



THE SUPER POWERS



USA  
The United States of America



USSR  
The Soviet Union, officially known as the United Socialist Soviet Union (USSR)



prevented nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis

Vasili Arkhipov



first man in space

Yuri Gagarin



first women in space

Valentina Tereshkova



famous writer

George Orwell



first man on the moon

Neil Armstrong



a great mathematician who worked for NASA

Katherine Johnson

KEY VOCABULARY

Communism

A system where the **government own and control almost everything**. All people are supposed to be treated equally and cannot own land, factories or make their own money.

Capitalism

A system where **businesses are privately owned and run by the people**, rather than the government. Also known as a 'free-market'.

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

The theory that each superpower had enough nuclear weapons to destroy the other but that if they were to attack, the other side would retaliate. This would result in both sides destroying one another. The theory of MAD deterred both sides from using their nuclear weapons.

Cosmonaut

The Russian word for **a person who is trained to go to space**. The Americans used the term 'astronaut'

Containment

The USA's **policy** to try and stop the spread of communism.

Proxy war

Wars fought between other countries where each superpower supported opposing sides

PROXY WARS

WAR	PERIOD	USA sides with	USSR sides with
KOREAN WAR	1950 - 1953	South Korea	North Korea
VIETNAM WAR	1955 - 1975	South Vietnam	North Vietnam