Strategic Bombing (1945)

During the Second World War, the targeting of civilian populations as an acceptable means of waging war was widely adopted by all sides, including for populations under occupation. Driven by the failure of Air Forces to deliver on their lofty prewar promises of pinpoint accuracy against military infrastructure and production, Air Chiefs and Generals continuously expanded the conception of a valid military target to maintain their relevance, defining workers' housing, civilian infrastructure, and even whole cities as acceptable military targets no matter how tangentially they were related to war production.

-USA and UK each lose 1 PCT

Truman Doctrine (1947)

Concerned about Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe and the inability of Britain to financially support its own intervention in the Greek Civil War, U.S President Harry Truman calls on Congress to provide military aid and material to the royalist government of Greece and neighboring Turkey, where unrest is also growing. This severely alienates the Soviet Union and drives defense spending up in the burgeoning Cold War, including in the UK, where limited mass conscription continues after the end of the war

-USSR loses 1 PCT + 1 Elite Opinion Card
-USA loses 1 PCT
-UK gains 1 MT

Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech (1946)

In an inflammatory commencement speech given at Westminster College in Missouri, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill frames the post-war order as an oppositional conflict between between the free capitalist West and the oppressed communist east setting the stage for ideological confrontation and hardening public opinion against the USSR and efforts of cooperation in the US and UK while shocking and alienating the Soviets who up until now had pursued limited cooperation with the West and considered the speech aggressive and warmongering.

-US, UK, and USSR each lose 2 PCTs
-2 currently-held Elite Opinion Cards must be removed from the game

Berlin Blockade (1948)

In response to Anglo-American efforts to pursue currency reform in Germany separate from the Soviet Union, Stalin closes the roads into West Berlin pushing the already shattered city to the brink of mass starvation. U.S, British and French governments call his bluff and begin the Berlin Airlift, tackling the immense logistical challenge of supplying the city by air. Soon, the Western Allies employ former German pilots and mechanics for the mission, and within 11 months, Stalin concedes defeat and reopens the roads into the city.

-USSR loses 3 PCTs
-USA, UK and France each gain 1 PCT

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Chinese Civil War Ends (1949)

The nationalist Kuomintang under Chiang Kai-shek retreated to Taiwan, and communist peasant soldiers entered Shanghai, the heart of Chinese capitalism. Although long in the making, the event shocks the world, especially the US where it contributes to the Red Scare and a rising fear of communism which suppresses or destroys many radical movements. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union feels somewhat bolstered and reassured by gaining the most populous nation in the world as its ally.

-China and USSR each gain 1 PCT + 1 Diplomatic Savvy Card -US loses 2 PCT + 1 Popular Will Card

West German Rearmament (1951)

Under pressure from the U.S and NATO, West Germany begins rebuilding its military forces. With the incalculable collective trauma of Nazi occupation and the horrors of the Eastern Front still very much in living memory the Soviet Union is horrified and begins to increase its militarization. France likewise opposes West German rearmament due to its own experience with Nazi occupation and the French populace is outraged, bolstering the anti war faction.

-USSR gains 1 MT
-France gains 2 PCT
-USA and UK each lose 1 PCT
- a capitalist bloc nation of the players choice
gains 1 MT

Douglas MacArthur (1950)

North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel, launching a surprise invasion of the South. The United States soon leads a UN-backed coalition to defend South Korean dictator and U.S ally, Singhman Rhee, against the communist forces and counter attacks invading the North. As Chinese forces push the U.S and UN armies back towards the 38th parallel, the commander of U.N forces Douglas MacArthur explicitly defies his own civilian government and publicly threatens to drop nuclear bombs on Chinese cities and disperse nuclear waste across the Korean peninsula so as to make it unlivable. President Truman eventually fired him.

-US, USSR, UK, China and North Korea each lose 1
PCT

Pakistan Tilts Towards the West (1952)

Pakistan began decisively moving towards closer military ties with the United States joining anti-communist Cold War alliances like SEATO by 1954, allowing U.S access to air bases in the country and receiving military aid. This threatens not only the USSR but especially India who fears the militarization of its main rival Pakistan.

