

THE CONTINUING COLD WAR

TEXT SUMMARY

During the 1950s the Cold War spread to several other nations around the world, while an anti-Communist crusade at home spread fear and suspicion.

Continued fear of Communist expansion led many Americans to believe the charges of Senator Joseph McCarthy that Communists had infiltrated the government. Using smear tactics and baseless accusations that came to be called **McCarthyism**, the senator targeted high-ranking government officials and even proclaimed that the army was full of Communists. At hearings viewed by millions of Americans, people saw through McCarthy's tactics, and he soon lost public support.

In foreign affairs, President Eisenhower continued Truman's policies of containment, while the United States and the Soviet Union increasingly vied for world leadership. They competed in an **arms race** to gain weapons superiority. The

United States wanted to establish a policy of **deterrence**, making the United States so powerful that no enemy would dare attack.

Using a policy of **brinkmanship**, going to the edge of war to protect interests, the United States tested the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, the Soviets were building powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles, or **ICBMs**. When the Soviet Union launched **Sputnik**, the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth, the United States realized the extent of Soviet technology. While trying to gain access to these technologies, a U.S. spy plane was shot down over Soviet territory. What became known as the **U-2 incident** shattered the confidence of the United States and made the country willing to spend considerable resources to catch up to, and surpass, the Soviet Union.

THE BIG IDEA

During the 1950s the Cold War spread around the globe, while the fears of communism at home reached new levels.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *The Cold War Worldwide*

Asia	Middle East	Latin America
1950–1953 American and UN forces battle Communist expansion in Korean War.	1948 Nation of Israel is created. United States backs Israel, Soviet Union supports surrounding Arab nations.	1954 United States helps overthrow government of Guatemala, claiming it supports radical causes.
1954 Vietnam is divided into Communist North Vietnam and anti-Communist South Vietnam. United States provides support for South Vietnam.	1957 President Eisenhower states that United States will use force to oppose communism in Middle East.	1959 Fidel Castro takes over Cuba, eventually forming alliance with Soviet Union.

The Cold War quickly developed into a global struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was McCarthyism?

2. **Chart Skills** What year did Fidel Castro take over Cuba?