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## COLD WAR: VOICES OF CONFRONTATION AND CONCILIATION



At the end of World War II, English author and journalist George Orwell used the term cold war in his essay "You and the Atomic Bomb", published October 19, 1945, in the British newspaper *Tribune*. Contemplating a world living in the shadow of the threat of nuclear warfare, he warned of a "peace that is no peace", which he called a permanent "cold war". Orwell directly referred to that war as the ideological confrontation between the Soviet Union and the Western powers. The first use of the term to describe the post-World War II geopolitical tensions between the USSR and its satellites and the United States and its western European allies is attributed to Bernard Baruch. In a speech delivered on April 16, 1947, he stated, "Let us not be deceived: we are today in the midst of a cold war." This collection will provide a unique opportunity to read the recollections of many of the players in the Cold War. These transcripts of oral recollections will assist scholars in understanding the motivations for conflict and conciliation.

**Date Range:** 1950s-1990s

**Content:** 1,295 images

**Source Library:** Private Collection from James Thebaut, Chronicles Group, Inc.

### **Detailed Description:**

The Cold War was the continuing state from roughly 1946 to 1991 of political conflict, military tension, proxy wars, and economic competition between the Communist World—primarily the Soviet Union and its satellite states and allies—and the powers of the Western world, primarily the U.S. and its NATO allies. Both sides possessed nuclear weapons, and because their use would probably guarantee their mutual assured destruction the chief military forces never engaged in a major battle with each other. The nuclear deterrent kept the war "cold." The conflict was expressed through military coalitions, strategic conventional force deployments, extensive aid to states deemed vulnerable, proxy wars, espionage, propaganda, conventional and nuclear arms races, appeals to neutral nations, rivalry at sports events, and technological competitions such as the Space Race. The antagonistic behavior that both sides displayed towards their enemy resulted in many crises which risked mutual annihilation in a nuclear

exchange. To alleviate the risk of nuclear war exacerbated by accident or mistake, both sides sought détente to relieve political tensions and deter direct military attack.

The Cold War began after the success of their temporary wartime alliance against Nazi Germany, as the USSR and the U.S. saw each other as mutual superpowers with profound economic and political differences. The Soviet Union created the Eastern Bloc with the eastern European countries it occupied, annexing part or all of some and maintaining others as satellite states. The post-war recovery of Western Europe was facilitated by the American Marshall Plan, while the Soviet Union, wary of the conditions attached, declined to participate and prompted its satellite states to do likewise. An alternative, COMECON, was set up by the Soviets instead. The U.S. forged NATO, a military alliance using containment of communism as a main strategy (Truman Doctrine), in 1949, while the Soviet bloc formed the Warsaw Pact in 1955. Some countries aligned with NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and others chose to stay neutral with the Non-Aligned Movement. Elsewhere, the U.S. and USSR fought proxy wars of various types: in Latin America and Southeast Asia, the USSR assisted and helped foster communist revolutions, opposed by several Western countries and their regional allies; some they attempted to roll back, with mixed results.

The Cold War featured cycles of relative calm and of high tension. The most tense involved the Berlin Blockade, 1948-1949; the Korean War, 1950-1953; the Berlin Crisis of 1961, the Vietnam War, 1959-1975; the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962; the Soviet war in Afghanistan, 1979-1989; and the Able Archer 83 NATO exercises in November 1983. In the 1980s, under the Reagan Doctrine, the U.S. increased diplomatic, military, and economic pressures on the Soviet Union, at a time when the nation was already suffering economic stagnation. In the late 1980s, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev introduced the liberalizing reforms of glasnost ("openness") in 1985, and perestroika ("reconstruction" or "reorganization") in 1987. The Cold War ended after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, leaving the U.S. as the dominant military power. The Cold War and its events have had a significant impact on the world today, and it is often referred to in popular culture, especially in media featuring themes of espionage and the threat of nuclear warfare.

