to withdraw from Belgium.
4 AUGUST 1914	Britain declared war on Germany to support Belgium and France
MAY 1915	Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary
APRIL 1917	Entry of USA into WWI on the side of Britain and France
11 NOVEMBER 1917	WWI ended with Germany agreeing to sign an armistice
8 JANUARY 1918	Woodrow Wilson's 14 points
3 MARCH 1918	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk Germany demanded the secession of multiple territories. The Treaty had stripped Russia of huge amounts of land and 25% of its population
18 JANUARY 1919	Paris Peace Conference (Treaty of Versailles)

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

28 JUNE 1919	League of Nations was established
1920	Albania Yugoslavia tried to take over Albania. The League eventually made Yugoslavia withdraw.
1921	The Aaland Islands conflict Both Finland and Sweden wanted these islands so they took the dispute to the League and accepted the decision to give them to Finland
1921	Upper Silesia Both Germany and Poland wanted Upper Silesia. The League let the people of Upper Silesia vote. A huge majority wanted to join Germany. The League split it into two..
12 NOVEMBER 1921— 4 FEBRUARY 1922	Washington Naval Conference which was organised by the USA to try and slow down the Arms Race and reduce the general fear of another war. Ratio for naval strength was 5 (USA): 5 (Britain): 3 (Japan) This displeased the Japanese as they felt like the West was trying to limit Japan's military power and viewed Japan as weaker than them.
1923	Memel Lithuania invaded Memel. The League could not make Lithuania withdraw, but it gave Memel some independence
1923	Vilna Both Poland and Lithuania wanted Vilna after the war. It was given to Lithuania, but the Polish took over. The League could not make Poland withdraw.
1923	Corfu In a dispute between Italy and Greece, Italy took over the Greek Island of Corfu. The League could not make Italy withdraw until Greece gave in on the dispute
JANUARY 1923	The Ruhr Invasion of Ruhr where France took over the industrial area of Ruhr due to Germany not paying reparations. The League could not make France withdraw.
1925	The Greek–Bulgarian border Both Greece and Bulgaria disputed the border drawn between them at the end of the war. Greece invaded Bulgaria. The League made Greece withdraw.
1931	Manchuria conflict The Japanese army occupied large areas and set up a puppet government in Manchuria and renamed it to Manchukuo. The League of Nations did not recognise Manchukuo and wanted it to be returned to China. Japan resigned from the League and pushed further into China.
1935–1936	Invasion of Abyssinia Italy invaded Abyssinia in 1935. The League attempted to implement sanctions but the sanctions were not very harsh. Britain and France were unwilling to get involved militarily. Abyssinia was conquered by Italy.
1937	Italy leaves the League.

STALIN

FEBRUARY 1917	February revolution The Tsar abdicated in March 1917. The set up of the provisional government.
APRIL 1917	Lenin returns from his exile
OCTOBER 1917	October Revolution The provisional government is overthrown and Bolsheviks established government (led by Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky)
1918–1922	Russian Civil War Bolsheviks & ‘Reds’ VS the ‘Whites’ & anti-communists (supported by USA)
1918	Stalin became Commissar for Nationalities and a member of the Communist Party Central Committee
1919	Politburo is created
1921–1928	New Economic Policy (NEP) was implemented.
1922	Stalin became Secretary–General of the Communist Party
1922	Lenin suffered a stroke and went into semi-retirement
21 JANUARY 1924	Death of Lenin
MAY 1924	Lenin’s testament was given to the Politburo. However, the testament was never publicly revealed. The contents of the testament include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggested Trotsky to be Lenin’s successor—which no one wanted 2. Criticised Stalin in particular, suggesting that Stalin should be removed from his position as Secretary-General. This would have been disastrous for Stalin. 3. Criticised many of the members of the Party
1924–1925	Trotsky is removed from key positions in the Party, such as head of Red Army
1926	Formation of United Opposition (Trotsky, Kamenev, Zinoviev)
1926	Trotsky is removed from political bureau
1927	Trotsky is exiled
1928 ONWARDS	Collectivisation
1928–1933	First Five-Year Plan Focused on heavy industries, such as coal, iron, steel and electricity. Stalin demanded 200% increase in iron production and 335% increase in electricity production. There was significant growth in all these industries by 15% to 20%.
1929	Bukharin is removed from the Politburo

1929	Stalin is the supreme leader of the USSR
1930	Rykov is removed from the position of Premier
1932–1933	The Great Famine (Ukrainian Famine) The state did not distribute its stockpiled grain, but sold the grain overseas to raise funds for more industrial machinery and development. Close to 7 million peasants died of starvation due to the extreme shortage of food.
1933–1937	Second Five Year Plan Focused on military items and less on consumer goods. More realistic targets were set to improve the quality of goods. New methods of production were introduced and childcare was provided for women working in the factories.
1 DECEMBER 1934	Kirov Affair Sergei Kirov was viewed as a potential alternative candidate for Stalin's position as Secretary-General. He was assassinated, and the secret police concluded that his assassination was part of a plot to kill Stalin and other Politburo members. Stalin thus took advantage of this opportunity to eliminate his political opponents, and all others whose loyalty to him and his policies were questioned—including ordinary Russians and those within the Party organisation. The Kirov Affair was the turning point which started the Great Terror
1934–1938	The Great Purge / The Great Terror To consolidate his power and enforce party discipline, Stalin had a series of campaigns of political repression and purges to eliminate his political enemies and remove any domestic opposition to the Soviet government. The Great Terror was characterised by show trials, arrests, interrogations, widespread police surveillance and executions.
1938–1942	Third Five Year Plan Originally focused on consumer goods but switched back to military equipment because of Germany's invasion in 1941
1941	USSR was an industrial base for powerful arms industry

HITLER	
1919	Treaty of Versailles was signed
JANUARY 1919	Spartacist rebellion (communist) in Berlin
FEBRUARY 1919	Weimar Government was established
1920	Kapp Putsch Wolfgang Kapp disagreed with the TOV and rebelled against the government in a nationalistic and conservative fervour.
1921	Set up Sturmabteilung (SA / Stormtroopers / Brownshirts)
DECEMBER 1922	Germany failed to make a payment as per the terms of the Treaty of Versailles
1923	Formation of Hitler Youth. Hitler Youth had 2.3 million members by 1933. By DECEMBER 1936, membership became compulsory for all Aryan German Youths.
JANUARY 1923	1923 Ruhr Crisis France and Belgium invaded the Ruhr in retaliation to the lack of payment, seizing mines, factories and railways, planning to take away coal. The German adopted a policy of non-cooperation and went on strike, which was supported by the Weimar Government. The Weimar government printed more money to support the workers and pay off its debt, leading to hyperinflation.
NOVEMBER 1923	Munich Putsch Hitler attempted to overthrow the Weimar government by staging a coup in Munich.
1924	Dawes Plan Negotiated by Gustav Stresemann. The USA loaned money to Germany and reparation payments were stretched over a longer period.
1924	Beer Hall Putsch Hitler got arrested, jailed and wrote Mein Kampf
1925	Locarno Treaties This eased border tensions between France and Germany
1929	Young Plan. Further reduction of war reparation payments.
1929	The Great Depression The USA recalled the loan and deposits from German banks, which hit Germany extremely badly. This caused factories to close down, millions to lose their jobs. By 1932, six million people (1/3 of the working population) were unemployed
JULY 1932	Elections. The Nazis won more votes than any other party in the Reichstag.
1933	Setting up Reich Chamber of Commerce

