

# UNDERSTAND THE COLD WAR

What was the Cold War? (page 1) Learn what happened to post-Nazi Germany (page 33) Get to grips with the arms race (page 81) Reagan and Gorbachev (page 99) Kennedy and Khrushchev (page 106) Learn about Cuba and Castro (page 108) What was the Bay of Pigs? (page 110) Understand Russia and China's relationship (page 127) Why the USA and USSR were opposed (page 163) Learn how the Middle East got involved (page 172) Discover how spies worked (page 234) Learn more online ([www.teachyourself.com](http://www.teachyourself.com))



**ALL THE  
KEY FACTS  
EXPLAINED**

# Understand the Cold War

C.B. Jones

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# Meet the author

## Welcome to *Understand the Cold War!*

'The Cold War' is a term generally used to describe the aggressive relationship that developed between the capitalist USA and the Communist Soviet Union in the late 1940s. For over 50 years these countries built up military forces, engaged in political manoeuvring, and gave secret military assistance to allies and satellite nations.

This book will provide you with a straightforward narrative introduction to these events. The first three chapters deal with the beginning of the conflict and how Stalin, one-time ally of the West, began his bid to spread the Communist system throughout the world following the end of the Second World War.

Then it examines the development of the Cold War across the world, exploring many features associated with the conflict, including nuclear weapons and the arms race, détente, the space race, propaganda and spying.

In my opinion the Cold War is frequently misunderstood by many, and yet it has shaped our society and its institutions, and has repercussions which remain to this day. This conflict led to the development of computers, missiles and space rockets – all things we take for granted. Institutions such as The European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the West and the Warsaw Pact in the East were created in order to pursue the Cold War. The terrorism evident in our society today has its roots in the tactics employed by both sides during the Cold War as each side tried to undermine and humiliate the other. An understanding of the Cold War legacy is vital to understand the modern world in which we live.

I hope you enjoy this book, and if you find you want to know more about the subject, take a look at some of the websites and books suggested in the Taking It Further section.

*Carole Bryan Jones*