

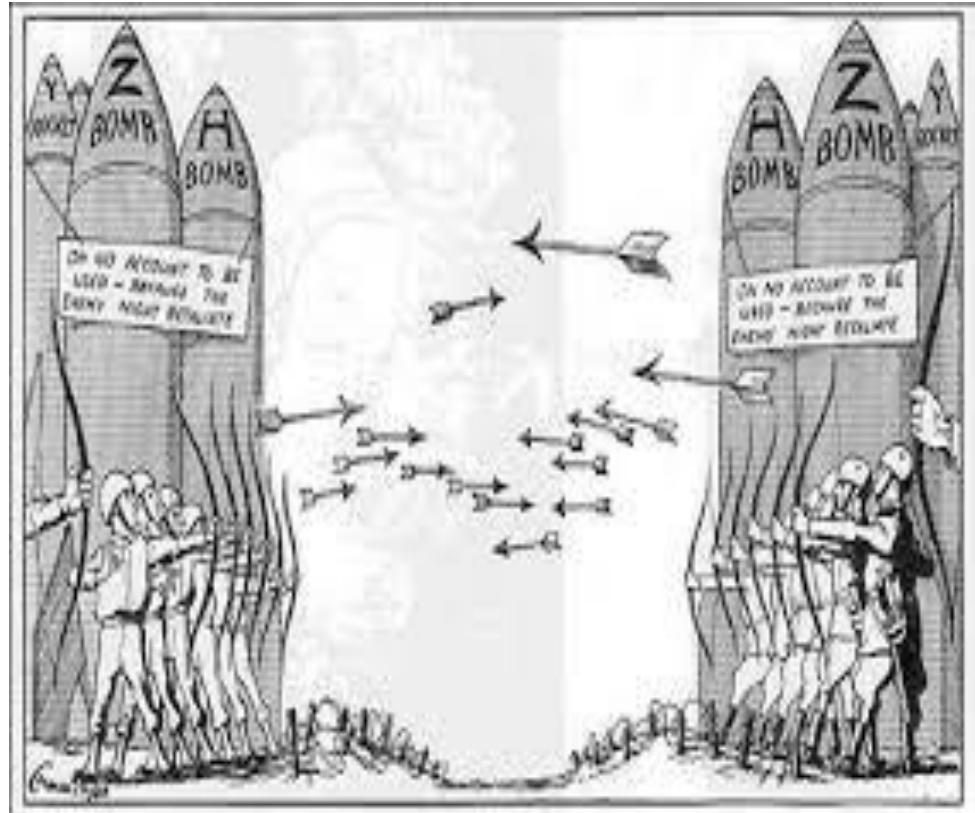
Day 2

Starter May 4th

Why was it important that the United States helped western European countries rebuild after WWII?

Arms Race

The arms race was competition between nations for superiority in the development and accumulation of weapons, especially between the US and the former Soviet Union during the Cold War.



Russia's nuclear weapons



- When the United States dropped the two atomic bombs it placed the US on top of the food chain because of their nuclear abilities.
- The plans for this weapon were concern top secret and confidential, however they were leaked to the Russians who would create their own bomb.
- Within three years, the USSR was able to replicate the success of the American bombs and it would be on the forefront of world power.

Russia Spies in the US

- Klaus Fuchs, a German-born physicist who had helped the United States build its first atomic bombs, was arrested for passing nuclear secrets to the Soviets.
- While stationed at U.S. atomic development headquarters during World War II, Fuchs had given the Soviets precise information about the U.S. atomic program, including a blueprint of the “Fat Man” atomic bomb later dropped on Nagasaki, Japan
- In January 1950, Fuchs confessed that he was a spy. He was sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment and stripped of his British citizenship. He was released in 1959, after serving nine years, and emigrated to the East Germany.



Mutual Assured Destruction



from HERBLOCK:
A CARTOONIST'S LIFE (Macmillan, 1993)

- Mutual (or Mutually) Assured Destruction is a doctrine of military strategy and national security policy in which a full-scale use of nuclear weapons by two or more opposing sides would cause the complete annihilation of both the attacker and the defender.
- Basically it means that if the U.S. fired nuclear weapons at the Soviet Union they could do the same and cause enough destruction that it would most likely end all life on Earth.

Americans prepare for an attack

- During the Cold War, especially during the 1950s and 1960s, the US Federal Civil Defense Administration produced numerous leaflets and films that informed and educated the American public about the atomic bomb, the damage it caused, and what to do if an atomic bomb was dropped.
- This would lead the creation of the “duck and cover” strategy where students would either hide under their desks or in the hallway of the school and cover their heads and necks in case of any fallen debris from the attack.



Détente

- Détente (French word meaning release from tension) is the name given to a period of improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union that began tentatively in 1971.
- President Richard M. Nixon visited the secretary-general of the Soviet Communist party, Leonid I. Brezhnev, in Moscow, May 1972 to discuss ways to increase trade and cooperation with the Soviet Union leading to the signing of the SALT treaties.



SALT I and SALT II

- **Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)**, were negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union that aimed at significantly slowing down the manufacture of strategic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons.
- The first agreements, known as SALT I and SALT II, were signed by the United States and the USSR in 1972 and 1979, respectively, and were intended to restrain the arms race in strategic (long-range or intercontinental) ballistic missiles armed with nuclear weapons.
- Unfortunately tension between the US and USSR heated up again when the USSR invaded Afghanistan, but further peace talk would continue after the conflict.



End of the Arms Race



- On December 3, 1989, US President George H.W. Bush met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to officially declare the cold war over.
- With the war ended, the United States and Russia cut down on nuclear weapons spending. Fewer new systems were developed and both arsenals were reduced; although both countries maintain significant stocks of nuclear missiles. In the United States, stockpile stewardship programs have taken over the role of maintaining the aging arsenal.
- Though the war is over, both countries maintain large amounts of nuclear weapons as a part of the countries military strategies.

ARMS RACE

**IT'S
HISTORY**

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