-Pakistan gains 1 MT -India loses 2 PCT -USSR loses 1 PCT

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Stalin Dies! (1953)

Ding Dong, the Dictator's Dead! With the death of the brutal dictator Joseph Stalin and the ascension of Nikita Krushchev as premier of the Soviet Union, domestic surveillance and censorship loosened significantly, and while the USSR remains an authoritarian country, political prisoners were let out of the Gulag prison camps in the hundreds of thousands. Many are anarchists, socialist revolutionaries, and radical democrats who, with immense courage, continue to organize even as they process their trauma and attempt to reenter society.

-USSR gains 2 PCT + 2 Popular Will Cards

Dien Bien Phu Falls! (1954)

The communist led and pro-independence forces of the Viet Minh decisively defeated the French Paratroopers and colonial forces at the small mountain valley of Dien Bien Phu. France has been bled dry by the war and even resorted to conscripting ex-SS guards to pursue the war in Vietnam. The French populace is exhausted by war, and protests against the military establishment accelerate. The United States, unwilling to see another communist country in Asia quietly starts to ramp up military and financial aid to the South, replacing the French.

-France gains 1 Popular Will Card + 2 PCTs
-US gains 1 MT

Founding of the Warsaw Pact (1955)

In response to West Germany's admission into the U.S.-led NATO military alliance (formed back in 1949), the USSR created its own military alliance, the Warsaw pact, amongst its Eastern European Satellite states, fully formalizing the military standoff between East and West.

-USSR and a NATO country of your choice (USA, UK, or France) gain 1 MT

This is Hungary Calling! (1956)

Students storm the headquarters of the secret police, and citizens take to the streets demanding democratic rights, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country and the abolition of censorship and prisons. Workers take over their workplaces and govern them collectively and democratically through workers councils, while reformist Prime Minister Imre Nagy renounces the Warsaw Pact and announces Hungary's neutrality in the Cold War. Soon, Russian tanks and soldiers are in the streets of Budapest. Eventually, the uprising is crushed in terrible violence, but many can flee the country.

-France and UK each gain 2 Popular Will Cards and 1 PCT

-USSR loses 2 Popular Will Cards and 2 PCTs

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Suez Crisis (1956-1957)

Egyptian president Abdel Nasser starts implementing plans to nationalize the Suez Canal, a vital global trade route long controlled by British and French financial interests. In response, Britain, France, and Israel invaded in order to secure control over the canal. Balking at the naked aggression and colonialism, the USA and USSR work together to force the old imperial powers to back down and complete a humiliating withdrawal, which spurs renewed calls in France and Britain to pursue military power independent from the United States but assuring the USA and USSR of their military and diplomatic power.

-UK, France and Israel each lose 2 PCTs
-USA and USSR each gain 2 PCTs

Sino Soviet Split (1959)

Tensions between Chinese Chairman Mao and Soviet Premier Kruschev exploded into the full revocation of the relationship between Beijing and Moscow as Mao criticized Kruschev for his repeal of Stalin era policies (such as the Gulags) and lack of willingness to confront the West, and Krushchev attacked Mao for the horrors of the Great Leap Forward and China's increasing support for anti-colonial insurgencies abroad. The USSR recalls its economic advisors from China and ends industrial and military cooperation.

-The Movement Connection between USSR and China ends

The Great Leap Forward (1958)

Chairman Mao Zedong announces the Great Leap Forward, a sweeping campaign to transform China from an agrarian economy into an industrial powerhouse. However, echoing the industrial advancements of other countries from the mid-18th century onward, rapid industrialization has catastrophic consequences for the poor and working classes, triggering widespread famine, poverty, and the dissolution of communities and their traditional ecological knowledge. While the Great Leap Forward did expand China's industrial and military capacity, it did so at the cost of over ten million deaths due to starvation.

