**III. End of the Cold War**

1. Cuban Missile Crisis
* U.S. put nuclear bombs in Turkey
* **1962 -**Soviet Union secretly began to build missile sites in Cuba
* Were capable of launching nuclear weapons to most of the United States
* U.S. responded by putting a blockade around Cuba
* People around the world feared a nuclear war
* **Khrushchev –**
* **The Red Phone –**
* War was adverted
* U.S. placed an economic embargo on Cuba that still exists today

B. Fall of the Soviet Union

* **Mikhail Gorbachev –**
* Gorbachev wanted economic and social changes
* **Glasnost –**
* **Perestroika** –

C. Arms Race Continues

* **Ronald Reagan –**
* U.S. spent over 2 trillion – If you can’t beat them economically bury them
* Gorbachev realized the Soviets could not afford this
* **1987 –** Two leaders met and signed arms control treaties
* Years of military spending bankrupted the Soviet government
* **1989 –** Fall of the Berlin Wall
* **1990 –** Reunification of Germany
* **March 1990 –** Lithuania declared independence from the Soviet Union
* Gorbachev responded by placing an economic blockade on the country
* **January 1991 –** Soviet troops attack and kill 14 unarmed Lithuanian citizens
* **Boris Yeltsin –**
* Called for the end of the Soviet Union
* Yeltsin became the first directly elected Russian President
* **August 18, 1991 –** Communist hard liners attempt a coup to reassert Communism in the Soviet Union – Gorbachev secretly arrested
* Russian military refused to support the coup
* Communist party collapsed after the failed coup
* **December 25, 1991 –** Soviet Union officially ended and spilt into 15 separate countries
* Marks the end of the Cold War
* 50 years of the Cold War meant that the world’s problem’s had been viewed in the lens of capitalism vs. communism
* Meant that many dangerous and immoral regimes were supported by the US because they opposed the Soviet Union