	This organisation dealt with censorship of literature, art, music, radio, film and newspapers.
1933	Law Against Dangerous Habitual Criminals They were used to arrest Gypsies and send them to concentration camps
JANUARY 1933	Hitler became Chancellor.
27 FEBRUARY 1933	Reichstag Fire Hitler consolidated his power by arresting communists
23 MARCH 1933	Passing Enabling Act He would be able to pass laws without the President's approval, which drastically increased Hitler's political authority.
APRIL 1933	Only Nazi members would work in government departments—full control
APRIL 1933	The Nazis called for a national boycott of Jewish businesses. This was to segregate the Jewish people from the rest of German society and to destroy them financially.
MAY 1933	Trade unions were banned and leaders of trade unions were arrested
14 JULY 1933	One Party Rule Germany became a one-party state since the Nazi Party became the only legal political party.
JULY 1933	The Law for Prevention of Progeny with Hereditary Disorders People could be sterilised against their will. Approximately 320,000 to 350,000 people were sterilised. Between 65,000 to 70,000 adults were targeted for euthanasia.
1934	All Jewish shops were marked with the Star of David
JUNE 1934	Night of the Long Knives The SS arrested and killed Ernst Rohm and other SA leaders, along with political opponents who had angered Hitler. Removal of internal opponents, possible opposition inside of Party
AUGUST 1934	Creation of the Fuhrer position President Hindenburg passed away, and Hitler seized the opportunity to combine both the President and Chancellor into the role of Fuhrer
1935	Nazi introduced conscription for the army which reduced unemployment drastically
1935	Nuremberg Laws excluded the Jews from society They were no longer allowed to be German citizens or marry non-Jews. Throughout the 1930s , more and more steps were taken to humiliate Jews and separate them from the rest of society. Most Jews had their passports restricted or even removed to prevent them from leaving Germany. In SEPTEMBER , the Nuremberg Laws extended to forbid Gypsies (or Romani people) to marry Aryans.
1936	Goering's Four-Year Plan Purpose was to prepare Germany for war. Boost the incomes of companies involved in the production of war materials. These big industrialists thrived.

1936	Himmler created a Reich Central Office for the Combating of Homosexuality and Abortion Between 1933 to 1945 , the Nazis arrested approximately 100,000 homosexual men. About 50,000 of these men were sentenced and most were sent to prison. Cruel medical experiments and operations were performed on them. They faced castration, intimidation and death.
1937	The police, especially the Gestapo, had unlimited powers of arrest. People could be taken into custody just based on the suspicion that they might commit a crime. Many Germans were arrested and put into concentration camps without a trial.
NOVEMBER 1938	Night of the Broken Glass A Nazi diplomat was shot dead by a young Jewish boy in Paris. Hitler used this as an excuse to order a campaign of terror to be unleashed on Jews in Germany and Austria. Jewish businesses were destroyed and looted. More than 20,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps
SEPTEMBER 1939	Germany invaded Poland and forced Poland's 3 million Jews into ghettos, which were overcrowded and lacked basic necessities. People soon died of illnesses and starvation.
JUNE 1941	Germany invaded the USSR Mobile killing units rounded up Soviet Jews and shot them.
20 JANUARY 1942	Wannsee Conference Discuss and finalise the 'Final Solution' — master planning by Heinrich Himmler
MAY 1942	The Gypsies were placed under the same laws as the Jews
1943—1944	Thousands of Gypsies were gassed; others, including children, were victims of cruel medical experiments.

OUTBREAK OF WW2 IN EUROPE

1919	Treaty of Versailles was signed
NOVEMBER 1921	Washington Naval Conference Limited the size of major power's battleships based on an agreed ratio.
DECEMBER 1925	Locarno Treaties Germany agreed to respect their Western borders as determined by the TOV and would not attempt to regain lost territories
1926	League Commission to prepare for World Disarmament Conference France and Britain refused to cooperate—prioritised their country's interest over ensuring world peace
1928	Kellogg-Briand Pact Agreement that all conflicts should only be resolved by Pacifist means. No clear way to enforce the pact.
1932–1934	World Disarmament Conference / Geneva Disarmament Conference Germany insisted on matching the other powers' armament level. France refused to limit their own armaments. Britain and the USA refused to commit to a level requested by France.
1933	Hitler withdrew Germany from both the Conference and LON, and began rearmament. This allowed Hitler to pursue his aggressive foreign policy without having to regard the objections and threats from the League and allowed Germany's rearmament.
1933—1934	Secret rearmament and conscription programme.
MARCH 1935	Hitler announced his remilitarisation programme to the world (this was after he became fuhrer). The League of Nations did not respond although it was against the terms of the Treaty. By this time, Germany possessed 2,500 plane Luftwaffe and 300,000 strong army. Germany also instituted compulsory conscription and planned for an army of 550,000
MAY 1935	Franco–Soviet Alliance This Treaty was signed between France and the Soviet Union after Hitler announced Germany's rearmament to the world. This alliance was intended to provide a check on Germany's aggression and both countries promised each other's aid if Germany invaded either side. Hitler used the alliance to justify the remilitarisation of the Rhineland
JUNE 1935	Anglo-German Naval Agreement Signed between Germany and Britain. It allowed Germany to have a navy which had $\frac{1}{3}$ the tonnage of Britain's surface fleet and an equal tonnage of submarines. This signalled the beginning of the Appeasement policy. It was hoped that this would reduce German outrage towards the Treaty and stabilise Europe. This aroused the anger of the French and confused the British. As a member of the Stresa Front, Britain had only recently condemned Germany for breaking the Treaty of Versailles. The Anglo-German Naval Agreement seemed like Britain was encouraging Hitler to continue breaking the terms of the Treaty. This showed Hitler that he could disregard the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations as Germany was allowed a navy much larger than it

