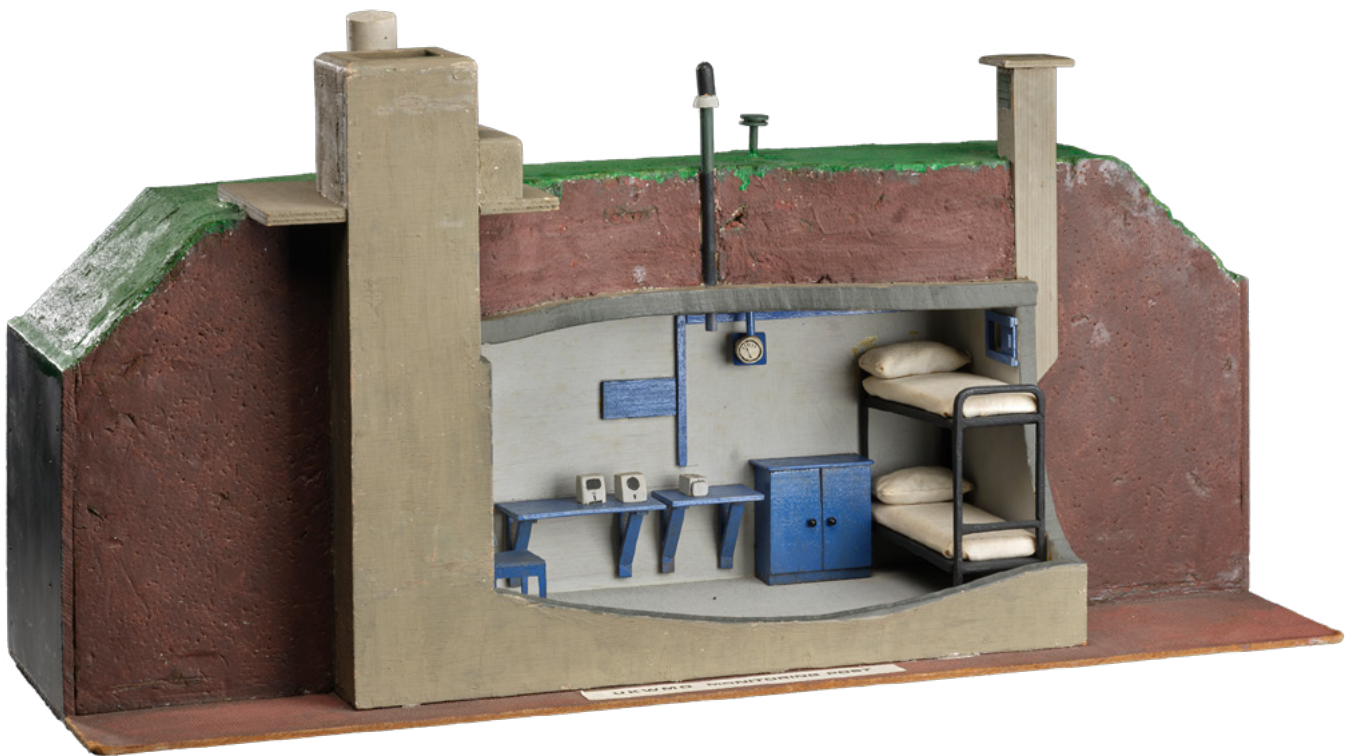


COLD WAR SCOTLAND

Resource sheets



Introduction

The Cold War (1947–1991) was a period of significant tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. Each side formed alliances based on ideological differences, informally called the Eastern and Western Blocs. The Eastern Bloc was made up of communist states aligned with the Soviet Union as part of the Warsaw Pact. The Western Bloc consisted of countries allied to the United States, including the UK. Many Western Bloc countries were also members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The political and, later, physical boundary between the two Blocs became known as the Iron Curtain.

Whilst there was no direct, large-scale fighting between the two Blocs, they both supported opposing sides in regional conflicts. The two groups also sought to assert their global dominance through technological innovation, espionage, propaganda and cultural superiority.



