

## Vocabulary Terms

### Proxy War

An armed conflict between two states or non-state actors which act on the instigation or on behalf of other parties that are not directly involved in the hostilities.

### Communism

A system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single, often authoritarian party holds power, and the people equally shares all goods.

### The Domino Theory:

The theory, widely espoused during the Cold War, that if one nation comes under Communist control, then nearby nations will also come under Communist control.

### Brinkmanship:

The practice of trying to achieve an advantageous outcome by pushing dangerous events to the brink of conflict

### Containment:

a geopolitical strategy to stop the expansion of an enemy. It is best known as the Cold War policy of the United States and its allies to prevent the spread of [communism](#)

### Warsaw Pact:

Alliance of Soviet controlled nations in Eastern Europe in Opposition to NATO

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### **Flexible Response:**

Flexible response calls for mutual deterrence at strategic, tactical, and conventional levels, giving the United States the capability to respond to aggression across the spectrum of war, not limited only to nuclear arms.

### **Iron Curtain:**

Line of ideologic conflict and geographic boundary separating Communist control of Europe; in a speech by Winston Churchill

### **Capitalism:**

An economic system based upon private ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit.

### **Truman Doctrine:**

Doctrine by President Truman to pledge economic and military support to prevent spread of Communism.

### **NATO:**

North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Alliance of democratic nations in North America and Europe in opposition to Soviet Communism.

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### **Mutually Assured Destruction:**

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.

### **Massive Retaliation:**

A massive response or massive deterrence, is a military doctrine and nuclear strategy in which a state commits itself to retaliate in much greater force in the event of an attack.

### **Marshall Plan:**

Plan by Sec. of State George Marshall to provide financial support to war torn nations of Europe not affiliated with Communism

### **First Strike Capability:**

A country's ability to defeat another nuclear power by destroying its arsenal to the point where the attacking country can survive the weakened retaliation while the opposing side is left unable to continue war.

### **Broken Arrow:**

A code phrase that a ground unit is facing imminent destruction from enemy attack and all available air forces within range are to provide air support immediately.