If the Bomb Drops . . .

"If you are in the open, drop to the ground instantly, back to the light, and try to shade your bare face, neck, arms, and hands. This will not shield you from gamma rays, but will protect you from burns."

— "What to Do if Bomb Falls Without Warning," Seattle Civil Defense Manual, 1951

◄ Posters warned Americans about the threat of nuclear war.

Global Concerns in the Cold War

Objectives
- Explain how the Cold War turned into an arms race.
- Describe how the Cold War divided the emerging countries in Asia and Africa.
- Explain how communism gained influence in Latin America.
- Explain why Cuba became a crisis spot during the Cold War.

Reading Skill

Evaluate Short- and Long-Term Effects Some causes lead to both short- and long-term effects. For example, an event might cause an immediate reaction and also change a long-standing pattern in society. The Cold War had many immediate effects on the world. It also had long-term effects.

Key Terms and People
superpower	stockpile
arms race	John F. Kennedy

Why It Matters Tensions between the United States and Communist nations increased during and after the Korean War. As the Cold War intensified, the United States and the Soviet Union competed for power around the world. They engaged in a dangerous competition to build up their supplies of nuclear weapons.

Section Focus Question: How did the Cold War increase tensions around the world?

The Arms Race

After almost 30 years of totalitarian rule in the Soviet Union, Josef Stalin died in 1953. His death brought no letup in the Cold War tensions. A new Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev (KROOSH chawf), predicted that communism would destroy the Western democracies.
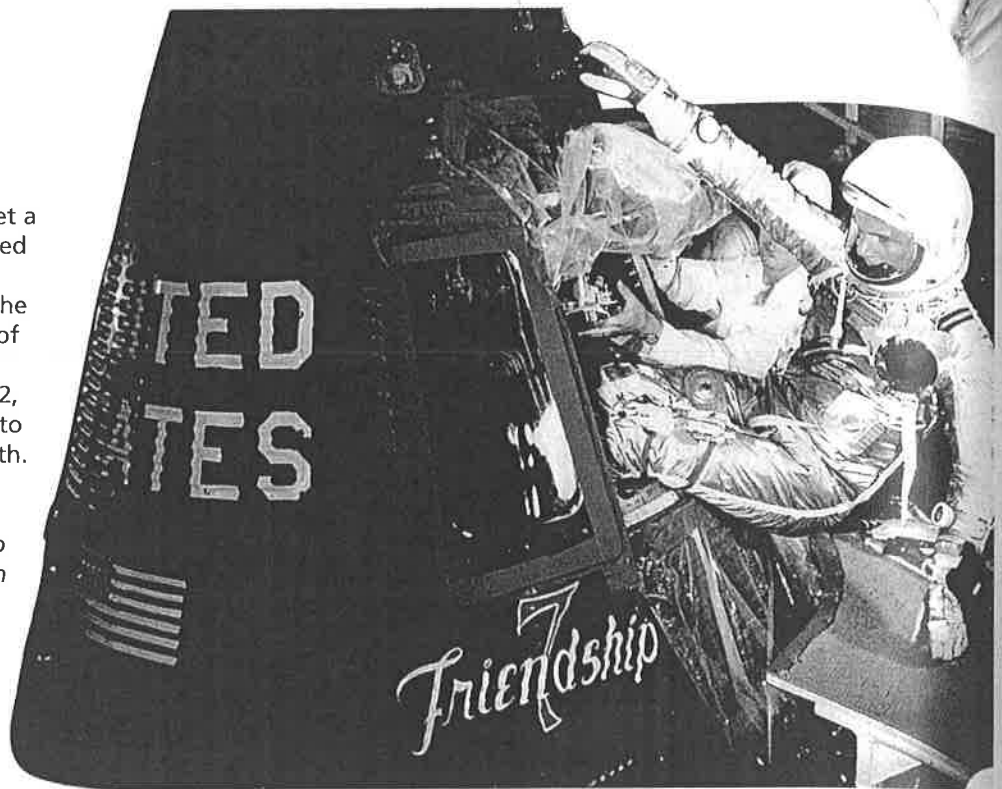
By the end of the 1950s, the United States and the Soviet Union had emerged as world superpowers. **Superpowers** are countries whose military, economic, and political strength are so great that they can influence events worldwide.

