SBIMUN XVII

Model United Nations

SPAdhoc

Background Guide

U.S. Senate: Cold War 1983

Land Acknowledgement

SBIMUN XVII and UCSB Model United Nations would like to acknowledge that the land that we currently occupy as students of the University of California, Santa Barbara, is the homeland of the Barbareño Band of Chumash Native Americans. We recognize that the Barbareño Band of Chumash Native Americans, as well as many others, were forcibly removed from their rightful land and that the consequences of this forced removal still continue to affect Indigenous communities.

SBIMUN XVII and UCSB Model United Nations honor the resilience, strength, and enduring presence of Indigenous people across the country and around the world. As students of UCSB, we continue to reflect on our University's ties with colonial occupation and strive to educate ourselves and uplift Indigenous cultures, issues, and histories. During SBIMUN XVII, we ask that everyone reflect on the repercussions of global colonial development and forcible occupation and strive to support Indigenous and other affected communities throughout their actions in committee this weekend. For more information, please visit their website: www.bbc-indians.com.

Content Warning

The topics of this committee naturally cover issues regarding armed conflict, military occupation, and related humanitarian consequences of global military conflict. With this in mind, UCSB SBIMUN XVII staff remind all delegates to be mindful and respectful in their approaches to addressing the following topics and to treat everyone involved within the committee in a similarly respectful manner. Issues covering human rights abuses always demand professionalism and awareness when being discussed, and our staff expect that this be observed throughout the conference. Finally, we wish for delegates to be aware of the ways these topics may impact their fellow delegates participating in the committee, and to be open and willing to any feedback they receive from our staff regarding behavior.

Welcome Letter from the Crisis Director

Hello Delegates,

My name is Nicole Meng (She/They), and I am incredibly excited to serve as your crisis director for SBIMUNXVII's Specialized Ad Hoc committee. As your crisis director, I look forward to seeing you utilize all the special mechanics in this committee to their fullest potential. I encourage you to be as creative and cunning as possible to produce the most interesting committee dynamics.

I am currently a fourth year at UC Santa Barbara, double-majoring in Sociology and History of Public Policy and Law. I also picked up our unique Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice Minor, which I am extremely passionate about. I was born in the San Gabriel Valley in southern California, but I have moved around throughout my life. I lived in China for four years in the provinces of Guangdong and Liaoning. Any Chinese-speaking delegates feel free to strike up a conversation with me in Cantonese or Mandarin. I love fun and niche history, so please share interesting historical facts with me. I love reading and am an avid book collector who enjoys YouTube book reviews. My YouTube is also filled with video essays on the human experience, TV shows, movies, and history. I hope we can find things to connect on.

My experiences also extend to civic engagement and coalition building. I currently work for the UCSB Blum Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy. My internship with Freedom 4 Youth capitalizes on my passion for advocacy, development, community service, and restorative justice.

My range of interests is also what makes me enjoy Model UN. Delegates in the Model UN circuit specialize in all sorts of subjects and are always amusing. I staffed, crisis directed, and chaired at previous SBIMUN and GauchoMUN conferences, and I look forward to directing such a special committee this year. Feel free to exchange socials with me and exchange greetings if we see each other at future conferences.

As a last note, I hope we keep in mind that there is no place for hateful rhetoric in this committee. Please thoroughly read the sensitivity statement and procedural overview. We specifically designed this committee to be chaotic and diabolical. You should always be prepared for the unexpected in a specialized ad hoc committee. You know what you signed up for, so lock in and prepare yourself for this weekend. Good luck, everyone! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Very Best,
Nicole Meng
Crisis Director, Specialized Ad Hoc
nmeng@ucsb.edu

Welcome Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to SBIMUN XVII! My name is Collin Tarnay, and I am very excited to be chairing SpAdhoc this year!

I am a 1st year at UC Santa Barbara from Manhattan Beach, California. I'm majoring in pre-biology and planning to declare microbiology as an upperclassman. Despite being a STEM kid, I've always been a MUN kid at heart and I am very glad to be able to continue debating and chairing in college. This is my 7th year of MUN, and my first with UCSB and I wouldn't rather be chairing any other committee. I love debating specialized and was a specialized USG in high school, so I really hope you guys enjoy what is, in my extremely unbiased opinion, the best committee at SBIMUN!!

Outside of debate, I'm a research intern at an on-campus lab and a member of a fraternity. I may have spread myself a little thin this quarter so if you're ever looking for me, there's a good chance you'll catch me on the 8th floor of the library (you should definitely check it out, the views are great)! Off campus, I enjoy running, volleyball, playing guitar, and playing the krillion. I also love watching shows and movies and am always looking for things to add to my letterboxd account. Recommendations are always welcome!

Whether you are a new del or a head del, I hope you will have an amazing debate experience. I believe that SpAdhoc is easily one of the best committee styles MUN has to offer as it really prioritizes off the cuff speaking and out of the box thinking. I encourage everyone to be creative in committee and to play the unknowns to your advantage. I'd also like everyone to remain diplomatic and respectful even if things get (almost certainly) a little chaotic. Our code of conduct is outlined in the delegate handbook so make sure to check it out!

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me, our USG, or our SGs, we're all here to help. Committee information and conference resources are available at the SBIMUN XXVII website at https://www.sbimun.org/. See you in committee and I hope you will enjoy your time here in Santa Barbara.

Best of Luck,
Collin Tarnay
Chair, Specialized Adhoc
ctarnay@ucsb.edu

Welcome Letter from the Co-Chair

Hello Delegates!

My name is Jessica Gu (she/her) and I am thrilled to serve as your Co-Chair for SBIMUNXVII's Specialized Ad-Hoc committee!

I am currently a third-year (transfer) student majoring in Global Studies and minoring in Earth Science. I've lived in Riverside, California for the past 12 years, but spent most of my childhood bouncing between Worcester, Massachusetts and Beijing, China. I discovered MUN after watching Never Have I Ever during middle school, and have been enamoured with Model UN-ning ever since. This is my 6th year of MUN and it is my greatest honor to be able to chair the best committee at SBI!

Outside of dedicating my entire life (and probably all my free time) to MUN, I am currently designing a research project with the Orfalea Center to put into practice when I study abroad in 2028! When I'm not admiring the ocean views from the library or engrossed in coursework, you can find me lounging around on the beach. Some of my personal hobbies include freediving (SCUBA license soon), aerial silks, and eating. I am extremely passionate about food; if you ever need a break from committee, ask me a food related question and be prepared to bear witness to long monologues about my latest culinary exploits. I'm also trying to get into DJ-ing so if you know a thing or two please don't hesitate to lend your knowledge!

