

# Joint Crisis Committee: Cold War

## STUDY GUIDE

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## Letters,

Distinguished delegates, I am your Secretary General, Egemen Erkan. First of all, I wish you all a great conference. When we organized the 1973MUN conference, our main goal was to create a new, unparalleled conference that, academically speaking, would allow you to look back and say, "It worth my time and I gained so much from this." We carefully selected each Under Secretary General for our conference. Each of them is a master in their field and a successful members who will do everything in their power to help you. Thank you all for joining us, and I wish you all the best in your work.

**-Secretary General**

Greetings esteemed delegates to this wonderful upcoming conference. As the Academic Assistant of the committee of JCC, I am honored and glorified to stand with you in this committee. I am looking forward to seeing heaps of actions, agreements, controversies and most important, resolutions to issues you will be facing during the committee with your detailed directives. My Mun journey began when I was a freshman in high school and it really got me hooked starting from that day. I always perceive Mun as not just an english event, furthermore not a place to just have fun, I think Mun is something that assists people to gain new skills and new knowledge. I highly suggest you read the guide carefully and understand it, cause we will be taking off rapidly and we expect you to keep up with that pace other than that please do not omit searching for your characters and block stance about the topic. If there is a situation that crosses the strict line of respect there will be consequences. I will be solemn and aiming to help you to have a wonderful experience so please do not lower the expectations. My communication info is down below do not hesitate to ask any kind of question if you feel you need to. [erarikuzey08@gmail.com](mailto:erarikuzey08@gmail.com) 0544 105 81 40

**-Academic Assistant**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Eslem Yanık and I am honored to serve as the Deputy Secretary General of 1973MUN. 1973MUN aspires to be a conference distinguished by its strong academic standards and high quality debate. The true quality of this conference however lies in you your preparation, vision and the depth you bring to discussions. Within the dynamic international context of 1973, I am confident that you will represent your countries with both accuracy and impact.

Speak boldly, think critically, and demonstrate strong diplomacy.

I look forward to your debates.

Best regards,  
Eslem Yanik

**-Deputy Secretary-General**

## Rules Of Procedure

### **1. General Rules**

Scope: The Committee Under-Secretary-General will be the final authority on what procedure to follow if a situation arises that has not been addressed by the Rules of Procedure. At the discretion of the Chair or Secretariat, these rules can be modified to better facilitate healthy debate, and any adjustment of the rules will be declared clearly to the entirety of the committee and will take precedence over any rules written in this document.

Language: English will be the official language used in the conference, in all documents and debates the English must be used.

Usage of Technological Devices: Technological devices are prohibited by the committee's history. They are not to be used without USG or chair permission.

Quorum: It's the minimum quantity of delegates that are needed to start the conference. And it is 1/3 of the committee.

Courtesy and Delegate Conduct: Every Delegate must be respectful and courteous with Conference members. If someone is being disrespectful, the Chairs must be contacted to take the appropriate action. The conference will have zero tolerance for slandering, disparaging, or any other respectful act.

Absence: If a delegate doesn't appear during the Conference for more than 3 sessions, it won't be receiving the certifications and awards.



**Note:** Specific to the JCC committee and the Chinese-Gokturk War, the chair also has a role like the delegates and can write directives.

### **3. Directives**

What is a directive in crisis committees at a MUN conference?

A directive in Model United Nations (MUN) crisis committees is a formal, written instruction that delegates use to propose actions or decisions in response to a crisis. Crisis committees are more dynamic and fast-paced than traditional MUN committees, as they deal with unexpected events or situations that require immediate attention. Directives allow delegates to respond quickly to changing circumstances by taking actions such as:

- Implementing military operations.
- Engaging in diplomacy or negotiations.
- Managing economic or social responses to the crisis.
- Influencing the course of events in the committee.

