



**MY PROJECT**



**BERLIN**

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE RESOURCES**

A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS TO MY PROJECT BERLIN



## An Introduction to My Project Berlin

### *Background to the Curriculum Content*

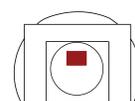
The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 was one of the most notorious events that signaled the crumbling of the Soviet Union, and heralded the end of 45 years of intense ideological conflict and political, economic, and military tension that characterized the Cold War. This year, 2014, marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the resources, lesson plans, and classroom projects included here provide excellent ways of encouraging students to explore and question and further this period in recent world history.

Following the end of the Second World War in the 1945, the victorious Allied powers of Great Britain, the United States, France, Canada, the Soviet Union and others were soon after divided internally by the ideological opposition of the Communist Eastern bloc and the Western capitalist democracies. Of these two groups, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (the USSR) and the United States emerged as dominant world superpowers, competing in the areas of sports, culture, industry, military power, and scientific innovation, and engaging in arms-length capacities in military conflicts in countries like Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, among many others. In these conflicts, The United States financially and militarily supported the democratic parties, while the Soviet Union did the same for the communist sides.

This time of tension and conflict was characterized by a sense of fear among average citizens of each of the two superpowers, resulting in occurrences in the West of things like an intense fear of communism and communists (McCarthyism), muzzling of leftist political voices and activities including the work produced by many in Hollywood (which essentially caused many former stars' careers and lives to crumble, including Charlie Chaplin), "duck and cover" drills normalized in schools and air raid sirens installed in towns and cities, and the rise in construction of backyard fallout shelters and nuclear emergency preparation measures.

### Canada and the Diefenbunker

Emerging from the Second World War for the first time as a recognized world power and a sovereign nation, Canada was one of the original countries to sign on to the first agreement of the newly-founded United Nations, and later, one of the founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Canada allied closely with the United States in its strong anti-communist stance, and while not going so far as to outlaw the official Communist Party of Canada nor trade unions, as had been done in America, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police kept a close watch on anyone deemed to have "suspicious" communist views or ties. Canada also sent troops to the Korean War with the support of the United Nations, but not officially to the Vietnam War (although many Canadians fought independently with the American troops). Despite widespread protests, in





1963 Canada accepted nuclear warheads from the United States and were thus drawn into the global nuclear arms race, albeit to a much smaller degree than the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, or others.

The Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum is an extraordinary reminder of this significant piece of World History. Commissioned in the late 1950s by Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker as a major part of the continuity of government program in the event of a nuclear emergency, the large, top-secret, underground fallout shelter that was dubbed "The Diefenbunker" was built between 1959 and 1961. The structure was one of many built across Canada to house government and military officials in order to preserve political, economic, and military leadership and stability in the event of an emergency. Much like the Berlin Wall, the Diefenbunker (and Cold War era structures worldwide), represent the significant connection between physical structures and their ability to express and shape the historical narrative of communities on a multitude of levels. The Diefenbunker became Canada's Cold War Museum in 1998, and has since strived to promote awareness and understanding of the Cold War in its Canadian and global contexts. The purpose of this resource package is to aid teachers nationwide in expanding their students' critical knowledge and understanding of Cold War military, political, and social history while adhering closely to provincial curriculum guidelines.

## Contents

Contained in your chosen resource package are the tools to develop a lesson or major project that integrates Cold War primary source material or general themes, while fitting with curriculum guidelines nationwide for students in grades 3 to 12. You are not required to use all of the materials provided, nor are you obligated to participate in any enclosed project proposals. As an educator you can pick and choose the content and materials you wish to use, and tailor it according to your own preferences and needs. Should you choose to use either of the major projects as set out in the packages, you will find that you will be able to participate on a number of levels, and will also be provided with the opportunity to have your students' work featured in an upcoming museum education exhibit here at the Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum.

We at the Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum, would like to thank you for actively contributing to enhancing understandings of Cold War history across Canada. Should you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-800-409-1965 ext. 223 or [education@diefenbunker.ca](mailto:education@diefenbunker.ca).