SpAdhoc is easily one of the most fun committee styles there is in MUN! As a big crisis delegate and chair, I would really love to see open-minded resolutions coupled with an inclusive and equitable debate style. The most important part of this committee is to have as much fun as humanely possible while ensuring that all delegates feel safe during debate. Please be sure to review our code of conduct and familiarize yourself with expectations for delegate behavior prior to committee.

Whether you are new to MUN or true to MUN, I encourage all delegates to adrenalize your brain as we head into a hectic weekend full of accidental and intentional adventures.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or if you just want to chat. See you in committee delegates, may the odds be ever in your favor!

Very Best,
Jessica Gu
Co-Chair, Specialized Adhoc
jessicagu@ucsb.edu

Current Situation: October 24, 1983

The date is October 24, 1983, and the United States finds itself at a dangerous turning point in the Cold War. Relations between the United States and the Soviet Union have deteriorated sharply, military tensions are escalating across Europe, and the threat of nuclear confrontation remains a major concern. President Ronald Reagan has adopted an increasingly aggressive approach toward the Soviet Union, emphasizing military strength, strategic deterrence, and the containment of communism. Meanwhile, Soviet leaders view American military expansion with growing suspicion and fear that the United States may be preparing for a potential first strike.

In March 1983, President Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), a proposed research program designed to develop technologies capable of intercepting incoming nuclear missiles. Commonly nicknamed “Star Wars,” the initiative challenged traditional nuclear deterrence and raised concerns among Soviet officials that the United States could gain a strategic military advantage. Tensions increased further on September 1, when the Soviet Union shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007, killing all 269 people aboard. The incident sparked international outrage and further damaged diplomatic relations. At the same time, NATO is preparing to deploy American Pershing II ballistic missiles and ground-launched cruise missiles in Western Europe, a move the Soviet Union considers a direct threat to its security.

The international crisis has now been joined by a devastating attack against American forces. On October 23, a suicide truck bombing struck the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 241 American service members. The attack has raised urgent questions about American military involvement overseas, intelligence failures, and the protection of U.S. personnel. President Reagan and Congress must now consider whether to retaliate, reinforce American forces, or reconsider the country's involvement in Lebanon.

As senators convene on October 24, they face difficult decisions concerning military spending, nuclear policy, foreign intervention, and diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Some will argue that the United States must demonstrate strength and respond decisively to threats against American interests, while others will warn that further escalation could bring the country closer to another major conflict. With the Beirut bombing fresh in the nation's memory and Cold War tensions at a critical point, the Senate's decisions may have lasting consequences for American security and the future of international relations.

Committee Objective:

Delegates are tasked with shaping the United States’ legislative response to the escalating political, military, and economic challenges of the Cold War. Through legislation, negotiation, and coalition-building, senators must determine how the United States will protect its national

security interests, manage its relationship with the Soviet Union, and define America's role in an increasingly unstable international order.

Topics at Hand:

Topic A: National Security & Defense Policy

- Military readiness, nuclear posture, defense spending, NATO commitments, strategic weapons, civil defense, etc.

Topic B: Foreign Policy

- Diplomacy, arms control, economic measures, proxy conflicts, foreign aid, intelligence/covert activity, etc.

Topic C: U.S.–Soviet Relations

- Strategic deterrence, mutually assured destruction (MAD), nuclear escalation, diplomatic solutions, communication, world fairs, etc.

Topic D: Domestic Policy, Economic Priorities & Federal Governance

- Federal spending priorities, taxation, budget deficits, social welfare programs, labor rights, unions, employment, education, healthcare, housing, immigration policy, etc.

Topic E: Civil Rights, Racial Equality & Social Justice

- Racial discrimination, segregation, police brutality, women's rights, gender equality, Indigenous sovereignty, LGBTQ+ rights, etc.

Topic F: Communism at Home and Abroad

- National security vs. constitutional freedoms, U.S. response to communist movements abroad, communist ideas in media, challenging communist global influence, etc.

Key Terms

- Domino Theory: a Cold War policy that suggested a communist government in one nation would quickly lead to communist takeovers in neighboring states, each falling like a row of dominos (history.com)
- Proxy Wars: a war fought between groups or smaller countries that each represent the interests of other larger powers, and may have help and support from these (Cambridge Dictionary)

- Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI): an early 80s Reagan-sponsored anti-ballistic missile program with the goal of shooting down nuclear missiles in space (nuclear museum.org)
- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks: political negotiations and conferences between the U.S. and Soviet Union to mitigate nuclear threats (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks/Treaty (SALT) I and II)
- Marshall Plan: A U.S. economic assistance program launched in 1948 that provided billions of dollars to rebuild Western European economies after World War II and reduce the appeal of communism.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): A military alliance established in 1949 between the United States, Canada, and Western European nations. Its members agreed that an attack against one member would be considered an attack against all.
- Warsaw Pact: A military alliance established in 1955 between the Soviet Union and several communist Eastern European countries. It served as the Soviet-led counterpart to NATO.
- Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD): A nuclear deterrence strategy based on the understanding that a nuclear attack by either superpower would result in devastating retaliation from the other. Both countries maintained large nuclear arsenals to discourage a first strike.
- Nuclear Deterrence: The strategy of preventing an enemy from launching an attack by maintaining the capability to retaliate with overwhelming military force, particularly nuclear weapons.
- Arms Race: Competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to develop increasingly powerful military technologies and expand their nuclear arsenals. This competition increased military spending and heightened fears of nuclear war.
- Red Scare: Periods of widespread fear in the United States that communists and Soviet sympathizers were infiltrating American institutions. These fears contributed to government investigations, political persecution, and restrictions on civil liberties.
- House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC): A congressional committee that investigated alleged communist influence and subversive activities in American society, including government agencies, labor organizations, and the entertainment industry.
- Filibuster: A Senate procedure used to delay or prevent a vote on legislation through extended debate. In this committee, delegates may use a simulated filibuster to obstruct or delay the passage of a bill.

Specialized Ad Hoc Rules of Procedure

The Specialized Ad Hoc Committee is a specialized committee, meaning that it will not follow traditional rules of procedure. To accurately simulate the special committee, there will be no speaker list. Delegates will directly motion for moderated and unmoderated caucuses and voting procedures.

A Senate committee is a specialized Model United Nations committee representing the United States Senate. The United States Senate is one of the two bodies making up the legislative branch of the US. The Senate is composed of two senators representing each state, for a total of

100 senators. Delegates will be assigned a senator and given a brief description of their background, ideological standing, party affiliation, and additional information. Several aspects of the committee will proceed similarly to a General Assembly Committee with the use of Moderated and Unmoderated caucuses. A series of witnesses will be called throughout the committee, where, at the chair's discretion, delegates can call witnesses from a provided list. The goal of this committee is to pass bills addressing how to manage the intricacies of global and domestic policy during the Cold War.