	was allowed under the Treaty.
1935–1936	Abyssinian Crisis Loss of credibility of the League of Nations. Made both Mussolini and Hitler bolder in their ambitions
7 MARCH 1936	Remilitarisation of the Rhineland Hitler ordered troops to march and remilitarise the Rhineland. He used the Franco-Soviet Alliance as an excuse, saying that Germany was now under threat from France and the USSR. Hitler ordered his troops to retreat if France attacked. France and the League of Nations did nothing. Hitler was met with no resistance. He became even more popular with the Germans and the German Army. This lack of resistance from France and Britain emboldened Hitler.
25 OCTOBER 1936	Rome-Berlin Axis Mussolini moved closer to Hitler and formed a treaty of friendship with Hitler.
25 NOVEMBER 1936	Anti-Comintern Pact Signed between Nazi Germany and Japan. Hitler hated communism and through this pact, the Western powers perceived Hitler as a defender against communism. This led them to trust Hitler, causing them to not intervene in the Spanish Civil War.
1937	German involvement in Spanish Civil War German involvement in the Spanish Civil war was to divert British and French attention from his plans to expand into Eastern Europe. This also allowed Hitler to test out his military forces while fighting.
MARCH 1938	Anschluss with Austria Hitler called the Nazis in Austria to make trouble while pressuring the Austrian Chancellor to call a plebiscite. 99.75% of Austrians voted for Anschluss. Germany achieved Anschluss without conflict or resistance from both Britain and France despite this being a direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles. Austria's resources of gold, iron ore, army and weapons were now at Hitler's disposal.
29 SEPTEMBER 1938	Munich Agreement Britain, France, Germany and Italy signed the Munich Agreement which decided that Germany would gain control of the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union (who had a mutual military assistance treaty with Czechoslovakia) were not consulted. Since Hitler gained control of the Sudetenland without having to fight, Hitler's ambition grew and he set sights even further on occupying the whole of Czechoslovakia
OCTOBER 1938	Gained control of the Sudetenland
16 MARCH 1939	Invasion and control of Czechoslovakia Neither the Czechs nor the Allies fought back. Britain and France warned Hitler that they would go to war with Germany if they invaded Poland.
23 AUGUST 1939	Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact Pact whereby Germany and Soviet Union would not attack each other and would resolve any problems between them in a friendly manner. This pact was supposed to last 10 years. This benefitted Germany as it would not have to fight a two-front war.
29 AUGUST 1939	Hitler demanded for Danzig and Polish Corridor

3 SEPTEMBER 1939

Invasion of Poland
Triggered the start of WWII.

END OF WW2 IN EUROPE

MAY 1937	The Neutrality Act Ensure that the USA would not become involved in a foreign war again.
21 SEPTEMBER 1939	‘Cash and Carry’ policy Allowed Britain and France to buy goods from the USA if they paid in full and transported them on their own. Payment had to be made immediately and only in cash. Recipients of aid had to bear all transport equipment, costs and risks. American commercial ships forbidden to enter conflict zones
JUNE 1940	France fell to Germany Hitler hoped that Britain would be compelled to discuss peace terms with the Germans. Britain was the only major Allied country in Europe that had not fallen to Germany. Roosevelt thus decided that the US should increase its level of aid to Britain
JULY 1940	Battle of Britain Hitler ordered the Luftwaffe to focus on destroying the Royal Air Force (RAF) by attacking British coastal defences and airfields with great success
15, 23 AUGUST 1940	Germans accidentally bombed the outskirts of London, killing some civilians. Britain retaliated by making bombing raids on Berlin
7 SEPTEMBER 1940	Hitler changed the focus of attacks to British cities. Sustained strategic bombing of British cities known as the Blitz commenced. The RAF was given much needed breathing space to repair their airfields and radar systems. The blitz also boosted British morale instead of crushing it. This was a miscalculation as the RAF was not entirely destroyed, allowing the RAP to retaliate and the Luftwaffe failed to achieve air supremacy
SEPTEMBER 1940	Tripartite Pact Germany, Italy joined with the Japan in the Tripartite Pact
29 DECEMBER 1940	Fireside chat ‘On National Security’ Roosevelt argued for increased involvement in the war
1940 ONWARDS	America imposed economic sanctions on the Axis Powers to deprive them of resources needed for their war effort. It restricted supplies of important materials such as iron to Japan. Effective as it prevented resources from reaching Japan. Japan had scarce natural resources, reliant on imports, no natural resources.
11 MARCH 1941	Lend-Lease Act Gave President Roosevelt authority to supply weapons, food and equipment to Britain and any country whose defence the President thought was vital to the national security of the USA. Payment could be deferred or demanded by the USA at a later time. Payment need not be made in cash. Recipients of aid did not have to provide for their own transportation.
FROM JUNE 1941	Many civilians who opposed the Nazis joined the communist resistance
22 JUNE 1941	Invasion of the Soviet Union Hitler broke the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact by invading the USSR. Poor military decisions lost 6 weeks of good weather. The German army was not trained to fight in cold weather or long-drawn war, which led to low morale. By fighting both Britain and the USA on its Western front, and USSR on the Eastern front, Hitler faced a two-front war. Hitler overstretched the army which proved too much for Germany.

12 JULY 1941	USSR formed a military alliance with Britain and formally entered WWII on the side of the Allies
JULY—SEPTEMBER 1941	Soviet resistance delayed the German advance. Hitler diverted troops to attack other areas instead of first attacking Moscow (capital).
8 SEPTEMBER 1941	The Siege of Leningrad
2 OCT 1941—7 JANUARY 1942	The Battle of Moscow commenced The Red army made use of the bitter winter to launch a counterattack against the Germans. This Soviet victory was the first defeat of the German army in the Eastern Front
7 DECEMBER 1941	Bombing of Pearl Harbour
8 DECEMBER 1941	America declared war on Japan. Germany promptly declared war on America. USA's official entry into the war.
JUNE 1942	The German offensive reopened south of Moscow
AUGUST 1942—FEBRUARY 1943	Battle of Stalingrad The German army was unable to defeat the Red Army despite controlling 90% of the city. The winter of 1942 severely weakened the army and gave the Soviets time to reorganise and rearm. It was a decisive Soviet victory with the destruction of German forces there.
1943 ONWARDS	German synthetic oil plants and oilfields were subjected to heavy Allied aerial bombing led by the USA
1943–1944	Regular bombing of German cities, vital industries, rail links and synthetic oil plants by American and British air raid This hindered German production of war materials and forced Germany to focus production on anti-aircraft guns rather than tanks. The Luftwaffe never fully recovered.
5 JULY—23 AUGUST 1943	The Battle of Kursk commenced. The Red Army was ready for that was supposed to be a surprise attack, Germany retreated from the Eastern front from this point onwards
6 JUNE 1944	D-Day landings / Operation Overlord The Allies landed their troops in Normandy, France. The D-Day landings involved huge numbers of military personnel and military equipment. This might not have been possible without US involvement as America provided a lot of manpower and equipment.

OUTBREAK OF WW2 IN ASIA-PACIFIC

1868	Meiji Restoration Modernisation of Japan.
1882	Chinese Exclusion Act was passed by USA Chinese Immigration was suspended
1894	First-Sino Japanese War
1902—1922	Anglo-Japanese Alliance — negotiated each other's interests in Asia. This alliance was renewed in 1905 .
1904—1905	Russo-Japanese War Russia and Japan went to war over Manchuria in 1904 . Russia needed Manchuria to provide them with an ice-free port all year round, which threatened Japan's colonial interests in Manchuria. The Japanese wanted a diplomatic solution but Russia viewed Japan as inferior and much less powerful. Japan defeated the Russians in 1905 and signed the Treaty of Portsmouth in SEPTEMBER 1905 . The Treaty stated that Japan would gain control of the Liaodong Peninsula, the South Manchurian Railway and the southern half of the Sakhalin Island This marked the emergence of Japan as the strongest power in the Asia Pacific, with military power strong enough to rival one of the Western powers.
1905	Japanese and Korean Exclusion League Both the USA and Japan faced pressure from their citizens to act against the other. Americans feared competition for jobs from Japanese immigrants. Japan was greatly offended by this act of racial discrimination.
1919	Paris Peace Conference Japan proposed a racial equality clause to be included in the agreement with the League of Nations. Woodrow Wilson would not pass the proposal without unanimous agreement. The proposed clause failed to gain the approval of Britain and Australia, and was rejected. This caused great unhappiness amongst some Japanese, who felt that they were not given due respect by the Western powers. Relationships deteriorated.
1921	Washington Naval Conference Organised by the USA to try and slow down the Arms Race and reduce the general fear of another war. Ratio for naval strength was 5 (USA): 5 (Britain): 3 (Japan) This displeased the Japanese as they felt like the West was trying to limit Japan's military power and viewed Japan as weaker than them.
1929	Great Depression The USA and Britain began to practise protectionism in order to shield their own economies. Countries raised taxes and decreased their demand for Japan's exports such as silk. This affected the Japanese economy significantly and caused an economic depression in Japan. This, along with overpopulation, made Japan more determined to acquire new colonies to obtain new resources and markets for Japanese manufactured goods. This could solve overcrowding as excess population could be relocated to these new territories.

