

**Confrontation with Communism:  
Chronology 1945-1964**

- 1945 July - first explosion of atomic bomb  
July - Potsdam conference  
November - Communists win Yugoslav elections
- 1946 February - arrest of Klaus Fuchs leads to exposure of "atom spy" ring; George Kennan's "Long Telegram" warns of Soviet expansionism.  
March - Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech at Fulton, MO.  
May - East/West confrontation over Azerbaijan and northern Iran  
September - Bulgaria becomes a People's Republic  
September - Archbishop Stepinac on trial in Yugoslavia  
October - Two British warships mined by Albanians in "Corfu Incident"  
November - Communists represent largest element in governing coalition in France
- 1947 January - Communist-dominated coalition wins Polish elections  
March - Truman doctrine proclaimed  
May - Communist domination established in Hungary  
May - French Communist Party goes into opposition  
May - US House Committee on Un-American Activities begins investigation of Hollywood  
June - George Marshall calls for economic aid to Europe  
Fall - wave of labor unrest in France splits union movement between Communist and non-Communist factions  
October - HCUA hearings of "Hollywood Ten"  
US National Security Act creates CIA
- 1948 February - Communist regime in Czechoslovakia  
March - Czech Foreign Minister Masaryk dies mysteriously  
March - Soviets reject four-power control system in Germany  
March - Rumania a People's Republic  
March - US Congress approves Marshall Plan  
April - Communists defeated in critical elections in Italy  
June - Berlin Airlift begins  
June - Yugoslavia expelled from COMINFORM  
June - Communist leader Gottwald becomes President of Czechoslovakia  
June - mass purges and arrests in Albania and Hungary  
July - Leaders of US Communist Party convicted under Smith Act for advocating overthrow of government  
August - Whittaker Chambers accuses Alger Hiss  
October - Communist led miners' strike in France  
December - Hiss indicted  
December - arrest of Hungarian Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty
- 1949 January - COMECON formed  
February - Cardinal Mindszenty convicted  
April - NATO Treaty signed  
May - Berlin blockade lifted  
May - German Federal Republic (West Germany) in existence  
May - Communists win general elections in Hungary  
September - Soviets detonate their first atomic bomb  
October - People's Republic declared in China  
October - German Democratic Republic declared  
October - Communists defeated in Greek civil war
- 1950 January - Alger Hiss convicted of perjury, in second trial

- February - Senator McCarthy's speech warning of massive Communist subversion in the US government
  - June - outbreak of Korean war
  - November - China intervenes in Korean war
- 1951
- April - General Douglas MacArthur relieved of command of Allied Forces
  - May - US tests partially successful fusion bomb at Eniwetok Atoll
  - May - British diplomats Burgess and MacLean defect to USSR
- 1952
- October - Britain tests atomic bomb
  - November - US explodes first successful hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok ("Mike" test)
- 1953
- January - Senator McCarthy chairs US Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
  - March - death of Stalin
  - June - anti-Communist rising in East Berlin
  - June - Rosenbergs executed in US
  - July - armistice signed in Korean war
  - August - first Soviet hydrogen bomb detonated
  - October - McCarthy committee begins hearings into US Army
- 1954
- January - John Foster Dulles declares policy of "massive retaliation"
  - March - US explodes 15-megaton fission/fusion bomb in the "Bravo" test at Bikini atoll
  - March - US administration attacks work of McCarthy and Roy Cohn
  - May - Fall of Dienbienphu ends French war in Indo-China
  - June - Crucial confrontation between Senator McCarthy and Joseph Welch begins  
discrediting of McCarthyism
  - July - Vietnam partitioned
  - August - US passes Communist Control Act, outlawing CPUSA
  - September - Southeast Asia Treaty Organization formed
  - December - US Senate votes to condemn McCarthy
- 1956
- February - Khrushchev's secret speech to Soviet XXth Party Congress
  - October - riots in Poland
  - October/November - Hungarian uprising
- 1957
- May - British explode hydrogen bomb
  - August - Soviets test first ICBM
  - October - Soviets launch Sputnik
- 1958
- US and Britain declare moratorium on nuclear testing
- 1959
- January - Castro takes power in Cuba
- 1960
- February - French explode atomic bomb
  - May - U2 incident disrupts Paris summit conference
- 1961
- April - Failed invasion of Cuba ends at Bay of Pigs
  - August - Berlin Wall erected
- 1962
- April - USA resumes nuclear testing
  - October - Cuba missiles crisis
- 1963
- August - nuclear test ban treaty signed
- 1964
- October - Chinese test atomic bomb