There are **six main types of directives** used in crisis committees:

*Personal Directives:* Personal Directives are written by individual delegates to carry out specific actions that fall strictly within the authority, resources, and limitations of their assigned role or position. These directives are generally confidential and focus on targeted, role-specific initiatives.

*Committee Directives:* Committee Directives are written collectively by multiple delegates and represent the general consensus or collective decision of the committee. These directives usually address broader strategies or large-scale actions and require coordination among committee members.

*Joint Directives:* Joint Directives are official documents jointly prepared and issued by two or more institutions, organizations, cabinets, or command structures. They outline a coordinated approach toward achieving a shared objective and define the responsibilities, authority, and procedures of all participating parties.

*Top Secret Directives:* Top Secret Directives contain highly classified actions or plans that involve sensitive intelligence, covert operations, or strategic initiatives. Access to the content and outcomes of these directives is strictly limited to the relevant delegate(s) and the Crisis Team. Unauthorized disclosure may result in severe in- committee consequences.

*Information Directives:* Information Directives are submitted to request intelligence, clarification, reports, or updates regarding the current crisis. These directives do not initiate direct action but are used to gather information that may influence future decision-making.

*Press Release Directives:* Press Release Directives are used to communicate official statements, announcements, or narratives to the public or international audience. These directives aim to shape public opinion, influence morale, apply political pressure, or control the flow of information during the crisis.

**Note:** Within the framework of this committee and its established procedures, Committee Directives and Joint Directives may be submitted under Top Secret classification when the nature of the action requires confidentiality. Such usage is considered appropriate and legitimate for the functioning of this committee and does not require prior approval. The confidentiality of these directives shall be preserved in accordance with crisis committee practice.

The visual presented below illustrates, in a clear and structured manner, all mandatory structural and content-related elements that must be included in a directive written within a crisis committee. In addition to serving as a formatting template, the visual also contains a sample directive text intended to guide delegates in drafting their own directives throughout the crisis simulation. All six directive types outlined above shall be prepared strictly in accordance with the format demonstrated in this visual, without exception. Accordingly, the following components must be clearly and completely included in every directive: the directive title (Type of Directive), cabinet name (Cabinet Name), recipient information (To), sender information (From), date (Date), time (Time), and the directive body text. Should any of these components be missing, incomplete, inaccurately presented, or inconsistent with the prescribed format, the directive may be deemed procedurally invalid and excluded from substantive evaluation. Directives that fail to comply with these formatting requirements are subject to rejection at the discretion of the Head of Crisis, Under-Secretary-General, and Academic Assistant. Delegates are therefore strongly advised to adhere meticulously to this template in order to avoid unnecessary delays, strategic disadvantages, or procedural rejection during the crisis process.

**Note:** Please be kind to the Crisis Team: ensure that all handwritten directives are clearly legible. While enthusiasm is appreciated, deciphering unreadable handwriting is not a designated crisis skill, and illegible submissions may test both patience and eyesight.

## 4. Motions

What is a Motion?

A motion is a formal request made by a delegate to take a specific action within the committee. Motions help structure debate, introduce new procedures, or shift the committee's focus during a crisis. In Crisis Committees, motions are especially important due to the fast-paced and reactive nature of the discussions. Once a motion is proposed, the Chair will call for votes, and depending on the type of motion, a simple or qualified majority may be required for it to pass.

### CAUCUSES

#### *a) Semi Moderated Caucus:*

A semi-moderated caucus is a more flexible debate format where delegates still follow some formal rules, but the structure is looser than a moderated caucus. It's used when the committee wants focused discussion on a specific issue, but with more freedom for delegates to engage in direct exchanges than in a formal setting.

Features of a Semi-Moderated Caucus:

- **Time Limits:** Like a moderated caucus, there are still overall time limits for the entire debate as well as individual speaking times, but these may be more relaxed.
- **Chair's Role:** The Chair or the dais (the group leading the committee) still oversees the debate, but their control is more lenient. They may allow freer dialogue between delegates, or they might intervene less frequently.
- **Flow of Debate:** Delegates can interact more freely compared to a moderated caucus, with less formality in speaking order or point-raising.