Additional changes to the committee rules of procedure are outlined below. The dais is aware of the unusual structure of this committee and will be more than willing to answer questions and support delegates throughout the committee.

To simulate the passage of time, each committee session will be considered a full Legislative session taking place over a year. This means that delegates are expected to have written and voted upon a bill each committee session. The dais recognizes that because of the time constraints, delegates will not be able to produce the same quality of resolutions as they would be able to over multiple sessions; minor errors or resolutions that do not have the same research quality will not be held against delegates.

Resolution topics per session will be decided by the dais, and will roughly reflect the Current Mandate section of the background guide. At the beginning of each session (except the first session), delegates will receive an update about the effect of their legislation from the previous session, and can choose to incorporate results from past resolutions at their own discretion.

If you have any questions concerning the Committee Mechanics, please email your Crisis Director, nmeng@ucsb.edu.

Bill Writing:

To simulate the mechanics of the US Senate, delegates will be asked to write Senate Bills rather than traditional resolutions. For the purpose of this competition, Senate Bills will follow the same structure as a traditional resolution, with the exception of the preambulatory clauses and naming. For a guide on formatting, please refer to this sample Senate Bill here. Gaucho Senate Bill Format

Any Senator can introduce a bill to the Senate floor. Bills require a minimum of 4 sponsors and a maximum of 8 sponsors unless specified otherwise by the CD or the Dias. Republicans and Democrats can co-sponsor bills despite being in different political parties.

Voting on Bills:

In order to move into a voting bloc, a senator must motion for cloture, which requires a 60% majority of committee votes to pass (reminder that everyone must vote on procedural matters). The committee will then enter the standard Model UN voting bloc.

The U.S. Senate is comprised of 100 votes total. 51 votes are required for a bill to pass. Every delegate is given 2 votes per committee session. Every delegate begins with two votes. Delegates can cast both votes on the same bill or split them. Votes are not transferable between delegates. Outside votes are gathered by completing paper slip tasks. Outside votes are independent of the votes controlled by delegates. The threshold for passage remains 51 affirmative votes. However, if one bill has more votes than the other, the bill with more votes overrides the other. Unlike in a traditional committee, the order in which the bills are passed is not taken into consideration. If two bills tie, the dais determines whether to hold a runoff vote. If no bill reaches 51 votes, no legislation passes during that session.

Bill Amendments:

Voting Blocs will have amendment periods where delegates can propose amendments on bills. Amendments will be written on a sheet of paper and submitted to the Dias. Amendments require 3 sponsors minimum. When amendments are proposed, they must be voted on by committee and pass with a 60% majority. If an amendment sheet has more than 9 sponsors, the amendment automatically passes, and the bill gets voted on with the amendment installed. Amendments can add, modify, or remove clauses on bills.

Paper Slips:

Throughout the conference, delegates will be given paper slips by the backroom with specific tasks given to them. Completing the tasks can result in hints or awards. This includes, but is not limited to, outside votes on bills, hints about events later in the weekend, and JPD opportunities. You can share your paper slips if you wish to, but we recommend that you keep your tasks to yourself until they are finished.

For paper slips that reward outside votes on bills, do not show them until the committee has voted on the bill in a voting period. The extra votes will be added on top of the votes gained in committee. Paper slip rewards are not guaranteed until the delegate successfully completes the assignment and receives confirmation from the backroom. The outside votes on a bill only apply to the bill that the task was completed on.

Some of the paper slips prompt a speech. Make sure your speech aligns as closely and seamlessly to the moderated caucus topic as possible. Doing the speech will gain you the reward on the slip, but if the chairs feel that the speech is too off-topic, it will affect your moderated caucus speech score.

Example: There is a speech cycle on curbing communism, but your task is to give a speech about weapons manufacturing. Try to make your topic blend into the mod topic. Giving an off-topic speech can make it obvious that you are completing a task, which can affect your frontroom and backroom score.

Joint Personal Directives:

JPDs will be allowed at the Dias and the Crisis Director's discretion. Fulfilling your paper slip duties can also result in a JPD opportunity being awarded to you. If that is the case, follow the guidelines on the paper slip.

JPDs can be used to affect votes outside of committee and the nuclear situation outside of committee at the Crisis Director's discretion. JPDs will have heavier crisis elements in comparison to the normal Senate ROP.

Filibustering:

Filibustering will be permitted in this committee. Delegates who oppose a bill have the opportunity to filibuster in an against speech to prevent the bill from being voted on. Because committee sessions have a hard stop, a delegate can filibuster from the beginning of their against speech to the end of the committee to prevent a bill from being passed. Traditionally, a Senator in a filibuster is allowed to take the floor for any amount of time. Any Senator can propose a filibuster, but a simple majority vote on procedure is required for it to pass. The purpose of a filibuster is to buy one's party more time to complete bills. This can be done through detailed debate regarding an issue, or just stalling the committee with any discussion, regardless of relevance.

However, should the delegate use any filler words (like, um, but) or pause during the speech for more than 2 seconds, the filibuster will be automatically ended. If more than 60% of the committee raises their placards during the filibuster, the filibuster concludes.

Caucuses:

Caucuses will follow standard Model UN procedure, including moderated and unmoderated caucuses. There will also be the addition of a party caucus, which is where most of the partisan bill writing will take place. While unmoderated caucuses should be used to gain bipartisan insight on issues, the party caucus will function as a space for parties to draft their bills.

Historical Background

The Beginning of the Cold War and the Truman Doctrine

The Cold War developed out of growing tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II. During the war, the two countries had cooperated against Nazi Germany, but they had fundamentally different political and economic systems and competing visions for the postwar world. When the war ended in 1945, both countries emerged as global powers, while much of Europe and Asia had been devastated. Disagreements over the political future of Eastern Europe, Germany, and other territories increasingly damaged U.S.-Soviet relations. According to the U.S. Department of State, efforts to maintain cooperation between Washington and Moscow had largely broken down by 1947.

A major turning point came on March 12, 1947, when President Harry Truman addressed Congress and requested $400 million in military and economic assistance for Greece and Turkey. Britain had informed the United States that it could no longer provide financial and military assistance to Greece and Turkey, creating concerns among American policymakers that communist movements and Soviet influence could expand in the region. Truman argued that the United States should support people resisting authoritarian pressure. This policy became known as the Truman Doctrine.

The Truman Doctrine represented a significant change in American foreign policy. Rather than avoiding conflicts that did not directly involve the United States, the government increasingly committed itself to intervening in conflicts that it believed could contribute to the spread of communism. The policy became closely associated with the broader strategy of containment, which sought to prevent Soviet influence from expanding into additional countries. The United States subsequently applied this logic to conflicts in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere.

