# GLOSSARY

**Aswan Dam** ..... The Aswan High Dam was built in 1952 by Egyptian president Gamal Abdel-Nasser. It is one of the largest embankment dams in the world and captures the Nile River, making the world's third largest reservoir, Lake Nasser. It was built to control the unpredictable Nile floods. When the dam is released, the waters provide nutrient-rich silt to the surrounding land.

**Baghdad Pact** ..... The Baghdad Pact was an agreement jointly founded in 1955 by Turkey, Iraq, Great Britain, Pakistan, and Iran for the purpose of promoting shared political, military, and economic goals. The main purpose of the Baghdad Pact was to prevent communist incursions and foster peace in the Middle East. It was renamed the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) in 1959 after Iraq pulled out of the Pact.

**Blockade** ..... A blockade is an act of sealing or blocking off an enemy area with military force. Blockades can prevent people, goods, or communications from entering or leaving a place.

**Bolsheviks** ..... Bolsheviks, or in Russian "One of the Majority," is a wing of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party led by Vladimir Lenin. The Bolsheviks seized control of the Russian government in October 1917, becoming the dominant political power. Bolsheviks believed in the violent overthrow of capitalism and a temporary power held by the working class until Russia could be modernized. See "Mensheviks" on the next page.

**Central Treaty Organization** ..... The Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) was formed to replace the Baghdad Pact when Iraq withdrew from its membership. A mutual security organization that from 1955 to 1979 was composed of Turkey, Great Britain, Pakistan and Iran, CENTO formed to counter the threat of Soviet expansion into vital Middle East oil producing regions.

**Containment** ..... Containment is a foriegn policy created in 1947 that aimed to stop Soviet Union and communist expansion across the world by countering the Soviet forces. George Kennan, an American diplomat for the Department of State in the mid-1950s, is credited for conceiving this idea. This policy of containing Soviet power was the basic strategy for fighting the Cold War.

**Decolonization movement** ..... The decolonization movement was a process of achievement of autonomy or outright independence from European colonial rule by three dozen new states in Asia and Africa between 1945 and 1960. Former colonies were often under the control of Great Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal, among other countries.

**Eisenhower Doctrine** ..... The Eisenhower Doctrine was created by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1957 which stated that a country could request American economic assistance or aid from U.S. military forces if it was being threatened by

another state. Eisenhower specifically targeted the Soviet Union with this doctrine stating that its purpose was to protect the integrity of other nations from "international communism."

**Imperialism** Imperialism is the policy of extending power over another territory through military or diplomatic means.

**London Conferences of 1956** The London Conferences of 1956 was a multilateral meeting that attempted to negotiate with Egyptian President Nassar to allow international management over the Suez Canal. Over 20 countries were involved in the conferences including the United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union, Egypt, and France. Nassar did not accept the proposals made during the meetings.

**Mensheviks** Mensheviks, or in Russian "Those of the Minority," were members of the non-Leninist wing of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party that evolved into a separate organization. They broke away from the Bolsheviks after a dispute over party membership requirements in 1903. The Mensheviks opposed the plan for a party restricted to professional revolutionaries and wanted a mass party modeled after western European social democratic parties.

**Nationalize** To nationalize is to take control or ownership of a country or companies by the national government.

**National sovereignty** National sovereignty is the idea that a country has complete power and control over its own affairs.

**Non-aligned Movement (NAM)** The Non-aligned Movement refers to a group of states which are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. During the Cold war, leaders of developing countries banded together in the Non-Aligned Movement to avoid being forced to take sides in a movement to promote peace.

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance originally created in 1949 between the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. The organization is a system of collective defense, where its member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party. Although formed in response to growing tensions of the Cold War, NATO has lasted beyond the end of that conflict, with membership even expanding to include some former Soviet states.

**Ottoman Empire** The Ottoman Empire was an Islamic-run empire that ruled areas in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and North Africa for over 600 years. The Ottoman Empire was created by Osman I, the leader of the Turkish tribes

in Anatolia in 1299. The Ottomans were best known for their contributions to art, science, and medicine. The empire fell after WWI when their army supported the Central Powers. After the war and the defeat of the Central Powers, most of the Ottoman territories were then divided between Britain, France, Greece, and Russia after their defeat. The empire officially ended in 1922 and was followed by the independent Republic of Turkey in 1923.

**Protectorate** A protectorate is an autonomous territory that is protected diplomatically or militarily by a stronger state or entity.

**Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)** The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization is an international organization created to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asian countries. It was created in 1954 in Manila, Philippines. This organization was mostly made up of countries that had strategic interests in the region, rather than Southeast Asian countries. Only two Southeast Asian countries became members, the Philippines and Thailand, because the rest of the region was far less concerned about the threat of communism to internal stability or were prevented from joining military alliances due to the Geneva Agreements of 1954.

**Straits of Tiran** The Straits of Tiran are narrow sea passages between the Sinai and Arbanian peninsulas that separate the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea. The passage is about 8 miles wide.

**Suez Canal** The Suez Canal is a sea-level waterway running north-south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt to connect the Mediterranean and the Red seas. The canal separates the continents of Africa and Asia and provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans.

**Warsaw Pact** The Warsaw Treaty Pact was a political and military alliance established on May 14, 1955 between the Soviet Union and several Eastern European countries. It was a collective defense treaty between eight communist states of Central and Eastern Europe during the Cold War. This pact was formed as a response to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a collective security alliance concluded between the United States, Canada, and Western European nations in 1949.

# PRIMARY SOURCES

## 1 1856 Act of Concession of the Viceroy of Egypt, and Terms and Conditions for the Construction and Operation of the Suez Maritime Canal and Appurtenances

United States Department of State, *The Suez Canal Problem, July 26-September 22, 1956* (Washington, District of Columbia: U.S. Department of State, 1956), 4-9.

## 2 1888 Constantinople Convention

*Suez Canal Problem,* 16-20.

## 3 1955 Political Cartoon

James Berryman, *I thought I had an appointment,* printed November 1955, Cartoon, *Washington Evening Star,* National Archives, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5743214.

## 4 1956 Nationalization of Canal Speech

*Suez Canal Problem,* 25-30.

## 5 1956 Denouncement of the Proposal for a Canal Users' Association

*Suez Canal Problem,* 345-349.

## 6 1956 Port Said Assault

Fleet Air Arm official photographer, *The Suez Crisis (Operation Musketeer) 1956,* November 1956, Photograph, Imperial War Museums, https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205022435.

Smoke rises from oil tanks beside the Suez Canal hit during the initial Anglo-French assault on Port Said.

## 7 1956 Port Said Blockade

Fleet Air Arm official photographer. *The Suez Crisis (Operation Musketeer) 1956,* 1956, Photograph, Imperial War Museums, https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205023646.

General view of the Suez Canal at Port Said showing a number of the blockships sunk by the Egyptians to prevent use of the canal and Royal Navy salvage vessels preparing to clear these obstructions.

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## 1956 Egyptian Scarf

*Scarf, Egyptian,* 1956, Cloth, 36 x 38.5 cm, Imperial War Museums, https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/30089765.

Cloth scarf printed with positive propaganda images associated with the beneficial impact of the rule of Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser as President of Egypt: stylised images of Egyptian prosperity and progress, the growing strength of industry and the armed forces and benign influence of education. At the centre of the scarf (within laurel wreath) a portrait of Nasser himself.

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## 1958 Political Cartoon

James Berryman, *You Stir...I'll Season!,* printed July 1958, Cartoon, *Washington Evening Star,* National Archives, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5743266.

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