

The Cold War

Michael F. Hopkins

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History Files

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Michael Hopkins, an expert guide on the history of the Cold War, focuses on the decisions of those who were caught up in the major crises of this highly charged period in our recent history. The geopolitical contest between the United States and its allies on one side, and the Soviet Union, China and their associates on the other had dominated international relations throughout the second half of the 20th century.

Their struggle was about power and military competition, but it was more significantly an ideological struggle between two vastly different political and economic systems. While the presence of nuclear weapons meant that this rivalry dared not escalate into a general war, crises and conflicts did occur, as in Korea and Vietnam, resulting in large-scale death tolls. But the war was mainly conducted through propaganda campaigns through the media, and the battlegrounds eventually spread out from Europe to the rest of the world.

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Michael F. Hopkins is a lecturer in the School of History at the University of Liverpool and a leading authority on the Cold War. He has written widely on the subject, and his recent books include *The Cold War, 1945–1991*.



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