The Truman Doctrine therefore helped establish the basic framework of U.S. Cold War foreign policy. It also contributed to the development of a political environment in which American leaders increasingly presented international conflicts as part of a larger struggle between communism and democracy. The National Archives notes that the doctrine and related ideas such as the domino theory influenced American foreign policy for decades and were later invoked to justify U.S. involvement in places such as Korea, Cuba, and Vietnam.

The "Iron Curtain"

On March 5, 1946, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in Fulton, Missouri. Churchill warned that the Soviet Union was expanding its influence across Eastern Europe, creating a political and ideological divide between the communist East and democratic West. His speech helped popularize the term “Iron Curtain” and reflected growing fears that cooperation between the wartime Allies was giving way to Cold War rivalry.

On August 13, 1961, East German authorities began constructing a barrier separating East and West Berlin. The East German government claimed the wall was necessary to protect its population, but its primary purpose was to stop the growing number of East Germans fleeing to the West through Berlin. Initially made of barbed wire and concrete blocks, the barrier eventually developed into a heavily fortified border system. The Berlin Wall became one of the most recognizable symbols of the Cold War, representing the division between communist Eastern Europe and the democratic West.

The Bay of Pigs Invasion and The Cuban Missile Crisis (1961)

On April 17, 1961, approximately 1,400 Cuban exiles trained and funded by the CIA launched an invasion at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. Their objective was to overthrow Fidel Castro's communist government and encourage a popular uprising against his regime. However, the invasion quickly failed as Cuban forces defeated the attackers within two days. The operation was a major embarrassment for President John F. Kennedy and strengthened Castro's government, pushing Cuba toward an even closer relationship with the Soviet Union. The failed invasion also increased American concerns about communist influence in the Western Hemisphere.

In October 1962, the United States discovered that the Soviet Union was secretly installing nuclear missiles in Cuba, approximately 90 miles from the American coastline. President Kennedy responded by establishing a naval blockade, which he called a “quarantine,” to prevent additional Soviet military equipment from reaching the island. For 13 days, the United States and the Soviet Union faced the possibility of nuclear war as both governments considered military action. The crisis ended through diplomatic negotiations: the Soviet Union agreed to remove its missiles from Cuba, while the United States pledged not to invade Cuba and secretly agreed to remove American Jupiter missiles from Turkey. The confrontation demonstrated the dangers of nuclear escalation and reinforced the importance of diplomacy between the two superpowers.

Eisenhower Sends Paratroopers to Little Rock

The Little Rock Crisis of 1957 demonstrated that Cold War politics existed alongside major domestic conflicts over racial segregation and civil rights. Following the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ruled racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, the Little Rock School District was ordered to begin desegregating Central High School. Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus opposed the integration plan and deployed the Arkansas National Guard around the school, claiming that the troops were necessary to maintain order. In practice, the deployment prevented the newly enrolled black students, known as the Little Rock Nine, from entering the school.

The federal government eventually intervened. After white mobs gathered around Central High School and violence escalated, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10730 on September 24, 1957. The order placed the Arkansas National Guard under federal control, authorizing approximately 1,000 soldiers from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division to restore order and enforce the federal court's desegregation order. Eisenhower used federal military power to enforce a constitutional right against resistance from a state government. The federal government ultimately required Arkansas authorities to comply with the federal court order, and the 101st Airborne Division provided protection for the students as they attended Central High School.

Little Rock illustrates the complicated relationship between the Cold War and American civil rights. The United States presented itself internationally as the leader of the “free world” in opposition to Soviet communism, while racial segregation and violence remained highly visible within the United States. The conflict over Central High therefore became both a domestic constitutional crisis and an international image problem. It demonstrated that the struggle over American democracy was not limited to foreign policy but also involved disputes over who was entitled to equal protection under American law.

The Space Race

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite. The launch of Sputnik by the Soviet Union in 1957 shocked the U.S. and triggered massive investments in math, science, and the eventual moon landing.

Congress passed the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) in 1958 which poured $1 billion into schools to upgrade instruction. The funds prioritized science, mathematics, and

foreign languages. The bill provided low-cost federal loans to college students to encourage future generations to pursue higher education.

In response to Soviet milestones, the U.S. Congress established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in October 1958 to lead civilian aeronautics and space research. NASA rapidly expanded its infrastructure and budget, executing Project Mercury to put Americans in space and Project Gemini to master spacewalking and docking. Spurred by President John F. Kennedy's 1961 mandate, NASA focused entirely on reaching the Moon before the decade was out. On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 successfully landed American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the lunar surface, achieving a symbolic victory in the Cold War.

The Vietnam War

The Vietnam War became one of the most consequential and divisive conflicts of the Cold War. After the First Indochina War and the 1954 Geneva Conference, Vietnam was temporarily divided at the 17th parallel, with a communist government in North Vietnam and an anti-communist government in South Vietnam. The United States increasingly supported South Vietnam because American policymakers believed that the expansion of communism in Southeast Asia threatened the broader international balance of power. The United States maintained diplomatic relations with South Vietnam and gradually expanded its military involvement.

U.S. involvement escalated dramatically during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson. In August 1964, the Johnson administration responded to reported attacks on U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin by asking Congress for expanded authority to conduct military operations in Southeast Asia. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 7, 1964, which provided the legal basis for a major expansion of U.S. military involvement. Later evidence raised questions about the circumstances surrounding the second reported attack, but the incident had already provided the administration with political justification for escalation.

In 1965, the United States began Operation Rolling Thunder, an extended bombing campaign against North Vietnam, and deployed regular American ground combat forces. By 1967, nearly 500,000 American troops were in Vietnam. The war generated increasing opposition within the United States, particularly among students and young people, and became connected to broader debates about civil rights, government authority, military power, and American foreign policy. The Tet Offensive of 1968, a major military victory for North Vietnamese forces, further weakened public support and contributed to Johnson's decision not to seek another presidential term.

The “Golden Age of Terrorism” in the United States, 1970–1979

The 1970s experienced a significant wave of domestic political violence in the United States. Some scholars and journalists have referred to the period as a “golden age of terrorism,” although the term should be treated as a descriptive label rather than a universally accepted historical classification. Peter Bergen and Courtney Schuster, for example, describe the 1970s as a period when terrorist incidents in the United States were substantially more frequent than they are today. Their account identifies bombings, airplane hijackings, and attacks by groups with different ideological and political objectives.

The violence came from a range of political movements rather than from a single organized ideology. Left-wing groups such as the Weather Underground conducted bombings, while Puerto Rican nationalist organizations, including the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional, carried out attacks in American cities. Right-wing and religious extremist groups also committed violence. The FBI reported domestic terrorist activity involving political kidnappings, robberies intended to finance revolutionary activities, bombings, and attacks against government and law-enforcement targets.

