

# Background and setting

This background document summarises some things about the 1960s environment of the Danger Market. Unless you are already an aficionado of Cold War History, we don't recommend reading it all in one go!

Although broadly the timeline relates to the historic one, it is likely that events have occurred or will occur slightly differently – partly this is to reflect the fact we are not running a re-enactment and people have different knowledge of and interest in the nitty gritty of cold war history. Partly it is also to allow for character actions to shape things. Any mission critical information will be supplied to you.

Likewise, we are not going to be concerned if someone wears a style that wasn't big until 1968 or one that went out in '63. Although common understanding is that communist countries spend less time on the frivolity of fashion, and pop music is frowned on where it doesn't reinforce the wonderful state, people behind the Iron Curtain may be more fashionable than you expect. Plus, rock music, way out fashion and hippies are nightmares for the Western establishment too.

Hopefully this document will be useful as you create characters. We encourage people to build characters and groups from 'East' and 'West' and to enjoy not only thwarting the plans of their ideological opposites but also negotiating the rivalries between ostensibly similar groups. It can be safely assumed that agencies under the same ideology are not always friendly with their fellows.

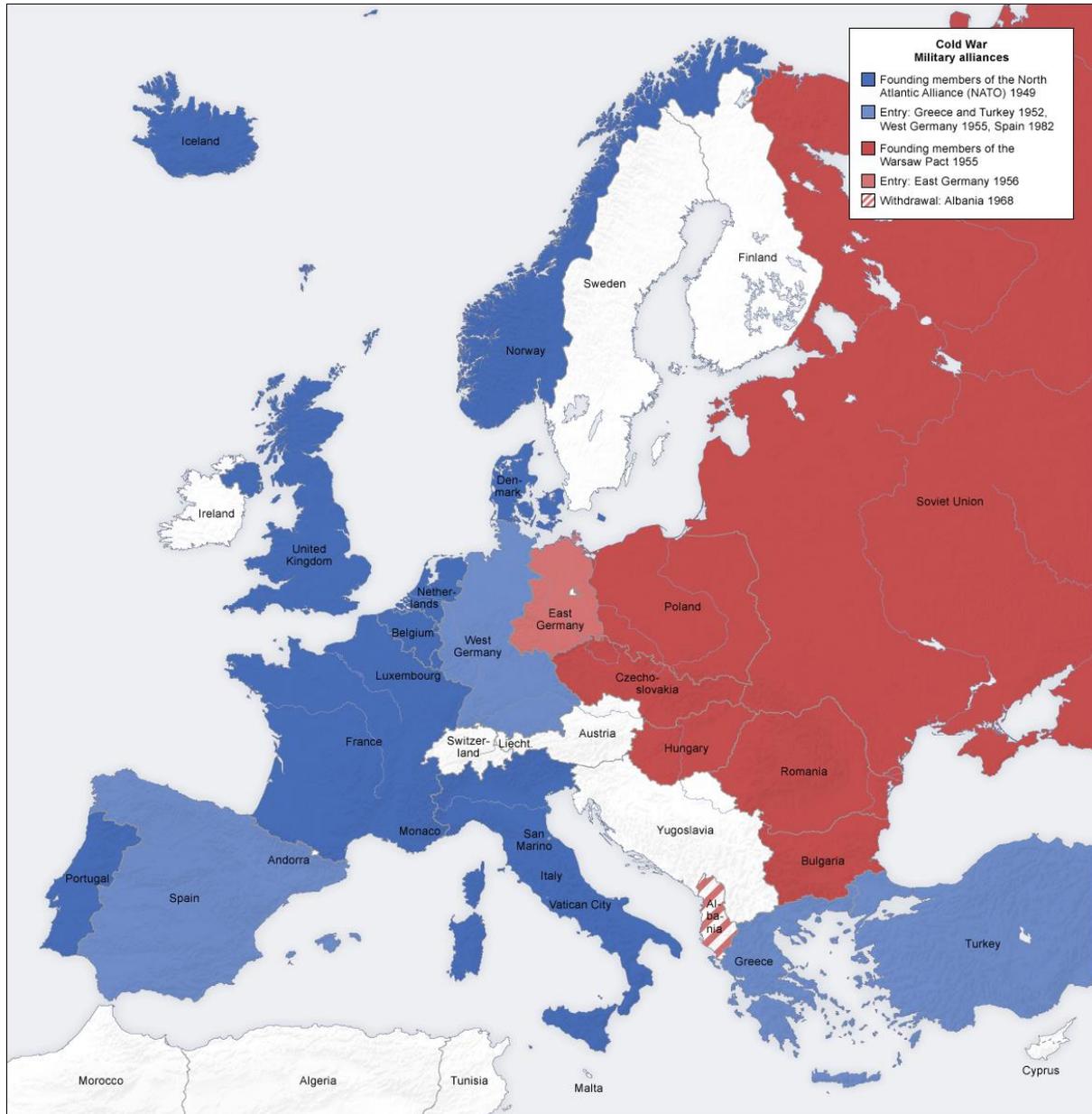
## Restatement of the game's 'vibe'.

