

THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK GAME

AKA Avoiding Nuclear Armageddon

THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK

With the birth of the atomic bomb, scientists realized that humanity now had the ability to wipe out life on Earth.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists created a symbol to show how close the world was to nuclear war.

They began with the setting of **7 minutes until midnight** - the destruction of the Earth, then changed it as tensions grew and faded. Midnight, of course, was **nuclear war**.



YOUR ROLE

As the Prime Minister of Canada, you play a small but important role in preventing nuclear Armageddon.

Your decisions will move the Doomsday Clock forwards or backwards.

Will you steer Canada through the cold war? Or will your leadership end in death and destruction?



THE RULES

You will face a number of crises during the Cold War. Each time, you will need to make a decision.

The effect of your decision may:

🕒 move the doomsday clock towards (*bad*) or away from (*good*) midnight. If the doomsday clock reaches midnight (0), the world ends.

⚖️ add (*good*) or subtract from (*bad*) stability in Canada. If stability reaches 0, Canada suffers a revolution.

Historical choices are shown in **blue**.



START

We start the game
at:

-7 🕒 minutes to
midnight

+7 ⚖️ stability

Are you ready?



1945: IGOR GOUZENKO

In 1945, a Soviet diplomat named Igor Gouzenko turned himself in to the RCMP in Ottawa with a briefcase full of proof that the Soviets were spying on the West in an attempt to steal the secrets of the A-Bomb.

This was not the act of a friendly country. And Gouzenko was far from the only spy. How far had the Communists infiltrated our ranks?

-2 🏛️ from mass hysteria



DECISION

INVESTIGATE THE GOV'T: Search for spies in our ranks!

BAN COMMUNISM: Declare that belonging to the Communist Party is illegal in Canada. It is clearly a danger!

PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS: Let them know that we are not happy about them spying on us! They will surely apologize and never do it again.



RESULTS

INVESTIGATE: The RCMP investigates many important people. It finds a few with links to the Communist party, but also begins to force suspected LGBT people out of positions of power, since this could make them easy to blackmail.

BAN COMMUNISM: The Soviets are angry but can do nothing about it. Our own people have mixed feelings - some worry this could be a slippery slope.

-1 ⚖️ +1 🚫

PROTEST: The Soviets apologize and promise not to do it again. A month later, another Soviet spy is caught. We look foolish, but the Soviets are happy. -2 ⚖️



1948: BERLIN BLOCKADE

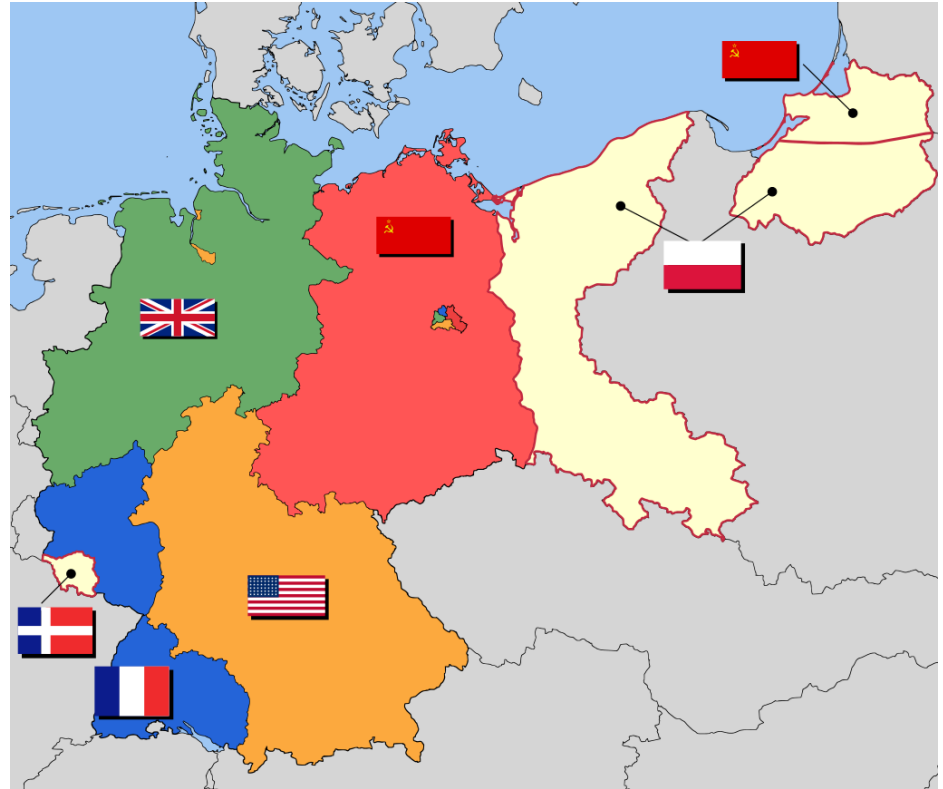
After the war, Germany was divided into four parts - one for each of the Allies. The capital, Berlin, was also divided up.