Airplane hijacking became another particularly visible form of political violence during the period. According to the historical account cited by Bergen and Schuster, there were 112 domestic airplane hijackings between 1970 and 1979, although that number includes incidents that may not have been politically motivated. The frequency of hijackings contributed to changes in airport security and federal efforts to prevent politically motivated violence. Other terrorist attacks targeted government buildings, businesses, police, and symbolic political targets.

The rise of domestic terrorism reflected the broader political instability of the era. The 1960s and 1970s were characterized by conflicts over the Vietnam War, racial inequality, civil rights, economic inequality, and the role of government. A 1978 Justice Department report identified at least 15 active domestic terrorist groups operating in the United States and described them as increasingly sophisticated in their weapons and target selection. By the end of the 1970s, however, violence from several major domestic extremist organizations had declined considerably.

General Consensus of U.S. Citizens on the Topic

The "Myth" of the Cold War Consensus

The concept of a "Cold War consensus" describes the idea that Americans broadly agreed during the early Cold War that the Soviet Union and international communism represented a major threat and that the United States should respond through containment and military strength. Traditional accounts often portray the period after World War II as one in which Democrats and Republicans largely agreed on the basic principles of American foreign policy.

Historian Ronald R. Krebs argues that the conventional account is misleading because it assumes that a strong Cold War consensus existed from the late 1940s until the Vietnam War. His research, which examined newspaper editorials and political discourse, found that a recognizable Cold War narrative did not become dominant until the 1950s and began to weaken as early as the early 1960s, before the major American escalation of the Vietnam War. Other historians have similarly challenged the idea that Cold War foreign policy was completely bipartisan. Andrew Preston argues that although Americans broadly recognized international communism as a threat, this did not eliminate political conflict over how the United States should respond. Political leaders regularly accused their opponents of mishandling the Cold War, while ordinary Americans showed varying degrees of reluctance toward military confrontation and concern about the dangers of the nuclear age.

The evidence therefore suggests a distinction between agreement that communism posed a threat and agreement about what the United States should do about that threat. Americans could share concerns about Soviet power while disagreeing over military spending, nuclear weapons, foreign intervention, and the use of American troops. The Vietnam War, Watergate, civil rights conflicts, and the nuclear freeze movement further demonstrated that Cold War politics generated substantial domestic disagreement. Rather than assuming that Americans were uniformly united by the Cold War, it is more historically precise to recognize that Cold War policy produced both areas of agreement and significant political conflict.

The Nuclear Freeze Movement and the 1982 Central Park Rally

The nuclear freeze movement emerged during a period of renewed Cold War tensions in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The United States and Soviet Union possessed enormous nuclear arsenals, and the deployment of new intermediate-range missiles in Europe generated significant opposition. The Reagan administration supported the deployment of American Pershing II and cruise missiles as part of NATO's response to Soviet nuclear forces.

The movement called for the United States and the Soviet Union to adopt a mutual freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. The freeze proposal sought reciprocal restrictions by both superpowers. The movement attracted people from a wide range of political, religious, professional, and civic organizations. The Arms Control Association describes the Nuclear Freeze as one of the largest waves of popular protest in American history.

The most famous demonstration occurred on June 12, 1982, when hundreds of thousands—and estimates approaching one million— of people gathered in New York City for a rally connected to the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. Contemporary reporting placed the crowd at approximately 550,000, while other historical accounts estimate around one million participants. The demonstration demanded a freeze and reduction of nuclear weapons and represented the enormous public mobilization that had developed around the issue. According to an authoritative study by the Public Agenda Foundation, 76 percent believe that the United States shares the blame for the Soviet-US tension. Moreover, over 52 percent agree that the U.S. " has not done enough to reach serious arms reductions with the Soviets."

Democratic and Liberal Biases

The Democratic Party's stance on the Cold War and nuclear warfare in the U.S. Senate evolved from a platform of robust containment and nuclear deterrence to a deeply divided position that increasingly favored arms control, detente, and the nuclear freeze movement.

Mainstream and progressive democratic senators had varying stances on nuclear power, U.S. and Soviet relations, and U.S. military power. Many mainstream Democrats favored maintaining a strong nuclear capability to negotiate from a position of strength. Progressives advocated for immediate freezes and mutual reductions in arsenals. Some were deeply skeptical of Soviet intentions and resisted major concessions, while progressives favored diplomatic engagement, detente, and cultural exchanges. During a time when citizens lived in fear of nuclear war, some senators supported robust defense budgets and advanced weapons systems, while others fought to cut the defense budget to fund domestic social programs.

The Early Cold War (Late 1940s–1960s)

During the early decades of the conflict, Senate Democrats largely championed a "liberal hawk" foreign policy. They backed the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the creation of NATO. Democratic senators supported building up the U.S. nuclear arsenal to ensure a credible deterrent against the Soviet Union. While supporting military readiness and nuclear superiority, Senate Democrats also supported the first major steps toward nuclear diplomacy. This included

the ratification of the Limited Test Ban Treaty (1963) under President John F. Kennedy, which banned nuclear testing in the atmosphere, underwater, and in outer space.

The Vietnam War Era (Late 1960s–1970s)

The Vietnam War fractured the Democratic Party, creating a sharp divide in the Senate between establishment hawks and a rising anti-war "dove" faction led by senators like George McGovern, Frank Church, and J. William Fulbright. Senate Democrats increasingly pushed for detente—a relaxation of tensions with the Soviet Union—and aggressive arms control. They overwhelmingly supported the SALT I treaty (1972) and later pushed for the ratification of SALT II under Democratic President Jimmy Carter, favoring negotiated ceilings on nuclear warheads over an unchecked arms race.

The Reagan Era (1980s)

When President Ronald Reagan took office with a hardline anti-communist stance and a plan to drastically increase military spending, Senate Democrats became the primary opposition to his nuclear policies. Led by figures like Senator Ted Kennedy, many Senate Democrats aligned with the grassroots Nuclear Freeze movement, which called for an immediate, mutual halt to the production and testing of nuclear weapons by both the U.S. and the USSR.

Senate Democrats fiercely resisted Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), colloquially known as "Star Wars." They argued that a space-based missile defense shield would destabilize the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) and provoke a dangerous new nuclear arms race.

Republican and Conservative Biases

The two major parties switched their positions during the Cold War. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Republicans like Robert Taft were among the leading critics of Cold War national security policy, including increased military spending and security commitments such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. At the same time, Democrats like Hubert Humphrey and Herbert Lehman were among the policy's strongest congressional supporters.

By the 1980s, both parties appeared to have reversed themselves. Democrats were generally critical of the increased military spending as well as the interventionist foreign policy initiatives championed by Republicans like Ronald Reagan.

