Proposal 2: Lessons from the Cold War, 1949-1989

During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in an intense confrontation. Two competing alliances, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact of communist states, faced each other in Europe. The Cold War stopped short of overt direct conflict, but it had many tense moments, such as the Cuban Missile crisis and the Polish crisis of the 1980s. Course participants may well remember these crises, and so the course can be an opportunity to share reflections. We can also explore what has been learned about the Cold War since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Suggested Template:

Readings TBA

Week 1. The End of World War II and the Start of the Cold War

Week 2: The Reconstruction of Europe: Issues of Contention

Week 3: The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact

Week 4: Cold War Crises

Week 5: Detente and its Results

Week 6: Questions about the Cold War: Why did it end in 1989? Is there a “New Cold War” today?