## **Chronology. Conflicts and co-operation since 1945? A chronological overview.**

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# **Activity 1 : Patterns of safety and danger.**

Look at the table below which shows a timeline of the decades of the period 1945-2020. The pattern is complex. At times there is evidence of an escalation of conflict and therefore a more dangerous world. However there is also evidence of international cooperation and thus a safer world. Consider the pattern of events in the table below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Developments since 1945 which suggest there is a Safer World** | In 1945, the UN was established with the aim of resolving world conflict and encourage countries to work together. The EEC and SEATO were established in Europe and Asia to work towards nations in those areas co-operating. | The Cuban crisis was successfully resolved with a hotline set up between the leaders of the USA and USSR. A period of détente (relaxation of conflict) emerged during the 1960’s and 70’s, resulting in the SALT arms limitation talks in 1978. | In 1985 Michael Gorbachov became leader of the USSR and he began a series of internal reforms and talks with the USA that brought the Cold War to an end in 1990. Communist ideas were abandoned by Russia and eastern European governments. | The UN continued to intervene to prevent the spread of conflict in south east Europe and the escalation of conflict in the Middle East. The UN also made strenuous efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to middle eastern countries like Iran and Syria using North Korean expertise. | UN Peacekeeping helps countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. They have unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy troops and police from around the world, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to address a range of mandates set by the UN Security Council and General Assembly.. Currently there are over 100,000 UN peacekeepers in 14 areas across the world. |
| **Time** | 1945-62 | 1962-79 | 1979-90 | 1990-2001 | 2001-2019 |
| **Developments since 1945 which suggest there is a more Dangerous World** | A cold war began between the USA and USSR which witnessed an escalation of the arms race and a major war in Korea 1950 and severe crises in Berlin 1948 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. | During the 1960’s there was an escalation of the Vietnam war and a major Israeli Arab war in 1967 and 1973. The USSR repressed anti communist uprisings in Czechoslovakia and Poland and built a wall to divide Berlin in 1961. | In 1979 USSR invaded Afghanistan and the leader of America and Britain began to expand their nuclear forces in response. Both Russia and America intervened in Europe and South America against countries whose governments did not like. The cold war was more tense by 1985. | During the 1990’s there were dangerous conflicts in south east Europe and in the Middle East. In September 2001 terrorists destroyed the WTC in New York and America and its allies went to war against Afghanistan 2001 and Iraq in 2002. | During the first two decades of the 20th Century there have been ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and civil wars in Iraq and Syria as a consequence of western intervention. The extension of international terrorist activity around the world has created instability. . Also conflicts over international alliances and trade threaten the stability of the world. |

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# **Activity 2 : So what do you think?**

Using the information that you have thought about and categorised during this lesson, along with your own knowledge of the world today and in the past 70 years, answer the following question

“To what extent has the world become a safer place since the end of the Second World War in 1945?”

* There is evidence that the world has continued to be a very dangerous place in the years since the end of the Second World War in 1945. For example…

* However there is also evidence of international cooperation and conflict resolution, making the world a much safer place since 1945. For example..

* Taking into account all of these developments I think that..

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# **Activity 3 : Thinking about the evidence**

#### On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the first five articles of which appear below. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories." Read the text and answer the question below.

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| --- |
| ***The UN Declaration of Human Rights December 10th 1948.******Article 1.* All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.*****Article 2.* Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.*****Article 3.* Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.*****Article 4.* No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.*****Article 5.* No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.** |

**How useful is this evidence to a historian researching events and developments in the world in the period after 1945?**

**Use your Knowledge and the evidence to answer the question.**

You might like to consider examples where international events appear to support that the Declaration is being used to work for a safer world and then examples where international events appear to undermine the Declaration resulting in a more dangerous world,