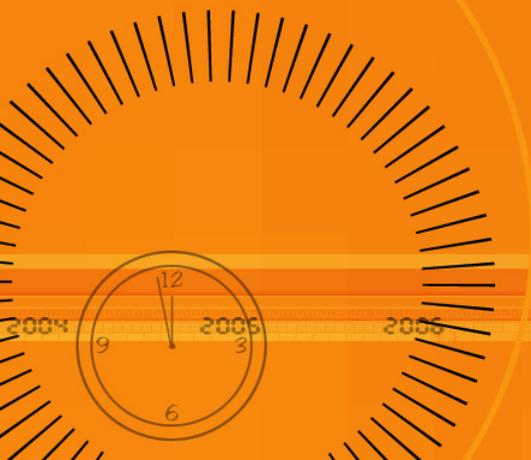


12

Atomic Clock

How close did we come to a nuclear war?

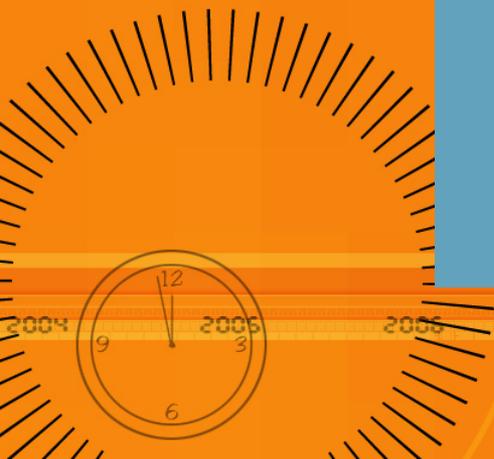
- The closest the world ever came to a nuclear war was in October of 1962.
- On the 14th, a U-2 spy plane flew over Cuba and noticed that missile platforms were being built on the island. This site were not far away from United States installation of Guantanamo Bay.



2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

- Due to how close these missiles were to the United States, President John F. Kennedy and his advisors were torn between launching a military offensive invasion, or using diplomatic methods.
- On October 22nd, President Kennedy ordered a full naval blockade of Cuba. All U.S. forces were brought up to DEF-CON 3, ICBM's were prepped for launch, Polaris submarines were dispatched, and bombers were placed on alert. In return, the Warsaw Pact countries were also on alert.
- By the 28th, tensions began to subside when the Soviets withdrew missiles, while in 1963 the United States withdrew missiles around Turkey.

Atomicarchive.com.



2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

- **Key Terms:**
- **NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO was formed as a response to the Cold War. NATO nations were cooperatives against the Soviet Union; in an attempt to have predominantly western nations try to encircle communism and prevent its spread; also be readily available to fight Soviet aggression. Currently NATO has 28 member nations.
<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>
- **Warsaw Pact:** In 1955 the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries formed the Warsaw Pact as a response to NATO. The Pact did not have a common defense structure as NATO did; it agreed to not interfere with each other's internal affairs while at the same time sharing a defense against western aggressors. http://www.shsu.edu/~his_ncp/WarPact.html
- **Perestroika:** When Mikhail Gorbachev began to restructure the economic, political, and social changes of the Soviet Union. It unintentionally led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and other retreats from Soviet strongholds.
<http://www.ibiblio.org/expo/soviet.exhibit/perest.html>
- **Glasnost:** A policy allowing for open discussions of Soviet policies including a freer press. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/glasnost>

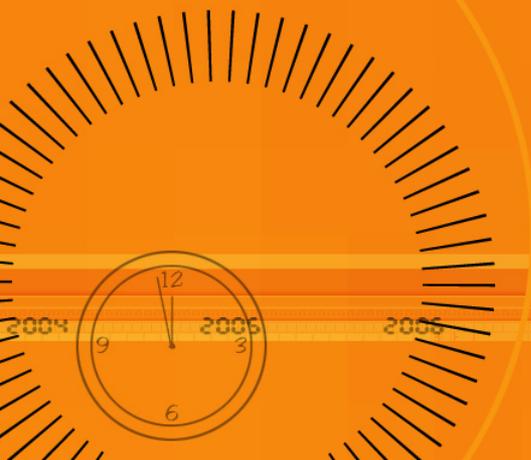


Test Ban Treaties

- Limited Test Ban Treaty: Signed in 1958, between the United States, Soviet Union, and Great Britain. All three countries agreed to not test any weapons at sea, outer space, or in the atmosphere.
- Non-Proliferation Treaty: (1968) Again, the same three nations plus an additional 133 more agreed to prevent other countries from developing or acquiring nuclear weapons while at the same time share peaceful technology with them. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dda/WMD/treaty/>
- SALT I (1972) and SALT II (1979): Dealt with Anti-Ballistic Missile defense systems and the number of offensive warhead capabilities.
- Intermediate—Range Nuclear Forces (INF)—(1987) Banned all intermediate, and small range weapons and on-site inspections were required.
- Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I and II (START) (1991 & 1993): Both treaties set limits to the number of weapons each country were to have by 12/4/2001.
- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) (1996): Banning all tests above and below ground to be monitored by seismographs.



- The United States and Soviet Union did indirectly fight on the battle front a few times.
- Although in Vietnam the Soviet Union was not directly involved, Communist China was in support of the Viet Cong.
- In the 1980's, Afghanistan was where both the United States and Soviet Union aided forces. Osama Bin Laden was involved with the CIA there. After the end of the war a huge vacuum was left, where Taliban and Al Qaeda ran terror camps to seek retribution against NATO and Warsaw Pact members.
- President Ronald W. Reagan came into office with sweeping ideas to end the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Although his methods would be deemed by some as extreme, a combination of events led to the fall of the Iron Curtain.

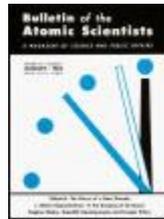
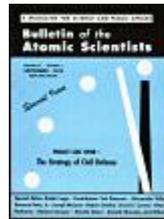
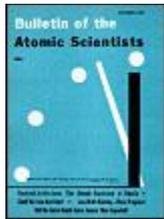


2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

- Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI or Star Wars). A space--based warhead intercept system that would destroy incoming ICBM's at various stages of flight. This caused commotion all over especially in the Soviet Union, because it could render first or second strike attacks as vulnerable.
- The system would not work because of too many variables, but President Reagan's call for the neutron bomb accelerated proliferation. Neutron bombs differ since radiation effects were more prevalent, which was better in the European theater.
- Although the United States has developed an aerial laser built on a modified 747 that could potentially shoot down missiles. It is known as the ABL.
- In November of 1989, the Berlin Wall fell.
- Eventually, in December of 1991, the Soviet Union fell.
- The Cold War unofficially lasted from 1945 or 1946 to 1991, although it could be argued that it still does exist today; old cold hearts don't die easily.



- Finally, the Atomic Clock or Doomsday Clock. Since the dawn of the Cold War, the Board of Directors at the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists from the University of Chicago created the Atomic Clock, signifying how close we were to a potential zero hour of nuclear war. Pictures 1949, 1953, and 1960.



2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

- Contributing Sources:
- www.doomsdayclock.org
- Atomicarchive.com
- www.coldwar.org Cold War Museum
- www.nato.int
- www.shsu.edu Sam Houston State University
- www.ibiblio.org University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- www.meriram-webster.com
- www.un.org
- <http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/brief/ids.html#pw>

