**Cold War Events and Canada**

United Nations (Oct 1945)

1. General Assembly:

– study, discuss, make recommendations to promote international cooperation (welfare, disarmament, maintaining peace)

1. Security Council:

– actions to prevent future wars

1. International Justice Council:

– Used to uphold the UN Charter and applies only to states that join the UN

1. Secretariat:

– daily duties of the UN (they work for the UN, no government interference)

1. Economic and Social Council:

– Special agencies (WHO, UNESCO)

a) Korean War

Background

* Last day of WWII, Russia “liberated” North Korea, America “liberated” South Korea from Japan
* Both parties hastened to set up their own type of governance in their respective areas
* Kim Il Sung for the North was communist
* Syngman Rhee for the South was capitalist.
* Soviets support N Korea with arms
* Americans slowly withdraw support to S Korea as it was not a priority to them (1946)
* Communists in China win Civil War in 1949
* Rumours that the South plans to attack the North so the North strikes first

Timeline:

1. Beginnings June -Sept 1950

* June 25, North Korea sent an invasion force across the 38th parallel into South Korea
* Northern forces rapidly advanced
* South Koreans are ill-equipped
* Seoul taken three days after the invasion began
* The United Nations condemned North Korea's attack
* The Soviet Union was boycotting the U.N. Security Council at the time
* therefore unable to veto the council's condemnation
* Allows the U.N. to set up a force to help defend South Korea.
* The US leads the U.N. force
* US could do little against the Northern forces
* The U.N. forces were forced back to a perimeter around Pusan by early August.

2) Counterattack Sept-Oct 1950

* U.N. forces, under the command of U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, landed at the port of Inchon near Seoul on September 15, 1950
* Cuts off the North Korean army, which was attempting to force a way into the Pusan Perimeter
* U.N. forces from Pusan and Inchon were able to overwhelm the Northern troops in South Korea
* Seoul was taken by U.N. forces on September 26.
* U.N. forces capture Pyongyang on October 19
* China is against the presence of U.N. troops in N Korea but MacArthur continued to move his forces northward
* announced intention of unifying the Korean peninsula.
* Some U.N. forces reached the Yalu River on October 25.

3) Chinese Advance Oct 1950 – Jan 1951

* October 1950, while China was issuing its warnings, a large Chinese force had already entered N Korea
* November 25, 130,000-300,000 Chinese attacked the U.N. forces pushing them south
* U.N. abandoned Pyongyang on December 4
* U.S. Navy evacuated tens of thousands of refugees and U.N. personnel from the ports of Hungnam and Wonsan.
* Communist forces invaded S Korea again on December 31, 1950
* Seoul was recaptured on January 4, 1951
* U.N. forces stopped the Chinese-North Korean advance about 30 mi south of Seoul

4) Armistice Jan 1951 – Jul 1953

* U.N. forces reoccupied Seoul in March 1951
* Advance slightly north of the 38th parallel
* Truce talks began on July 10, 1951
* Disagreement over several issues (ex: exchange of prisoners) delayed the signing of an armistice until 1953

Troops sent (by 1953):

* U.N. = over 550,000
* N Korean and Chinese = around 1.5 million
* As part of the cease-fire, both sides agreed to withdraw 2 km along the final battleground to establish a demilitarized zone along the armistice line

b) Suez Canal Crisis

* Connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea
* Oil from Middle East to Western Europe

Suez Canal Crisis 1956

* Canal was owned by British and French investors
* Gamal Abdel Nasser takes over the canal (supplied by Russia) because Britain wouldn’t fund the creation of the Aswan Dam on the Nile
* Israel sends troops to Egypt (planned with Br and Fr)
* France and Britain demand that Egypt and Israel cease fire
* French and British bomb Egypt and send in troops
* UN forces French and British out and peacekeepers are sent in while a settlement was worked out
* Egypt gets the canal

c) Cuban Missile Crisis

* Cuba becomes communist in 1961
* Bay of Pigs 1961
  + CIA had been training anti-revolutionary exiles to invade Cuba and oust Castro
  + Operation was approved by Kennedy
  + April 15, 2 days before invasion, was the bombing of Castro’s air force
  + Air strikes stop and on April 17, the US invades Cuba at the Bay of Pigs (Bahía de Cochinos) with the 1500 trained exiles
  + US hoped that there would be anti-Castro Cubans that would help once the Americans landed

Cuban Missile Crisis October 14, 1962

* Reconnaissance photo taken in October showing a nuclear weapons base in Cuba
* Kennedy creates a blockade of Cuba
* Oct 24 Russian ships stop just before they meet the naval blockade
* Khrushchev sends his first telegram to offer to remove missiles from Cuba if Kennedy removes the blockade
* Before Kennedy answer, Khrushchev sends another telegram demanding the dismantling of US missile sites in Turkey
* Meanwhile, a U2 plane is shot down over Cuba

Outcome

* One Russian ship carrying oil is let through
* Kennedy ignores the U2 being shot down and gives in to the first demand of Khrushchev (releasing the blockade for dismantling of Cuban missile sites)
* A secret agreement was made to dismantle US missile sites in Turkey

d) Vietnam War

Background

* Vietnam is under the control of China until French Colonialism in 1885 after a war with China
* Japan takes Indochina (Vietnam) during WWII
* France attempts to reoccupy Vietnam after WWII vs nationalists
* 1956 ceasefire and Vietnam is split
* US helps France to contain communism
* US refuses to allow elections in South Vietnam

Gulf of Tonkin Incident

* August 2, 1964, US ship is torpedoed by a N. Vietnamese ship (NVA)
* Two days later another ship is attacked
* August 7, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution is passed by President Lyndon Johnson
* Not a declaration of war but “necessary steps” to protect the US

Spark of War

* February 1965, Vietcong attacks American air bases in Vietnam and killed American soldiers
* US declares war against N. Vietnam

Guerrilla Warfare

* NVA and Vietcong would hide in villages to attack Americans
* Impossible for Americans to tell who were civilians and who weren’t
* Supply routes from China were through the jungles so it was difficult for Americans to cut it off (also could start a war with China)
* NVA would stay close to American troops to prevent air attacks
* [Demoralizes](http://ca.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfE2wyRiLK4&feature=related) American troops and gains more support from villagers for the NVA

Vietnamization

* Nixon is President in 1969 and wins on a policy of ending the war
* Turn over control of the war to the South Vietnamese and get Americans out
* Support the South financially
* Why didn’t Americans support the war?
* 58,000 Americans - average age 19 - were killed.
* It was hard for Americans to believe that they were defending America by fighting in a war 8,000 miles away.
* Extensive media coverage brought all the failures and horrors of the war into US homes.
* Atrocities such as the massacre at My Lai undermined the moral authority of the US to continue the war.
* The war was opposed particularly by Martin Luther King and by America's black community (because wealthier white men could avoid the draft by going to university or to Canada, and young black men were twice as likely to be killed).