-China gains 1 MT

The Year of Africa (1960)

Over 17 African nations achieved independence from their former colonial overlords, often in brutal wars against their colonial overlords and often with Chinese support for revolutions and insurgent movements. This wave of decolonization reshapes the geopolitical landscape as many of these nations join the non-aligned movement alongside India and enter into close relations with China. However, many in the old imperial powers such as the UK and France are deeply threatened by the loss of prestige as their former colonies free themselves, leading to domestic backlash against movements with an anti-colonial tilt.

-China and India each gain 2 PCTs
-UK and France each lose 2 PCTs

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Bay of Pigs (1961)

The U.S Central Intelligence Service launched a disastrous and mismanaged mission to overthrow Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, sending 1,400 Cuban exiles to their deaths. Poor intelligence and planning, utter lack of support amongst the Cuban people, and the last-minute withdrawal of direct U.S military involvement doom the operation to failure. The United States is humiliated by the fiasco and scales up its intervention in Latin America and military/intelligence support for dictatorships across the continent. However the event does turn many intellectuals and members of the American elite against continued intervention.

-US loses 2 PCTs but gains 1 Elite Opinion Card

Diem Assassinated (1963)

After years of authoritarian rule, repression of Buddhists and continuous failure to contain the growing resistance and unrest spurred by Vietnam's National Liberation Front, the United States gives its approval for elements of the South Vietnamese military to launch a coup, assassinate President Ngo Dinh Diem and seize control. The coup sends the country into a spiral of instability with tit for tat coups eventually leading the US to lose confidence in the regime and step up its involvement in Vietnam.

-US gains 1 MT

Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

U.S spy planes discovered Soviet nuclear missiles being deployed in Cuba just 90 miles from the U.S mainland. President Kennedy orders an immediate naval blockade of Cuba and demands the removal of the missiles. For 13 harrowing days, the world holds its breath as the USA and USSR bring the world to the brink of nuclear war. Finally, the Soviet Union agrees to withdraw the missiles on the condition that the United States withdraw the Jupiter nuclear missiles it had already emplaced just outside Soviet territory in Turkey. Both nations continue to develop their nuclear weapons arsenal.

-All nations (except USA and USSR) gain 1 PCT
-USA and USSR gain 2 PCTs and 1 MT

Mandela Imprisoned (1964)

In apartheid South Africa, the 1964 Rivonia trial ended with the incarceration of Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress on charges of treason and conspiracy to overthrow the white supremasist government. While western governments are slow to take action, Mandela's rousing speech galvanized sympathy worldwide and newly independent African nations roundly condemned the actions. Grassroots movements of intellectuals, workers and artists began to mobilize especially in the UK, US, Canada and Scandinavia.

-US and UK each gain 1 Popular Will Card + 1 PCT

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Indo-Pakistani War (1965)

India and Pakistan go to war over Kashmir! Shortly after the disastrous, violent and mismanaged 1947 partition of the British Raj into the countries of India and Pakistan, the Hindu ruler of the then independent principality of Jammu and Kashmir seceded the country to India, overruling the wishes of the majority Muslim population. Pakistan, seeing India as weak after a 1962 war with China, thought that a bold strike could lead to a popular uprising among the Kashmiri Muslims who long sought unification with Pakistan. Instead the Pakistani attack led to a deadly war and the uprising failed to materialize.

-India and Pakistan each lose 2 PCTs + gain 1 MT

France Leaves NATO (1966)

French President Charles De Gaulle pulls France out of NATO's military command structure and expels all NATO forces from French soil, denouncing U.S dominance and emphasizing French military and nuclear self sufficiency. Radical movements across the continent are bolstered by public debate around sovereignty, imperialism and Cold War alliances and eases tensions with the USSR but the decision also spurs increased French defense spending and Nuclear Development.

-France gains 1 MT + 1 PCT
-UK and USSR each gain 1 PCT-

Cultural Revolution (1967)

The Cultural Revolution was in full swing! Student Red Guards mobilize to attack teachers, officials, religious figures and even their own families. Schools are shut down and intellectuals, artists and bureaucrats are intimidated, imprisoned or killed. The violence devastated Chinese civil society and represents a breaking apart of much of the underlying commonality across society.