However, unlike an unmoderated caucus, there's still some structure such as a speaking list or directed questions that keeps the debate focused on the topic at hand.

- **Delegates' Interactions:** Delegates are given more opportunities to directly respond to one another's points or to ask questions, fostering a dynamic and focused discussion. It's a chance to engage more deeply with the specifics of the issue.

### **When to Use a Semi-Moderated Caucus?**

When the discussion needs to be flexible, but still guided: If the committee is debating a complex or contentious issue and wants to allow more interaction, a semi-moderated caucus is ideal. When you need productive but faster-paced debate: This format can be used to generate ideas and promote deeper collaboration while keeping the focus on a specific topic or sub-topic.

#### ***b) Unmoderated Caucus:***

An unmoderated caucus allows delegates to move freely around the room, speak with any other delegate, and negotiate in smaller groups or one-on-one discussions. Unlike the formal, structured debate of a moderated caucus, an unmoderated caucus has no set speaking order or time limits for individual delegates.

Features of an Unmoderated Caucus:

*No Speaking List:* Delegates are not called upon in any particular order. Instead, they can approach other delegates and speak freely without waiting for permission from the Chair.

*Freedom of Movement:* Delegates are allowed to move around the room, form groups, and speak to others without the formality of raising placards or waiting for their turn. This creates a more informal atmosphere where collaboration is easier.

*Collaboration and Resolution Drafting:* This is the time when delegates can work together to draft working papers, resolutions, or directives. It's common for like-minded countries to come together and outline their proposals or amendments during this time.

*Building Alliances:* Delegates often use unmoderated caucuses to form alliances with other delegations that have similar interests. This is key for gaining support for resolutions, amendments, or particular actions in the committee.

*Chair's Role:* While the Chair will set a time limit for the unmoderated caucus (e.g., 10 or 15 minutes), they do not oversee the actual debate. They allow delegates to work independently during this time.

### **Why Is an Unmoderated Caucus Important?**

*Fosters Informal Negotiation:* This is when most of the real diplomacy happens. Delegates have the chance to directly negotiate and persuade others, outside of the formal speaking process.

*Resolution Building:* Unmoderated caucuses are where the actual writing and editing of resolutions take place, with delegates sharing ideas and collaborating on proposals.

*Forming Blocs:* Countries with similar views can come together, form blocs, and present united positions when the debate returns to formal session.

# 1. Key Terms,

**Marshall Plan & Truman Doctrine:** US initiatives providing military aid (Doctrine) and massive economic support (Plan) to rebuild Western Europe and prevent the rise of communism.

**Nuclear Arms Race:** Intense competition between the USA and USSR to build massive nuclear arsenals to threaten and scare.

**Berlin Wall & Airlift:** The 1948 blockade and subsequent 1961 construction of the wall became decisive action, further presenting to the world that Europe and superpower tensions are dividing.

**Nato vs. Warsaw Pact:** The creation of competing military forces, alliances and arsenals, cementing the Western (NATO, 1949) and Eastern (Warsaw Pact, 1955)

**Space Race:** A competition of technological superiority, marked by the Soviet launch of Sputnik (1957) and the U.S. landing on the moon (1969)

**Proxy Wars(Korea/Vietnam):** Conflicts where superpowers supporting opposing sides (e.g. North vs. South Korea 1950-1953) to avoid direct touch and war further to prevent each side launching their arsenal.

# 2. Historical Background;

The three countries that acted together against Adolf Hitler's aggression during World War II—the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom—were different in many ways. The Soviet Union, from 1926 onwards, was a centralized country ruled by the decisions of Joseph Stalin. The United Kingdom had a constitutional monarchy. The United States, on the other hand, had a separation of powers, with many actors involved in decision-making.