SEPTEMBER 1931	<p>Manchurian Crisis Bomb at a Japanese-owned railway at Mukden exploded. Japan blamed China and took over Manchuria, renaming it Manchukuo. China and LON refused to recognise Manchukuo and only agreed to regard Manchuria as a Chinese territory. After a year, the Lytton Commission found that Japan had committed an act of aggression. Tense relations continued as Japan tried to conquer more territories in China.</p> <p>This displayed the weakness of LON as it could not credibly punish aggressors. This also emboldened Japan as it showed Japan that LON would not take action against their expansionist policies.</p>
1932	Instances of fighting between Japanese and Chinese troops in northern China, which allowed Japan to increase their control over Manchuria
1933	Japan withdrew from LON
1937	<p>The Second Sino-Japanese War Japanese and Chinese troops exchanged gunfire in the vicinity of the Marco Polo Bridge. Afterwards, the Japanese discovered that one of their soldiers was missing and demanded to be allowed to search the town as they thought the Chinese might have captured him. Both sides increased their military strength in the area and despite attempts to resolve the issue, the heightened tensions between the Japanese and Chinese resulted in a full scale invasion of China.</p>
1939	Roosevelt cancelled the 1911 commercial treaty with Japan, thus placing restrictions on Japanese trade with the USA
1940	Japan invaded Indochina — Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia
1940 (?)	<p>Roosevelt imposed a total trade embargo on Japan in response to the Japanese occupation of Vietnam. The USA banned the export of steel, scrap iron and fuel to Japan.</p> <p>These resources were essential to support Japan's war efforts in China in the Second Sino-Japanese War. Japan had no choice but to invade SEA to obtain resources as it was predicted that its oil reserves would only last it 2 more years.</p>
7 DECEMBER 1941	<p>Bombing of Pearl Harbour</p> <p>Surprise attack caught the USA off guard. Japan sank 5 of 8 battleships at anchor and bombed its aircraft fields. Over 2,400 Americans were killed.</p>
8 DECEMBER 1941	USA official entry into the war as Roosevelt declared war on Japan

END OF WW2 IN ASIA-PACIFIC

1940s ONWARDS	<p>America imposed economic sanctions on the Axis Powers to deprive them of resources needed for their war effort. It restricted supplies of important materials such as iron to Japan.</p> <p>Effective as it prevented resources from reaching Japan. Japan had scarce natural resources, reliant on imports, no natural resources.</p>
1942	Thai–Burma railway
18 APRIL 1942	<p>Doolittle raid on Tokyo</p> <p>The USA planned to fly over Japan and land the bombers in China, even though they risked capture by Japanese occupying forces. 16 bombers took off from aircraft carriers in the Pacific and bombed Tokyo, Nagoya and Kobe in a retaliatory surprise attack.</p>
3—8 MAY 1942	<p>Battle of the Coral Sea</p> <p>Japan planned to land its soldiers at Port Moresby and take control of New Guinea, which was a necessary step to launching an attack on Australia. The Americans had decoded the Japanese coded messages ordering the attack, and brought in two of their aircraft carriers against the Japanese carriers.</p> <p>The battle was a draw in terms of damage to the fleets, but the attack on Port Moresby was cancelled because Japan could not guarantee the safety of its troops. It was a victory for the Allies as Japan's southward advance was halted.</p>
3—6 JUNE 1942	<p>Battle of Midway</p> <p>Japan's aim was to bomb the island defences and land troops on the Midway Islands so that the islands could become a base for Japanese naval and air forces. The USA hid their carriers in the open sea, away from the islands and out of sight from the first wave of Japanese bombers. Before the Japanese aircraft could return from the first strike, the USA attacked the Japanese fleet with their own dive bombers launched from the carriers.</p> <p>As a result of the Battle of Midway, the Japanese lost four of their aircraft carriers and nearly three-quarters of their experienced pilots. This severely affected their naval and air defence capabilities throughout the remainder of the war.</p>
AUGUST 1942	<p>Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands</p> <p>Allies aimed to regain control of the Solomon Islands and New Guinea to remove Japan's threat against Australia and the Southern Pacific Ocean. The USA greatly outnumbered the Japanese and Japan lost 25,000 men and 600 planes in the battle. By MID 1944, the Allies had surrounded and cut the Japanese naval and air bases off from the rest of the Japanese forces, through the strategy of 'island hopping'</p>
JUNE 1944	<p>The Marianas Islands</p> <p>The Allies sought to seize the Marianas Islands in order to establish air force capabilities there. The Marianas were close enough to Japan to allow American heavy bomber planes to attack the Japanese mainland. During the naval battle known as The Battle of the Philippine Sea (19—20 JUNE 1944), Japan lost 2 more carriers and 300 air planes</p>
OCTOBER 1944	<p>The Philippines</p> <p>American forces battled with Japanese ground forces on the island of Leyte. During a naval battle known as the Battle of the Leyte Gulf, the Japanese navy lost 4 carriers, 3 battleships, 10 cruisers and 9 destroyers.</p>
NOVEMBER 1944	<p>The Allies bombed an aircraft factory in Tokyo. 250,000 buildings were destroyed and 185,000 civilians were killed. Over eight million civilians fled Japanese cities for the countryside.</p>

FEBRUARY 1945	Iwo Jima The Americans wanted to build an airfield on Iwo Jima to launch and supply large long-range bombers that could reach Japan and return safely. The aim was to devastate Japan's industry and economy through bombing. American battleships bombarded the island, but the 21,000-strong Japanese garrison there stayed hidden in bunkers and survived to fight the American landings. Over 7,000 US soldiers were killed and 17,000 wounded in the attack but the island was captured.
APRIL 1945	Okinawa Okinawa was an ideal base for launching attacks on the main islands of Japan. It also had a good harbour that allowed for loading transports for any invasion of Japan by the US army. Okinawa was well-defended by 77,000 Japanese soldiers and 24,000 Okinawan conscripts. The Japanese also launched over a thousand kamikaze attacks and several thousand conventional air attacks. The US and Britain lost 36 ships in the operation. Over 60,000 Japanese soldiers and 100,000 Okinawan civilians died or committed suicide, while 12,500 Americans died and 44,000 were wounded.
6 AUGUST 1945	Dropping of 'Little Boy' atomic bomb over Hiroshima A third of the city's population were killed instantly. Another 70,000 or more Japanese citizens were injured.
8 AUGUST 1945	Stalin declared war on Japan
9 AUGUST 1945	Dropping of 'Fat Man' atomic bomb over Nagasaki. 40,000 people were killed instantly, and another 25,000 burnt by this explosion.
15 AUGUST 1945	Japanese unconditional surrender

