



Back to the Cold War

May 7th, 2014

The Cuban Missile Crisis

- 1959: Cuban rebels led by Fidel Castro overthrew a pro-US dictator named Fulgencio Batista. The US was displeased and imposed sanctions against Cuba.
- 1961: Cuban exiles landed in Cuba to try and overthrow Castro. It was a failure.
- Oct. 1962: US surveillance showed that the USSR was installed offensive nuclear missile bases in Cuba.

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- JFK announced a naval/air blockade of Cuba. NORAD readied for war.
- Initially USSR Premier Khrushchev declined to remove the missiles.
- At the last minute Khrushchev had the missile bases dismantled.
- During the Crisis: US expected Canada to be unconditionally supportive of their policies. But Diefenbaker disagreed.
- Dief was reluctant to have Canada drawn into a US orientated conflict.

Nuclear Issues

- The question arose: Should we take nuclear weapons on Canadian territory like the Americans wanted?
- When the Avro Arrow was stopped, we accepted some US Bomarc missiles. The missiles could carry nuclear warheads.
- 1963: The Conservatives were divided on the issue. The Minister of External Affairs was anti-nuclear. The Defense Minister argued that nuclear weapons were crucial to our defense against communism.

Continued

- Election 1963: Lester Pearson and the Liberals campaigned with the proposal to accept nuclear weapons under certain circumstances.
- Diefenbaker and the Conservatives appealed to Canadian nationalism and Canada's right to decide for their own.
- Businesses supported Pearson, fearing Diefenbaker's anti-Americanism would inhibit trade.
- Lester Pearson won the 1963 election by a narrow margin.

Vietnam War

- North Vietnam had a communist government. South Vietnam was more of a dictatorship (rather than democracy) but the US supported them.
- 1966: There were 317000 US soldiers in Vietnam. Meanwhile the USSR and communist China gave weapons and aid to North Vietnam.
- It was the first war recorded by television.

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- 1968: Public learned of a massacre of Vietnam civilians by US soldiers in My Lai.
- 1968: Tet Offensive: North Vietnamese forces simultaneously attacked South Vietnam cities.

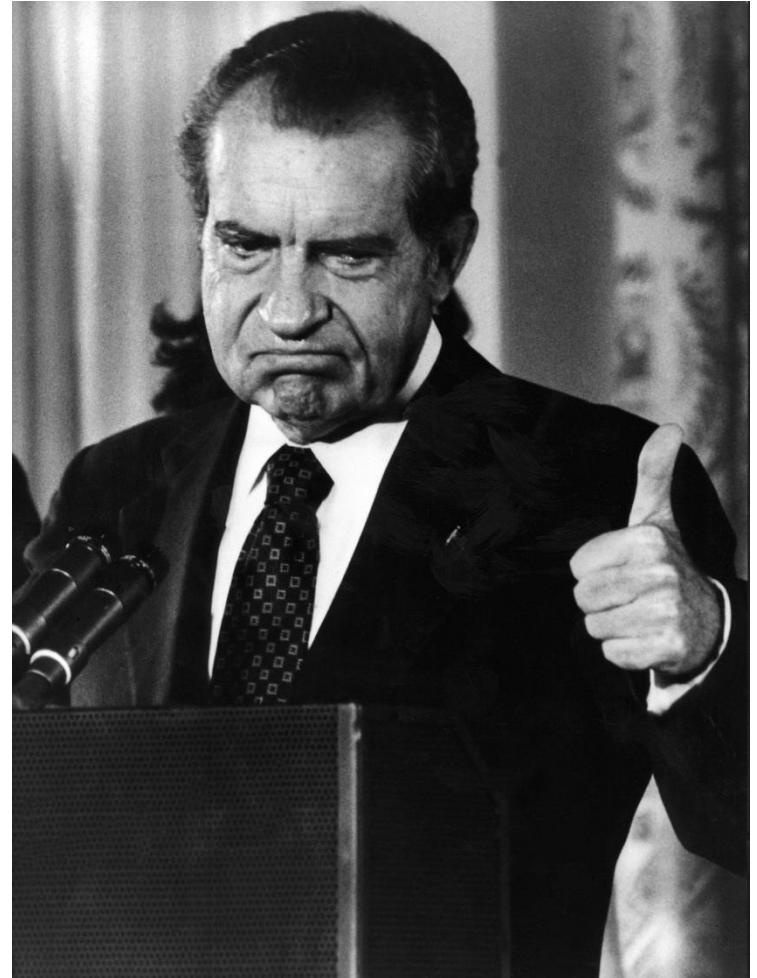


Canada and the Vietnam War

- Most Canadians saw communism as a threat.
- The longer the war went, the more Canadians turned against the American policies.
- By 1965: 1000s of draft dodgers came to Canada.
- Canada tried to stay neutral. But close relations with the US made that hard.
- We sent no troops, but some Canadians volunteered.

The End

- 1969: Nixon took office. He promised to pull troops out of Vietnam.
- 1972: Troops started to pull out.
- 1973: Troops were completely gone.
- 1975: A North Vietnamese military force crushed the South Vietnamese army.
- They became united under communism.



Trudeau and Foreign Policy

- Pierre Trudeau wanted to set a course in defence policy that was less dependent on US approval.
- 1970: Canada officially recognized the communist government in China.
- He took steps away from American policy in defence too:
 - 1970-2: Canada's NATO forces gave up nuclear missiles in Europe. And our forces in Europe were reduced to half.
 - Bomarc Missile sites were dismantled.
 - National defence budget cut by 20%.

Our International Profile

- Trudeau wanted us to be a middle power.
- At the time there were many developing countries not attached to either of the major rival power blocs.
- Trudeau wanted to bridge the gaps between these nations and called for more aid to for the poor countries.
- He developed a policy of trade and aid. Trade and aid is the process of stimulating the economies of developing countries with aid so they could access global markets and trade with developed nations.
- 1968: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) was created. It was to boost foreign aid to less developed countries.

Renewed Cold War

- Early 1970s: Tensions eased between USA and USSR.
- 1972: Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I) happened. The two countries signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABMT).
- 1979: USSR invaded Afghanistan and sent medium range missiles to Europe. So NATO sent more missiles to Europe.