While there were historical disagreements between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, the United States was uneasy about the Soviet Union being the vanguard of communism. Stalin's non-aggression pact with Adolf Hitler before World War II also created trust issues between the countries. However, both the United States and the United Kingdom were aware that Hitler could not be defeated without the Soviet Union. After Hitler attempted

to invade the Soviet Union with Operation Barbarossa, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill described Hitler as a "devil" and announced that the United Kingdom would support the Soviet Union. United States Secretary of State Cordell Hull announced that his country would provide all possible support to the Soviet Union in the face of Hitler's aggression.

While World War II was ongoing, on August 9, 1941, United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met off the coast of Newfoundland. This was their first meeting during the war, and they agreed on the text of the Atlantic Charter. Similar to Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, this charter outlined how the two countries would conduct the war. It emphasized the need to create a new and effective international organization to replace the failed League of Nations. While Roosevelt and Churchill signed the charter, Stalin refused to sign it.

Despite their differences, these three countries acted together. First, in 1941, the British-Soviet armies overthrew the pro-German Reza Pahlavi in Iran and conquered the country. Following the conquest of Iran, various forms of aid began flowing to the Soviet Union via the Caspian Sea. American and British intelligence began sharing important information with the Soviet Union after the deciphering of the Enigma code. Stalin, who did not sign the Atlantic Charter, declared his support for the United Nations Declaration, announced on January 1, 1942, and initially supported by more than twenty countries, in light of the developing relations.

As relations progressed, the United States and the United Kingdom began to pursue a "Europe First" policy. Various forms of American aid to the Soviet Union were delayed, and conversely, through Churchill's persuasion, it was decided that the American army would support British troops in North Africa. Stalin was not pleased with this decision. However, during the Battle of Stalingrad, American and British support began to diminish. This situation led Stalin to think, "The West is waiting for the Nazi and Soviet armies to destroy each other, and in the end, a peace will be imposed on their terms." Following the decisive victory of American and British forces in North Africa, Berlin began to be bombed by the British Air Force. Roosevelt declared that there would be no compromise with Germany and demanded unconditional surrender. These events, which occurred during a period when opposition was rising in Germany, boosted Hitler's power again and played a significant role in the German army's continuation of the war against the Soviet Union and the increase in Soviet losses. In this process, the United States and the United Kingdom acting more independently from the Soviet Union, saying "Europe First" and leaving the Soviet Union alone against Nazi Germany, formed the basis of the Cold War.

## **a. East and West Blocks,**

**The Western Bloc**, or Capitalist Block refers to the countries allied with the United States and NATO against the Soviet Union and its allies during the Cold War. Western Block governments and media used the term "Free World" or "Western World" to describe themselves. Western Europe is a controversial term used to refer to democratic countries in Europe during the Cold War, but the concept is sometimes still used by the media for a quick comparison.

### **List of Alliances;**

Leader, United States.

Founder NATO Countries; Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and United Kingdom.

Late participants; Türkiye, Greece, West Germany and Spain.

### **West Blocs' Base Institutions;**

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. (Military alliance)

Marshall Plan: The aid of the U.S. to West Europe.

European Council: Political cooperation institution.

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**The Eastern Bloc**, emerged as a response to the Marshall Plan, initiated by the United States following World War II and the Cold War, which aimed to curb the rise of socialism, particularly in Europe. To counter threats against the Soviet Union and reorganize international communist activities, leading communist parties in Europe, under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, met at a conference in Silesia. At the end of this meeting, on October 5, 1947, the establishment of the Cominform was announced.

### **List of Alliances;**

Leader, USSR

Members of Warsaw Pact; East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania.

Other socialist or communist countries; Yugoslavia, North Korea, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

### **East Blocs' Base Institutions;**

Warsaw Pact: Military alliance pact.

Comecon: Economical cooperation to support military alliance and maintain superiority.