As tensions rose between the USSR and the West, the Soviets demanded that all of Berlin join East Germany. When the West refused, they closed the borders and began to starve the city out.

The Allies began an operation to fly planes across the Soviet zone to airdrop supplies to West Berlin.

+1 🕒 minutes to midnight

The British are asking Canada to contribute planes and crews to this effort.



DECISION

REFUSE to join: This could be seen as an act of war - and Canada was not consulted about this.

AGREE to join: It is important to keep a united front against the Soviets!



RESULTS

The Soviets laugh at the operation, believing it doomed to failure. As months go by, they realize that it is not only working, but gaining worldwide support. After a year, they drop the blockade.

REFUSE TO JOIN: Canadians are disappointed in our leadership, but understand the reasoning.

AGREE TO JOIN: Canadians are proud to play a part in this historic operation! +1 🗳️



1949: SOVIETS TEST THE A-BOMB

In 1945, only the USA had A-bombs. This made their enemies afraid to do anything that would start a war.

...But in 1949, the Soviet Union tested their own A-bomb.

Now BOTH sides have the bomb.

+1 🕒 minute to midnight



1949: NATO

Alarmed by the new threat from the Soviet Union, a group of Western countries decided to form a military alliance to protect themselves from them.

France, Italy, Britain, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, Norway, Iceland, the United States, and... Canada?



DECISION

JOIN NATO: None of us are strong enough alone – together we will be so strong the Soviets won't think of crossing us!

REFUSE TO JOIN: This alliance will only anger the Soviets! By staying neutral, we can stay friendly and act as an intermediary between both sides.



RESULTS

JOIN: The Soviet Union is not pleased, but there is nothing they can do about it. **-1** 🕒

REFUSE: The United States is alarmed. Is Canada becoming Communist?

Relations worsen. **-1** ⚖️



1950: THE KOREAN WAR

At the end of WW2, Japanese-owned Korea had been divided into two: the north was liberated by the Soviets and became Communist, the south was liberated by the USA and became Capitalist.

In 1950, Communist North Korea invaded the South to reunify the peninsula.

+1 🕒 minute to midnight

The US is calling on the United Nations (including Canada) to protect South Korea militarily.



DECISION

JOIN THE WAR EFFORT: We must act to defend the weak from those who would take advantage of them!

STAY OUT OF IT: This will only anger the Soviets *and* Communist China.



RESULTS

The Soviet Union is boycotting the UN and so can't veto the decision. An international army is created that fights North Korea and China to a standstill. The cold war is turning hot!

JOIN THE WAR: More than 1,000 Canadians lose their lives, but Canadians support the war.