Genre source materials range from the darkly realistic to the flat out spoof. Danger Market itself aims at the difficult middle ground of somewhat-tongue-in-cheek-played-straight. So, the daft principle of super villains with plans for world domination (e.g. Bond and Man from Uncle) remains a core game trope, but there will be some limits on likely methodologies (no-one will have an Avengers style miniaturisation ray, for example).

International politics is a serious business but those involved in it are well aware of how farcical it can also be; real threats to life and limb, and genuine ethical conundrums will feature, but rub shoulders with a slice of bureaucratic incompetence and black comedy.

## NATION STATES

*A very brief summary of some parts of the geopolitical landscape, with a European emphasis.*



[http://cdn.zmescience.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/cold\\_war\\_europe\\_military\\_alliances\\_map\\_en.png](http://cdn.zmescience.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/cold_war_europe_military_alliances_map_en.png)

## Western states

Australia

*Keywords: 'Liberal' Democracy.*

A member of the British Commonwealth and occasionally used as a test-site for GB nuclear weapons due to availability of unpopulated desert. Engaged in joint activities with the US in Vietnam, originally as 'trainers' for the South Korean population, and more recently as

combat partners. This is considered controversial, as it includes conscription. Australia has significant internal problems arising from its treatment of the Aboriginal population.

## Canada

*Keywords: Liberal democracy*

Although a member of NATO and part of NORAD, Canada is not particularly active on the international stage. There are internal issues, particularly with French Quebec (The quiet revolution) and a general period of peaceable social change.

## France

*Keywords: Nuclear power. Liberal democracy.*

Currently under president deGaulle. The French are significant global powers on the back of previous (largely historical) colonialism, seeking to increase their authority in Europe. Long standing rivalry exists between GB and France. Deeply suspicious of attempts to re-arm Germany being made by the US as a bulwark against communism. Strong links to Israel, including the supply of aerospace technology as 'spare parts' to get round trade embargos.

## Italy

*Keywords: Socialist Democracy with problems*

Supported by the Marshall plan from the US in economic terms, but teetering on the brink of economic crisis and vying extremist organisations. Catholic church supporting Christian democracy and stating it is a mortal sin to vote for Communists. Was Centre-right until 1963, at which point the PSI – the socialist party, enter government. Is currently centre-left.

## Portugal

*Keywords: Right-wing Dictatorship*

Under Salazar and the Estada Novo, also dictatorial with a belief in a multi-national Portuguese empire. Salazar, an ally of Franco, also dislikes democracy, socialism, communism. Supporting African nations such as Rhodesia that have declared independence from the UK but for less than liberal reasons. Founding member of NATO but focused on retaining their African colonies. In 1964 the Portuguese National Liberation Front was founded by Humberto Delgado who was promptly assassinated by the secret police.

## Spain

*Keywords: Right-wing Dictatorship*

A military/religious dictatorship under Franco who was more or less put in power by the Nazis. Young revolutionaries in Spain have adopted Marxist ideology, connecting it to nationalist Basque sentiments and may be shifting towards violence.

## United Kingdom of GB and Northern Ireland

*Keywords: Nuclear Power, Liberal democracy*

Involved in massive programme of de-colonialisation having spent the 50s in a large number of colonial 'bush wars'. Extensively committed to Western Germany and is one of the three nuclear powers in the West. Tacitly supporting Israel's nuclear programme against US instructions. Wilson Government (Labour). Attempting to get into the EEC but rejected by France. US trying to encourage UK into Vietnam. Increasing liberalisation but economic difficulties leading to American offers of support in exchange for getting out of East of Suez and cancellation of various military programmes. The Right Wing 'National Front' has recently been formed to unite the British far-right, including League of Empire Loyalists and the British National Party, and there are fears of Conservative politicians defecting.

