

## Nuclear Arms Race

### Background

The role of weapons of mass destruction is open to strong debate in History 12.

Some will claim that nuclear weapons made the world safer. Fear of mutually assured destruction pushed the superpowers towards much less dangerous forms of confrontation.

Hence, the Cold War.

Others will claim that nuclear weapons made the world much less safe. For example, President Kennedy was willing to risk a nuclear show down during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Hence, the Cold War was always just one problem away from turning into the Hot War.

Whatever your view on nuclear weapons, they changed the game of international affairs.

Whereas armed conflict has traditionally been seen as an extension of foreign policy, its role changed during the Cold War.

The leadership in Washington and Moscow now carried a much heavier burden when deploying troops.

### Assignment

Your mission is to gather information about the nuclear arms race during the Cold War.

Step 1 – Read each section in your *Student Workbook*.

Step 2 – Take notes, focussing on the specifics in your Prescribed Learning Outcomes.