In the 1950s, the two nations began an expensive and dangerous arms race. An **arms race** is a contest in which nations compete to build more and more powerful weapons. In 1952, Americans exploded the first hydrogen bomb, or H-bomb. Soon, the Soviets had their own H-bomb. China joined the race by exploding its own atomic bomb in 1964. Three years later, China exploded a hydrogen bomb. Britain and France also developed nuclear weapons.

Race to the Moon

The launching of *Sputnik* set a new challenge for the United States. NASA's goal was to send a person into space. The government spent billions of dollars in the effort. John Glenn (shown here), in 1962, became the first American to orbit, or travel around, Earth. His flight lasted nearly five hours. **Critical Thinking: Link Past and Present** *Do you think space exploration is still considered as important today as it was during the 1950s and 1960s? Explain.*

Evaluate Short- and Long-Term Effects
Evaluate the short- and long-term effects of the arms race.

No country wanted to use nuclear weapons and risk a deadly counterattack. Instead, the nuclear nations stockpiled, or collected, their nuclear weapons. By the 1970s, the Soviet Union and the United States had enough weapons stockpiled to destroy each other many times over.

The superpowers also competed in space. In October 1957, the Soviet Union alarmed the West by launching the world's first human-made satellite. *Sputnik* weighed only 184 pounds, but the tiny satellite circling Earth at 18,000 miles an hour gave Americans a huge shock. If the Soviets could send satellites into space, they could also launch nuclear missiles at American cities.

The United States and the Soviets were now also in a race to develop the technology to control outer space. In response to *Sputnik*, Congress created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to launch its own space missions. Congress also passed the National Defense Education Act. Its goal was to produce more scientists and more teachers.

☑**Checkpoint** How did the launch of *Sputnik* affect Americans?

Emerging Nations

After World War II, many former colonies gained their independence. The United States and the Soviet Union soon were engaged in a competition to win allies among the new nations.

The Peace Corps The Soviet Union made a major effort to win support among the newly independent nations. To counter this

appeal, President John F. Kennedy in 1961 proposed that Congress establish a Peace Corps. The new program sought to build friendships between Americans and the people of other nations. It also sought to encourage economic growth in developing countries.

Thousands of Americans, young and old, volunteered to serve in poor villages in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. They shared their skills and knowledge as teachers, doctors, nurses, carpenters, and farmers.

Developments in Africa The Soviet Union quickly extended aid to the new African nations of Ghana and Guinea. To counter Soviet influence, the United States expanded its own aid to other newly independent countries.

The Congo became a flash point for this competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to gain influence in a region. In 1960, the former Belgian Congo gained independence as the nation of Congo. Soon, opposing groups were fighting over control of the new country. The United States backed one side. The Soviet Union aided the other side. Each side supplied airplanes, trucks, and technical advisers to its Congo allies. The war became increasingly violent.

The Philippines With European nations weakened by World War II, many Asians saw an opportunity to seize the independence for which they had long hungered.

The first Asian country to win independence in the postwar period was the Philippine Islands. The United States had promised Filipinos independence in 1934. Twelve years later, in 1946, the United States lived up to its promise.

Unrest soon developed in the Philippines. Many Filipinos wanted reforms, especially land reforms. When the government moved too slowly toward making changes, fighting broke out. Some of the rebels were Communists. By 1954, the government had defeated the rebels. It also made some needed land reforms.

After Ferdinand Marcos became president in 1965, however, the government became less democratic. In the years that followed, many groups continued to push for greater reforms.

Indochina Indochina, which had been under French control, took a different path. After World War II, France struggled to maintain control. In one of the colonies, Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh (HOH CHEE MIHN) led the fight for independence from France. Because Ho was a Communist who had Soviet backing, the United States backed the French. In 1954, Ho's forces defeated the French and won control of the northern part of Vietnam. Fighting in Vietnam would last for almost 30 years. Before it ended, the fighting would draw the United States into a long and bitter war. You will read about the Vietnam War in another chapter.