START OF COLD WAR

7 NOVEMBER 1917—16 JUNE 1923	<p>Russian Civil War The USA viewed Russia as a threat to its own political and economic security and influence. The USA provided military and other forms of aid to the Russian anti-communist forces (the ‘Whites’). Woodrow Wilson also provided 5,000 American troops to aid these anti-communists in a bid to prevent a communist victory in Russia.</p> <p>Lenin perceived this as attempts of the West to undermine the survival of Russia as well as communism, creating tension between the USA and USSR.</p>
MARCH 1919	<p>Founding of Communist International (Comintern)</p> <p>Aimed to create an international Soviet Republic by all available means, including armed forces.</p>
1922	Official formation of the Soviet Union, but the West refused to recognise it.
AUGUST 1939	<p>Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact Pact whereby Germany and Soviet Union would not attack each other and would resolve any problems between them in a friendly manner. This benefitted Germany as it would not have to fight a two-front war.</p> <p>This caused the Western powers to distrust the USSR even more.</p>
JUNE 1941	Soviet Union formally enters World War II
DECEMBER 1941	USA formally enters World War II
JUNE 1944	The Second front was opened with the D-Day landings
FEBRUARY 1945	Yalta Conference
JULY–AUGUST 1945	Potsdam Conference
6 AUGUST 1945	<p>Dropping of ‘Little Boy’ atomic bomb over Hiroshima A third of the city’s population were killed instantly. Another 70,000 or more Japanese citizens were injured.</p>
9 AUGUST 1945	<p>Dropping of ‘Fat Man’ atomic bomb over Nagasaki. 40,000 people were killed instantly, and another 25,000 burnt by this explosion.</p>
9 FEBRUARY 1946	Stalin made a speech in which he said that there was an inherent conflict between capitalism and communism
22 FEBRUARY 1946	<p>Kennan’s Long Telegram</p> <p>Kennan is the deputy head of the American mission in Moscow. It provided the necessary impetus for the USA to shift its foreign policy away from isolationism and adopt the policy of containment.</p>
MARCH 1946	<p>Churchill’s ‘Iron Curtain’ speech It was a metaphor for the ideological and political divide between the This strengthened the view among the Western powers of USSR’s hostility towards</p>

	them, giving the USA even more reason to adopt the policy of containment
JANUARY 1947	Zones of Germany occupied by the USA and Britain combined to form Bizonia to overcome an economic crisis in the Western zones
MARCH 1947	Truman Doctrine An American foreign policy that pledges American support for democracies against authoritarian threats
JUNE 1947	The Marshall Plan The USA would provide economic aid to reconstruct Europe and its economies, regardless of whether the countries were under communist influence or otherwise. An economically strong Europe would benefit the USA as Europe had become its main export market. This was also to contain communism and minimise the danger of European countries embracing communism, since poverty may lead to spread of communism, the Marshall Plan would offer economic assistance from the USA that would provide immediate relief and revitalise the European capitalist economies. If the USSR accepted aid, it would open itself to the USA's influence and undermine its own influence. If the USSR rejected aid for both its own country and its satellite states, relations between the satellite states and the USSR could be strained. Either way, the Marshall Plan served to deliberately undermine USSR's influence in Europe and the rest of the world
SEPTEMBER 1947	Cominform (Communist Information Bureau)
17 MARCH 1948	Treaty of Brussels Britain signed with Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France to curb the spread of communism.
21 JUNE 1948	A new currency, the Deutsche Mark, replaced the old and now worthless Reichsmark and Rentenmark in the Western zones. It helped to prevent hyperinflation and steady the prices of German export products, which in turn led to strong economic recovery in the Western zones.
22 JUNE 1948	Stalin introduced his own new currency, the Ostmark, in the Soviet zone. It aimed to rival the Deutsche Mark, as well as curb inflation due to the flooding of Reichsmark and Rentenmark notes from the Western zones to the Soviet zone.
24 JUNE 1948	Berlin Blockade Stalin imposed a blockade on movement into West Berlin by cutting off all land and water pathways, as well as communications between the Western zones in Germany and West Berlin. Food supplies and electricity to West Berlin were also cut off. Stalin aimed to starve the Germans in West Berlin into submission, and force the Western powers to abandon their plans of unifying their three occupation zones into an eventual West German state, in accordance with his wish to keep Germany divided and weak.
26 JUNE 1948	Berlin Airlift The Western powers flew supplies into West Berlin for the next 11 months, with one plane reaching West Berlin every 30 seconds at the height of the airlift. The Soviets did not shoot the planes of the Western powers down, for fear of being seen as engaging in an act of war.
12 MAY 1949	Berlin Blockade ends Realising the blockade had failed, Stalin entered into negotiations with the Western powers and re-opened the land and water routes into West Berlin. Nevertheless, the Western powers continued to fly supplies into West Berlin to ensure an adequate supply of resources.
JANUARY 1949	Comecon (Council of mutual Economic Assistance) Set up to coordinate Cominform's economic policies and unite the economies of Eastern Europe with that of the Soviet Union.
APRIL 1949	French zone merged with Bizonia to form Trizonia, forming West Germany
4 APRIL 1949	NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) is formed

AUGUST 1949	USSR detonation of the atomic bomb
30 SEPTEMBER 1949	Berlin Airlift officially ended More than 2.3 million tonnes of supplies had been flown into West Berlin during the crisis about two-thirds of which was coal.
1955	Inclusion of West Germany into NATO, triggering creation of Warsaw pact
14 MAY 1955	Warsaw Pact The USSR formed the Warsaw Pact with its Eastern European satellite states, pledging to defend any other country which might be attacked by an external party. They also promised to respect the national sovereignty and political independence of other member countries and not interfere in each other's international affairs The main objective of the Warsaw Pact was to defend the Soviet Union against any further invasion , especially from Western Europe.
AUGUST 1961	Berlin Wall A wall that physically separates West Berlin from the surrounding East Germany and prevented East Germans from escaping to or through West Berlin. Physical symbol of the 'Iron Curtain'