Republicans in the U.S. Senate generally championed strong national defense, aggressive containment of communism, and a reliance on nuclear superiority as a deterrent against Soviet

expansion. While the party unified behind strong anti-communist rhetoric, Republican senators were historically divided into two primary factions regarding foreign policy and nuclear warfare.

Internal Party Factions

Led by figures like Senator Arthur Vandenberg in the late 1940s, this wing supported bipartisan foreign policy, the creation of NATO, and global alliances to check Soviet influence. Led by Senator Robert A. Taft ("Mr. Republican"), this faction initially opposed permanent foreign entanglements like NATO and massive foreign aid (such as the Marshall Plan). They feared these commitments would overextend the U.S. economy and give the executive branch too much war-making power. Instead, Taft advocated for a strong naval and air defense combined with a smaller, highly efficient nuclear arsenal to deter attacks.

Stance on Nuclear War and Strategy

As the Cold War progressed, the Republican Senate majority or minority stance evolved across several key strategic doctrines. During the Eisenhower administration in the 1950s, Senate Republicans largely backed the doctrine of "Massive Retaliation." This policy threatened a crushing nuclear response to any major Soviet aggression, allowing the U.S. to scale down expensive conventional ground forces. In the 1970s, conservative Senate Republicans grew deeply skeptical of the "Détente" policies of easing tensions with the Soviet Union. They argued that arms limitation treaties, such as SALT I and SALT II, favored the Soviets and left the U.S. vulnerable. Led by the Reagan administration in the 1980s, Senate Republicans overwhelmingly shifted toward a policy of "Peace Through Strength." They supported massive defense spending increases, the deployment of Pershing II missiles in Europe, and the development of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)—a proposed space-based anti-missile system designed to make nuclear warfare obsolete by intercepting incoming Soviet missiles.

The McCarthy Era

Led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, a conservative faction used the fear of nuclear war and Soviet expansion to allege widespread communist infiltration within the U.S. government. For a time, this faction dominated party rhetoric, framing the Cold War as an existential domestic and foreign struggle.

Paranoia about the internal Communist threat (The Red Scare) reached its height between 1950 and 1954, when Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, a right-wing Republican, launched a series of highly publicized probes into alleged Communist penetration of the State Department, the White House, the Treasury, and even the US Army. During Eisenhower’s first

two years in office, McCarthy's denunciations and fear-mongering created a climate of fear and suspicion across the country.

McCarthy took control of the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, using his platform to interrogate government officials, military personnel, and private citizens using aggressive innuendo and unverified accusations.

Instead of going right at McCarthy, Eisenhower worked behind the scenes to undercut and stymie the senator and his attacks. Eisenhower did not want to confront Joe McCarthy at all. In 1953, he tried to avoid the whole issue, hoping the Senate would silence the explosive senator. McCarthy was a Republican, after all, and many fellow senators supported him. Eisenhower needed to keep his party unified to pass bills in other areas, and battling McCarthy would only stir up a civil war inside the GOP.

In early December 1954, the Senate passed a motion of condemnation. Fed up with his conduct bringing the chamber into disrepute, the Senate voted 67 to 22 to censure McCarthy, effectively stripping him of his power and ending the peak of McCarthyism. McCarthy was ruined, and within three years, he died from alcohol abuse.

The Vietnam War Era (Late 1960s–1970s)

Republicans maintained that a credible nuclear deterrent was necessary to prevent China or the USSR from directly entering the Vietnam War. They favored maximum military force, heavier bombing campaigns, and mining North Vietnamese harbors to force a quick surrender. The small faction of "doves" in the Senate also included some Republican senators who adamantly opposed using tactical nuclear weapons in Vietnam itself, recognizing it could trigger a global nuclear holocaust.

Other Party Biases and Movements



Anti-war and Resistance Movements

SANE (National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy): Formed in 1957, this group protested nuclear weapons testing and the arms race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Anti-Vietnam War Movement (1964–1973)

Starting in 1965 at places like the University of Michigan, students and professors replaced classes with anti-war seminars. Huge rallies drew hundreds of thousands of people, including an October 1967 march where protesters confronted authorities at the Pentagon. Many Americans burned draft cards, sought conscientious objector status, or moved to Canada to avoid conscription. Groups like Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) added major credibility and public respect to the wider peace movement.



Black Panther Party (1966–1982)

The Black Panther Party (BPP) was founded in Oakland, California, in 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. The organization emerged in response to racial discrimination, police brutality, and economic inequality that continued despite major civil rights legislation. The Panthers initially focused on protecting black communities from police violence and advocated for black self-determination. They became known for openly carrying firearms while monitoring police activity, which they argued was a legal form of community protection. Their Ten-Point Program called for goals including employment, decent housing, education, an end to police brutality, and the ability of black communities to determine their own political futures.

The Panthers also developed extensive community programs designed to address economic and social inequality. Their most famous initiative was the Free Breakfast for Children Program, which provided meals to thousands of children in black communities. The organization also established health clinics, clothing drives, educational programs, and other community services. These programs reflected the Panthers' belief that racial inequality was connected not only to discrimination but also to poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing, and limited access to healthcare.