+1 🏛️

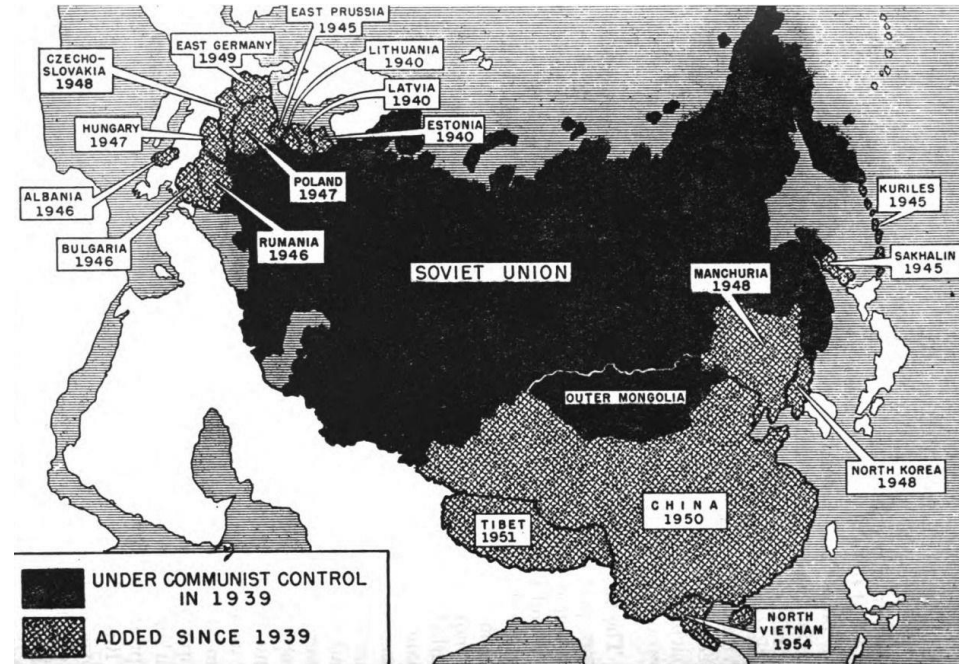
STAY OUT OF IT: The war happens anyway. The United States feels like Canada can not be relied upon in a crisis. -1 🏛️



1951: COLOMBO PLAN

Communism was spreading in the world. As it crept across Europe and Asia, one thing became clear: it was spreading fastest in war-torn, poor countries.

The USA decided to prevent Communism from spreading in Europe by lending them billions. Now Britain (with its colonies) wants to do the same for India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Will Canada join in?



DECISION

REFUSE: If Britain wants to give to British colonies, it can do it alone. Why does Canada need to help?

JOIN IN: It will cost a great deal, but it is important for the Commonwealth to stand together.

GIVE A TOKEN AMOUNT: Lend a small amount, but let Britain bear the costs for its Asian colonies.

Me when I'm trying to make a decision.



RESULTS

REFUSE: Britain is offended. Quebec supports this move, but the rest of Canada finds it embarrassing. **-1** 🏛️

JOIN IN: Quebec is outraged at this needless expense! The rest of Canada has some tepid support for it.

GIVE A TOKEN AMOUNT: Canada gives \$25 million, fulfilling its duty without much pain or glory – a politically savvy move. **+1** 🏛️



1954: NUCLEAR DEFENCE

After the war, the US and Canada had jointly built an expensive line of radar stations across Canada to detect incoming planes.

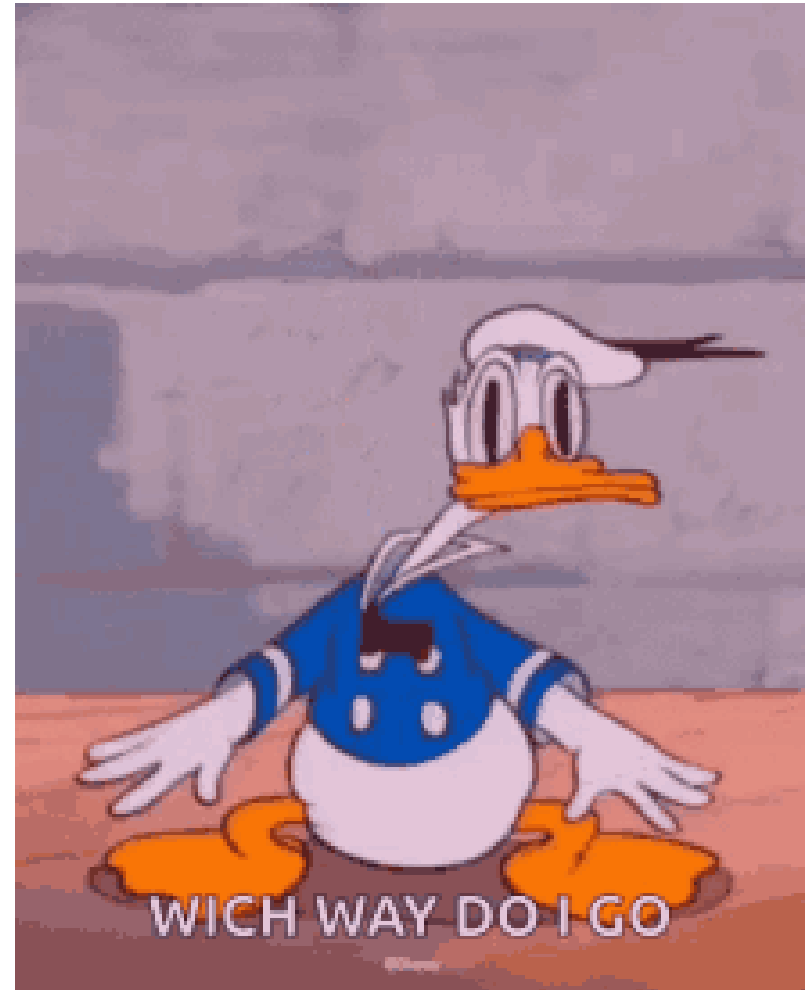
As the Soviets began replacing slow moving bombers with fast missiles, these stations will no longer give us enough time to react to a nuclear attack.



