Hot and Cold War Crises

World History

**Instructions:** At your table groups research the below Cold War Conflicts. After explaining each event briefly, decide whether that event increased or decreased the likelihood of the Cold War becoming a Hot War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

For each event, consider:

Did this event push the US and the USSR closer or further away from open direct war?

(212F= Boiling/War) Please provide a 1-2 sentence justification for the temperature assigned.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Explanation (100-word limit) | Temperature (32 F to 212 F) |
| Berlin Blockade and Airlift | The **Berlin Blockade** (24 June 1948 – 12 May 1949) was one of the first major international crises of the [Cold War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War). During the [multinational occupation of post–World War II Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allied-occupied_Germany), the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union), blocked the [Western Allies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Bloc)' railway, road, and canal access to the sectors of [Berlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin) under Western control.  The Western Allies organized the **Berlin airlift** to carry supplies to the people of West Berlin, a difficult feat given the size of the city's population. The Soviets lifted the blockade on May 12, 1949. | 100 F  While both sides were actively working against each other, they were hesitant to use their military resources so recently after WWII. |
| Formation of NATO and Warsaw Pact |  |  |
| Division of Germany |  |  |
| Korean War |  |  |
| Sputnik Launched |  |  |
| First Man of the Moon |  |  |
| Berlin Wall Built |  |  |
| Cuban Missile Crisis |  |  |
| Arms Race and SALT Treaties |  |  |
| Vietnam War |  |  |
| SDI (Star Wars) Program |  |  |
| Soviet-Afghan War |  |  |
| Berlin Wall Falls and end of Soviet Union |  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. At what point did the two sides come closest to open and direct war?

Justify your choice.

1. Why do you think the Cold War never boiled over into a Hot War between the two sides?
2. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, was there ever a moment where freezing (peace) was possible between the two sides?
3. What lessons can we learn from the Cold War that we can apply to our world today?