

Activity One: Which Side Are You On?

In this activity, your job is to figure out where different countries positioned themselves in the Cold War. To help you, there's a Cold War factbook inserted into this document.

Cut out the flags on the next page and place the USSR flag on the left of your workspace. Place the labelled USA flag on the right. Based on the information in your factbook, place the countries somewhere between the two based on how you think they operated in the Cold War. Some countries may be very close to one side or the other, but others should be somewhere in the middle, and some may be very hard to place at all...

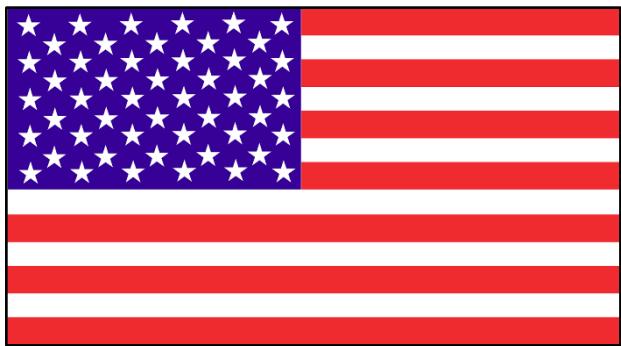


Figure 1 - 'Two Worlds' cartoon from an American journal in 1950. But were there only two worlds - or were there more?