The Nuclear Arms Race

In 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing around 200,000 civilians and forcing Japan to surrender, ending the Second World War. Even though British scientists had been instrumental in the development of these bombs, the United States refused to work with the UK on further development after the war. Consequently, in 1947 Britain set up its own nuclear research programme. Soviet scientists also fought to catch up with nuclear technology and in 1949 they tested their first atomic device. France and China started to work on nuclear weapons as well.

This period of rapid research and development resulted in an arms race between countries. Countries tried to stay ahead of the competition, producing more and more devastating nuclear weapons. This looming threat also spurred research into detection and monitoring, allowing governments to receive early warning of possible attacks. Initially atomic bombs were designed to be delivered from the air, but from the 1950s experiments were conducted that resulted in the development of nuclear missiles that could be launched from submarines or over long ranges from neighbouring countries.

By the 1960s, there were enough nuclear weapons in circulation to cause a global catastrophe and countries had developed the capacity to retaliate to even the worst attacks. This became known as the nuclear deterrent as it allowed for 'mutually assured destruction'.

The Berlin Wall

After the end of the Second World War, Germany and, separately, Berlin were divided into four occupation zones, each one administered by one of the allied powers; the United States, the UK, France and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union installed a communist regime in their zone and refused to work with the other allies. In the western zones of Germany, the standard of living improved rapidly and, as a result, people from the Soviet zone moved to the western zones in large numbers for political and economic reasons. This dismayed the Soviet government as it made communist society look inferior. They consequently introduced a hard border between the two zones in 1952 to restrict movement. This border became increasingly strictly policed, but was difficult to control in Berlin until the Berlin Wall was built in 1961.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

In 1959, Cuba was taken over by communist revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro. Castro was supported by the Soviet Union and in 1962, an American spy plane discovered that the Soviet Union had placed nuclear missiles on Cuban soil, near to the United States border. President Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba and military forces were moved to DEFCON 3 (Defense Readiness Condition), and later, DEFCON 2, the closest that the world has come to nuclear war. Ultimately, negotiations between the Soviet Union and United States were successful and the Soviet Union removed their nuclear weapons from Cuba.

Détente

From 1967, tensions began to ease between the United States and Soviet Union and there was increased trade and cultural exchange between countries in the two Blocs. There were also a number of disarmament treaties put into a place. This period was known as détente after the French word for relaxation.

Détente came to an end in 1979 when the Soviet Union intervened in a civil war in Afghanistan. The United States responded by withdrawing from the most recent disarmament treaty, imposing trade embargoes on the Soviet Union and boycotting the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

What do you think it was like to grow up in the early 1980s with the looming threat of nuclear war? How did it affect people's behaviour?

Can you find any first-person accounts that discuss this?

The New Cold War

This led to a period of increased international tension that lasted until 1985. During this time, President Reagan revived a number of nuclear development programmes in the United States. The situation was further escalated in 1983 when the Soviet Union shot down a Boeing 747 flying from Alaska to South Korea. The plane had accidentally strayed into Russian airspace due to a navigational mistake and was destroyed by the Soviet Air Force, killing all 269 people onboard.

Later that year, NATO members conducted their annual five-day military exercise known as Able Archer, designed to simulate responses to heightened nuclear tensions. Due to the addition of new elements such as radio silences and the participation of heads of government, the Soviet Union believed that the exercise could be cover for a real attack, readying nuclear equipment and air units in response. The stand-off was de-escalated upon the conclusion of the exercise.

The End of the Cold War

When Mikhail Gorbachev became the Soviet leader in 1985, he began to pursue policies of openness and economic change. He also engaged in diplomacy and arms reduction agreements with the United States, which significantly reduced nuclear tensions. As a consequence, from the late-1980s, borders were gradually opened between the Blocs, with the Berlin Wall coming down in 1989. Around the same time, unrest was growing in member republics of the Soviet Union. Estonia declared state sovereignty in 1988 and Lithuania full independence in 1990. Other republics followed and with a loss of centralised power, the Soviet Union officially ended in 1991. These events brought the Cold War to a close.

Cold War Locations

Scotland's location and geography made it strategic in a number of ways during the Cold War and this strategic position was utilised by both the UK armed forces and the United States Navy.