DECISION

EXPAND THE SYSTEM: We need to build more radar stations closer to the Soviets, no matter the cost to taxpayers.

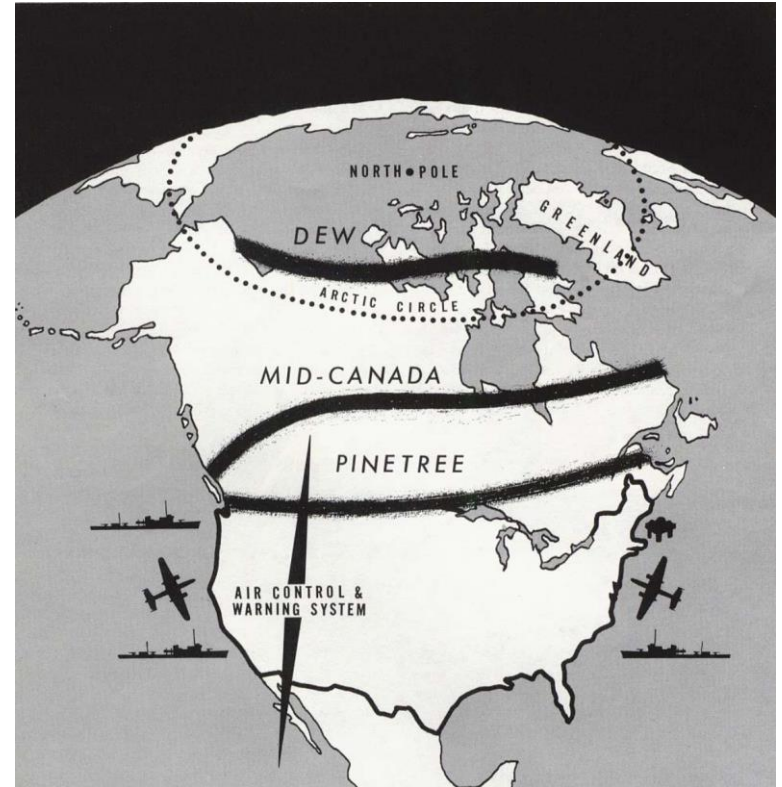
BUILD BUNKERS INSTEAD: Radar stations are a lost cause. We should focus on building nuclear bunkers in major cities to protect important civilians.



RESULTS

EXPAND THE SYSTEM: Canada and the US build the 'Distant Early Warning' (DEW) line in the Arctic.

BUILD BUNKERS INSTEAD: The project proves more expensive than expected - and causes outrage as people realize most of them will not be included. -

