**CANADA’S COLD WAR**

**Cold War**

- Rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union (USSR), lasting over 40 years.

- Never erupted into an open war, but many battles and spying took place globally

- Soviet Union communism versus United States capitalism

- Nuclear Arms Race: which country could build the biggest supply of nuclear weapons

**Soviet Spy Scandal (September 1945)**

- **Igor Gouzenko** worked in the Soviet Embassy in Canada and was given asylum when he gave proof to the RCMP of Soviet spying on Canada and the U.S. (Gov’t worried!!)

**American Influence**

- The United States of America and the Soviet Union were the world’s only **superpowers** after WWII. (Huge military strength capable of inflicting massive destruction – nuclear annihilation) \* Canada aligned with US, but sometimes chose different policies

- 1949: The Soviet Union tests its first atomic bomb

- 1949: The Communists took over China (world’s biggest population)

- 1949: **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) formed <Canada, US, Great Britain> \* An attack on one NATO member is an attack on all (nuclear weapons threat)

- 1955: Soviet Union and many Eastern European countries form the **Warsaw Pact** in response to NATO

- 1957: **NORAD (North America Air Defence Agreement)** created between US and Canada to meet the possible threat of a Soviet attack on North America.

**Peacekeeping Milestone**

In 1956, Egypt (USSR support) seized control of the Suez Canal and soon Britain, France and Israel became involved in the conflict. The world seemed on the brink of war.

At the United Nations, Canadian Minister of External Affairs, and future Prime Minister, **Lester B. Pearson** proposed deployment of an international peacekeeping force to stabilize the situation while Britain and France withdrew their forces. (Blue Helmets)

> Pearson wins the **Nobel Peace Prize** for his work resolving the Suez Crisis.

**Communist Paranoia -** Canada joined its southern neighbour in an effort to unearth homegrown communists, real or imagined during the early 1950s. **Senator Joseph McCarthy**`s witch hunt for communists. Thousands blacklisted because of “**red menace**”

- 1972: **The Summit Series of Hockey** – Canada plays the Soviet Union in a Cold War ice hockey series. Paul Henderson scores the winning goal for Canada (CP – pg.149)

**Cold War Battlegrounds**:

- 1950-1953: **Korean War** - Communist North Korea (backed by China and the Soviet Union) invaded the U.S. backed South Korea, adding further pressure on Canada to build up its armaments. 20,000 Canadians take part in a United Nations force deployed to the area. (312 killed in action) A ceasefire ended the conflict, but still technically at war

- 1961 – 1975: **Vietnam War** is fought over the spread of communism. Canada does not join the US in the war. US worried about the **domino effect** of communism. China and Soviet Union support North Vietnamese, thousands of Americans fight with the South.

\* Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson stands up to American President Lyndon Johnson on Canada`s view on the Vietnam War (CP - pg.145)

- 1961: Communists control East Germany and build a wall (**Berlin Wall**) around West-Germany to keep East-Berliners in and West-Berliners out. Became a Cold War symbol.

- 1962: **Cuban Missile Crisis** – After Cuban communist rebels under **Fidel Castro** overthrow the pro-US Cuban government in 1959, Cuba agrees to have Soviet nuclear weapons. US spy plane discovers the missile sites and the US and Soviet Union are on the brink of nuclear war (John F. Kennedy versus Nikita Khrushchev)

- 1979: Soviet Union invades **Afghanistan**, and US fund and train Afghan fighters

\* Many western countries, including Canada, boycott 1980 Moscow Olympics in protest

**Canada Goes Nuclear**

- 1958: Prime Minister **John Diefenbaker** agreed to accept 56 **Bomarc Missiles** from the United States and deploy them in North Bay, Ontario and La Macaza, Quebec.

> Canada soon discovered the Bomarc missiles it received were designed to hold nuclear warheads. The missiles touched off anti-nuclear protests in the country, although Canada eventually accepted the nuclear warheads on New Year's Eve 1963.

The Avro Arrow (CP - page.141) – Canadian state of the art supersonic interceptor jet project was cancelled in 1959 and moved to the US. (long range missiles used instead)

**Canada and China**

- Pierre Trudeau becomes Prime Minister in 1968 and one of his goals is to make a foreign policy less dependent on the United States. Canada officially recognizes the communist government in China, which the United States still hadn`t done.

- Trudeau also makes Canada a nuclear free country by 1984, removing all US weapons

**Cold War ends**

- 1989: **Berlin Wall** is destroyed, marking the symbolic end to the Cold War

- 1991: The Soviet Union is broken up into several countries (Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, and many more)

\* Communism fails in Eastern Europe, ending the Cold War!