-China loses 2 PCT and all Elite Opinion Cards

Be Realistic! Demand the Impossible! (1968)

An unprecedented series of radical students and workers uprisings swept the world. In the US, students and civil rights leaders, outraged by the assasination of MLK, rose up in over 100 cities in an attempt to overthrow white supremacy and capitalism. In France, radical workers and student organizers occupied universities and factories, running them by consensus. In Czechoslovakia, students and workers rose up and fought for "socialism with a human face". In Vietnam, the war intensified from the Tet Offensive. In Mexico, students agitating against political repression and systematic corruption were massacred by the PRI regime leading their teachers and families to take up arms against the state.

-All nations gain 2 PCTs and 2 Popular Will Cards

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

The Troubles (1969)

A 3-way paramilitary war begins in British-occupied Northern Ireland between the Irish Republican Army, the Ulster Volunteer Force and British occupation forces. As violent groups on all sides take arms, repression and discrimination against the poorer Irish Catholic communities only grows. In the 30 year conflict, thousands will die in tit for tat shootings, bombings and massacres by the police and military. While resistance to the tightening British grip on Northern Ireland does garner resistance and solidarity in Britain, the war in Ireland and the drawback in civil rights that comes with it will fracture and fragment society in both countries.

-UK loses 2 PCTs and gains 1 MT 1 Popular Will Card

COINTELPRO (1971)

The FBI expanded its counter intelligence program to monitor, actively disrupt and dismantle domestic opposition to the U.S government and dominant political class. Civil rights leaders like MLK, anti war and anti nuclear movements, student radicals and black nationalist organizations are increasingly subject to harassment and surveillance including physical attacks all without public oversight. Through tactics like "fedjacketing", forged letters, provocation and entrapment the FBI is highly successful in sabotaging the efforts of civil society to move towards a safer, more just world.

-US loses 1 Mass Movement Card.

If US doesn't have Mass Movement Card, it loses 1 Popular Will Card

War in Cambodia and Laos (1970)

The Nixon administration in the United States expanded the Vietnam war into Cambodia and Laos, targeting the Ho Chi Minh trail which brought supplies from North Vietnam to guerilla fighters in the south. This kicked off the Cambodian Civil war, eventually leading to the rise of the deadly and genocidal Khmer Rouge dictatorship. The United States will drop more tonnage of bombs on the two small Southeast Asian countries than in all the theatres of WW2. Unexploded ordnance remains a pressing problem in Cambodia and Laos today and at the current rate of removal and disposal they will be free of unexploded bombs by the year 3025.

-US gains 1 MT
- China loses 2 PCTs

Repression of the Naxalites (1972)

The Indian government drastically stepped up its repression of the Maoist Naxalite movement, straining the nation's relationship with China and adversely affecting not just the Naxalites but the rest of Indian civil society as a culture of fear and silence developed. A movement of Indian sharecroppers, landless peasants, indigenous Adivasi people and Dalets, the Naxalites abandoned peaceful struggle after a peasant woman was shot by police during a land dispute.

-India loses 1 PCT and gains 1 MT
-Any Movement Connection between India and
China ends

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

OPEC Oil Crisis (1973)

In response to U.S support for Israel during the Yom Kippur War Arab countries, many with influential positions within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, launch a massive oil embargo, quadrupling the cost of oil overnight. The move triggered intense backlash against internationalist thinking in the Imperial Core as economic self interest trumped solidarity as a wave of xenophobia and islamophobia swept the west.

- -Imperial Core countries lose 2 PCT and 1 Elite
 Opinion Card
- -Imperial periphery and semi-periphery countries gain 2 PCT and 1 Elite Opinion Card

Vietnam War Ends! (1975)

On April 30, after decades of brutal U.S occupation, the National Liberation Front marched triumphantly into Saigon as U.S sympathizers rushed to evacuate, fearing reprisals. Over 3 million Vietnamese are dead, roughly 25% of the country is rendered uninhabitable by American bombing and chemical defoliants like Agent Orange, and over 10 million face internal displacement. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam will send hundreds of thousands of the former dictator's supporters into re-education camps and suppress all political opposition.