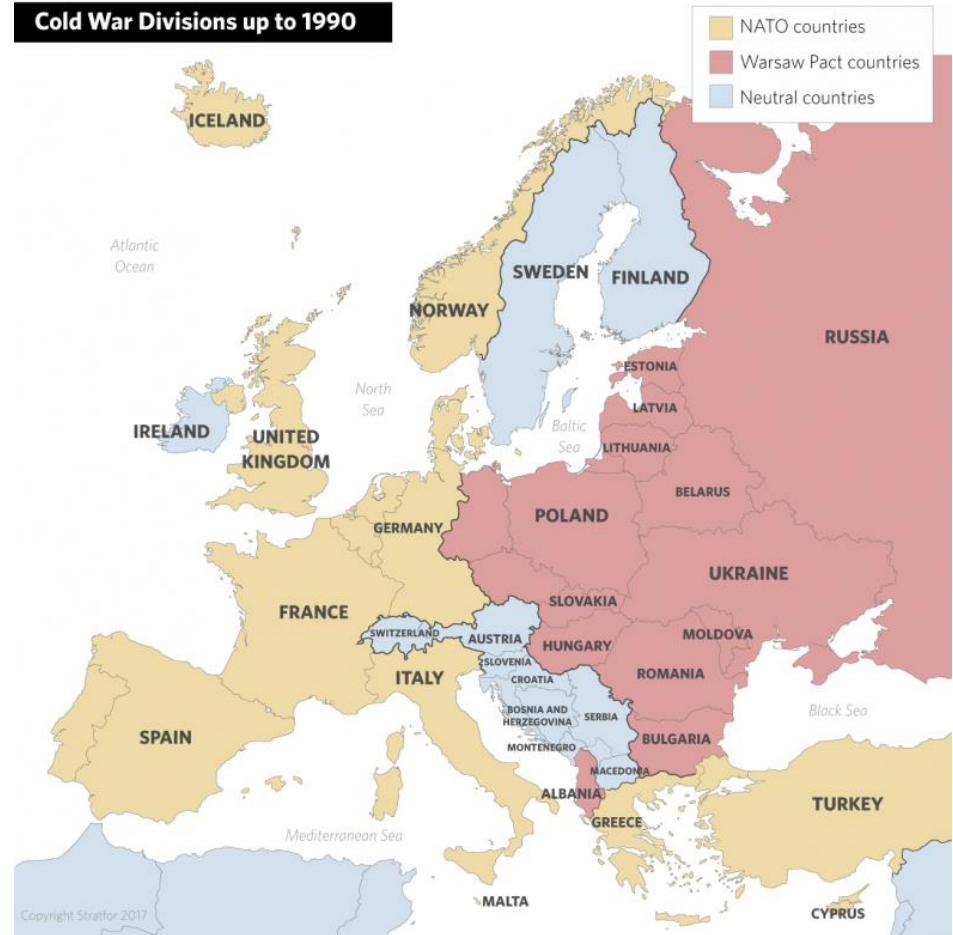


1955: WARSAW PACT

The Soviet Union feels threatened by NATO. In response, it created its own military alliance: the Warsaw Pact.

The new alliance is made up of Soviet satellite states - countries in Eastern Europe that were liberated by the Soviets during the war, and are now ruled by Communist governments.

+1 🕒 minute to midnight



1956: HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Not every liberated country was happy to be Communist. In Hungary, the people revolted against the harsh rules imposed by the Soviets. They wanted a kinder version of Communism.

In response, Soviet tanks rolled into Hungary, crushing the revolution and installing an even stricter government in its place. It is clear now that Communism has no room for compromise.

+1 🕒 minute to midnight



1956: THE SUEZ CRISIS

Egypt has decided to seize control of the Suez Canal. Located inside Egypt, the Canal connects the Mediterranean with the Indian Ocean, so is critical for European countries with colonies in Asia.

In response, Britain, France and Israel have invaded Egypt. Egypt is asking the Soviets for help - and Britain is calling on us in turn.

This has the potential to turn into a major war.



DECISION

SIDE WITH BRITAIN: Britain is still our ally – and Egypt siding with the Soviets is a bad sign. We march for war!

SIDE WITH EGYPT: Britain is the aggressor here. We should condemn Britain and France in the strongest terms and let them know the age of imperialism is over.

CALL FOR PEACE: We cannot afford to let this turn into a major war! Let us sit both sides down and talk it out.



RESULTS

SIDE WITH BRITAIN: Egypt loses, but it is harder fight than Britain or France wanted. Other countries take note of their weakness. Maybe siding with the Soviets isn't so bad? **+1** 🕒

SIDE WITH EGYPT: Finding itself increasingly isolated, Britain is forced to back off. The humiliating experience causes a rift between them and Canada - and a backlash at home. **-2** ⚖️

CALL FOR PEACE: The Canadian troops stand between the two sides, preventing a shooting war - and creating the first UN peacekeeping force. Canadians are proud to have played a part in preventing war! **-1** 🕒 **+1** ⚖️



1959: THE AVRO ARROW

Canada had invested \$400 million to develop the fastest interceptor jet in the world: the Avro Arrow. Its mission: to shoot down enemy bombers before they reached their targets.

By 1959, the project was completed and Canada was ready to mass produce them - but it had become clear that the Soviets had switched to ICBMs - supersonic missiles that flew much faster than the Arrow.