## **b. Rivalry Between USA and USSR,**

The rivalry between the USA and USSR was far more further away from what the world was expecting. Rivalry boosted the two countries' economy, military, position in the world politics and etcetera although that the other small and recent countries have mostly perished and affected worse than the foreseeable outcome. Rivalry had split in few different fields such as;

- Military Forces & Arms Race
- Space Race
- Economic System Conflict
- Proxy Wars

Each field had other core reasons to be raced against but most damaging ones were; *Proxy Wars, Economic System Conflict and contingently Military Forces & Arms Race.*

### **Military Forces & Arms Race**

Arms race, NATO and Warsaw Pact were not directly raising tension and leading countries to involve themselves with a war (except Proxy Wars) but they were. generally, indirectly exhausting global politics and undeveloped countries. Lastly NATO and Warsaw Pact was established forwhy to stand strong for any possible outcome which lead to **Proxy Wars** as outcome.

### **Space Race**

“Space Race” was just a blinding name to understand which was better: Capitalism or Communism. Entire inventions, theories, accomplishments and scientists were just a step at the beginning of the stairs. The keystone was to make citizens believe that their country's policy was better and suitable for the whole.

### **Economic System Conflict**

The West Bloc championed free market economics and democratic values. Through the Marshall Plan, the West Bloc aimed to prevent the spread of communism by supporting the economic development of Western Europe.

The Eastern Bloc adopted a state-led, centrally planned economy. In opposition to the Marshall Plan, it established the Molotov Plan and COMECON for its allies.

## **Proxy Wars**

Proxy wars during the Cold War were armed conflicts where the USA and USSR supported opposing sides in third-party nations to gain global influence without risking direct nuclear conflict. By funding, arming, and training surrogates, the superpowers competed globally from 1945 to 1991.

The real reason lies under the Proxy Wars is to avoid direct, face to face, battle due to the **Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)** which stands for the threat of nuclear annihilation. By MAD's influence The US began to seek to "contain" communism, while the USSR aimed to spread communist ideology and support anti-colonial movements by being third-party nations in Proxy Wars while utilizing from countries such as; South and North Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and last but not least Latin American countries.

## **3. Major Affecting Names and Events;**

### **a. Major Names,**

#### *The Western Bloc:*

#### **John F. Kennedy**

Role: President of U.S.

Initially, he was leaning towards an air strike to immediately destroy the missiles. However, seeing the inevitability of a nuclear war (MAD[Mutually Assured Destruction]), he shifted course to a "quarantine" (blockade). Through secret correspondence with Khrushchev, he ensured a bloodless resolution to the crisis.

#### **Robert McNamara**

Role: Secretary of Defence in U.S.

From the beginning of the crisis, he led the dove wing. Arguing that a direct air strike would force the Soviets to retaliate, he presented and secured the idea of a naval blockade as a strategic interim solution

## **Dean Rusk**

Role: Minister of Foreign Affairs in U.S.

He was mainly focused on NATO which means the west side of Europe. He coordinated the international legal aspect of the crisis and ran the meetings with their allies. Although initially quiet and cautious, he ultimately supported the diplomatic concessions to secretly remove the Jupiter missiles from Türkiye at the end of the crisis.

## **McGeorge Bundy**

Role: National Security Advisor in U.S.

He managed the ExComm meetings. At the start of the crisis he was the one and only one who reported the missiles. He was mostly challenging himself to find other alternative solutions to each action and decisions.

## **Maxwell D. Taylor**

Role: Highest Grade Military Advisor and Chief of General Staff in U.S.

He was one of the most effective voices of the military. He defended that they should attack Cuba with wide ranged air forces and military invasion.

## **Adlai Stevenson**

Role: International Public Representative of U.S. (Ambassador)

When he presented the photos of the missiles in UNSC while following with the line of to Zorin(USSR Ambassador) "I am prepared to wait for my answer until hell freezes over, if that's your decision. And I am also prepared to present the evidence in this room."

