**The Cold War**

**The Cold War began after WW II (1945). It was a sustained state of political and military tension between powers in the** [**Western world**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_world#The_Cold_War)**, dominated by the** [**United States**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) **with** [**NATO**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO) **and other allies versus powers in the** [**Eastern world**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_world)**, dominated by the** [**Soviet Union**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union) **with its** [**Warsaw Pact**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warsaw_Pact) **and other allies. The Soviet Union held** [**satellite states**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite_state) **especially in the Warsaw Pact in** [**Eastern Europe**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Europe) **as well as in** [**Asia**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia)**. The United States held** [**client states**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Client_state) **especially in** [**Central**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_America) **and** [**South America**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_America) **and** [**Asia**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia)**. The Cold War began after the USA/Soviet Union temporary wartime alliance against** [**Nazi Germany**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_Germany)**, leaving the USSR and the USA as two superpowers with profound economic and political differences. The Cold War ended in 1991 with the fall of the Soviet Union.**

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