What to do with the project?



DECISION

SELL IT: Like the USA, Britain, and France, Canada could sell weapons to other countries. It's worth subsidizing a made-in-Canada project!

SCRAP IT: There is no point in throwing good money after bad! It's time to close down the project.



RESULTS

SELL IT: Canada faced an uphill battle to sell the Arrow when so many other countries are already selling their own, established brands, and the Arrow had no clear . The effort costs millions more - and only annoys our allies.

-2 🏛️

SCRAP IT: The unpopular decision would haunt the government for years. -1 🏛️



1959: CUBAN REVOLUTION

The dictator of Cuba, Fulgencio Batista, has been overthrown by Communist rebels led by Fidel Castro.

Cuba is an island nation close to the USA, and the US is alarmed by this revolution. They are already working on ways to undermine Castro and Cuba.

How should Canada react to this Communist revolution so close to home?



DECISION

RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT:

Canada has the right to make our own foreign policy, no matter what the US says. Cuba isn't a threat to Canada!

WORK AGAINST THE

REVOLUTIONARIES: We must side with our allies. Having a Communist state close to the US creates a weakness the Soviets could exploit!



RESULTS

RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT:

Canada invites Fidel Castro to visit. Canada is one of only two countries in the Americas to recognize the new government and becomes friendly with Cuba. The United States is not pleased by this.

-1 🏛️

WORK AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT:

Canada joins the US in the 'Bay of Pigs' invasion that ends in a humiliating failure. Cuba becomes hostile. +1 🚫



1961: BOMARC CRISIS

To counter the threat of ICBMs, Canada turned to the USA, who sold the BOMARC surface-to-air missile system to Canada.

This would mean nuclear missiles on Canadian soil, which would be awkward – Canada has been a proponent of countries NOT building nuclear weapons!



DECISION

NUCLEAR DETERRENT: Canada needs to have nuclear missiles. Countries like the Soviet Union only respect other countries when they know they could face nuclear retaliation!

NO NUKES: Canada will only make itself a target if it has nuclear weapons. And what about the risk of an accident on Canadian soil?

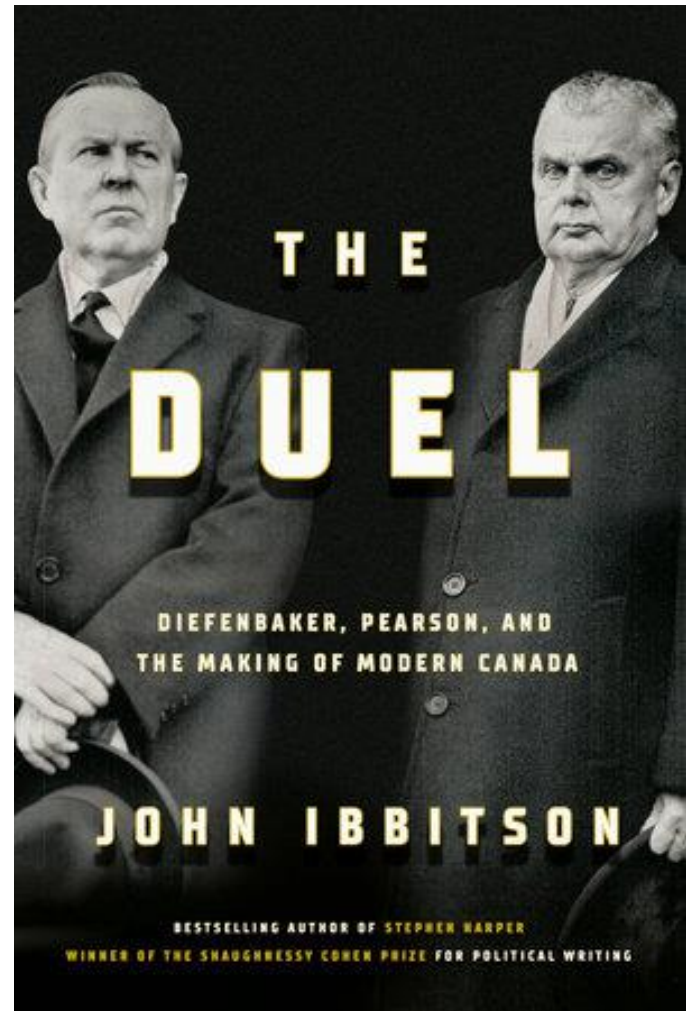


RESULTS

NUCLEAR DETERRENT: Protests break out against the decision in Canada. The government loses a vote of No Confidence, but the new government accepts the nuclear weapons. **-2** 🏛️