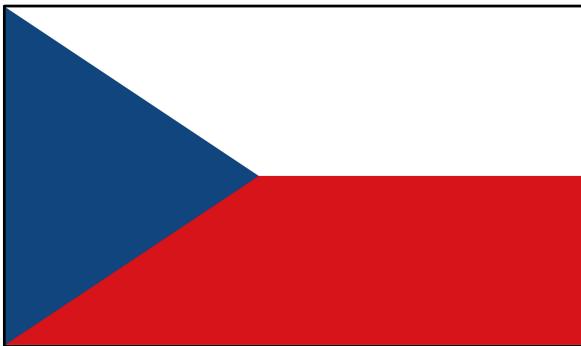
USSR



USA



Czechoslovakia



Ghana



United Arab Republic



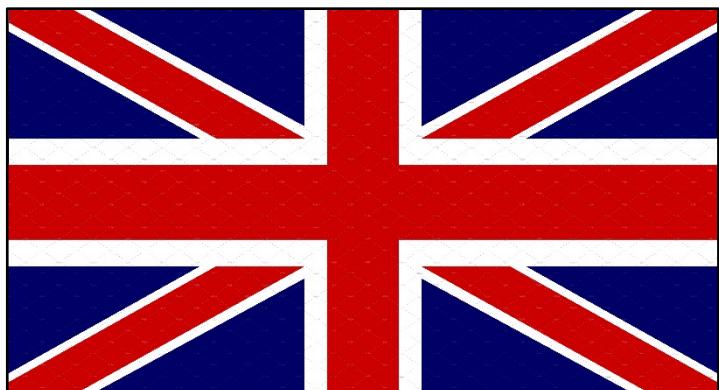
People's Republic of China



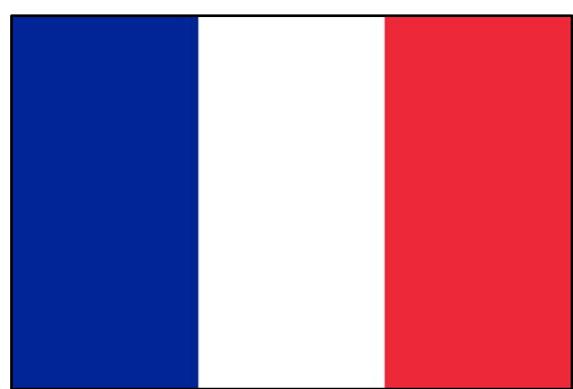
India



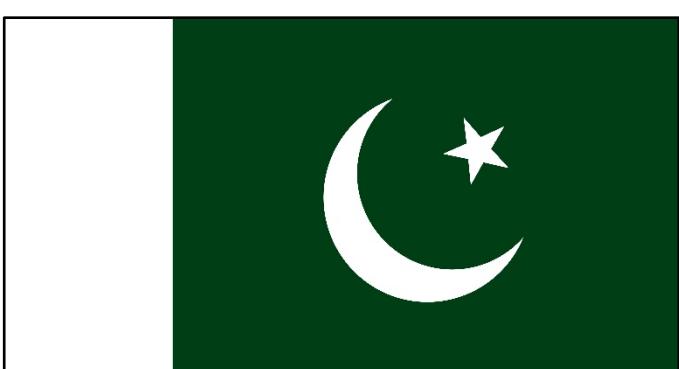
United Kingdom



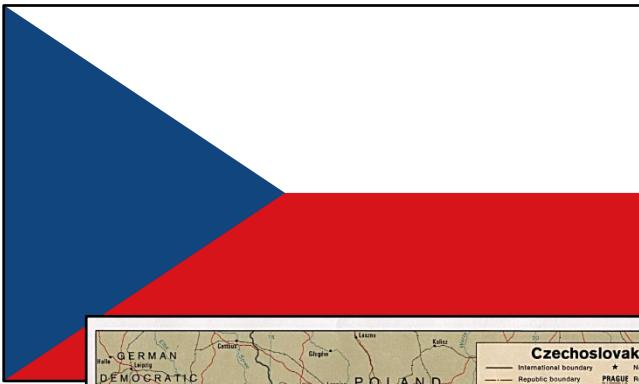
France



Pakistan



Cold War Factbook

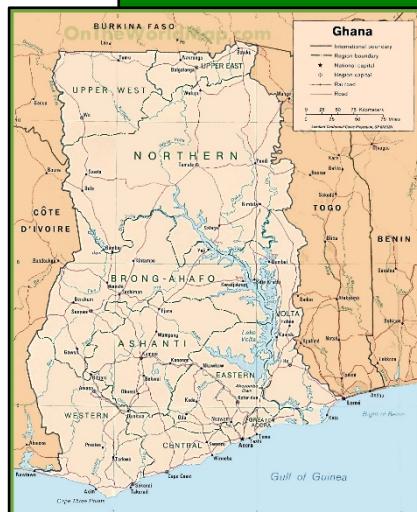


Czechoslovakia

- Created in 1918 from a union of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
- Became a communist dictatorship in 1948, when the communist prime minister deposed the liberal president with USSR support.
- Involved in secret deals selling weapons to Africa – most notably Egypt in 1955.
- Ran a radio service calling for world communism and an end to empire.
- Rebelled against the USSR in 1968, calling for a more moderate form of communism, and was quickly occupied by USSR troops.

Ghana

- Former colony of the United Kingdom which became independent in 1957.
- First president was Kwame Nkrumah, a socialist who rejected communism and capitalism.
- Involved in Pan-Africanism, which called for Africa to come together to resist empire.
- Increasingly dictatorial leadership after independence.
- Many government ministers trained in the USA, UK and USSR.





United Arab Republic

- Created in 1958 from a union of Egypt and Syria, although this survived in name only.
- Led by a radical socialist government based in Cairo.
- Nationalised the Suez Canal in 1956, angering the canal's British and French investors.
- Refused to join the Commonwealth out of distrust of the British Empire.
- Hosts thousands of African students in Cairo, particularly from Muslim countries.

People's Republic of China

- Became communist after a revolution and long civil war which ended in 1949.
- Attended the Afro-Asian Conference in 1955, which supported African independence and resistance to both camps in the Cold War.
- Strongly criticised the USSR for not going far enough in their approach to communism.
- Led a series of government purges through the 1960s, arresting and killing thousands.
- Drew closer to the USA in the 1970s, partly to resist the USSR.



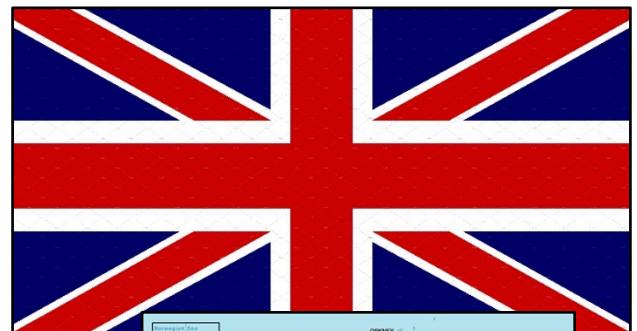


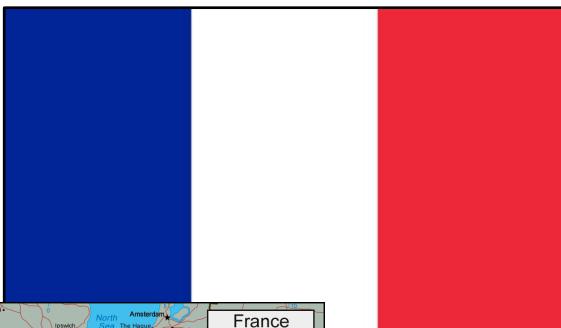
India

- Created in 1947 from the splitting of the British Raj.
- A liberal democracy led by a social democratic prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, which sought to resist both capitalism and communism.
- Fierce rivalry with Pakistan.
- Increasingly close to the USSR from 1968, developing secret ties to oppose Chinese influence.

United Kingdom

- Former colonial power and victor of the Second World War.
- Liberal democracy run by capitalist and social-democratic parties and opposed to communism.
- Allied to the USA through the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, although criticised by the USA for its response to decolonisation.
- Strongly critical of the United Arab Republic for its nationalisation of the Suez Canal.
- Funds the British Broadcasting Corporation, one of the largest broadcasters in the world.





France

- Former colonial power and victor of the Second World War.
- Liberal democracy led by capitalist and social-democratic parties and opposed to communism.
- Allied to the USA, but breaks the alliance in 1966 and is very critical of American 'empire'.
- Very interested in maintaining political ties to its former colonies in Africa.
- Involved in a long war against Algeria between 1954 and 1962, which the United Arab Republic resents.

Pakistan

- Created in 1947 from the splitting of the British Raj.
- Contains both modern Pakistan and Bangladesh until 1971, when Bangladesh becomes independent.
- Involved in the Afro-Asian Conference against imperialism but not the Non-Aligned Movement.
- Fierce rivalry with India.
- Helps to create ties between the People's Republic of China and the USA in the 1970s.

