

**CHAPTER 33** Section 5 (pages 988–991)

# The Cold War Thaws

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about Cold War struggles around the world.

In this section, you will read about the major events of the Cold War from the 1950s to the 1980s.

## AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to show key events that decreased or increased tensions between the superpowers.

### TERMS AND NAMES

**Nikita Khrushchev** Leader of the Soviet Union after Stalin

**Leonid Brezhnev** Soviet leader after Khrushchev

**John F. Kennedy** President of the United States from 1961 to 1963

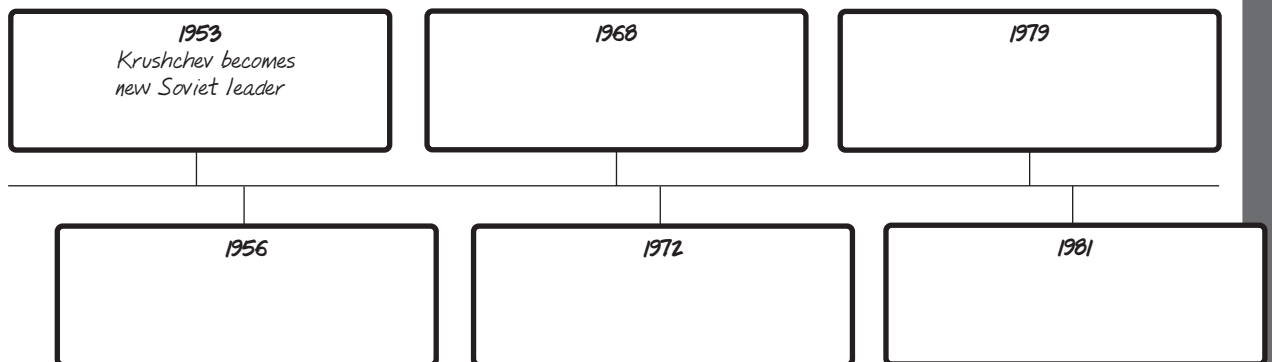
**Lyndon Johnson** President of the United States from 1963 to 1969

**détente** Policy to decrease tensions between the superpowers

**Richard M. Nixon** President of the United States from 1969 to 1974

**SALT** Talks to limit nuclear arms in the United States and the Soviet Union

**Ronald Reagan** President of the United States from 1981 to 1989



## Soviet Policy in Eastern Europe and China (page 988)

### *How did the Soviets keep control over Eastern Europe?*

**Nikita Khrushchev** became the Soviet leader after Stalin died in 1953. Khrushchev began a process of “destalinization.” This meant getting rid of Stalin’s memory. Khrushchev also believed that the Soviet Union should have “peaceful competition” with the capitalist nations.

In Eastern Europe, many people still resented Soviet rule. Eastern Europeans took part in protest

movements against Soviet control. In 1956, protesters and the army overthrew the Communist government of Hungary. Khrushchev sent Soviet tanks to put the Communists back in power. In 1964, **Leonid Brezhnev** replaced Khrushchev. When Czechoslovakians began to reform their Communist government in 1968, Brezhnev sent in tanks to stop them.

The Soviets did not have the same control over their larger neighbor, China. Although the Soviet Union and China enjoyed friendly relations at first, they gradually grew apart. The split became so wide that the Soviet Union and China sometimes

fought along their border. The two nations now have a peaceful relationship.

**1. In what two European countries did the Soviets put down revolts against Soviet control?**

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## **From Brinkmanship to Détente; The Collapse of Détente** (pages 990–991)

*Did tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union change?*

Tensions between the Soviets and the United States had been very high during the presidency of **John F. Kennedy**. They remained high during the presidency of **Lyndon Johnson**. The war in Vietnam helped keep relations tense.

In the early 1970s, the United States began to follow a policy called **détente** under President **Richard M. Nixon**. Détente was a policy of lowering tensions between the superpowers. Nixon made

visits to both Communist China and the Soviet Union. In 1972, he and Brezhnev held meetings called the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (**SALT**). They signed a treaty to limit the number of nuclear missiles each country could have.

The United States retreated from détente when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979. In 1981, **Ronald Reagan**, a fierce anti-Communist, became president. He proposed a costly anti-missile defense system to protect America against Soviet missiles. It was never put into effect. But it remained a symbol of U.S. anti-Communist feelings.

The Soviets grew angry over American support for the rebels fighting against the Communists in Nicaragua. Tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union increased until 1985 when a new leader came to power in the Soviet Union.

**2. Name two actions or events that got in the way of détente.**

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