# The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction

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The massive disorder and economic ruin following the Second World War inevitably predetermined the scope and intensity of the Cold War. But why did it last so long? And what impact did it have on the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, and the Third World? Finally, how did it affect the broader history of the second half of the twentieth century--what were the human and financial costs? This Very Short Introduction provides a clear and stimulating interpretive overview of the Cold War, one that will both invite debate and encourage deeper investigation.

## About the Series:

Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style,

# Very Short Introductions

offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

# Robert J. McMahon

is Professor of History at the University of Florida, and President of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations. Among his many acclaimed books are The Cold War on the Periphery: the United States, India, and Pakistan (1994), and The Limits of Empire: the US and Southeast Asia since World War II (1999). He has held visiting professorships in Britain and Ireland as well as in Asia and around the US. He received the Bernath article prize from SHAFR in 1989 and the Bernath lectureship in 1991. Small but impressive \* Soldier Magazine \*

### Other Books

American Military History, This book offers a chronology, subheadings, and terms to provide the reader a pedagogical framework for understanding the central themes and events in the American military experience and their relation to American history. It serves as a foundation for undergraduate courses in military history.

2 2 2 2 . Halberstam, David. The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War. New York: Hyperion Books, 2008. Hastings, Max. The Korean War. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1987. Holm, Jeanne. Women in the Military: An Unfinished Revolution."