KOREAN WAR

JULY—AUGUST 1945	Potsdam Conference The USA and Soviet Union agreed to free Korea from Japanese occupation and divide Korea at the 38th parallel
NOVEMBER 1947	The UN passed resolution calling for free elections in Korea
15 AUGUST 1948	The Republic of Korea (South Korea) was established with American support, electing Syngman Rhee as the President of the capitalist ROK.
9 SEPTEMBER 1948	The United Nations (UN) conducted elections in the southern half of Korea in May, but the USSR refused to allow the northern half of Korea to participate in the elections. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was formed with Soviet support. Kim Il Sung became President of the communist DPRK.
END 1948	Soviet troops withdrew from North Korea, leaving behind only 120 military advisers.
MAY 1949	End of Berlin Blockade A failed Soviet attempt to negotiate for its interests in Germany and a stabilisation of the Cold War in Europe.
JUNE 1949	American troops withdrew from South Korea, leaving behind only 500 personnel from the Korea Military Advisory Group to train ROK forces.
JULY 1949	South Korean warships attacked North Korean military installations at the mouth of Taedong River, and sank most of North Korea's west coast fleet. This provoked the retaliation of the North Korean army (NKPA) and both sides engaged in fierce fighting which led to heavy casualties This highlighted SK's inability to launch successful offensive attacks.
AUGUST 1949	The Soviets successfully detonated the atomic bomb. The USSR gained nuclear parity with the USA, meaning that the USA could no longer use atomic diplomacy against the USSR regarding Korea. This started the arms race and made USSR more confident of its military capabilities
OCTOBER 1949	The People's Republic of China (PRC) was established. Gaining of confidence by Stalin of the possibility of a communist victory in the region. Emergence of CCP as a powerful communist power / communist bloc with close Sino-Soviet relations, and the growing need to be stronger against communism in the US. This is because the US had backed the KMT in the civil war but still lost—the idea then that if the US had provided more support the KMT would have won.
JANUARY 1950	Secretary of State Dean Acheson defined the American “defensive perimeter” in Asia as excluding South Korea
FEBRUARY 1950	The USSR concluded the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance with China.
APRIL 1950	The NSC-68 report was released in the USA. The chief argument was that if the USA failed to move decisively to counter future Soviet aggression, American allies would lose heart and drift into dangerous neutrality—making them vulnerable to communism. NSC68 as a reflection of the growing domestic sentiment in the USA → need to be tougher on communism, a decisive build up as necessary to prevent further Soviet expansion. The NSC68 faced some resistance when it was released to Congress as critics thought it was too expensive and too unnecessary. It was only after the outbreak of the Korean War that it was accepted as necessary against Soviet aggression.
25 JUNE 1950	North Korea launched a full-scale invasion of South Korea. Rhee appealed to the USA and the UN for help.

	The UN Security Council unanimously condemned the North Korean invasion of South Korea, passing a resolution calling upon North Korea to end hostilities and withdraw north of the 38th Parallel.
27 JUNE 1950	Truman called for the UN to employ the use of force as North Korea did not respond to the Security Council's resolution
JUNE—JULY 1950	<p>President Harry Truman authorised a limited commitment of American air and naval units to South Korea. With American support, the UN unanimously passed a resolution condemning North Korea.</p> <p>Truman authorised General Douglas MacArthur to commit American ground combat forces to defend South Korea. The initial American policy was to stop the invasion and restore the territorial integrity of the ROK.</p> <p>The UN Security Council voted in favour of ROK. The USSR was absent as the Security Council had refused to give the PRC (People's Republic of China) a seat in the UN.</p>
7 JULY 1950	A multinational UN Command was established under MacArthur's leadership to help South Korea resist the North Korean aggression.
JULY—SEPTEMBER 1950	North Korea's invasion was highly successful. DPRK forces pressed deep into South Korean territory. By AUGUST , almost the entire Korean peninsula was in communist hands. American-led UN troops could only cling on to the defensive line around Pusan (Pusan Perimeter).
SEPTEMBER 1950	<p>The American-led forces successfully launched a series of offensives. MacArthur launched a bold landing from sea at Incheon, forcing North Korean troops to retreat back across the 38th Parallel to avoid encirclement. Seoul, the South Korean capital city, was liberated.</p> <p>Truman gave permission to MacArthur's forces to cross the 38th parallel. South Korean troops, followed by American forces, moved northwards at great speed to occupy the North Korean capital city Pyongyang and headed to the Chinese border along the Yalu River.</p>
OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 1950	<p>In OCTOBER, Kim appealed to Stalin for help. Stalin wanted to maintain a low profile. He ordered Soviet military advisers not to go south of the 38th Parallel, instructed Soviet pilots to conceal their identity, and refused to commit Soviet troops. Stalin asked Chinese leader Mao Zedong to send Chinese troops. Mao eventually agreed and sent the Chinese People's Volunteer Army south across the Yalu River in large numbers.</p> <p>The Chinese assault caught the UN forces by surprise as war between China and the USA was not declared. Chinese troops forced UN troops to withdraw from North Korea.</p>
JANUARY 1951	Chinese and North Korean forces captured Seoul.
MARCH 1951	The UN troops mounted a major offensive, and restored a defensive line just north of the 38th Parallel.
APRIL—MAY 1951	<p>In APRIL, Truman dismissed MacArthur mainly because MacArthur openly demanded an invasion of China against Truman's wishes.</p> <p>American-led UN troops recaptured Seoul and pushed North Korean and Chinese forces back north of the 38th Parallel.</p>
23 JUNE 1951	Soviet Union called for armistice talks
JULY 1951	Negotiations for an armistice began. It remained stalled for 2 years. In the meantime, both sides attempted to display their resolve by continuing limited military actions with significant additional casualties.
27 JULY 1953	The United States-led UN Command, the USSR, and the PRC signed an armistice at Panmunjom. It ended the fighting but it was not a permanent peace

	settlement. The Korean peninsula remained politically and geographically divided.
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CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS	
1 JANUARY 1959	Fidel Castro overthrew pro-US Cuban dictator Batista and assumed power after the Cuban Revolution
APRIL 1959	<p>Castro visited the US but President Dwight D. Eisenhower had no wish to meet with him—Castro wanted to maintain friendly ties.</p> <p>Instead, Castro met Vice-President Richard Nixon for talks. After the meeting, Nixon expressed doubts about making Castro align with the US</p>
MAY 1959	<p>Land Reform Law Friendly towards communism, which nationalised private property, including those belonging to wealthy pro-US Cubans, and distributed the confiscated land to the Cuban masses. Americans were also forbidden from owning sugar plantations.</p> <p>This soured relations between Cuba and America.</p>
FEBRUARY 1960	Anastas Mikoyan, Soviet deputy premier, visited Cuba for trade talks and offered to purchase large quantities of Cuban sugar , one of Cuba’s main exports.
APRIL 1960	The US government pressured American oil refineries in Cuba not to process Soviet oil. In response, Castro nationalised all American-owned industries and agrarian enterprises.
MAY 1960	Cuba received oil and arms from the USSR and established formal diplomatic relations with the USSR—Cuba is open to communism
NOVEMBER 1960	US government imposed an economic embargo on Cuba—worsened US-Cuba relations
19 DECEMBER 1960	Cuba openly aligned itself with the USSR but Castro did not declare for communism
3 JANUARY 1961 <i>(threatening Soviet cities after Cuba aligned itself with USSR—a warning)</i>	<p>The USA severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.</p> <p>The USA deployed Jupiter and Thor intermediate-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs) in Turkey, which directly threatened Soviet cities within a range of 1500 miles. Moscow was included within the range of the Jupiter missiles. Given that the Soviets did not have many ICBMs which would be capable of reaching US cities, the Soviets faced a strategic imbalance in the nuclear arms race</p>
12 APRIL 1961	President John F. Kennedy pledged that the USA would not intervene militarily to overthrow Castro.
17 APRIL 1961	<p>Bay of Pigs invasion (backed by the USA) A group of Cuban exiles invaded Cuba in an attempt to trigger an anti-Castro rebellion. The invasion failed and more than 1000 Cuban rebels were captured by Castro forces.</p>
MAY 1961	In a speech for May Day celebrations, Castro declared that he was a Marxist-Leninist and that Cuba was going to adopt communism—openly aligned with communism, souring US & Cuba relations
NOVEMBER 1961	Operation Mongoose?
27 JULY 1962	Castro announced that Cuba was taking measures to prevent any direct American attack on Cuba. He claimed that the USSR had invested greatly in helping to defend his country.
10 AUGUST 1962	Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) sent a memo to Kennedy expressing his belief that Soviet medium-range ballistic missiles (MRBMs)

