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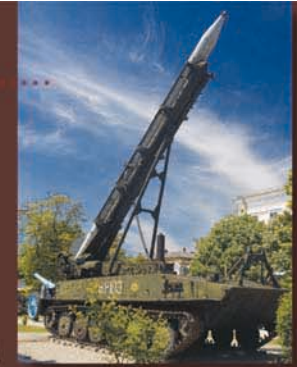
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# What Is a Cold War?

During the 1900s, countries around the world fought an unusual war. This war lasted for more than 40 long years. It was unusual for a couple key reasons. First of all, this war had an unusual name. The world called it the Cold War. Second, it was not like any war the world had seen before. It was a battle between the East and the West, but they fired no shots. Instead, they fought with spies, space trips, sports, threats, the press, and by storing up weapons. Both sides tried to show off so they could say they were stronger than the other.

Have you ever wondered what a cold war was? A *cold* war is the opposite of a *hot* war. Hot wars are full-blown wars with battles and full militaries involved. Both world wars are considered hot wars. A cold war is a war without battles. Cold wars are fought with words and threats. This is what happened in the world not too long ago.

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This rocket launcher is mounted on an armored truck.

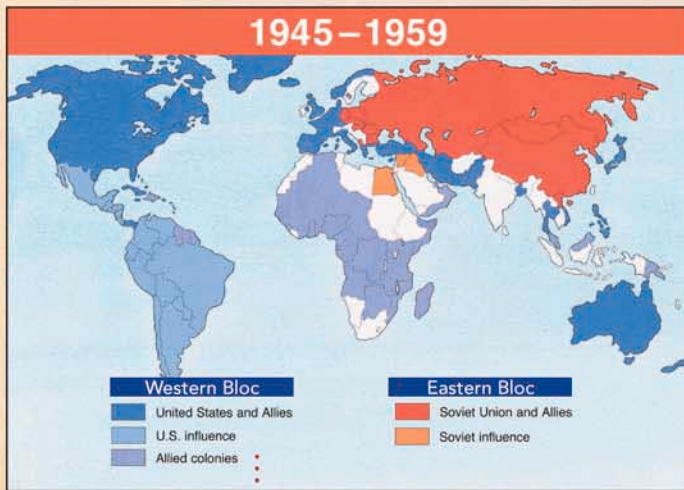


## The Arms Race

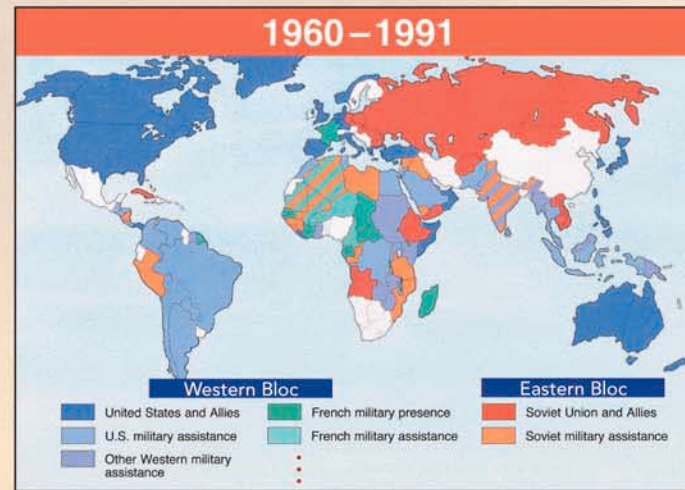
The **arms race** was not about arms on a body. This type of **arms** means the same thing as **weapons**. During the Cold War, the world watched in fear as both sides made more and more nuclear (NOO-klee-uhr) weapons.

## Friends Before, Friends No More

The East and West had been friends during World War II. They fought against the Nazis and won together. After the war, they became enemies. The major countries in the West included the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Canada, and France. The East mainly referred to countries controlled or supported by the Soviet Union.



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This map shows how the world looked from the end of World War II to 1959.



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The world changed quite a bit during the last 30 years of the Cold War.