

M.A.D. WORLD

The Cold War and the Nuclear Age

8x52 min.

HD

high definition

TV Documentary Series

EP 1: RISE OF THE SUPERPOWERS



•United Nations 1945

As World War 2 draws to a close, 50 Nations sign up to a new organisation in the hope of bringing peace to the world. Some were enemies only weeks before but the United Nations is born.

•Atomic Bomb 1945

A single bomb with the power of 20 000 tons of TNT flattens Hiroshima and creates a horrific burst of nuclear radiation. This terrible new weapon stuns the world and the nuclear age begins.

•Iron Curtain 1 1946

As part of an agreement signed by the victorious allies after World War 2, the Soviet Union occupies Eastern Europe. The West watches in helpless horror as soviet-controlled communist dictatorships are imposed in every country.

•Atomic Testing 1947

The USA tests its first atomic bomb since Nagasaki at Bikini Atoll. More tests follow. There is no doubt the USA is ready to use the atomic bomb again if necessary.

•Iron Curtain 2 1948

As an impenetrable border of barbed wire, land mines and watch towers divides Europe, people from Eastern Europe use desperate means to escape the Iron Curtain. They reveal stories of secret police, torture and execution in the soviet occupied territories.

•Greek Civil War 1946-49

Greece is the battleground for the first proxy war of the Cold War as communist rebels supported by Eastern Bloc neighbours rise up and the USA delivers money and arms to the Greek government.

•Chinese Civil War 1946-49

Chinese communist rebels flood across the country and defeat the US-supported Imperial government to create a second major communist power.

EP 2: PARANOIA



•Berlin Airlift 1948

The USSR holds Berlin to ransom by blocking all land routes into the city. Berlin is saved by a continuous stream of aircraft flying in from the West bringing food, fuel and other supplies.

•NATO 1949

The small countries of Western Europe form a military alliance with the USA to protect themselves from the enormous military might of the Soviet Union. The NATO agreement states that if one member is attacked, then all signatories will defend that nation.

•Russian Bomb 1949

The West is terrified to learn that the Russians have successfully tested their first atomic bomb. Both sides now have the most terrifying weapons ever created; but no-one wants to use them. The nuclear stalemate begins.

•Korean War 1950-53

South Korea is invaded by the communist North starting a 3 year war that will kill 10% of the Korean people. United Nations forces are used in action for the first time to defend South Korea and President Truman makes preparations to use atomic bombs if necessary to win the war.

•H Bomb 1954

An atomic bomb a thousand times more powerful than Hiroshima creates horror and awe when it is tested in the Pacific. The world now has a weapon that can wipe out almost all life on the planet.

•Spies 1947-60

As the frostiness of the Cold War sets in, both east and west are scared of losing military and government secrets to the other. A network of spies and defectors develops and causes paranoia on both sides leading to show trials, imprisonment and assassinations.

EP 3: NUCLEAR POWER



•Bombers and Bases 1956

Military bases spring up along both sides of the iron curtain. Many are supplied with bombers and highly trained pilots on constant alert to drop a nuclear bomb on the enemy.

•Hungarian Uprising 1956

The Hungarian people rise up against their soviet occupiers and win a few days of freedom before Russian troops arrive to brutally suppress the uprising. Thousands of Hungarians try to flee across the border to Austria.

•Cuban Revolution 1959

The corrupt Batista regime is ousted by Fidel Castro and Cuba becomes a Marxist state on the doorstep of the USA. American attempts at destroying the Castro regime culminate in the humiliation of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

•Space Race 1957-61

The world listens in fear to the rhythmic beep of Sputnik, the first man-made object in space. This Russian triumph is a chilling statement on the advanced technology of the Soviet Union. Then the USSR wins again by putting the first man in space.

•Berlin Wall 1961

Overnight, the Soviet Union uses barbed wire and troops to seal off West Berlin. The leak in the Iron Curtain is sealed and refugees now have no means of getting from East to West. The barbed wire soon becomes a huge concrete wall which is the scene of dramatic escape attempts.

•Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

The world steps to the edge of annihilation as the Soviet Union starts to place nuclear warheads in Cuba. Delicate negotiations between Presidents Kennedy and Krushchev bring the crisis to a peaceful close.



EP 4: COLD WAR HOT WAR

•Vietnam 1 1964

This small nation far from the Cold War front in Europe rebounds from French colonial oppression with a desire for communism. The USA decides to send in its own troops to stop the spread of communism into SE Asia.

•Prague Spring 1968

Czechoslovakia tries out 'communism with a human face' by relaxing control of the press, and allowing a limited free the market. This lasts 8 months before soviet tanks arrive overnight and violently crush the new freedoms.

•Man on Moon 1969

The USA finally pulls ahead in the Space Race by putting the first human being on the moon. It is a demonstration to the world that the west has cutting edge technology in rocket and missile development.

