Cold War Vocabulary Terms

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| Satellite States | Countries that are officially independent but under the political control of an outside government. (ex. Several Eastern European countries were satellite states of the Soviet Union following WWII. |
| Cold War | A decades long conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. It was ‘cold’ because neither country fought on a battlefield or attacked one another physically. The Cold War divided Europe into Communist and non-Communist countries. |
| United Nations | An organization of countries that promotes peace and security around the world. |
| Superpowers | Following WWII, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as very strong and influential countries |
| Domino Theory | The U.S. government had a theory that if one country became Communist, this could influence its neighbors to become Communist also. *Countries would fall to Communism one by one – like dominoes*. |
| Containment | A policy adopted by the U.S. to deal with the spread of Communism. The idea was not to challenge Communism, but to prevent its spread (contain it). |
| Truman Doctrine | In an effort to contain Communism, the U.S. would send economic and military aid to countries threatened by Communism. |
| The Marshall Plan | The goal of the Marshall Plan was to contain Soviet expansion by developing the economies of Western & Southern Europe. |
| NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organization. A collective security alliance formed by non-Communist countries. |
| Warsaw Pact | In response to NATO, the Soviet Union created the Warsaw Pact. This was also a collective security alliance, but its member countries were communist. |
| Arms Race | Competition between countries to have the most military arms. |
| Space Race | Competition between nations to explore space. |
| Sputnik | The world’s first Soviet space satellite. |
| Iron Curtain | A political and military barrier created by the Soviet Union after taking control of countries in Eastern Europe following World War II. |