-Communist bloc and Non-Aligned countries gain 1 PCT

-USA loses 2 PCT

If US doesn't have Mass Movement Card, it loses 1 Popular Will Card

Crisis in Cyprus (1974)

The military junta of Greece backed a coup in the small island nation of Cyprus, which has been a historic home to sizable populations of both ethnic Greeks and Turks seeking to unite the island with Greece. In response, the Government of Turkey launched a full-scale military invasion of the north of the country to protect the Turkish minority there.. While anti-militarist groups across the West were galvanized, the Crisis shook NATO to its core and undermined the confidence of elites in international cooperation.

-All NATO countries gain 1 Popular Will Card and lose 1 Elite Opinion Card

Operation Condor Intensifies (1976)

The United States steps up its to support anti-communist dictatorships in Latin America through repression, surveillance, kidnapping and torture, dismantling radical movements across the continent. Fear and trauma are widespread as civil society, unions, student movements and even religious activism are silenced. Latin America becomes a testing ground for efforts to dismantle radical movements the world over and the U.S shares its new tactics and strategies with its allies.

- US gains 1 MT
-All periphery and semi-periphery nations lose 1
Popular Will Card + 1 PCT

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Mujahideen and CIA (1977)

The CIA began funding and supplying the radical Islamist Mujahideen in Afghanistan in order to weaken the USSR and overthrow the feminist and communist Saur revolution. CIA intervention in Afghanistan served as a blueprint for religious militancy against secular or leftist governments, and the Mujahideen quickly distributed funds and arms to Islamic fundamentalist groups in other countries.

-Israel, Iran, Pakistan and India each lose 1 PCT +
1 Popular Will Card
-USSR loses 2 Diplomatic Savvy cards

Sandinista Insurgency (1978)

Across Nicaragua, the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional, FSLN, is founded and students, peasants, workers, and guerrillas begin rising up against the U.S backed Somouza dictatorship. While the revolution is still in its infancy the rebels immediately begin implementing mutual aid systems and building parallel institutions of governance around literacy, vaccination and land reform serving as an inspiration to revolutionaries across the imperial periphery.

-All periphery and semi-periphery nations gain 1
PCT

The Iron Lady (1979)

Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister of the UK, ushering in an era of "neoliberal" governance. Backed by elites, she seeks to dismantle post-war social services, destroy organized labor, and privatize state industries through a program of "austerity". During a nationwide strike by coal miners, she crushes the powerful and militant National Union of Mineworkers by stockpiling coal before the strike and employing massive police violence. Not only unionized workers but the whole British working class is put under immense strain as Elite Opinion rallies behind her.

-UK loses 2 PCT, 1 Popular Will Card and 1 Elite
Opinion Card

The Reagan Revolution (1980)

Inspired by Thatcher's success in the U, Ronald Reagan was elected on a platform of neoliberalism and austerity. His administration sees skyrocketing military spending but a massive role back in social services for the poor and federal financial aid for municipalities, leading many American towns and cities to become financially dependent on debt. He also accelerates the destruction of unions and slashes taxes for the rich.

-US loses 2 PCTs, 1 Popular Will Card and 1 Elite
Opinion Card

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Crackdown in Iran (1981)

As the Islamic Republic of Iran tightens its control over the country, it cracks down fiercely on leftists and other dissidents, outlawing the communist Tudeh movement, which helped Ayatollah Khomeini's clerics overthrow the dictatorial Shah. Countless leftist students and union organizers have disappeared into the bowels of Iran's police state, driving leftist and internationalist movements underground and spurring disillusionment in communist movements worldwide.

-Iran loses 2 PCT
-USSR and China each lose 1 PCT

Socialism w/ Chinese Characteristics (1982)

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping deepened his economic reforms, dismantling collective farms, cracking down on organized labor, and turning China into a hybridized capitalist system.

China is increasingly opening up relations and trade with the West and driving huge economic growth while distancing itself from revolutionary and anti-colonial movements. This form of economic development drives many Chinese workers into migrant labor as they are pushed to the margins of the rapidly developing economy.