## **The Eastern Bloc:**

### **Nikita Khrushchev**

Role: Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union

The idea of secretly deploying missiles to the island to counter the U.S. missiles in Turkey and protect the Castro regime in Cuba was his. When the crisis spiraled out of control and reached the brink of nuclear war, he personally made the decision to “back down” by corresponding directly with Kennedy via letters. This move was later characterized by the Soviet military as a “sign of weakness” and played a role in his removal from office.

### **Anastas Mikoyan**

Role: First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union

He was strictly against placing missiles on the Politburo. After the crisis was resolved by going to Cuba he calmed down Fidel Castro who was angry because of the removal of the missiles in Cuba. He played a key position by not letting loose their relationship with Cuba.

### **Andrei Gromyko**

Role: First Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Union

In the crisis's most intense moments he communicated with Kennedy in White House. Although Kennedy has the evidence of the missiles he stated that “They are for defending purposes” to gain more time. He was known as “Mr. No” by his cruel and rude expressions.

## **b. Major Events,**

With the help, as all sentences start with, of rivalry USA and USSR had there are dozens of major events specified in economy, military, technology, human rights, politics and etcetera. At the end of the day it has finally ended with no one taking damage both mentally and economically isn't it? Most of the humans come to the conclusion that there were not severe damages but it is unfortunately not true. To perceive this right and fully **Proxy Wars and Nuclear Arms & Space Race** should be searched and learned.

## **i. Nuclear Arms & Space Race**

### *Nuclear Arms Race*

The Cold War nuclear arms race, between 1945 and 1990, was a struggle between the United States and the USSR to achieve and maintain the capacity to destroy each other. This process was based on a technical "balance of terror" that went beyond ideological rivalry.

With the declaration of the Manhattan Project and usage of nuclear bombs to Hiroshima the Nuclear Era had officially begun. At that time the U.S. was the only superpower to use that

kind of advanced tech weapons. But there was one country standing close to the U.S. it was the USSR, long ago from the time for them to present their nuclear bomb to the world they had invented it by themselves and further more started testing it which was around 1949.

After the little baby steps of nuclear technology Hydrogen Bombs. Hydrogen Bombs were newly found technologies resulting in gaining its energy from fusion not fission because of that the destructive power and general energy they secrete is far away from what we can imagine at that time. For example U.S. in 1952 they tested “Ivy Mike” and in 1953 USSR tested “RDS-6” as the days passed from one and other more tests had been made.

At the beginning of the 1960s the space race also began. With the help of satellites and newly discovered techniques missiles had reached unlimited range making planes useless to carry them. Which was not bright for the world's future because both sides became capable of destroying the other's whole landscape and annihilation of the world was also a topic on the table. Relating that Mutual Assured Destruction was born and both sides were sticking to it to be exact they did continue that from that date to this day.

In summary, the process that began with a single bomb in 1945 led to the production of more than 70,000 nuclear warheads worldwide by the mid-1980s. The arms race began to fade by 1990 when the Soviet Union could no longer economically sustain the competition.

### Space Race

The Space Race was a 20th-century competition between two Cold War rivals, the Soviet Union (USSR) and the United States (U.S.), for supremacy in space flight capability. It had its origins in the missile-based nuclear arms race between the two nations following World War II, aided by captured German missile technology and personnel from their missile program. The technological superiority required for such supremacy was seen as necessary for national security and symbolic of ideological superiority. The Space Race spawned pioneering efforts to launch artificial satellites, unmanned space probes of the Moon, Venus, and Mars, and human space flight in low Earth orbit and to the Moon.

The competition began on August 2, 1955, when the Soviet Union responded to the US announcement four days earlier of intent to launch artificial satellites for the International Geophysical Year by declaring they would also launch a satellite “in the near future.” The Soviet Union beat the U.S. to this with the October 4, 1957 orbiting of Sputnik 1, and later beat the U.S. to the first human in space, Yuri Gagarin, on April 12, 1961. The race peaked

with the July 20, 1969, U.S. landing of the first humans on the Moon with Apollo 11. The USSR tried but failed manned lunar missions, and eventually cancelled them and concentrated on Earth orbital space stations.

