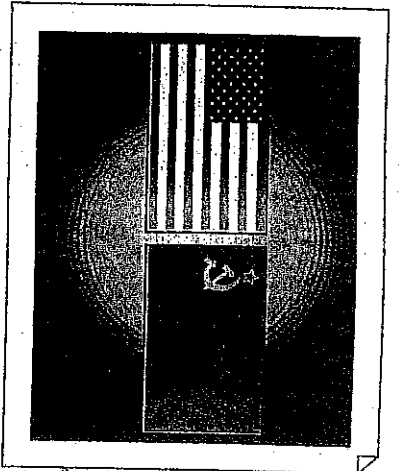


# THE COLD WAR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**B**y the end of World War II, two nations had become superpowers. The United States showed its military power by using the atomic bomb. The Soviet Union also had great military strength. Although they fought on the same side during World War II, they did not trust each other.



The Soviet Union and the United States were very different. The Soviet Union had a communist government. This means the government controlled the economy and was run by a single political party. The Soviet people had little control over the government or economy of their country. In the United States, people have control over both the government and the economy. The United States is a democratic, capitalist country. The two countries' governments strongly disagreed about which type of government was best.

Communism began growing stronger in several eastern European countries. President Harry S Truman and his allies in Europe did not want communism to spread. Plus, the Soviets had developed their own atomic bomb by 1949. Now, the United States was not the only country that had such a destructive weapon to use.

In April 1949, several countries created the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). These countries include the United States, Great Britain, France, and others. They agreed to defend each other in case of attack. In 1955, the Soviet Union and its allies signed the Warsaw Pact. Like NATO, the Warsaw Pact was an agreement to defend each other in case of attack.

American leaders decided it was okay for communism to stay contained within the places where it already existed. However, they said communism could not be allowed to spread to other places. The United States built up its military to stop communist expansion from happening. The U.S. military said it would use force if it had to.

During this tense time, the United States and the Soviet Union had an arms race. Both countries tried to build as many weapons as possible. This period is known as the Cold War. It is called the Cold War because an actual war never broke out between the two superpowers. The Cold War lasted from the 1940s until the 1980s.

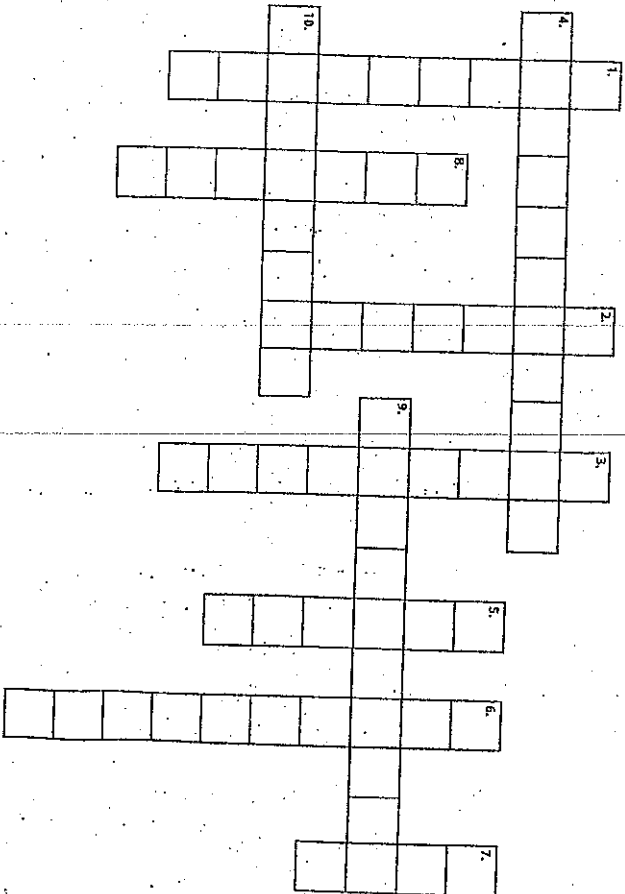
Mikhail Gorbachev became the Soviet leader in 1985 and made many changes in the Soviet Union. U.S. President Ronald Reagan met with Gorbachev in 1987. At this meeting, the two leaders agreed to get rid of some of their nuclear weapons. This was an important first step in ending both the Cold War and the danger of nuclear war.