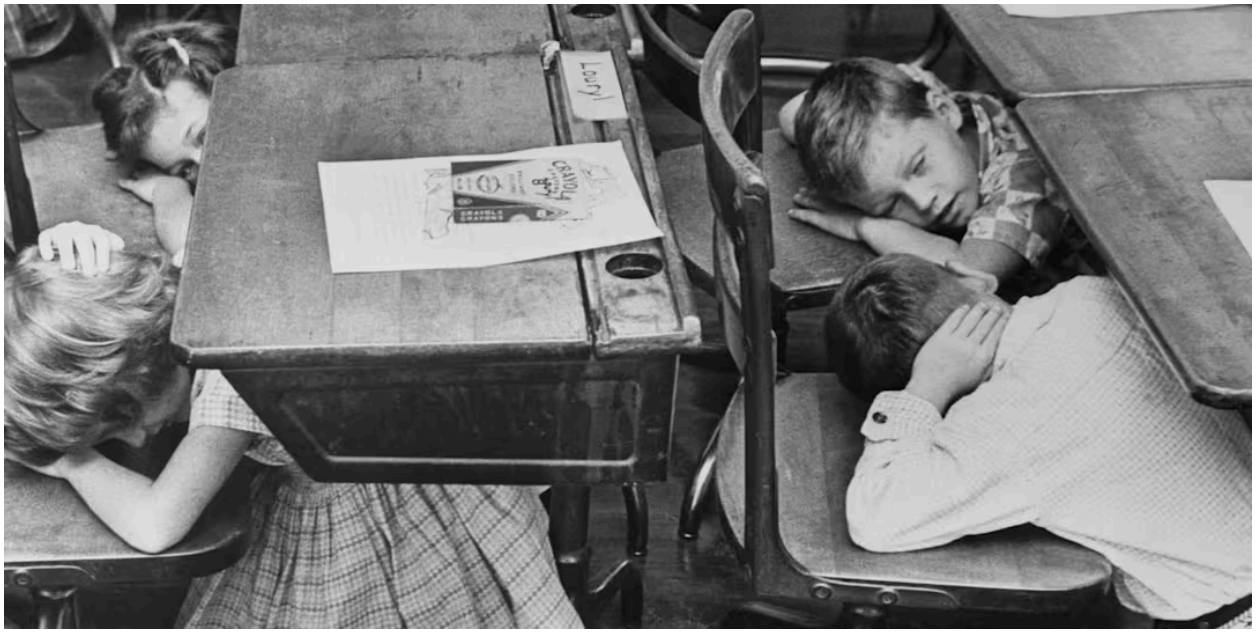
The Black Panther Party faced intense government surveillance and repression, particularly through the FBI's COINTELPRO program. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover identified the Panthers as a major domestic threat, and the FBI conducted surveillance, infiltration, and other operations against the organization. Internal conflicts, government repression, arrests, and violence contributed to the decline of the Party during the 1970s. Nevertheless, the Panthers had a lasting influence on black political activism by connecting racial justice with economic inequality, community control, and opposition to police violence. Their combination of political organizing and community programs also influenced later movements for racial and economic justice.

Life in Cold War U.S.

Nuclear Fear and Daily Preparedness

On August 29, 1949, the Soviet Union detonated its first nuclear device at a remote site in Kazakhstan, signaling a new and terrifying phase in the Cold War. By the early 1950s, schools across the United States were training students to dive under their desks and cover their heads. The now-infamous duck-and-cover drills simulated what should be done in case of an atomic attack and channeled a growing panic over an escalating arms race.

School children practiced diving under desks to prepare for a sudden atomic bomb attack. Many families built private concrete bunkers in their backyards or stocked basements with canned goods and water. Opinions on the constant threat varied. Some people felt a deep, low-level dread, while others viewed the drills and tension as a normal part of everyday life.



Red Scare and Conformity

Fear of Soviet spies and domestic subversion led to government investigations, blacklists, and a strong push for social conformity. Citizens were encouraged to prove their loyalty through community standing, civic participation, and anti-communist ideals. Citizens valued traditional family life, religious faith, and community involvement to project stability. Many Americans supported loyalty oaths, government investigations, and groups like the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) to root out suspected communists.

The economy expanded rapidly, marked by the baby boom, suburbanization, and the construction of the interstate highway system. Buying modern consumer goods like household appliances and cars was promoted as proof of the superiority of American capitalism over Soviet communism.

Popular Culture

Hollywood reflected public fears through monster and alien invasion films that served as metaphors for hidden enemies.

HUAC sought to weed out communist influence in Hollywood films. The Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals invited HUAC to investigate multiple films and film studios as a result of the established belief that everyone who is not fighting against communism is with communism during the age of McCarthyism. HUAC blacklisted actors, writers, and directors with liberal or progressive sympathies. People were put on trial, and they had to prove they were strong conservative anti-communist nationalists. This era of film and popular culture created a new sense of American culture and altered the American mindset. Cultural organizations asked, "Are you now or have you ever been a communist?" People who refused to answer were thrown in jail.

Red Channels radio show listed the names of anyone who seemed to be associated or affiliated with communism. Many of the people listed were liberal organizers who were blacklisted through the show. "Antifascist" and liberal civil rights groups were labeled communist organizations.

In 1950, Ayn Rand wrote the *Screen Guide for Americans* that outlined guidelines for the proper American film. Rand believed that propaganda movies were not the real threat, as they were easy to spot and discern. He feared subliminal messaging in everyday movies would be the most harmful to the American public. His screen guide included pointers against giving lies about the common man or the little people. It is not the American idea to be common or little. There were also warnings against smearing industrialists, free enterprise systems, or success.

Allocations

Allocation	Party	State	Description
Howard Baker	R	Tennessee	Howard Baker is a 3rd-term Republican senator from Tennessee. He is the Senate Majority Leader and a more pragmatic conservative who's supportive of a strong defense buildup against the Soviet Union and is supportive of the Reagan administration. Despite being relatively hawkish, Baker favors negotiation and is characterized by a support for bipartisanship and a willingness to work with Democratic leadership.
Ted Stevens	R	Alaska	Ted Stevens is a 3rd-term Republican senator from Alaska who is a former Air Force pilot and lawyer. He serves as the Senate Majority Whip and is one of the leading advocates for military spending. He prioritizes Alaskan defense interests, a strong anti-communist foreign policy, and is generally supportive of the Reagan administration's Cold War policy objectives. Despite his firm conservative stance, Stevens is known for his bipartisanship and is considered to be an extremely effective dealmaker.
John Tower	R	Texas	John Tower is a 4th-term Republican senator from Texas who is a former political science professor and the chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Tower is a staunch conservative and a prominent defense hawk. He strongly supports Regan's military buildup and nuclear modernization. He believes in a forceful stance against the Soviet Union and is known to be a more abrasive and combative character within the Senate, frequently making enemies with other members of the chamber.
Jesse Helms	R	North Carolina	Jesse Helms is a 2nd-term Republican senator from North Carolina who is a former broadcaster. Helms is a staunch conservative and champions an uncompromising anti-communist foreign policy. He strongly supports increased defense spending and aid to groups opposing the Soviet Union. He rejects nearly all forms of collaboration with the Soviet Union and frequently employs obstructionist techniques to block any policies or appointments he believed to be soft on communism or not conservative enough.
Barry Goldwater	R	Arizona	Barry Goldwater is a 5th-term Republican senator from Arizona. Goldwater is considered an extremely influential figure in the Republican Party, having served as the Republican presidential nominee in 1964 and as an Air Force major general. He supports a complete triumph over communism as opposed to more nonconfrontational approaches and favors military superiority over disarmament and diplomacy. Goldwater has consistently refused to moderate his views and has helped shape the Republican Party platform moving into the 1980s.