A period of détente followed with the April 1972 agreement on a cooperative Apollo–Soyuz Test Project, resulting in the July 1975 rendezvous in Earth orbit of a U.S. astronaut crew with a Soviet cosmonaut crew. The end of the Space Race is harder to pinpoint than its beginning, but it was over by the December, 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union, after which true space flight cooperation between the U.S. and Russia began.

## **ii. Proxy Wars**

### **Korean War (1950–1953)**

Reason: After World War II, the peninsula was divided at the 38th parallel, and the North (Kim Il-sung) attacked the South with the aim of uniting the entire country under communism. The US intervened with a broad coalition, backed by the UN. When forces under General MacArthur pushed the North to the Chinese border, China disrupted the balance by entering the war with hundreds of thousands of soldiers. Result: The war ended not with a peace treaty, but only with an armistice. Today, they are still technically at war, and the border (DMZ) is the most tense region in the world.

### **Vietnam War (1955–1975)**

Reason: The attempt by the communist regime (Ho Chi Minh) established in the north following the end of French colonialism to seize control of the anti-communist South with US support. Details: The US sent over half a million troops to the region due to the "Domino Theory" that prevented the spread of communism. However, the forested terrain and the hit-and-run tactics of the Viet Cong guerrillas bogged down the US. This was the first war to be televised, sparking a major anti-war wave in the US.

Result: The US withdrew in 1973, and with the fall of Saigon in 1975, Vietnam united under a single communist flag. It was a major military and psychological trauma for the US.

### **Soviet-Afghan War (1979–1989)**

Reason: The USSR invaded Afghanistan to protect the unstable communist government and secure its southern borders. Details: The US (through the CIA), Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan supported local resistance fighters (Mujahideen) fighting against the invading Soviets with Stinger missiles and funding. This war turned into a "quagmire" that crippled the USSR's economy and morale. Result: The USSR withdrew in 1989, a defeat that accelerated the disintegration of the Union. However, the radical groups and weapons left behind later formed the ground for structures such as Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

### **Angolan Civil War (1975–2002)**

Cause: A struggle over which ideology would rule the country after Portugal withdrew. Details: The USSR and Cuba (Cuba sent 50,000 soldiers) supported the Marxist MPLA; the US, Zaire, and the racist South African regime supported UNITA. It is the bloodiest and longest-lasting proxy war on the African continent. Result: Although the Cold War ended, the civil war continued for years due to local reasons. Cuba's presence here triggered a geopolitical shift that culminated in Nelson Mandela's release.

## **4. Aftermath,**

The end of the Cold War in 1991 with the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union triggered one of the most profound geopolitical transformations in world history, ushering in a "unipolar" era where the United States was the undisputed sole superpower. During this period, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany changed the face of Europe, while the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact led former Eastern Bloc countries to rapidly transition to liberal democracy and free-market economies, creating an ideological victory that thinkers like Francis Fukuyama described as the "end of history." However, this transition period was not peaceful everywhere; under pressure from superpowers, ethnic and religious animosities that had been swept under the rug for years were unleashed through a "refrigerator effect," resulting in bloody civil wars in regions such as Yugoslavia, Chechnya, and Nagorno-Karabakh. Simultaneously, NATO's expansion into former Soviet spheres of influence and Russia's perception of this as a threat to its own security laid the foundations for the current Russia-West tensions and the Ukraine crisis. In this new world order, where the fear of nuclear apocalypse has been replaced by economic globalization, borderless capital movements, and the internet revolution, global prosperity has increased on the one hand, but it has also brought with it new security problems such as uncontrolled arms proliferation and regional instability on the other.

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