



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.9.2**

The Cold War

Specific Objective: Analyze the causes of the Cold War, with the free world on one side and Soviet client states on the other, including competition for influence in such places as Egypt, the Congo, Vietnam, and Chile.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

For nearly 45 years (about 1945 to 1991), the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in hostility that consumed resources and affected world politics as surely as any war. The period became known as the **Cold War**.

The United States	Both	The Soviet Union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> was committed to democratic and capitalist systems believed the Soviet Union wanted to spread communism to other countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wanted to be the dominant power in the world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> was committed to communist political and economic systems believed the U.S. wanted to suppress revolution in other countries

During the **Cold War**, the Soviet Union and the United States competed for dominance—especially in newly independent Asian and African nations:

- 1960 Congo** Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of the newly independent nation, receives support from the Soviet Union.
- 1954–1979 Egypt** Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser receives support from the Soviet Union.
- 1964–1973 Vietnam** In what begins as a civil war, the United States supports the anti-communist regime of South Vietnam.
- 1973 Chile** The United States supports a bloody overthrow of the socialist government of president Salvador Allende.

As the Cold War became global, many feared the possibility of a third world war, or a full scale nuclear war. The “hottest” or most direct confrontation came during the **Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962**. The U.S. response in the Cuban Missile Crisis was an example of **brinkmanship**—the willingness to go to the brink, or edge, of war in order to force an end to a crisis.

- The United States discovered Soviet missile sites on the island of Cuba.
- The United States blockaded Cuba and threatened to attack the Soviet Union.
- The Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles.



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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

Use the quotation to answer questions 1 and 2.

“It shall be the policy of this Nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.”

—U.S. president John Kennedy, Address on
The Cuban Crisis—October 22, 1962

1 According to President Kennedy, the United States would consider “any nuclear missile launched from Cuba” evidence of

- A Soviet aggression.
- B Cuban nuclear proliferation.
- C the globalization of the Cold War.
- D an attack on the Western Hemisphere.

2 What policy is reflected in President Kennedy’s phrase “a full retaliatory response”?

- A brinkmanship
- B containment
- C isolationism
- D nonproliferation

3 How did the Cold War get its name?

- A It started in the Soviet Union, which is very cold.
- B It took place between the superpowers of the Northern Hemisphere.
- C During the war, U.S. and Soviet troops never fought each other directly.
- D After 45 years, tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union grew cold.

4 Which is a result of the Cold War?

- A The Soviet Union built forced labor camps in Siberia.
- B The United States became involved in the Vietnam War.
- C The United States was committed to democracy and capitalism.
- D The Soviet Union wanted to be the dominant power in the world.

5 Why would the Soviet Union have been *most* interested in providing aid to the Congo in 1960?

- A It had valuable natural resources.
- B It was a newly independent nation.
- C It is located in the center of the African continent.
- D It is among the most populous African nations.