Cold War Vocabulary Terms

How would you alter these meanings for your own learning? What terms would you add/delete/change? Consider the Cold War as an era existing from approximately 1945-1991.

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1. N.A.T.O. – North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Created in 1949 under U.S. leadership to create an alliance between most of the Western powers (including Canada) in defense against possible Soviet aggression
2. Warsaw Pact – Alliance formed by the Soviet Union and other communist countries in Eastern Europe
3. United Nations – International organization founded in 1945 to promote peace, security and economic development
4. Truman Doctrine – US policy of giving military and financial aid to those countries resisting communist rule
5. Marshall Plan - A program of substantial loans given by the U.S. to Western Europe in 1947, it was designed to aid in rebuilding efforts after the war’s devastation. It was also an attempt by the U.S. to stop Communism (if countries were economically propped up they would be less likely to turn to Communism) and it helped secure American economic dominance
6. Berlin Blockade - Stalin shuts off trains, planes, roads into East Berlin - attempt to cut off western influence - Berlin Airlift foils plans
7. Containment - Where the US prevented the spread of Communism by establishing the Truman Doctrine to aid nations threatened by communism.
8. Cold War - US (democracy) vs. Soviet Union (totalitarian communist). Lasted nearly 50 years, 1945 to early 1990’s. US and Soviets vied for global domination and tried to pull the rest of the world into the war. Arms race between the two nations.
9. Red Scare – period of anti-communist hysteria in the late 1940s and 1950s
10. Brinkmanship - introduced during the Cold War, policy or practice, especially in international politics and foreign policy, of pushing a dangerous situation to the brink of disaster in order to achieve the most advantageous outcome by forcing the opposition to make concessions. During the Cold War, the threat of nuclear force was often used as such a deterrent.
11. Domino Theory – foreign policy principle of the 1950s and the 1960s stating that if one country fell to communism, neighboring countries would also fall
12. Korean War - The Korean War was fought from 1950 to 1953. The North was supported by USSR and later People’s Republic of China while the South was supported by U.S. and small United Nations force. The war ended in stalemate, with Korea still divided into North and South
13. S.A.L.T. (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) – looked to curtail the production and number of nuclear arms
14. Tehran Conference - A conference in Tehran, Iran involving USSR, US and Britain aimed at strengthening cooperation in WWII
15. Welfare State - new activism of western European state in economic policy and welfare issues after WWII; reduced impact of economic inequality (avoid another world war).
16. Arms Race - Both USSR_USA push for weapons w/ larger payload, longer/more accurate trajectory, larger quantity
17. Iron Curtain - After WWII, Winston Churchill coined the phrase to describe the division between free and Communist societies that was occurring in Europe
18. Bretton Woods - 1944 meeting of 45 Allied nations to create International Monetary Fund and World Bank - help rebuild world
19. Berlin Airlift – Joint effort by the US and British air forces to deliver food and supplies to West Berlin after the Soviets blocked all routes into the city
20. Détente – lessening of military and diplomatic tensions between countries
21. Satellite Nations – countries under the control of the Soviet Union
22. Mutually Assured Destruction - Deterrent policy in which neither USA-USSR would use nukes, because they would likewise be annihilated
23. Cultural Revolution (China) - Goal was to discourage a privileged ruling class from forming, he instituted reforms that erased any influence from the West, intellectuals were sent to collective farms for “cultural restraining”, political dissidents were imprisoned or killed. Mao’s Little Red Book became a symbol of the forced egalitarianism.
24. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - attempt to keep nuclear technology from spreading past original US, French, British, Russian
25. Six Day War - Fought between Egypt and Israel in 1967; was disastrous for Egypt and one of the failed foreign adventures under Gamal Abdul Nasser, adding to the regime’s problems