Capitalism vs. Communism: 
Events of the Cold War, 1947-1991

- Fulton, Missouri: Winston Churchill warns of a communist “Iron Curtain” across Europe during a speech on March 5, 1946.
- Washington, D.C.: The House Un-American Activities Committee conducts hearings into alleged communist propaganda in the Hollywood motion picture industry, eventually HUAC hearings compel actors such as Owen Wister, amongst others.
- Berlin, Germany: The Soviet Union begins a blockade of Berlin from 1948 to 1949. West Allies organized the Berlin airlift.
- West Germany is established in May 1949, with the protection of U.S. troops based in the new country.
- East Germany is established with Soviet help in October 1949.
- Rome, Italy: Communist union and led to the demise of Communist rule in Poland.
- Warsaw, Poland: Roman Catholic Pope John Paul II promotes nationalism against communism in a visit to his native Poland in 1979. The visit was the first time the U.S. did not win the gold medal since the sport’s introduction in the Olympics in 1936.
- Lake Placid, New York: The U.S. hockey team defeats the Soviet Union in the Olympics in 1980. Dubbed the “Miracle on Ice,” the U.S. team of amateurs defeated the Soviet national team, which had seen gold in six of seven previous Olympics.
- Moscow, Russia: Romanian gymnastics team coach Bela Karolyi (who coached gold medalist Nadia Comaneci) defects to the U.S. In 1986 President Reagan orders the bombing of Libya in response to terrorist attacks on American servicemen in Europe.
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