NO NUKES: Canada refuses nuclear weapons, making the BOMARC system an expensive failure and breaking its agreement with the USA. **-**

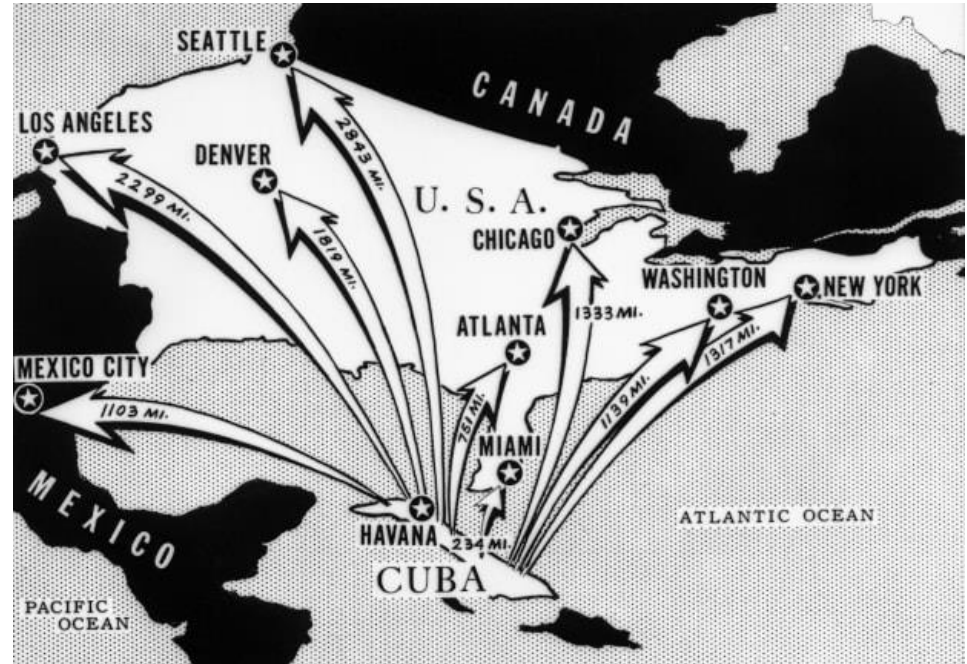
1 🏛️



1962: CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

In response to the U.S. placing nuclear missiles in Turkey, along the Soviet border, the Soviet Union secretly shipped missiles to Communist Cuba - close enough to strike American cities with little warning.

When the Americans discovered this, they threatened to start a war over it unless the Soviets backed down. As the US moved to a war footing, the U.S. President phoned the Canadian Prime Minister and requested Canada do the same.



+1 🕒 minute to midnight

DECISION

GO ON ALERT: Begin preparations for war! We must support our American allies against this underhanded trick.

CALL ON THE UN: This is getting out of control. We need to stand in between the two sides and call for peace!



RESULTS

GO ON ALERT: Tensions continue to rise, but finally both sides step back and withdraw their missiles. **+1** 🕒

CALL ON THE UN: Canada calls for UN inspectors to investigate the claims. The US condemns Canada for being willing to risk nuclear war. Tensions continue to rise, but finally both sides step back and withdraw their missiles.

+1 🕒 **-1** ⚖️



1965: VIETNAM WAR

After gaining independence from France, Vietnam had been split between the Communist north and Capitalist south.

The United States believed in the Domino Effect - that allowing one nation to fall to Communism would open the door for more. They began supporting the south.

Then, in 1964, the North attacked an American warship. The following year, the US entered the war. As American troops flooded into the region, they turned to their allies to join them.

Allies like Canada.



DECISION

JOIN THE WAR: Communism must be stopped in southeast Asia - or it will be North America next!

