

Cold War Era: Advanced Historical Inquiry

Cold War History · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. Which Soviet diplomat was recalled from his post in Washington D.C. in 1962 due to his alleged involvement in the theft of classified documents related to US missile defense?

- A) Andrei Gromyko
- B) Anatoly Dobrynin
- C) Valerian Zorin
- D) Georgi Bolshakov

2. The Prague Spring of 1968 was a period of political liberalization in Czechoslovakia. What was the codename for the Soviet-led invasion that crushed the reform movement?

- A) Operation Danube
- B) Operation Whirlwind
- C) Operation Barbarian
- D) Operation Citadel

3. What was the name of the clandestine US intelligence program, active in the 1960s and 70s, that involved the use of spy satellites to photograph Soviet military installations?

- A) Project Chimera
- B) Project Corona
- C) Project Mercury
- D) Project Blue Book

4. The Sino-Soviet split, a major geopolitical event, began to publicly manifest in the early 1960s. Which specific ideological dispute was a primary catalyst for this rift?

- A) Stalinism vs. Khrushchevism
- B) Maoism vs. Peaceful Coexistence
- C) Trotskyism vs. Soviet Orthodoxy
- D) Hoxhaism vs. Eurocommunism

5. In what year did the United States and the Soviet Union sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I)?

- A) 1969
- B) 1972
- C) 1975
- D) 1979

6. Which African nation experienced a brutal civil war from 1967 to 1970, largely fueled by Cold War proxy rivalries between Nigeria and Biafra, supported by external powers?

- A) Angola
- B) Mozambique
- C) Biafra (secessionist region of Nigeria)
- D) Ethiopia

7. The Yom Kippur War of 1973 saw significant Cold War alignments. Which superpower provided substantial military aid to Israel during the conflict?

- A) The Soviet Union
- B) The United States
- C) China
- D) France

8. What was the name of the secret US reconnaissance aircraft that flew missions over the Soviet Union and was shot down in 1960, leading to the U-2 incident?

- A) SR-71 Blackbird
- B) B-52 Stratofortress
- C) U-2 Dragon Lady
- D) F-4 Phantom II

9. The Brezhnev Doctrine, proclaimed in 1968, asserted the right of the Soviet Union to intervene in socialist countries to preserve communist rule. What event precipitated its articulation?

- A) The Hungarian Uprising of 1956
- B) The Prague Spring of 1968
- C) The Solidarity movement in Poland
- D) The Afghanistan War

10. Which treaty, signed in 1963, prohibited nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and underwater, representing a significant, albeit limited, arms control agreement?

- A) Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
- B) Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT)
- C) Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty
- D) Outer Space Treaty

11. The 'Domino Theory' was a key rationale for US intervention in Southeast Asia during the Cold War. Which country's potential fall to communism was the most prominent example used to illustrate this theory?

- A) Laos
- B) Cambodia
- C) South Vietnam
- D) Thailand

12. What was the name of the US initiative, announced in 1947, that provided significant economic and military aid to countries threatened by communism, particularly in Western Europe?

- A) The Marshall Plan
- B) The Truman Doctrine
- C) The Eisenhower Doctrine
- D) The NATO Accord

13. The Berlin Wall was a potent symbol of the Cold War. In what year was construction of the Berlin Wall officially begun?

- A) 1958
- B) 1961
- C) 1963
- D) 1965

14. Which Latin American country experienced a US-backed coup in 1973, leading to the overthrow of its democratically elected socialist president, Salvador Allende?

- A) Cuba
- B) Nicaragua
- C) Chile
- D) Guatemala

15. The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. What was the direct Soviet response to the US naval blockade of Cuba?

- A) The Soviets immediately withdrew their missiles.
- B) The Soviets deployed additional nuclear warheads.
- C) The Soviets agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for a US pledge not to invade Cuba and the secret removal of US missiles from Turkey.
- D) The Soviets launched a limited nuclear strike against a US naval vessel.

16. What was the primary purpose of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), formed in 1949?

- A) To promote economic cooperation among Western European nations.
- B) To provide a collective defense against Soviet aggression.
- C) To establish a neutral buffer zone between East and West.
- D) To facilitate cultural exchange between member states.

17. The 'Space Race' was a significant aspect of the Cold War. Which nation was the first to successfully launch a satellite into orbit?

- A) United States
- B) Soviet Union
- C) China
- D) United Kingdom

18. What was the name of the Soviet intelligence agency responsible for foreign intelligence and espionage during much of the Cold War?

- A) KGB
- B) GRU
- C) NKVD
- D) FSB