The question as to whether the United States or the USSR was more to blame for starting the Cold War has produced heated debate among twentieth-century historians. This collection will provide a unique opportunity to read the recollections of many of the players in the Cold War. These transcripts of oral recollections will assist scholars in understanding the motivations for conflict and conciliation.

**List of the interviewees -**

Arbatov, Dr. Georgy, principal advisor to the Soviet leadership; Director, The Institute of USA and Canada Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, 1967-1995. Interview date: November 5, 1997. 108pp.

Berezhkov, Valentin, translator for Premier Josef Stalin in his wartime conferences with Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill; vice chief editor of the Soviet foreign affairs weekly New Times; founding editor of USA Economics, Politics and Ideology, 1969; first

secretary and special representative of the Academy of Sciences in the Soviet Embassy in Washington D.C., 1978-1983. Interview date: September 23, 1997. 94pp.

Bessmertnykh (Besmertnik), Aleksandr, Soviet Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1991. Interview date: September 18, 2001. 32pp.

Bradburn, General David, Director, U.S. Air Force Directorate of Special Projects, 1973-1975. Interview date: June 27, 1997. 125pp.

Brzezinski, Zbigniew, U.S. National Security Advisor, Carter administration. Interview Date July 17, 2001. 16pp.

Dougherty, General Russell, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Strategic Air Command, 1974-1977.

Ford, Gerald, U.S. President, 1974-1977. Interview date: October 17, 1997. 24pp.

Gates, Dr. Robert, Director, Central Intelligence Agency, 1991-1993. Interview date: November 14, 1997. 98pp.

Goodpaster, General Andrew, U.S. National Security Advisor, Eisenhower Administration. Interview date: July 1997. 93pp.

Karaganov, Dr. Sergei, Chairman of Presidium, Deputy Director, Institute of Europe Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, 1989-2005. Interview date: September 20, 2001. 9pp.

Kissinger, Dr. Henry, U.S. Secretary of State during the Nixon-Ford administrations. Interview date: August 16, 2001. 12pp.

Leonov, Nikolay, Deputy Chief of the First Chief Directorate of the State Security Committee (KGB), 1983-1991. Interview date: September 11, 2001, 32pp.

Lukasik, Steve [Stephen], Nuclear weapons specialist and scholar. Interview date: October 17, 1997. 111pp.

McNamara, Robert S., U.S. Secretary of Defense during the Kennedy-Johnson administrations. Interview date: March 22, 2002. 16pp.

Nechiporenko, Oleg, Deputy Head, Anti-Terrorism Department, Office K, KGB, 1971-1984. Interview date: September 12, 2001. 21pp.

Rogov, Dr. Sergey, Director, The Institute of USA and Canada Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, 1995-present. Interview date: September 20, 2001. 13pp.

Rogozin, Dmitry, Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee, Russian State Duma, 1999-2002. Interview date: September 19, 2001. 10pp.

Rowny, General Edward, U.S. arms control advisor and negotiator, 1971-1990. Interview date: November 6, 1997. 91pp.

Scowcroft, Brent, U.S. National Security Advisor, for the Ford and Bush administrations. Interview date: July 17, 2001. 20pp.

Swiers, Peter, assistant to Ambassador-at-Large W. Averell Harriman, 1973-1981. Interview date: August 27, 1997. 145pp.

Teller, Dr. Edward, Nuclear Physicist, Nobel Prize winner. Interview date: July 1997. 33pp.

Thiel, Adolf, U.S. missile scientist responsible for the Redstone missile and other short- and intermediate-range ballistic missile systems. Interview date: July 3, 1997. 72pp.

Timerbaev, Roland, principal Soviet arms control negotiator, 1966-1990. Interview date: November 5, 1997. 72pp.

Wade, Troy, U.S. nuclear weapons specialist during the Reagan and Bush administrations. Interview date: August 14, 2001. 25pp.