Cold War

Part II

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East Germany especially East Berlin became the focus of the Cold War

Berlin Airlift

Soviet attempt to get control of West Berlin by cutting off supplies to the city

U.S. flew in supplies by air for nearly a year until the Soviets backed down

Soviet Union vs U.S. in an arms race

Each side began spending billions on weapons - including nuclear weapons

Cold War heated up in the early 60's

Cuba became communist

U.S. concerned about communists in our backyard.

U.S. backed Fidel Castro until he turned communist. Then the CIA worked to overthrow him

Central Intelligence Agency operates OUTSIDE of the U.S. U.S. spy agency - to spy and operate against foreign spies outside the U.S.

Federal Bureau of Investigation operates mainly inside the U.S. (anti-spy agency to catch foreign spies here)

Bay of Figs

U.S. backed Cuba rebels landed in Cuba but were massacred by Castro's troops (very embarrassing to the CIA and President Kennedy)

Cuban Missile Crisis

Very close to a major war (nuclear) between the U.S. and Soviet Union

U.S. spy planes flying over Cuba detected Soviet missiles (major threat to U.S. security)

President Kennedy ordered warships to blockade Cuba
U.S. and Soviet ships faced off

Very close to war but at the last minute the Soviets backed down and removed the missiles

U.S. concerned about communism in Latin America spreading from Cuba

CIA operated in Latin America giving money, weapons and support countries fighting against communism

Problem:

The U.S. would often support governments that were not democratic and had human rights abuses -

but if they opposed communism we would support them

Vietnam

Because of the Domino Theory we wanted to stop communism before it could spread to all of Southeast Asia

Eisenhower: sent money and weapons to help France fight the communists

President Kennedy sent weapons and advisors to South Vietnam to help them fight the communists

Johnson sent in U.S. troops to Vietnam in increasingly greater numbers

Nixon vowed to decrease military numbers, but bombed North Vietnam to try to get them to end the war

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