- Scotland stood on the main sea route between the Soviet Union and North America, on the edge of the Greenland, Iceland and UK (GIUK) gap. This was the pinch point on the route and control of it was crucial for identifying and preventing a possible Soviet attack by submarine. To police the passage, submarine bases were constructed on the west coast of Scotland. From 1968, these submarines became the UK's official nuclear deterrent, taking over from an airborne deterrent.
- Scotland's proximity to Russia, compared to other Western Bloc countries, meant that it was a good location for gathering intelligence, and installations were built to intercept radio transmissions from the Soviet Union. Other sites had warning and communications functions.
- The country's varied terrain and areas of low population density offered ideal locations for training and weapons testing. In the 1950s, the sea west of Lewis was used for biological weapons testing including releasing bubonic plague bacteria into the air.



Scotland also had:

- A number of underground bunkers to which government services would have been transferred in the event of nuclear war.
- Five V-Force dispersal bases. Until the late-1960s, the UK's nuclear deterrent was held by the Royal Air Force, who maintained a fleet of Valiant, Victor and Vulcan bombers to deliver it. In a national emergency, these airfields would have housed V-bombers armed with nuclear weapons. Some of these bases were also responsible for conducting regular air patrols searching for Soviet ships and submarines.
- Over 300 Royal Observer Corps (ROC) Posts. The ROC was a voluntary organisation originally founded to monitor the skies above the UK. It operated throughout the Second World War and was remobilised in 1947 to watch for Soviet bombers. The advent of radar, however, made the ROC redundant in spotting aircraft. Instead, from 1957, ROC volunteers worked with the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation (UKWMO) and were trained to provide the Government with information about scale and impact in the event of a nuclear attack. Posts were built underground and consisted of a standard design with a 14 foot (4.3 m) deep access shaft, a toilet/store and a monitoring room.
- A series of anti-aircraft batteries. These were important in the early stages of the Cold War, but fell out of use as aeroplanes ceased to be used for nuclear delivery and interception.

Americans in Scotland

With a significant American military presence in Scotland from the 1960s, relations between base personnel and locals were mixed. Businesses such as pubs and local taxis profited and the American's arrival prompted the building of new infrastructure and entertainment facilities in some areas.

At Holy Loch, however, the arrival of so many new people in the area created significant pressures on local schools and the housing market. Some people also saw American service personnel as seducing local women with their smart uniforms and substantial pay packets, but despite these concerns many friendships and relationships were formed.

1. ROC Group HQ - Oban

Located to the north of Oban at North Connel. In the event of an attack, the HQ would have received, analysed and distributed nuclear blast and fallout data from around 40 ROC posts in the west of Scotland. There were also ROC HQs, who performed the same function, in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Ayr and Inverness.

2. Holy Loch

During the Second World War, the loch was used as a British submarine base, but from 1961 it was taken over by the United States Navy and housed nuclear submarines. The base was closed in 1992.

3. HMNB Clyde, known as Faslane

During the 1960s the British Government purchased Polaris missile systems from the United States to fire British-built nuclear weapons from submarines housed at Faslane. Faslane is still the Royal Navy's main presence in Scotland and is home to the UK's remaining nuclear deterrent.

4. Barnton Quarry

In 1965 Scotland was divided into three zones, North, East and West, each with a Regional Seat of Government (RSG). These reported to a Scottish Central Control at Barton Quarry in Edinburgh. In the event of an attack, Barnton Quarry was intended to house the Scottish Secretary and members of the Scottish Office, the police and the BBC.

5. Inverbervie Radar Station

Radar systems were installed to provide advance warning of any potential threats. In 1968, Inverbervie was taken over by the United States Navy, and operated in conjunction with the monitoring station at RAF Edzell, around 10 miles away. Edzell closed in 1977, followed by Inverbervie in 1978. Other radar stations included: Mullach Mor Radar Station on St Kilda, RAF Aird Uig, Gallan Head on Lewis and RAF Saxa Vord.