## USA

*Keywords : Nuclear Power. Capitalist democracy*

Currently the president is Lyndon Johnson. Although putatively the 'land of the free', the USA is deeply paranoid about Communist influences and keen on intervening in various proxy wars with Soviet powers – see Vietnam, Korea, and assorted Central American states. They are also facing significant issues of Civil rights with respect to the Black community. Economically they have made significant investments to non-communist countries through the Marshall plan.

## West Germany (Federal Republic of)

*Keywords: Western Democracy*

Until recently, the democracy was doing very well economically but now on a downturn. The current president is the controversial Keisinger; the FDR is mostly self-ruling but still overseen by the British, French and Americans. In response to the changing circumstances, student activism is on the rise, social changes are being demanded against the old order of state authority, and what exactly happened during the second world war is only recently becoming known to the general populace. Travel is difficult between the two parts of Germany, with a particular focus (by the East) on preventing deserters from the Soviet occupied East.



Berlin sits in a particularly peculiar position, a nominally distinct city-state with a cosmopolitan and counter-cultural West and a Soviet controlled, economically impoverished East split by a reinforced border wall. Berlin's location, surrounded on all sides by East Germany makes it a target for those wanting to escape from the communist block into the West; and subject to strict visa controls.

## Eastern states

### Peoples Socialist Republic of Albania

*Keywords: Communist, anti-religious, ideologically fervent*

Envar Hodger. Albania is suspicious and paranoid of Yugoslavia with whom they were previously affiliated. Was deeply Stalinist unlike Yugoslavia. Albania keenly wanted to be industrialised, but the USSR sees them purely as food producers. They are currently in negotiations with the Chinese, calling the current soviets 'treacherous revisionists and traitors to communism'. Fun fact – Norman Wisdom films are very popular in Albania, one of the few allowed Western imports.

### People's Republic of Bulgaria

*Keywords: Communist*

Under leadership of Todor Zibkov. A major exporter of household goods with a successful Communist Infrastructure. Bulgaria tried to merge with/join Soviet Union in 63 but were turned down. They may be secretly selling gold to the Russians, via third parties in Paris and London, in order to pay back debts to the USSR for aforementioned infrastructure.

### China

*Keywords: Communist, Newly Nuclear Power*

Experienced the recent Cultural Revolution (May 66). Chairman Mau asserted that Bourgeois elements had infiltrated the party and thus there are Mass purges and extensive population movement. The Chinese Party is attempting to 'Preserve true communism' in the face of the 'USSR's corrupted version', which has led to some suggestions of complicated alliances between the Chinese and the US against Russia, although China is currently tacitly supporting the Viet Kong. China has just tested its first nuclear weapons. Historically, there are terse relations with the British over Hong Kong.

### Czechoslovakia

*Keywords: Economically stagnant, Communist, Liberalising*

PM Joseph Leonard, President Nevtorny (a hard line Stalinist). A political hot-potato as it is liberalising rapidly and moving away from Soviet/Communist control.

### East Germany /GDR (German Democratic Republic)

*Keywords: Communist, highly ideological*

Nominally led by Walter Ulbreicht of the Socialist Unity Party, East Germany is the portion of Germany occupied by the Soviets after the Second World War. Typically authoritarian, with a strong state police and intelligence agencies. Notable for its support of 3<sup>rd</sup> World communist countries against capitalist interests. Really does not like the US, at times more deeply than the USSR does. Anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist, anti-facist, practicing ideological indoctrination.

## Hungary

*Keywords: Communist, Command economy*

Yanos Kanar currently head of Hungarian Peoples Party. Following the failed Hungarian revolution in 1956, in which Western powers refused aid to the rebels, 20,000 died and ¼ million fled. Recent thawing of the Government has led to an amnesty and released most of those imprisoned after the uprising. Currently being liberalised slightly with availability of luxury goods etc.

## Poland

*Keywords: Communist, Soviet dependent.*

Led by Wladyslaw Gomulka of the United Worker's Party. Large parts of Polish territory were Russian whereas, on the Western border, parts of Germany were Polish, highlighting its historical status as a Football of European Politics. The nation is completely Soviet dependent economically, and provides access to the Baltic sea for the Warsaw Pact countries. Has anti-religious leanings but the Catholic Church is still a potent force.

## Romania

*Keywords: Progressive communist*

Economically doing well and part of Communist Economic Area. However, the newly elected Ceausescu is suspected to be looking to the West, and also toward the Arab Nations as a potential replacement for Soviet influence. Soviet cultural influence is less pronounced here than in similar nations.