	would be deployed in Cuba.
29 AUGUST 1962	A US U-2 reconnaissance flight found a series of anti-aircraft surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites on Cuba. It provoked rumours and allegations that Cuba was about to become a Soviet nuclear base
8 SEPTEMBER 1962	By now, Operation Anadyr (codename for the Soviet operation to place nuclear missiles on Cuba) had commenced. The Soviet cargo ship, Omsk, unloaded the first of several SS-4 MRBMs (without warheads) at Cuba's Port Mariel.
11 SEPTEMBER 1962	In a speech to the United Nations, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko warned that an American attack on Cuba could mean war with the USSR
15 SEPTEMBER 1962	<p>Missiles and their related equipment arrived the second time. The second Soviet ship, the Poltava, carrying SS-4 missiles arrived in Cuba. Thereafter additional MRBMs, missiles trailers, materials for building nuclear warhead storage bunkers and other related equipment are rushed to the construction sites. Similar equipment for IRBMs also arrived.</p> <p>Also in September, non-missile military arms began to arrive in Cuba: a steady stream of Soviet ships brought IL-28 medium jet bombers, MIG 21 fighter jets, additional SAMs, cruise missiles and patrol boats</p> <p>The planned deployment of 40 launchers with 8p warheads would have increased Soviet first-strike capability by 80%</p>
4 OCTOBER 1962	Nuclear warheads for the MRBMs arrived, along with dozens of nuclear warheads for the Sopka coastal defense cruise missiles, 6 nuclear bombs for the IL-28 bomber aircraft and 12 nuclear warheads for the short-range tactical nuclear rockets
9 OCTOBER 1962	Kennedy ordered a U-2 reconnaissance flight over western Cuba, but was delayed due to bad weather until 14 October
14 OCTOBER 1962	A U-2 flying over western Cuba discovered missile sites. Photographs obtained by this flight proved hard evidence that the Soviets have missiles in Cuba and that SS-4 missile sites were under construction
15 OCTOBER 1962	The US National Photographic Intelligence Centre reviewed the photos taken during the U-2 flight and identified objects similar to MRBM components observed in the USSR.
16 OCTOBER 1962	News was broken to Kennedy who called for a meeting of a group later known as the Ex-Comm. At the meeting, Kennedy and his advisors discussed the possible diplomatic and military courses of action. The Cuban Missile Crisis had begun.
17 OCTOBER 1962	Throughout the Ex-Comm's discussions, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and especially the Air Force argued strongly for an air strike. Another U-2 flight in the night showed that there were intermediate range (IRBMs) SS-5 nuclear missiles on Cuban soil.
18 OCTOBER 1962	Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, and Kennedy met for two hours and the former assured Kennedy that Soviet aid to Cuba had been purely for the "defensive capabilities of Cuba"
20 OCTOBER 1962	Kennedy met with his advisers and ordered a defensive quarantine institute as soon as possible
21 OCTOBER 1962	<p>General Maxwell Taylor told Kennedy that an air strike could not guarantee the destruction of all Soviet missiles in Cuba. Kennedy decided on a naval blockade of Cuba.</p> <p>Another U-2 flight revealed that bombers and MiGs were being rapidly assembled and cruise missile sites were being built on Cuba's northern shore.</p>
22 OCTOBER 1962	Kennedy announced the presence of offensive missile sites in Cuba to the nation in a televised speech. He declared a naval quarantine and warned of "fuller retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union."

	US military forces went on DEFCON3 and the Marines reinforced the US base and Guantanamo Bay.
23 OCTOBER 1962	<p>Kennedy ordered 6 Crusader jets to fly on a low-level reconnaissance mission.</p> <p>The Organisation of American States (OAS) unanimously approved of the quarantine against Cuba. By the end of the day, US ships took up positions along the quarantine line, 800 miles from Cuba.</p> <p>Late that evening, the President sent Robert Kennedy to the Soviet embassy to talk with Ambassador Dobrynin. Khrushchev commented that there was a “serious threat to peace and security of peoples.” The President decided to give Khrushchev more time and pulled the quarantine line back by 500 miles.</p>
24 OCTOBER 1962	Soviet ships en-route to Cuba with questionable cargo were either slowed down or reversed their course except for one. American military forces went on DEFCON2, the highest ever in US history.
26 OCTOBER 1962	<p>The Soviet-chartered Lebanese ship, Marcela, was cleared through the blockade.</p> <p>Kennedy in an Ex-Comm meeting said that quarantine alone cannot force the Soviet government . A CIA report also confirmed that there was no halt in the progress in the development of the missile sites and another reconnaissance flight revealed the Soviets were attempting to camouflage the missiles.</p> <p>Khrushchev sent another letter proposing the removal of his missiles if Kennedy would publicly announce he would never invade Cuba</p>
27 OCTOBER 1962	<p>Khrushchev proposed to trade Soviet missiles in Cuba for American missiles in Turkey. An American U—2 was shot down over Cuba, killing the pilot. Another U—2 strayed into Soviet airspace near Alaska and was nearly intercepted by Soviet fighters.</p> <p>Kennedy replied to Khrushchev stating that he would make a statement that the US would not invade Cuba if Khrushchev removed the missiles from Cuba. There was a public promise not to invade Cuba, but the US privately undertook to discreetly remove the 15 obsolescent Jupiter missiles in Turkey.</p>
28 OCTOBER 1962	Khrushchev announced over Radio Moscow that he had agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba.