6. Mormond Hill

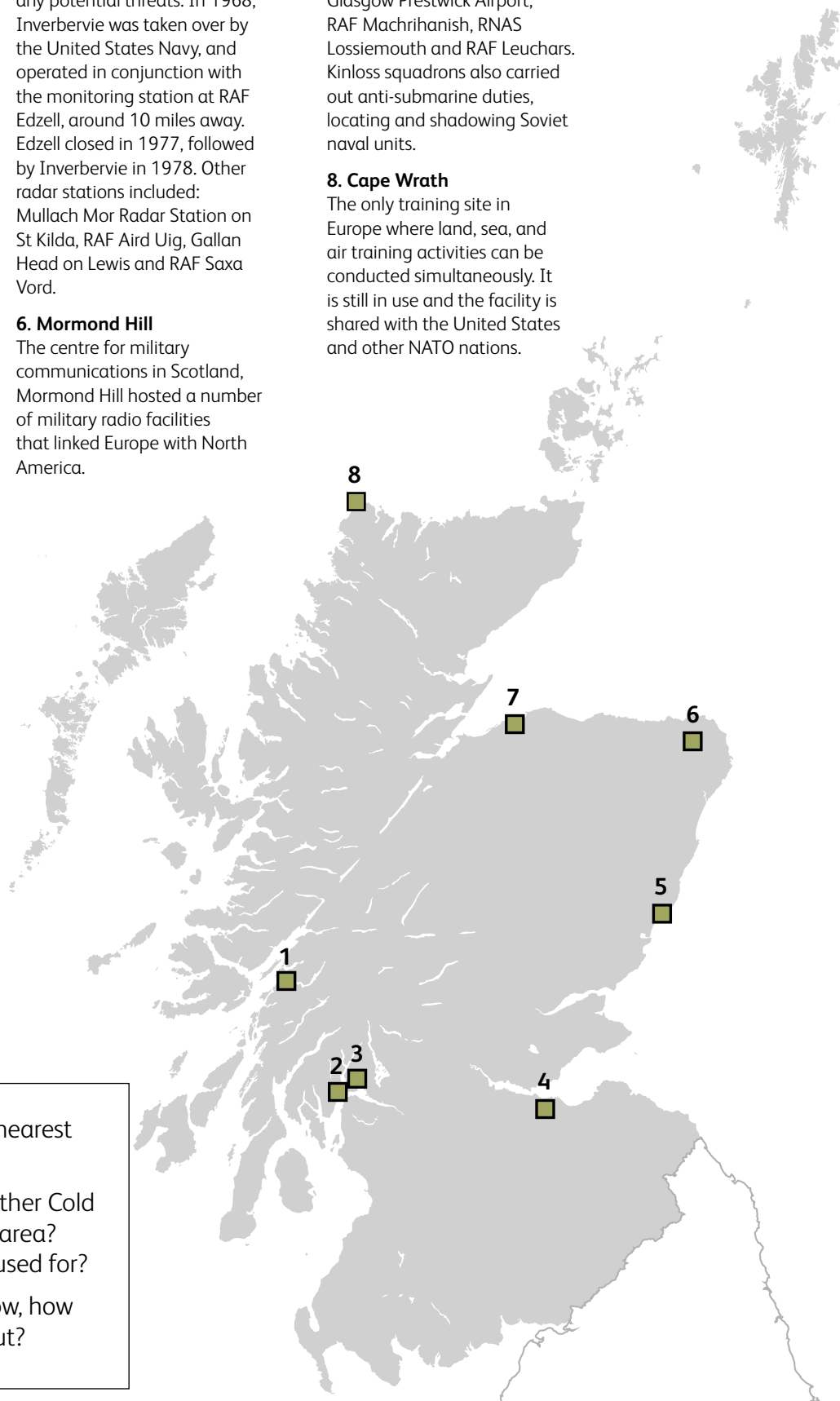
The centre for military communications in Scotland, Mormond Hill hosted a number of military radio facilities that linked Europe with North America.

7. RAF Kinloss

One of the five V-Force dispersal sites. The others were Glasgow Prestwick Airport, RAF Machrihanish, RNAS Lossiemouth and RAF Leuchars. Kinloss squadrons also carried out anti-submarine duties, locating and shadowing Soviet naval units.

8. Cape Wrath

The only training site in Europe where land, sea, and air training activities can be conducted simultaneously. It is still in use and the facility is shared with the United States and other NATO nations.