•Nixon Visits China 1972

During the height of China's Cultural Revolution, Nixon becomes the first US president to visit communist China.

•Vietnam 2

The Vietnam War becomes a drawn out and bloody battleground for the US and the USSR, costing millions of lives and billions of dollars.

•Chile Allende 1973

The first Marxist government to be democratically elected is thrown out by a military coup, plunging Chile into a brutal military dictatorship. There is no doubt now that the CIA played a role in supporting the actions of the military.

EP 5: PEACE AND WAR



•Vietnam 3 1975

After 10 years of fighting a proxy war, the US pulls its troops out of Vietnam and the North Vietnamese forces march peacefully into Saigon.

•Salt II pt 1 1972

The nuclear arms race is out of control as the superpowers build huge numbers of ever more sophisticated nuclear warheads. High level discussions begin to put the build-up of weapons into reverse.

•Angola & Africa 1976

A war that could be worse than Vietnam breaks out in Angola as Portuguese colonisers leave and rival groups fight for supremacy. US and Soviet weapons flow into the country as well as a new trend in proxy wars - mercenaries.

•Salt II pt 2

Talks to reduce nuclear arms stumble as the USA objects to huge numbers of Russian tanks on European soil and the soviets demand the Americans remove their nuclear weapons from West Germany.

•Neutron Bomb 1977

The most chilling weapon of the Cold War is tested in Nevada and sends headlines of horror across the globe. The Neutron Bomb uses an intense burst of radiation to maximise casualties while minimising damage to property.

•Salt II pt 3 1979

Against a backdrop of mass anti-nuclear protests, Jimmy Carter and Leonid Brezhnev meet in Vienna to sign a treaty limiting nuclear weapons systems to a total of 2400 each.

EP 6: COLD WAR 2



•Afghanistan 1 1979

Just as détente seems to be working and the Cold War is thawing, the West is outraged when soviet troops move into Afghanistan. The USA immediately offers arms and support to the anti-government rebels, the Mujahideen.

•Moscow Olympics 1980

World Champion boxer, Muhammed Ali is the face of the Olympic boycott as he leads a US team to persuade nations to stay at home rather than compete in the Moscow Olympics. The boycott is seen as an international protest against soviet troops in Afghanistan.

•Peace Movement 1978

Fear of global annihilation triggers mass demonstrations in cities across the globe and huge numbers of people join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Governments seek to alleviate fears by building nuclear shelters and broadcasting nuclear war survival strategies.

•Afghanistan 2 1981

As Western money and weapons boost the rebels and hi-tech soviet weapons defend the government, the war in Afghanistan intensifies. An unusual group of Middle Eastern soldiers emerges - women. Allowed university education and employment under soviet rule they are prepared to fight to protect their new-found freedoms.

•Korean Air 007 1983

On a winter's night over Kamchatka, a civilian jumbo jet travelling from New York to Seoul disappears off the radar. It has been shot down by soviet fighters after it strayed into Russian airspace. 269 people are killed.

EP 7: WARMONGER



•Grenada 1983

The Caribbean island paradise of Grenada has a Marxist government and it's just three and a half hours flight from Miami. When a violent coup installs an extremist leader, the USA moves swiftly. Overnight, they send in troops to invade the island and take over the government.

•Nicaragua 1981-87

The corrupt and brutal military dictatorship of Nicaragua is crushed by a national rebellion but the rebels are Marxist. The USA funds the counter-revolutionaries in a scandal that goes right to the top of the US Government.

•SDI - Star Wars 1987

Ronald Reagan announces a new arms program that is so far from reality it is quickly dubbed 'Star Wars'. The program aims to use a range of futuristic technology to build a laser defence system against nuclear attack. Many fear that if ever SDI becomes reality, it will upset the delicate balance of power of the Cold War.

•Gorbachev 1 1985

Gorbachev wants to stage a new revolution in Russia. He wants economic reform, greater freedom and an end to the Cold War. Talks begin with US President Reagan to begin destroying nuclear weapons and forge a renewed friendship between East and West.

•Afghanistan 3 1989

A new Russian Leader decides try and rescue the failing soviet economy. One of Mikhail Gorbachev's first moves is to pull his troops out of Afghanistan. But the Mujahedeen do not sign the peace treaty and the Afghanistan war is far from over.

EP 8: FALLING DOMINOES



•East Europe Freedom 1989

Lead by Poland, Eastern European countries start to follow the Russian model and claim greater freedoms. For the first time in Soviet history, the government does not invade or attempt to crush dissent. Within 12 months almost every eastern European country is holding free elections and breaking loose from soviet oppression.

•Wall Fall 1989

A bureaucratic misunderstanding allows East Berliners to move across the border into West Berlin. Within hours the Berlin wall is being demolished to scenes of jubilation.

