**Cold War Terms - Defined**

Below is a list of terms for you to include on your World History Final Mini-Project. Your 20 terms from Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start the Fire” will be found in the song lyrics – these words below are used to help explain how your term from the song connects to the Cold War.

These are for you to use as a reference as you are creating your project:

**Iron Curtain** – during the Cold War, the boundary separating the Communist nations of Eastern Europe from the mostly democratic nations of Western Europe. Non-physical boundary lasting from 1945 – 1991.

**NATO** – North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a defensive military alliance formed in 1949 by ten Western European nations, the United States, and Canada. Treaty was a result of the Soviet Union creating a blockade on Berlin. Any attack on a NATO member would be met with armed force by all member nations.

**Warsaw Pact** – a military alliance formed in 1955 by the Soviet Union and seven Eastern European countries (East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania). This alliance was in response to NATO and resulted in the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

**Nuclear Proliferation or Nuclear Armament** – the spread of nuclear weapons, especially to other nations. In 1968, many nations signed a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to other nations. These weapons can cause mass destruction, and kill thousands, even millions of people.

**SALT** – Strategic Arms Limitations Talks, a series of meetings in the 1970s, in which leaders of the United States and Soviet Union agreed to limit their nations’ stocks of nuclear weapons.

**Détente** – a policy of reducing Cold War tensions that was adopted by the United States during the presidency of Richard Nixon. It meant dealing with other nations in a practical and flexible manner instead of direct confrontation.

**Containment** – a U.S. foreign policy adopted by President Harry Truman in the late 1940s, in which the United States tried to stop the spread of communism by creating alliances and helping weak countries to resist Soviet advances.

**Domino Theory** – the idea that if a nation falls under Communist control, nearby nations will also fall under Communist control. Term began when US President Eisenhower described the countries of Southeast Asia.

**Non-alignment** – the independent countries that remained neutral in the Cold War competition between the United States and the Soviet Union.

**Superpowers** – a state with a dominant position characterized by its extensive ability to exert influence or project power on a global scale. During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union were superpowers. At the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, only the United States appeared to be a superpower

**Bipolar World** – a system of world order in which the majority of global, economic, military, and cultural influence is held between two states. The classic case of a bipolar world is that of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, which dominated the second half of the twentieth century.