Where was your nearest ROC post?

Were there any other Cold War sites in your area?

What were they used for?

If you do not know, how might you find out?

Nuclear Fears

Fear of Attack

Concerns about nuclear attack were most prominent during the two major periods of international tension; in the 1950s and 1960s and from 1979 to 1985. A nuclear strike on a Scottish location such as Faslane, would have killed tens of thousands of people and caused devastation across the west coast and Central Belt. Consequently, many people feared the worst. To try to allay these fears, the British government produced pamphlets, posters and, later, films discussing the nuclear threat and providing advice on what to do in the event of an attack.

Public Advice

The first government pamphlet was published in 1952 and entitled *Civil Defence and the Atom Bomb*. This was intended to reassure rather than advise and, to this effect, made some dubious claims including that in Hiroshima, “over half the people within a mile from the explosion are still alive”. This misinformation may have been intentional, or may have resulted from a limited understanding of the impact of radiation and fallout. The longer-term effects of a nuclear attack became increasingly apparent as the 1950s progressed.

As nuclear technology developed, informational leaflets became less optimistic and more focused on the practical measures people could take. Published in 1957, *The Hydrogen Bomb* provided background information and made a series of survival recommendations. In 1963 *Advising the Householder on Protection against Nuclear Attack* was distributed to police and fire services. This provided detailed advice on what to do during an attack and how to cope afterwards.

Advising the Householder was the last official booklet published by the government for 17 years, but arrangements for an attack continued behind the scenes. From 1973, the *Protect and Survive* campaign was conceived as a series of radio broadcasts and animated films supported by a booklet. These would be released if an attack was thought to be probable, giving advice on what a nuclear explosion was, how to build a shelter and what to do in the aftermath of an attack.

The campaign was kept relatively secret until it was revealed to the public in 1980 through a series of articles in *The Times* and a BBC documentary called *If the Bomb Drops*. As a result, the press and public demanded to know more. Despite reservations, the *Protect and Survive* booklet was published. The response was swift and less than positive and the campaign was ridiculed on TV shows and satirised by protesters including the CND who produced a pamphlet entitled *Protest and Survive*. Despite this, over 80,000 copies of the booklet sold and in 1984, the government considered repurposing the existing films for new technologies.

How did the advice issued by the Government change during the course of the Cold War?

Why was *Protect and Survive* so widely mocked when it was published in 1980?

<i>Radioactive Fallout</i>	Film	1957	https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1060004869
<i>Advising the Householder on Protection against Nuclear Attack</i>	Booklet	1963	https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ckefgnsg/items
<i>Protect and Survive</i>	Films	1980	https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1060022098
<i>Protect and Survive</i>	Booklet	1976 1980	https://archive.org/details/ProtectAndSurvive
<i>Protest and Survive</i>	Pamphlet	1981	https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/protest-and-survive

Protest

With the ever-present threat of attack in the late-1950s, people began to protest against nuclear weapons. Initial anti-nuclear sentiment grew from concerns about fallout from nuclear weapons testing, particularly the effects on children and nursing mothers. In Scotland this took the form of the Edinburgh Council for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons Tests, founded in 1957.

Later the same year, the national Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) was created and branches set up across the UK. In Scotland, arguments focused on the dangers of nuclear weapons to the country's farming communities, as well as the fact that Scotland would be a possible target due to its strategic position and military sites. The CND promoted the idea that, as a global power, if the UK led by example and began nuclear disarmament, other countries would follow suit.

By the early 1960s, being part of the CND was about more than just nuclear weapons; it was a way to show general political opposition. The Scottish National Party (SNP), although a relatively small organisation at this date, reflected growing nationalist sentiment and ideas around independence. Scottish nationalism and the CND were soon seen as closely linked through their anti-establishment positions.



In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Scottish CND further broadened its focus to include peace, social change and environmental issues. This meant they campaigned against nuclear power and other nuclear technologies as well as weapons. This shift also welcomed more women into the movement and connected it with LGBTQIA+ communities. Non-violent protests such as sit-ins were favoured and in 1982, protesters set up a peace camp outside the Faslane naval base.