-India, Iran, Pakistan and USSR each lose 1 PCT
-No extra costs to make interbloc treaties w/ China

Able Archer 83 (1983)

NATO command launched hyper realistic wargames, including the deployment of the alliance's nuclear forces and the visible buildup of massive conventional forces, without informing the Soviet Union. Already on edge from U.S President Ronald Reagan's aggressive rhetoric and saber rattling against the USSR, Soviet High Command thinks the exercise is preparation for real invasion and places their nuclear forces on high alert. Later declassified documents will show that the Soviet Union was perilously close to a preemptive nuclear strike against the NATO Alliance.

-US, France and UK each lose 1 PCT and 1
Diplomatic Savvy Card

Crackdown in India (1984)

Indira Gandhi, the left-leaning Prime Minister of India and champion of the Non-Aligned Movement, launched Operation Bluestar to crack down on religious and separatist movements in the provinces of Punjab and Assam. The government suspends many civil rights and protections, and Indian troops using tanks and artillery storm the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest site in the Sikh faith, to flush out armed Sikh militants calling for an independent Punjab. In response to the desecration of the temple, Gandhi's Sikh guards assassinate her.

-India loses 4 PCT

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Gorbachev Comes to Power(1985)

Coming to power in March 1985 as the younger face of reform, Mikhail Gorbachev promised modernization, an end to cooperation, and economic reform while opening to the West. ramping up to the full implementation of Perestroika and Glasnost (Restructuring and Openness), limited market mechanisms are introduced allowing small businesses to open as workers cooperatives and giving state enterprises more autonomy (which increases corruption due to lack of accountability structures). Censorship is also relaxed and criticism of the government is permitted, but soon cracks begin to show in the Soviet System.

-USSR gains 2 PCT

-No extra costs to make interbloc treaties w/ USSR

AIDS Crisis (1987)

The AIDS Crisis was tearing through the LGBTQ community in the United States and Western Europe, but especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. The epidemic will devastate countercultural and radical movements in the United States, as many highly politically active gay men succumb to the terrible disease. In the absence of widespread solidarity from the straight community, Lesbians in particular will bear much of the effort of advocating for patients, as men lose their battles with disease, while in hospitals, many white nurses and doctors will refuse to care for the victims, and marginalized Filipina immigrant nurses will largely fill that role.

-US loses 2 Popular Will Cards
-UK and France each lose 1 Popular Will Card

Chernobyl (1986)

A routine safety test turns catastrophic when the number 4 reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant explodes, as a runaway nuclear reaction instantly vaporizes 1.85 million gallons of water and spews radioactive graphite into the atmosphere. We may never know how many people died from increased radiation and cancer rates as the Soviet Union struggled to contain the disaster, but the event scarred the nuclear power industry for decades and came to epitomize the ineptitude of Soviet leadership. Public and elite opinion in the Soviet Union turns sharply against nuclear technology.

-USSR loses 2 PCTs but gains 1 Popular Will Card + 1 Elite Opinion Card

Chico Mendes Assasinated (1988)

Deep in the heart of the Amazon sustainable rubber tapper, Indigenous ally, and radical union leader, Chico Mendes, is murdered by ranchers linked to illegal land grabs on indigenous land. While the murder cannot end the movement, he helped start it is indicative of the brutal repression faced by leftist movements particularly in the imperial periphery and semi-periphery.

-All periphery and semi-periphery nations lose 1
PCT

Event Event

Cards Cards

Global Global

Event Event

Francis Fukuyama, History is Over!! (1989)

The USSR falls under the weight of its own contradictions!!, Liberal Capitalism reigns supreme, and Political Theorist Francis Fukuyama declares the end of history! Clearly, nothing controversial or divisive will ever happen again, nobody will ever struggle to change society, and the eternal cycles and flow of societal change that have defined humanity's existence on this planet will cease. Too bad for old Fukuyama that History didn't get the memo

- Game Ends

Event Event



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