Evaluate Short- and Long-Term Effects Evaluate the short- and long-term effects of growing independence among developing nations.

A Volunteer

This Peace Corps volunteer is reading to a child in Senegal. The Peace Corps logo is also shown.

☑**Checkpoint** How did the Peace Corps help the United States build friendships with other nations?

The Cuban Missile Crisis
For 13 days in 1962, a standoff between President Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev over missile bases inside Cuba drew the superpowers dangerously close to a nuclear war. *Critical Thinking: Analyze Cause and Effect* How did the Cuban missile crisis affect the arms race?

Vocabulary Builder
revolt (ree VOHLT) *n.* uprising; rebellion

Latin America and the Cold War

In the 1950s, the Cold War moved close to the United States, in Latin America. The nations of Latin America faced many critical problems, including widespread poverty and poor health care. The United States hoped that moderate Latin American governments would gradually improve these conditions.

Many Latin Americans, however, rejected gradual solutions. Instead, revolts brought anti-American groups to power. Many Americans worried about the threat to American security and American businesses in Latin America. As a result, the United States helped military dictators keep or gain power in several Latin American countries. This policy aroused hostile feelings in Latin America toward the United States.

Fidel Castro Comes to Power In January 1959, Fidel Castro, a Communist, led a successful revolution in Cuba. The Soviet Union promised Castro aid. Castro also began to encourage revolution in other parts of Latin America.

Castro's actions forced thousands of Cubans into exile. An exile is a person who is forced to leave his or her own country. Many came to live in the United States.

In April 1961, a group of Cuban exiles secretly trained by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency landed at the Bay of Pigs on the southern coast of Cuba. The invasion failed. However, the invasion made Castro more popular in Cuba and embarrassed the United States.

Cuban Missile Crisis The next crisis was even more serious. In 1962, aerial photographs showed American leaders that the Soviets were building nuclear missile bases inside Cuba. The bases could be used to launch missiles against the United States.

Kennedy insisted that Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev remove the missiles. Kennedy called them "a threat to world peace." The President imposed a naval blockade on Cuba. He ordered the U.S. Navy to stop any Soviet ship from bringing missiles to Cuba.

For 13 days, the world held its breath, hoping that there would not be an <u>encounter</u> between the two superpowers. Soviet ships packed with more missiles steamed toward Cuba. American armed forces went on alert. Across the country, Americans wondered what would happen if the Soviet ships did not turn back.

At the last moment, the Soviet ships approaching the blockade turned back. Khrushchev agreed to withdraw the missiles. The United States pledged not to invade Cuba. U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk described the tense last hours of the crisis: "We were eyeball to eyeball, and I think the other fellow just blinked."

Checkpoint Why were events in Cuba troubling to the American government?

Looking Back and Ahead Dramatic changes occurred in United States foreign policy after World War II. Isolationism was no longer a valid response to world events. There were also critical changes on the home front, especially in the area of racial relations. You will learn about this historic era in the next chapter.

Vocabulary Builder
<u>encounter</u> (ehn KOWN ter) **n.**
short, dangerous, or frightening meeting between people, groups, or things

---

Section 4 | Check Your Progress

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. **(a) Recall** Why did the United States become involved in the affairs of some Latin American countries?
   (b) Detect Points of View How do you think the outcome of the Cuban missile crisis affected Kennedy's reputation in the United States? How do you think it affected Khrushchev's reputation in the Soviet Union?

2. **(a) Identify** What event in October 1957 shocked the United States?
   (b) Draw Conclusions Why was the event seen as a grave threat?

Reading Skill

3. **Evaluate Short- and Long-Term Effects** Reread the text following the subheading "Developments in Africa." Evaluate the short- and long-term effects of civil war in the Congo.

Key Terms

Complete each of the following sentences so that the second part further explains the first part and clearly shows your understanding of the key term.

4. In the 1950s, the Soviet Union and the United States engaged in a dangerous arms race, _____.

5. After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the world's two superpowers, _____.

Writing

6. Add to the following list of items to be used in a multimedia presentation about the Cuban missile crisis: photograph of Soviet missiles in Cuba; photograph of Senator Kenneth Keating presenting aerial view of missile sites.