Nuclear War and Protest Spotify playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7b36fznCI6VMbdXA1f1gIY?si=44337eb16a89487a>

The Atomic Age and Popular Culture

With the rapid increase in awareness of nuclear technologies from the mid-1940s, new phrases such as 'ground zero' (1946) and 'hydrogen bomb' (1947) entered the vocabulary. Nuclear references also began to permeate popular culture and media, inspired by the ongoing political situation and the associated arms race. References of this type remained a feature throughout the conflict. Although many of the most enduring cultural references focus on the potential effects of a nuclear attack, not all nuclear imagery was negative, particularly at the beginning of the Cold War.

Early nuclear technology wasn't just associated with destruction, it also promised clean and cheap energy and at the Festival of Britain in 1951, atomic motifs were seen on everything from wallpaper to crockery. These items formed part of a movement known as atomic design which featured space age imagery alongside patterns made up from stylised atomic particles.



Interest was further boosted when, in 1956, the first full-scale atomic power station in the world, Calder Hall opened in Cumbria. Two years later, a sister plant was opened at Chapelcross near Annan in Dumfriesshire.

These early experiments in nuclear power did not quite live up to the futuristic excitement of the 1950s, as factors such as risk of reactor meltdown and issues surrounding radioactive waste disposal became apparent. As a result, atomic design styles had fallen out of favour by the early 1960s.

Although nuclear references and Cold War plotlines appeared in songs, books and comics, they really came into their own with the proliferation of film and television and there are many examples of different aspects of the Cold War being reflected in the visual media of the time. Some of the most enduring, interesting and controversial include:

Science Fiction and Radiation

Godzilla (1954)

Nuclear weapons testing wakes a giant prehistoric monster who causes massive destruction, ultimately rampaging through Tokyo.

Timeslip (1955)

Released in the US as *The Atomic Man*. An atomic scientist is found floating in The Thames with a radioactive halo around his body. It is discovered that this radioactivity has put him seven-and-a-half seconds ahead of everyone else. He teams up with a reporter to stop his evil double from destroying his experiments.

X The Unknown (1956)

British Army radiation drills at a remote Scottish base attract an underground, radioactive entity that terrorises the soldiers and the local area.

Early Nuclear Power YouTube playlist

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGiEodvlj3Mhy_rWRiLRiE04YkkYhBWs&si=4HpBjMRVUXn6UDFS

The Aftermath of a Nuclear Attack

On the Beach (1959)

In 1964, World War Three has devastated the Northern Hemisphere, killing everyone there. Air currents are slowly carrying the fallout to the Southern Hemisphere, where Melbourne, Australia will be the last major city on Earth to perish. Based on Nevil Shute's 1957 novel of the same name.

The War Game (1966)

A worst-case-scenario docu-drama about nuclear war and its aftermath in England. It was intended as an hour-long program to air on BBC 1, but it was deemed too intense and violent to broadcast.

Threads (1984)

Set in Sheffield, *Threads* follows the impact of a nuclear holocaust and the eventual long-term effects on civilization. One of the most graphic and uncompromising depictions of nuclear war.

When the Wind Blows (1986)

An animated disaster film based on Raymond Briggs' graphic novel of the same name. The film recounts a rural English couple's attempt to survive a nearby nuclear attack and maintain a sense of normality in the subsequent fallout and nuclear winter. It is blackly humorous to begin with but becomes increasingly dark.

Politics and Espionage

Torn Curtain (1966)

Hitchcock thriller following an American scientist and his fiancée who publicly defect to East Germany as part of a cloak and dagger mission, before planning their escape back to the West.

To Catch a Spy (1971)

A comedy spy film that was a co-production between Britain, the United States and France. While on vacation, a woman's husband is kidnapped by the Russian government. After one attempt fails, she begins looking for a suitable spy to capture and trade in exchange for her husband, but she develops an attraction to the one she thinks is a good candidate.

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (1979)

A BBC miniseries based on the John le Carré novel of the same name. Espionage veteran George Smiley is forced out of semi-retirement to uncover a Soviet agent within MI6.

The Fourth Protocol (1987)

John Preston is a British Agent with the task of preventing the Russians detonating a nuclear explosion next to an American base in the UK.