•Romania 1989

One nation from former Eastern Europe has a chilling climax to its break from communism. President Ceaușescu tries to violently suppress the popular uprising but fails. The freedom fighters win and Ceaușescu is executed with his wife on Christmas day 1989.

•German Reunification 1990

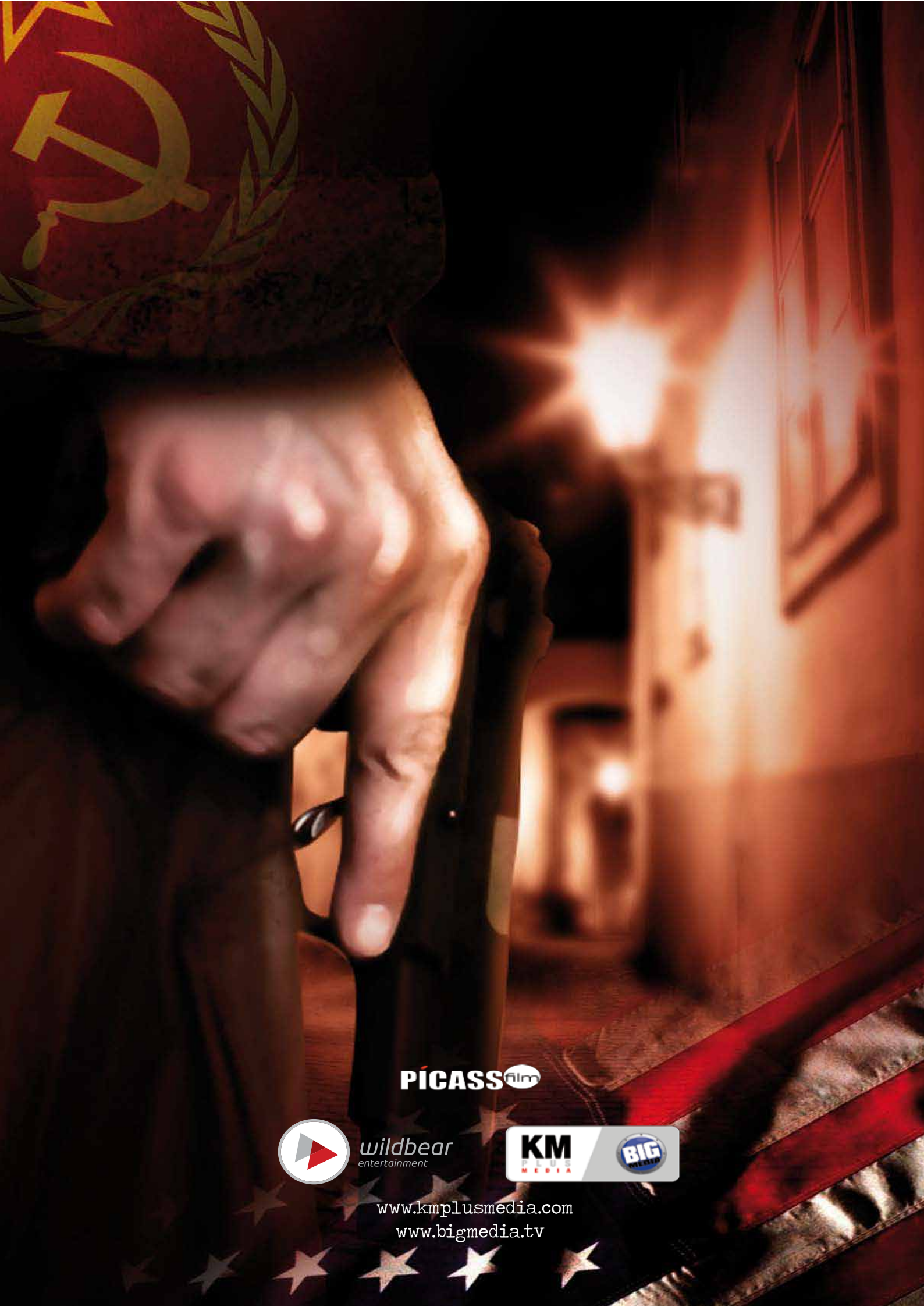
East Germany is one of the more severe communist regimes and despite attempts to keep the 2 Germanys separate, they become one nation for the first time since World War 2.

•Gorbachev 2 1990-92

Gorbachev's drive to fix the Russian economy is spearheaded by two policies - perestroika, meaning 'restructuring' and 'Glasnost' meaning 'openness'. But it may be too late. Many Russians are starving and impatient for a better life.

•Breakup of USSR 1992

Despite Gorbachev's plan to create a more liberal Soviet Union, the soviet republics want to break free. Protests and violence erupt within many of these new nations as factions fight for power. By 1992, every republic has broken away. The Soviet Union is no more, the great communist experiment is dead and the Cold War is over.



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