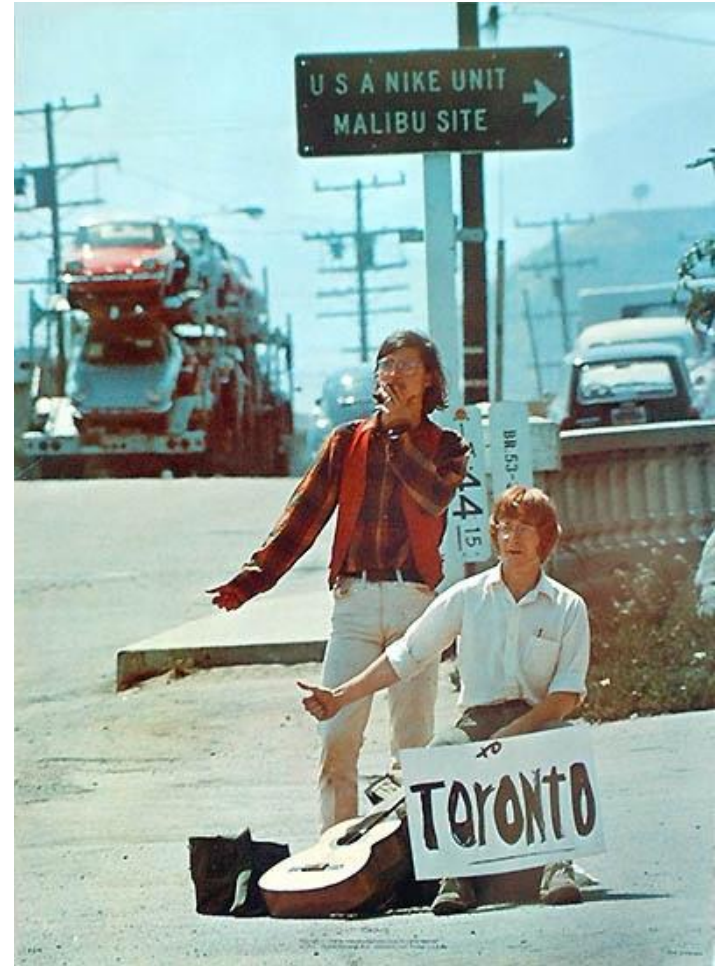
STAY NEUTRAL: Tell the Americans we want no part of this pointless war. I'm sure they'll understand!



RESULTS

JOIN THE WAR: The fighting continues for the next decade. As the first televised war, audiences in Canada learn how horrible war is - and public opinion increasingly turns against Canadian involvement, with mass protests in the 1970s. -1 ⚖️

STAY NEUTRAL: Canada refuses to join the war, angering the United States government. But tens of thousands of American draft dodgers opposed to the war immigrate to Canada - along with Vietnamese refugees seeking freedom.




1972: SALT

Realizing that the world was close to nuclear annihilation, the United States and Soviet Union sat down to discuss limiting the number of nuclear weapons each could have.

The world breathes a sigh of relief - even if both sides still have enough nuclear weapons to destroy all human life.

-1 🕒 **minute to midnight**



 U.S.	NUCLEAR LIMITS	 U.S.S.R.
 200	ABM	 200
 1,054	ICBM	 1,550
5,700 (MIRV)	WARHEADS	5,700 (MRV)
 41	NUCLEAR SUBS	 42

1979: AFGHANISTAN

The two superpowers sat down again to limit nuclear weapons even more.

But six months after this SALT II treaty was signed, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to prop up a Communist government there, beginning a decade long war.

Faced with this aggression, the US government refused to ratify the treaty and instead began sending weapons to Muslim rebels.

+1 🕒 minute to midnight



1989: BERLIN WALL FALLS

Communist East Germany had fallen behind the capitalist West. As conditions in the Communist East worsened, the government turned to increasingly harsh methods of control - including a militarized wall between East and West Berlin in 1961.

In 1989, an error in a radio interview led to the wall being opened - and then to it being destroyed in a popular uprising.

Within months, Germany would be reunified. Other communist states began to fall. By the end of 1991, the Soviet Union had collapsed.

The Cold War was over.



FINAL SCORE:

Doomsday 🕒:

0 or more: Your foolish actions doomed us all. Good job.

-1: You avoided nuclear war!

-2: You performed as well as real life.

-3: You did better than real life!

-4 or less: You should go into diplomacy!

Stability ⚖️:

9 or more: You are the leader Canada needs, not the leader we deserve.

7-8: You have wisdom beyond your years. Or you're cheating.

5-6: You performed as well as real life.

3-4: You probably shouldn't go into politics.

1-2: You go down in history as a terrible leader.

0 or less: During the chaos of the Canadian Revolution, you are caught and executed.