

From Race to Restraint

Trace how nuclear competition led to limits and negotiation.

11.9b "The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear arms race that eventually led to agreements that limited the arms buildup and improved United States-Soviet relations."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline signs of escalating competition. Circle agreements that limited danger. Link one cause to a later response.

Nuclear Rivalry and Negotiation

- ① In 1949, the Soviet Union tested an atomic bomb, ending the U.S. nuclear monopoly. Both superpowers expanded stockpiles and developed hydrogen bombs, fearing vulnerability if they fell behind. The Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957 raised American fears that Soviet rockets could deliver nuclear warheads. Space exploration became linked to missile technology and national prestige. Both sides expanded nuclear forces on land, at sea, and in the air.
- ② In 1962, Khrushchev placed missiles in Cuba to deter another U.S.-backed invasion and improve the Soviet strategic position. Kennedy imposed a naval quarantine. Negotiations brought Soviet missile removal and a public U.S. noninvasion assurance. Washington also secretly assured Moscow that U.S. Jupiter missiles in Turkey would be removed. The danger of nuclear war encouraged further negotiation. The 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty prohibited tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater, but allowed underground tests.
- ③ Détente meant easing tensions, not ending rivalry. The 1972 SALT I agreements included limits on antiballistic missile systems and certain strategic missile launchers. They did not eliminate nuclear arsenals or stop every form of weapons development. Limits and monitoring through national technical means, such as satellites, made some military activities more predictable. Negotiation improved relations while the competition continued. The Test Ban Treaty restricted testing environments; SALT I restricted particular weapons systems. Neither guaranteed lasting peace.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Sputnik contribute to the nuclear arms race, according to the passage?

2 What were two Soviet motives for placing missiles in Cuba, and how was the crisis resolved?

3 Compare the limits created by the Limited Test Ban Treaty and SALT I.

4 How did détente improve United States-Soviet relations without ending the arms race?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence briefing: connect two escalation events, explain the Cuban crisis settlement, compare the two arms agreements, and judge whether they ended the arms race.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline signs of escalating competition. Circle agreements that limited danger. Link one cause to a later response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Sputnik contribute to the nuclear arms race, according to the passage?	Sputnik made many Americans fear that Soviet rocket technology could deliver nuclear warheads, linking the Space Race to missile competition.
2	What were two Soviet motives for placing missiles in Cuba, and how was the crisis resolved?	To deter another U.S.-backed invasion and improve Soviet strategic strength. Soviet missiles were removed; Washington gave a public noninvasion assurance and privately assured removal of U.S. Jupiter missiles from Turkey.
3	Compare the limits created by the Limited Test Ban Treaty and SALT I.	The Test Ban Treaty prohibited tests in the atmosphere, outer space and underwater, but allowed underground tests. SALT I limited antiballistic missile systems and certain strategic missile launchers.
4	How did détente improve United States-Soviet relations without ending the arms race?	Détente encouraged negotiation and monitored limits that made some activities more predictable. Nuclear arsenals and other weapons development continued.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 1949 Soviet atomic test and Sputnik intensified fears of falling behind. The Cuban crisis ended with Soviet missile removal, a U.S. noninvasion assurance, and a secret assurance about removing Jupiter missiles from Turkey. The Test Ban Treaty limited testing environments, while SALT I limited particular weapons systems. These agreements restrained competition but did not end nuclear arsenals or weapons development.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that accurately connect escalation, the Cuban missile crisis, and later limits. For the policy briefing, require two escalation events, the crisis, both agreements, and a supported judgment that the agreements limited rather than ended the arms race.