USSR: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (or in Russian, Союз Советских Социалистических Республик)

*Keywords: Nuclear Power. Communist state (collective leadership and state security).*

Currently led by Breshnev and the Politburo, after recently deposing Kruschev and a purging of the ranks of previous party figures. The USSR recently began a large scale nuclear and military expansion, and embarked on a decentralised but highly computerised planning system. The USSR is noted for authoritarian suppression of ideological differences, indoctrination and its active international political interests, as well as its current leadership of the 'Space Race'. Breshnev seems committed to the idea of violating the sovereignty of any state turning away from Marxist/Leninist control towards a capitalist model.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Derzsi\\_Elekes\\_Andor](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Derzsi_Elekes_Andor)

## Neutral states

### Switzerland

*Historically neutral financial capital with long democratic tradition.*

### Austria

*Formerly Allied-Occupied state which was yielded back to independent control in 1956.*

### Sweden

*Ostensibly neutral but West-leaning liberal democracy*

### Yugoslavia (Semi-neutral)

*Under Tito, turned its back on Stalin and asked for American aid in 1948, and did get US support. Socialist, liberal leaning dictatorship.*

### Eire

*Strongly Catholic, parliamentary democracy remaining neutral, but with Western sympathies and strong economic ties to GB.*

### Finland

*Historically distrustful of USSR, with whom it has a history of conflict (interestingly fighting the Winter War in 1939 with Nazi support against Russia). Little interest in international politics, has socialist tendencies. Liberal Democracy.*

## AGENCIES

*Characters are not restricted to these agencies, but the majority of play is likely to involve them in some way or another.*

Western / Capitalist

***BND** – West German Intelligence*

***Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)** – USA External Intelligence*

***Deuxieme Bureau** – French Military Intelligence*

***MI6, MI5**- UK Secret Intelligence Service (MI6 External, MI5 Internal)*

***Mossad** – Israeli Secret Service*

***National Security Agency (NSA)** – USA cryptographic specialists*

***Service de Documentation Extérieure et de Contre-Espionnage (SDECE)** – French Secret Services*

*'The Ministry' – catch all term for Handlers of Operatives and/or Contractors not affiliated directly with an agency*

Eastern / Communist

***Komitet gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti (KGB)** - Military derived state security organisation of the USSR, with a focus on preventing attacks and subversion from within the state. In practice both the KGB and the GRU operated internally and externally using similar methods of espionage and a certain amount of operational overlap and rivalry.*

***Glavnoye razvedyvatel'noye upravleniye (GRU)** - Military derived state security organisation of the USSR, with a focus on preventing attacks from outside the state. In practice both the KGB and the GRU operated internally and externally using similar methods of espionage and a certain amount of operational overlap and rivalry.*

***Stasi** -Official state security service of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Independent of the KGB since 1957, the two organisations have a working alliance.*

***Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung (HVA)** - The foreign intelligence branch of the Stasi.*

*'The Bureau'- catch all term for Handlers of Operatives and/or Contractors not employed directly by an agency.*

Neutral (apparently)

*Interpol- International police collaboration allowing for investigation of international crimes or suspects moving internationally.*

*Secret Services of Neutral Nations*

## OTHER ORGANISATIONS

NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

*A Collective defence organisation prepared to retaliate to conventional attacks with nuclear force (document MC48). Consists of UK, US, Western Europe (except FRANCE which left in 58) Iceland. Turkey. Greece*

Warsaw Pact

*Soviet sphere of influence equivalent of Nato and a territorial buffer between USSR and Europe - USSR, Romania, Poland, Hungary, GDR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Albania*

United Nations

*In particular the UN Security Council – charged with maintaining international security and approving new members has 5 Permanent Members: US, France, UK, Russia, Republic of China (Taiwan aka Formosa) 10 non-permanent members.*

CENTO

*A Middle Eastern equivalent of NATO, consisting of the UK, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan.*

SEATO

*South East Asian Treaty Organisation, consisting of US, Australia, New Zealand, France, Pakistan, The Philippines and Thailand*

The Arab league

*Facilitating political, economic, cultural, scientific, and social programmes designed to promote the interests of the Arab world. Members include Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Palestine.*

International Atomic Energy Agency

*All nation states are a member (more or less) with the aim of promoting the peaceful use of nuclear power and to stop the acquisition of nuclear weapons by those without.*

## RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS

The political landscape is dominated by ideological and territorial concerns. With none of the major powers enthused by the idea of direct war in the context of nuclear Mutally Assured Destruction (MAD), control of proxy nations is of particular importance. That and maintaining a grasp on key natural resources. Smaller nations negotiate for advantage against their neighbours, nurse old vendettas, and seemingly unimportant skirmishes and trade deals can become globally significant when influence is called in. On top of this, there are always other interested parties attempting to take advantage of uncertainty for their own ends, be they financial or political.