Cold War Politics Spotify playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2BYgG4LGcJVgHrKfzDZv0K?si=0a8f8cddd09d4a80>

What other films of the period deal with Cold War themes?

What can mass media tell us about the way that the Cold War was perceived by those outside government?

Other

Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb (1964)

A black comedy written and produced by Stanley Kubrick and starring Peter Sellers. An unhinged American general orders a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union.

Local Hero (1983)

An American oil executive is sent to a Scottish village to buy it for a refinery, but he falls in love with its charm and simplicity. The film is not directly about the Cold War, but is full of references to it.

Rocky IV (1985)

An American sports drama written, directed by, and starring Sylvester Stallone. A somewhat stereotypical depiction of Cold War sporting rivalry and the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Tourism and the Soviet Union

Despite the ongoing hostilities of the Cold War, there were meaningful connections made between individuals in different Blocs. People from Scotland formed links through tourism, cultural and sporting events and diplomatic visits. Russian and Eastern European fishing trawlers and fish processing boats, known as Klondykers, visited the west coast of Scotland, creating interactions with the communities there.

Tourism to the Soviet Union was possible throughout much of the Cold War. This was organised by the Soviet state-owned travel agency, Intourist. Intourist was founded in 1929, but external visitors were discouraged under Stalin's leadership, so it wasn't until 1955 that they began selling package holidays to foreigners. Between 1956 and the early-1970s, the numbers of foreign visitors to the Soviet Union rose from 56,000 to around 4 million annually.

Intourist didn't just organise tours, it also owned hotels and other tourist services throughout Russia and some other Soviet states. This enabled it to control the image of the Soviet Union that was presented to tourists, highlighting specific events and buildings whilst preventing them from seeing and experiencing other areas of Soviet life. As such, visitors were usually accompanied by a local guide.



In 1961, the Scotland-USSR Society established a travel company called Sovscot Tours Ltd with the intention of encouraging more Scottish tourism to the Soviet Union. The company, offering direct travel from Scotland, was a success. As an organisation, they worked closely with Soviet contacts, with a 1967 advertising brochure listing them as "official representatives of the Russian State Travel Board Intourist".



Tourists often brought back souvenirs from their travels, particularly small enamel badges, known as znachki. These were already popular in the Soviet Union, demonstrating participation or highlighting Soviet achievements. They were later mass produced for the tourist market and often commemorated special events and jubilees or featured museums or sites of interest. There are a range of examples of znachki in the National Museums Scotland collections.

A School Trip to the Soviet Union

From the 1960s, some Scottish schools started to organise trips to the Soviet Union as part of the wider growth in Soviet tourism. On these trips Scottish pupils experienced Soviet life first-hand, comparing their own experiences with those witnessed abroad.

In the early years, many of these trips were by educational cruise liners operated by the company, British India Steam Navigation. British India ran a small fleet of ships on a wide range of different routes, including options that took children to Leningrad (now St Petersburg), Moscow and Riga. The ships left from ports throughout the UK including Grangemouth, Dundee, Greenock and Leith (Edinburgh).

School trip case study

Kim Fodden remembers such a trip:

"When I was about 11, maybe 12, and I was in first year at secondary school in Kirkwall here, my sister and myself went on a school trip on a ship, the Dunera to Russia. We went to Stockholm, Leningrad and Copenhagen...I think it was 1964, so, right in the Cold War, the ship came close to Orkney and we went out in little boats.

...We went to Leningrad and we were divided up into, I think it was groups of four children, and we had one older Russian student with us at all times, and they spoke really good English, we didn't speak any Russian. When we went to leave the ship, there was an armed guard all the way along the harbour.

...they took us on a bus, into Leningrad to various sites...We were in the Hermitage and showed the amazing collection of paintings and geology. I remember a lot of rocks and minerals, and of course, antiques and everything wonderful. And we went to the Pioneer's Palace, and the Pioneers were sort of like our Boy Scouts and Boys Brigade and Girl Guides.

