

**HISTORICAL
FACT**

One feminist poster popular in Britain around 1980 put the issue this way: 'It begins when you sink into his arms; it ends with your arms in his sink.'



Source 1.16 Merle Thornton and Rosalie Bognor chained to the foot-rail of the Regatta Hotel in Toowong, Brisbane, as a protest against women's exclusion from front bars, March 1965



The Cold War and Australia

Cold War the political and military tension between the Soviet Union and the United States from 1945 to 1989; the term was coined to indicate rivalry and hostility short of military conflict, but in fact the Cold War included several actual wars as well

The **Cold War** was a global struggle between the two superpowers: the **expansionist** communist Soviet Union and its bloc of Eastern European countries (with occasional support from China, which had its own Communist

Revolution in 1949), and the United States, which emerged as the richest industrial nation at the end of World War II, standing for **capitalism** and democracy. In March 1947 the United States announced its 'Truman Doctrine' (the policy set forth by then US President Harry Truman): that it would aid and support governments threatened by communist takeover, either internally or externally.

World War II had hardly finished in 1945 before the Cold War began. The Soviet Union, the United States and Britain were allies during World War II, but that changed quickly. Tensions developed in the late stages of the war, as the German army collapsed and the Soviet Union engulfed territory in Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union had been locked in a fierce and bitter struggle against Nazi Germany on the Eastern Front from 1941, and had asked the other Allies to open up a second front, but they did not re-enter Europe until June 1944.

The nuclear arms race began when the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. While the bombs were intended to make Japan surrender, it was widely thought that the bombs were also meant to send a message of US strength to the Soviet Union.

In the years immediately after the war, Soviet expansionism created a communist bloc in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Albania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Germany was divided into a democratic, capitalist West and a communist East; in 1949, the German capital Berlin was divided into zones controlled by the major powers.

One dramatic episode of the Cold War occurred right in America's Caribbean backyard. In 1959, Fidel Castro rose to power in Cuba,

expansionism the extending the territory or economy of a country

capitalism an economic system based on private ownership and free enterprise



Source 1.17 A crowd of people gather in a department store to watch John F. Kennedy address the nation during the Cuban Missile Crisis, 22 October 1962

which became a communist country and an ally of the Soviet Union. In April 1961, US President John F. Kennedy sent a force of CIA-trained anti-Castro Cubans into Cuba in the hope of inciting an uprising. The invasion – named the Bay of Pigs after the bay where the force landed – failed.

In October 1962 the US Government learned that the Soviet Union had sent technicians to Cuba to build launch sites for nuclear missiles that were within range of reaching the United States. President Kennedy gave the Soviet Union an ultimatum to withdraw its missiles, and the whole world believed that it was on the brink of nuclear war between the two superpowers. After two very tense weeks, the Soviet Government backed down.

Cold War conflicts

The Cold War is known as ‘cold’ because the superpowers never engaged in a major battle *directly* with each other; it was a period of tension and threat of nuclear war. However, there were many actual armed conflicts – or ‘hot wars’ – fought during the Cold War, which can be directly attributed to the tensions of the period.

Korea

In 1950, communist North Korea invaded capitalist South Korea. At the behest of the United States, the UN passed a resolution requesting all member states to help South Korea expel the invaders. American forces led the counter-attack, going so far north as to provoke China to join with North Korea in pushing them back south. The war became a bloody and extended stalemate along the border of the ‘38th parallel’ – the line of latitude 38° north of the equator, which roughly divides North and South Korea. About 3 million people died – mostly Korean civilians – before the ceasefire in 1953. Australia was part of the multi-national UN force, and 340 Australian troops were killed.

Korea remains divided into the capitalist South and communist North.

Vietnam

One of the most extended Cold War battles was in Vietnam, which had been a French colony. The Vietnamese nationalist movement to oust the French began in the 1920s and escalated at the end of World War II. The French fought to retain