# THE COLD WAR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



### ACROSS

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the United States had great military strength.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ was an agreement made by the Soviet Union and its allies.
10. The United States built up its \_\_\_\_\_ to stop communist expansion from happening.

### DOWN

1. The Soviet Union had a \_\_\_\_\_ government.
2. When Gorbachev and Reagan met, the leaders agreed to get rid of some of their \_\_\_\_\_ weapons.
3. American leaders decided it was okay for communism to stay \_\_\_\_\_ within the places where it already existed.
5. U.S. President \_\_\_\_\_ met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987.
6. The United States is a democratic \_\_\_\_\_ country.
7. The United States, Great Britain, France, and other countries created \_\_\_\_\_.
8. By 1949, the \_\_\_\_\_ had developed their own atomic bomb.

# THE COLD WAR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

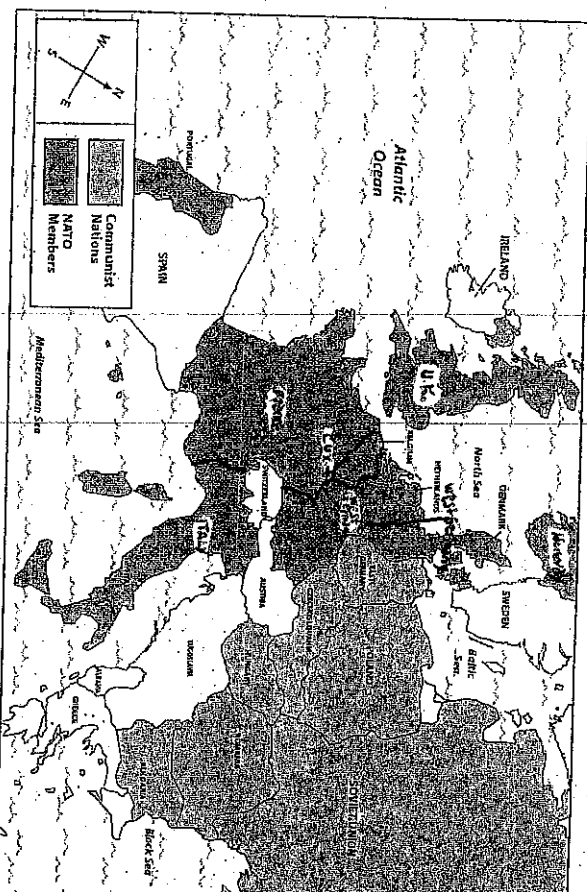
1. By the end of World War II, \_\_\_\_\_ nations had become superpowers.
- A. two  
B. three  
C. four  
D. five
2. The Soviet Union had a \_\_\_\_\_ government.
- A. capitalist  
B. democratic  
C. communist  
D. all of the above
3. The United States, Great Britain, France, and other countries joined together to create the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
B. Warsaw Pact  
C. Allies Against Communism  
D. none of the above
4. The United States and the Soviet Union both tried to build as many \_\_\_\_\_ as possible.
- A. buildings  
B. ships  
C. cars  
D. weapons
5. The Cold War lasted from the 1940s until the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 1960s  
B. 1970s  
C. 1980s  
D. 1990s

# THE COLD WAR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Map – The Cold War in Europe in the 1950s

Use the map to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentence.



1. Was Spain a member of NATO, a communist nation, or neither?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many communist nations were there in Europe in the 1950s?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many NATO nations were there in Europe in the 1950s?  
\_\_\_\_\_