... I would say that when we were actually in Leningrad and when we were with the youngsters, the students, the atmosphere was very jolly and full of wonder and just looking at the wonderful old buildings...On the ship, I would say possibly that the tutors on the ship, and maybe the master himself of the ship, was maybe slightly more twitchy, because we were always being told, don't take photos at the harbour and don't take photos of this passing ship or that passing ship, you know so I did pick up on a bit of that. It did seem that maybe there was something that was a wee bit ground-breaking happening and that was different to when we went to Stockholm and Copenhagen, there it was very relaxed."

Later groups were more likely to fly and in a 1981 edition of the *Times Educational Supplement*, Sovscot advertised group study tours to "Soviet Union, Hungary & Czechoslovakia" with "Departures by air from Glasgow and London".

Why was the Soviet Union keen to encourage tourism?

How and why did the Soviet state control the image that they presented to tourists?

If you do not know, how might you find out?

Cold War Legacy

The Cold War affected Scottish society in many ways and its impact can still be seen today throughout technology, culture and politics.

Anti-Nuclear Movement

The Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is still active and the Faslane peace camp has been continuously occupied since it was founded. It is thought to be the longest running camp of its kind in the world. The popularity of the CND in Scotland was also closely associated with a rise in Scottish nationalism, which can, in a modern context, be related to devolution and the campaign for independence. The anti-nuclear movement was also linked to growing awareness of environmental issues, something which is more important than ever with current discussions around climate change.

Technology

Widespread modern technologies such as GPS satellites, jet engines and the internet owe a debt to Cold War research, originating from military developments. As part of the arms race between Blocs, countries poured money into weapons and defence research resulting in discoveries that also had real-world applications. For instance, to control LGM-30 Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles, the United States created and refined new guidance systems, leading to the first large-scale use of digital computers.

The space race was also a product of the Cold War, as the Soviet Union and the United States sought to prove their technological dominance and global power through their outward achievements. This twenty-year battle between the two countries resulted in earth-orbiting satellites, robotic probes sent to Venus and Mars and the first man on the moon.

In Scotland, money poured into established defence industries such as ship building and naval engineering, as well as newer aerospace work. Shipbuilders - Yarrow in Clydeside and Rosyth dockyard in Fife - maintained their Second World War roles in building warships, whilst Ferranti in Edinburgh and Barr & Stroud in Glasgow became major producers of electro-optical military equipment. The rise in numbers of electrical engineers and increased financing for suppliers also resulted in the growth of the civilian electronics industry, with part of central Scotland becoming known as Silicon Glen after Silicon Valley in California.

Nuclear Power

Although Chapelcross and other early nuclear power stations didn't quite live up to the expectations of the 1950s, nuclear power continued to be used to create energy and new stations were built in Scotland. These included Hunterston A (1964), Hunterston B (1976) and Torness (1988). Whilst Torness power station, just outside Edinburgh, remains operational, Chapelcross and Hunterston A and B, have begun decommissioning. This process will take decades to reach a "care and maintenance" state and centuries before an end point is reached.

Contamination

In 1986, one of the reactors at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded. The site was situated to the north of Ukraine and near the border with Belarus, both then Soviet republics. The resulting reactor core fire spread radioactive contamination across the Soviet Union and Europe, including to Scotland. Two months after the incident, radiation levels in the topsoil of certain areas in the south-west of the country were found to be 4000 times higher than normal. This resulted in restrictions on the movement and slaughter of livestock, affecting 2900 farms and around 1.5 million sheep. The last of these restrictions were finally lifted in 2010.

Cold War Sites

After the end of the Cold War, American bases were shut and the number of British armed forces in Scotland reduced. Some sites, however, remain active including the submarine base in Faslane, the training grounds at Cape Wrath and Leuchars Station and Kinloss Barracks (formerly RAF Leuchars and RAF Kinloss respectively). Other Cold War military sites have been converted into museums or taken over by local organisations, but many have become derelict.

The following Cold War sites are regularly open to the public:

Barnton Bunker, Edinburgh - <https://www.barntonbunker.com/>

Scotland's Secret Bunker, near St Andrews - <https://secretbunker.co.uk/>

Skelmorlie Secret Bunker, Skelmorlie - <https://www.skelmorliesecretbunker.co.uk/>

Did the Cold War have a social or economic impact on the area you live in? Was this positive, negative?