END OF COLD WAR

1956	Hungarian Revolution After WWII, the USSR occupied Hungary and established a communist regime. Popular unrest led to the resignation of the communist Prime Minister Mátyás Rákosi, who was replaced with nationalist Imre Nagy. Nagy announced that Hungary would withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and would be a neutral, multiparty social democracy. However, Soviet forces invaded Hungary, crushed the popular revolution and overthrew Nagy's government
1968	Prague Spring A period of liberal reforms in Czechoslovakia under the leadership of communist leader Alexander Dubček. Dubček believed that authoritarian political control and centralised economic planning were not working and began introducing democratic and human rights reforms. The rest of the Warsaw Pact countries, led by the Soviet Union, invaded Czechoslovakia and replaced Dubček with a more compliant leader
NOVEMBER 1968	Introduction of Brezhnev Doctrine No country within the Warsaw pact was allowed to leave the Pact or threaten the cohesiveness of the Soviet bloc, giving USSR the authority to intervene in internal affairs of the Warsaw Pact countries to put down uprisings / revolutions
LATE 1960s	America enlisted the support of Su to convince communist North Vietnam to negotiate a peace treaty with USA to end the Vietnam war
1969—1974	Period of Détente Richard Nixon's dropped the foreign policy of containment and hostility to adopt a policy of détente with the USSR. Both superpowers increased their cooperation to bring about less tensions and rivalry and agreed to not interfere in each other's sphere of influence.
MAY 1972	SALT I Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT I) in May 1972 to attempt to limit and later reduce the number of nuclear weapons that they possessed
MAY 1972	Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty Limit their possession of anti-ballistic missile sites to two for each superpower
1972	Brezhnev agreed to repay WWII debts to the USA. USA granted the most-favoured nation status to the Soviet Union, allowing SU to purchase large supplies of grain from the USA
1973 & 1979	Oil crises which caused a severe downturn for USA As a result, Reagan pursued economic liberalisation where individual enterprise was encouraged instead of relying on government spending. This included cutting national budgets and selling off national assets such as phone companies and oil companies and airlines. This stimulated the US economy and resulted in economic growth.
1974	'Most-favoured nation' status was revoked in retaliation for the SU's ongoing support to Arab nations, whom the USA perceived as enemies of its ally Israel.
1975	Angolan Civil War USA supported the non-communist faction while USSR supported the communist factions, straining the relations. Both superpowers sent significant amounts of economic and military aid to opposing groups.
NOVEMBER 1976	Jimmy Carter became president. He believed that arms limitations would give the USSR military superiority over the USA and disapproved of SU's apparent human rights violations.

1979	<p>Soviet invasion of Afghanistan The Afghan government was facing open rebellion from the Mujahideen who had support from the Afghan people. Fearing the loss of its influence over Afghanistan, the SU sent troops to replace the existing Afghan president with its own choice of president, restore order and support the new government.</p> <p>This choice was heavily and widely criticised by the international community. This caused Carter to cancel arms limitation talks, impose embargoes on grain supplies and the transfer of technology to the SU.</p>
JANUARY 1981	<p>Ronald Reagan elected as US President He essentially restarted the Containment Policy. Reagan was strongly anti-communist and adopted a more confrontational attitude towards the Soviet Union, reviving the arms race and supporting the Mujahideen against the USSR in Afghanistan.</p>
23 MARCH 1983	<p>Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) The programme aimed at developing new technologies, such as satellites deployed in orbit around the earth, to detect and destroy any potential nuclear attack by intercontinental missiles. Although SDI was an expensive programme, the USA was able to fund research more easily through its extensive financial network. This made it difficult for the Soviet Union to catch up, as the SU did not have the financial or scientific resources to match the USA in space-based military technology.</p>
NOVEMBER 1983	<p>Able Archer 83 The USSR mistook a NATO military exercise as a prelude to an actual invasion. The USSR proceeded to put all its military resources on high alert, putting their air force units in East Germany and Poland on alert.</p> <p>Near outbreak of nuclear war made Reagan re-evaluate his belligerent foreign policies towards the USSR. He realised that the USSR was just as concerned as the USA about maintaining peace. He realised that his aggressive stance had pushed the two sides closer to another nuclear war and the fearful reaction of the Soviets also made him realise that the USSR wanted peace rather than conflict.</p>
MARCH 1985	Mikhail Gorbachev came to power
NOVEMBER 1985	Reagan and Gorbachev met for the first time at the Geneva Summit in Geneva, Switzerland. Established friendly and personal relationship between the two leaders, even though they did not come to a compromise on the issues of the arms race.
FEBRUARY 1986	Gorbachev introduced Perestroika and Glasnost.
DECEMBER 1987	<p>Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty signed. Both leaders agreed to remove the mobile intermediate-range nuclear missiles deployed in Europe as a result of 'Able Archer 83'.</p> <p>This was significant as it was the first agreement between the superpowers which led to arms reduction. It symbolised the significant improvement in superpower relations because of negotiations between Reagan and Gorbachev.</p>
1988	Gorbachev's UN speech which mentioned the right of all people to determine their own governance.
JUNE 1988	Party Conference speech where Gorbachev also emphasised each country's right to choose its political and economic system.
DECEMBER 1988	Gorbachev announced 'de-ideologisation' of Soviet foreign policy at the UN, which signified abandonment of Brezhnev Doctrine.
1988—1989	Gorbachev withdrew Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which marked the end of the Soviet war in Afghanistan which had lasted for 10 years.
1988—1989	Poland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MAY–AUG 1988: Solidarity launched a series of workers' strikes ● APRIL 1989: the Polish government agreed to hold semi-free democratic elections ● JUNE 1989: Solidarity won all the seats they were allowed to contest for, while many prominent Communist Party candidates failed to get even the minimum number of votes to win the seats reserved for them ● Inspired peaceful revolutions in other parts of Eastern Europe
	Hungary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JANUARY 1989: the Hungarian government began democratic reforms ● OCTOBER 1989: the Hungarian government agreed to hold free elections
	East Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 SEPTEMBER 1989: after the weekly prayer meeting and with the support of the Lutheran Church, many East Germans gathered in the court of the church at Leipzig and held peaceful demonstrations, which became known as the Monday Demonstrations ● 9 OCTOBER 1989: the number of demonstrators grew to 70,000 people; the military and police refused to act on communist leader Erich Honecker's order to shoot and kill the protestors ● 18 OCTOBER 1989: Honecker was forced to resign ● The Monday Demonstrations continued until free elections of the East Germany government were announced in March 1990 ; this paved the way for the reunification of East and West Germany
	Czechoslovakia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NOVEMBER 1989: students began holding peaceful strikes and demonstrations in what became known as the Velvet Revolution ● 20 NOVEMBER 1989: the number of demonstrators grew to a million, and assembled in the capital, Prague ● 10 DECEMBER 1989: leaders of the Czech Communist Party agreed to hold elections and resigned
	Bulgaria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 NOVEMBER 1989: one day after the Berlin Wall fell, communist leader Todor Zhivkov was removed from power by the Bulgarian Politburo ● 11 DECEMBER 1989: amidst growing street protests, new leader Petar Mladenov announced that the Bulgarian Communist Party had abandoned power, and free elections were held in 1990
	Romania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DECEMBER 1989: Romanian revolted and overthrew communist leader Nicolae Ceaușescu's brutal and repressive government when his army turned against him; Ceaușescu and his wife were later tried and executed ● APRIL 1990: free elections were announced
9 NOVEMBER 1989	Fall of Berlin Wall Guenter Schabowski, an official of the East German Communist Party announced that the Berlin Wall would be open for 'private trip'
MARCH 1990	Reunification of East and West Germany
NOVEMBER 1990	Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe signed
JUNE 1991	Opposition leader Boris Yeltsin was elected as President of Russia
JULY 1991	Bush and Gorbachev signed Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) START I was aimed to substantially reduce nuclear arsenals rather than merely set limits to manage their numbers.
8 DECEMBER 1991	Russia, Ukraine and Belarus signed the Belavezha Accords to dissolve USSR

21 DECEMBER 1991	Representatives of all Soviet republics signed a protocol that confirmed this arrangement except Georgia
25 DECEMBER 1991	Gorbachev resigned as president
26 DECEMBER 1991	Soviet Union was dissolved