Of course, maintaining power is also contingent on knowing who is doing what, on behalf of whom, stopping escalations, staying a step ahead, and seeking to circumvent restrictions in cunning and devious ways.

### The Middle East

Recently, Israel have been skirmishing with Arabs as the latter want to divert river Jordan. The Israelis want to be nuclear capable and are attempting to circumvent provisions on the supply of weapons.

1958: Suez – Israel, France Britain invade the Suez zone as Egypt had nationalised it and thus might stop shipping. Involved bombing Cairo (operation Musketeer) which went badly wrong. The UN intervened and conflict ceased.

1960: Military Coup successfully staged by the Military in the strategic location of Istanbul (Where Europe meets Asia). US aid to Istanbul/Turkey was running out and the leadership wanted to approach Moscow for support, the Military said no as aligned with west NATO and CENTO

1963: Aden - a British Crown protectorate used as an anti-piracy station. Pan Arab rebels staged ongoing guerrilla activity.

### The East and the Indian Sub-Continent

Long standing conflict exists between India and Pakistan over ownership of Kashmir with a strong religious component. The Chinese have also been involved. Japan is being used by the US as a departure point for aircraft operating in the far East.

Vietnam: Following the independence of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam from France in 1954, the US and Russia have been involved in a complex proxy war. The CIA had been tacitly supporting the French regime, and after the nation was split assisted anti-communists, mostly Catholic supporters of the nationalistic politician Ngô Đình Diệm, to move south.

Meanwhile, in the north, communists gained power and protested separation of the country. By 1957 independent observers indicated unbiased elections were not possible, and dissidents were active in south Vietnam. By 1959, the North had invaded Laos and Cambodia, whilst the South had made political dissidence punishable by death.

In 1963, there were large numbers of communist soldiers in south. Kennedy was against direct military involvement instead sending 16,000 'special advisors'. South Vietnamese forces shot Buddhists protesting the banning of the Buddhist flag, leading the CIA to assist in a coup against South Vietnamese PM, Ngô Đình Diệm. The fallout allowed Northern forces to behave more aggressively. The assassination of Kennedy paved the way for Lyndon Johnson to escalate.

In 1964, alleged attacks on US patrol boats lead to airstrikes on Vietnam, and congress determining it was permissible to increase anti North-Korean action without declaring war. Airstrikes and shelling of North Vietnam are ongoing; the US is deploying troops and requesting support from other nations.

## The Americas

South America and central America keep electing left wing governments. The US dislike this and are taking to clandestinely toppling governments, installing dictators (who are not Liberal people but are not Communists).

1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis. In response to US plans to assassinate Castro or otherwise take down the Communist state, the USSR requested the building on nuclear silos in Cuba. Unprepared to allow nuclear missiles that close to US soil, the US instigated a blockade. Khrushchev eventually backed down and removed the missiles in exchange for a promise from the US not to further intervene in Cuba. The closeness to an actual nuclear exchange prompted movements to reduce nuclear testing and limit proliferation.

## Europe

1956- Failed Hungarian Revolution. The Hungarian revolutionaries sought US aid but were refused and the uprising was put down brutally by an influx of Soviet troops. It did serve to decrease Western sympathies for communism.

1961- Work begins on the Berlin wall, constructed by East Germany and almost completely halting the movement of East Germans and other people of the eastern Bloc escaping through West Berlin.

1963 – Academic Crisis in Portugal. Boycott and closure of student organisations that were nurturing ideological and militant opposition to the state, usually communist or Marxist. 'Vigorously suppressed' demonstrations.

1965- Piano Solo – Supposed Italian Coup against the Italian Government– instigated by the President of the Italian Republic with CIA assistance, to neutralise the communist party. It didn't happen.

1966- Wilson attempts peace negotiations with Moscow over Vietnam. His attempt is rebuffed.

## Africa

Ongoing de-colonialisation has made Africa a battleground for West and East over the ideological leanings of incoming independent governments and over historic patterns of racism. China, Russia and East Germany are all involved with clandestine attempts to increase communist and left-wing control in parts of the continent, with the Western powers operating in the opposite direction.