Pete Domenici	R	New Mexico	Pete Domenici is a 2nd-term Republican senator from New Mexico who is the former mayor of Albuquerque. He is a major advocate for nuclear research infrastructure, especially regarding programs situated within New Mexico. Domenici also prioritizes fiscal policy, but supports national defense and a strong strategic posture towards the Soviet Union. Despite his support for the Reagan administration, he frequently clashes with it over budgetary concerns and is extremely concerned with the federal deficit and maintaining fiscal health. Domenici is considered to be a pragmatic bipartisan, preferring hard data and expert opinion over more ideological concerns.
Nancy Kassebaum	R	Kansas	Nancy Kassebaum is a 1st-term Republican senator from Kansas who is a former newspaper publisher and the first female senator from Kansas. She is an independently minded moderate Republican who frequently breaks rank with the rest of the Republican caucus and the Reagan administration. She frequently supports diplomacy and disarmament negotiations that prioritize international human rights as opposed to more hawkish and confrontational approaches. Kassebaum also rejects traditional ideological blocs and prioritizes bipartisan action.
Charles Mathias	R	Maryland	Charles Mathias is a 3rd-term Republican senator from Maryland who is a former congressman. He is a moderate liberal Republican who frequently defies party leadership and challenges the Reagan administration and their rightward shift. He was a strong opponent of the Vietnam War and emphasizes diplomacy and human rights over the escalation of the arms race. He is extremely skeptical of any increase in militarization or defense spending, but is a strong proponent of NATO. Mathias is considered very collaborative and maintains strong relationships with senators across the political spectrum.
Mark Hatfield	R	Oregon	Mark Hatfield is a 3rd-year Republican senator from Oregon who is a World War II veteran and former Oregon governor. Hatfield is a prominent antiwar Republican and critic of defense spending. He serves as the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and regularly directs federal funding away from military purposes and towards infrastructure and education. He stands in opposition to the arms race and advocates for negotiations with the Soviet Union. Hatfield is often in conflict with the wider Republican caucus and Reagan administration due to his steadfast pacifism and bipartisan collaboration.
William Cohen	R	Maine	William Cohen is a 1st-term Republican senator from Maine who is a former reporter, lawyer, and congressman. Cohen is a more moderate Republican who is generally supportive of national defense and Soviet containment, but also arms control in the face of the rapid arms expansion of the Reagan administration. Cohen is considered a defense-minded intellectual who supports a pragmatic approach to defense and politics and is willing to engage in bipartisanship when he deems it appropriate.

John Warner	R	Virginia	John Warner is a 1st-term Republican senator from Virginia who served as the secretary of the Navy and is a Marine Corps veteran. Warner is a more hawkish member of the Republican Party but remains a more strategically minded realist. Warner supports direct communication and a working relationship with the Soviets to prevent potentially catastrophic miscommunication. He is also a strong proponent of NATO and firmly believes in developing overwhelming military superiority over the Soviet Union.
Robert Byrd	D	West Virginia	Robert Byrd is a 4th-term Democratic senator who is a former teacher. He is the current Senate Minority Leader who cares immensely about maintaining Congress' central role in the political process. He frequently takes issue with the Reagan administration's budgetary policy and its tendency to sidestep Congress, which he believes is executive overreach. Politically, he is a prominent defense hawk and is a hardline anti-communist who is often opposed to compromise.
Alan Cranston	D	California	Alan Cranston is a 3rd-term Democratic senator from California who is a former journalist and now serves as the Senate Minority Whip. Cranston is one of the leading advocates for nuclear arms control and is a vocal critic of the Reagan administration's confrontational approach to the Soviet Union. Despite being known as one of the more liberal members of the chamber, Cranston practiced bipartisanship and often worked with senators he typically opposed. He is also an extremely capable Minority Whip, successfully keeping Democrats aligned on many crucial votes.
Ted Kennedy	D	Massachusetts	Ted Kennedy is a 4th-term Democratic senator from Massachusetts, who is a former lawyer and is the younger brother of John F. Kennedy. Ted Kennedy is an outspoken critic of the Reagan administration and their posture towards the Soviet Union and aggressive military buildup. He supports negotiations, nuclear arms control, and a reduction of Cold War tensions. Kennedy also opposes any actions that jeopardize international human rights and democratic ideals. Despite his uncompromising moral standards, Kennedy is known to be an effective and pragmatic bipartisan, frequently making critical deals behind closed doors.
Joe Biden	D	Delaware	Joe Biden is a 2nd-term senator from Delaware who is a lawyer and former county councilman. He serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has a strong interest in arms control and economic competition with the Soviets. He is supportive of NATO and US commitments to foreign security but is regularly critical of more aggressive aspects of the Reagan administration's foreign policy. Biden also frequently emphasizes bipartisanship and institutional norms over typical partisan divides.
Sam Nunn	D	Georgia	Sam Nunn is a 2nd-term Democratic senator from Georgia who is a lawyer and former state legislator. Nunn is one of the most influential defense hawks despite being a Democrat and serves on the Armed Services Committee. He supports a strong military buildup and

			NATO and emphasizes military deterrence against the Soviet Union. Nunn also prioritizes fiscal responsibility, frequently clashing with defense contractors, the Pentagon, and the Reagan administration over perceived cost overruns. Nunn's political leanings frequently lead him to be one of the most bipartisan members of the Senate.
Henry "Scoop" Jackson	D	Washington	Henry Jackson is a 7-term Democratic senator from Washington, who is a long-serving senator and political heavyweight. Jackson is one of the most prominent Democratic Cold War hawks and strongly supports increased military spending and the bolstering of containment against the Soviets. He is also a champion of human rights and supports the expansion and protection of human rights, including within the Soviet bloc despite his anti-communist tendencies. With regard to security policy, Jackson is a major bipartisan figure and frequently cooperates with Republican colleagues on military packages.
Gary Hart	D	Colorado	Gary Hart is a 2nd-term Democratic senator from Colorado who is a lawyer and former campaign manager. Hart is extremely critical of the current state of national security policy and believes that it needs immediate reform. Hart is supportive of arms control but also a strong defense policy that combines diplomacy, military strength, and technological innovation. He represents a more youthful wing of the Democratic Party and is willing to part with party leadership on issues of importance.
Daniel Patrick Moynihan	D	New York	Daniel Patrick Moynihan is a 2nd-term Democratic senator from New York who is a sociologist and former diplomat. Moynihan is a more independently minded Democrat who views most issues with an extremely intellectual lens. He was a frequent critic of the Reagan administration's policies (especially economic ones) and supported disarmament, but he also paired that belief with strategic realism and the belief that the US still needed to develop a capable and modern military. He occupied a more centrist liberal position and helped modernize Democratic positions.
Paul Tsongas	D	Massachusetts	Paul Tsongas is a 1st term Democrat from Massachusetts who is a lawyer and former congressman. Tsongas was a fiscally conscious liberal who took a more moderate approach to national defense and arms control. He regularly splits his vote among more traditionally Republican and Democratic policies and favors pragmatism over a set ideological policy. Tsongas is considered an ideological pioneer who champions the idea of neoliberalism as opposed to traditional Democratic values.

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