

How was aviation used and how did it develop during the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War?

Questions/Key Points	Notes
<p>The Korean War was fought between South Korea and North Korea, with UN forces supporting the south, and Soviets and Chinese supporting the north.</p> <p>The widespread use of jets during the Korean War posed new advantages and issues</p> <p>US airpower strategy throughout the Cold war was characterized by heavy strategic bombing, which did much damage to North Korean infrastructure. This has contributed to the intense anti-US sentiment in the DPRK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Korean War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War ■ North Korea vs South Korea; communism vs democracy ■ North Korea invades South Korea with USSR on its side; US/UN takes South Korea's side ■ North Korea gets through much of S. Korea before they push back, and the border now is pretty much where it started ○ In general <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No in-air refuelling yet ■ Because North Korea had taken over many air bases in the whole Korean Peninsula, Naval Aviation was important esp in tactical operations ■ N. Korea initially did not have much anti-aircraft technology ■ USAF had been recently established after WWII ○ New technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Better understanding of aerodynamics, including swept wings that allow flight approaching the speed of sound ■ Jets are a large improvement in flight speeds ○ Jets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pilots had a difficult time adjusting to jet aircraft which operated much differently than pistons ■ Difficulties in flying jets alongside pistons - need to make sure slower pistons don't get left behind and faster jets don't use too much fuel at once ■ Issues with early jets - high fuel consumption, slow maneuverability, slow response to changes in thrust ■ Important aircraft: MiG-15, North American F-86 ■ "MiG Alley" - intense fighter combat and dogfights between US and USSR using MiG 15s and F-86s. ■ https://www.jstor.org/stable/26907232 ○ Strategic bombing ○ https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep11128 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ground war only lasted from October to November 1950; UN forces kept bombing North Korea for a while afterward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Caused immense damage to their infrastructure ■ Because nobody won the war, resentment due to bombings during the war still survive, especially towards Americans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perhaps represented by DPRK's greater hatred towards the US than South Korea ● Allows DPRK to victimize themselves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also reflected in Japan's victimization after atomic bombs even though they were very aggressive and did many questionable things as well ● Stalin wanted to avoid a direct war b/w US and USSR; therefore did not defend DPRK from the air well

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Because the Cold war was not fought actively, a main priority was to develop stealth technology that would allow both sides to conduct reconnaissance while avoiding detection. Both sides engaged in an arms race to deter the enemy.

- US strategic bombing strategy shifted from targeting industry to trying to cause as much destruction as possible
- Cold War
 - Background
 - <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>
 - US vs USSR; fear of communism; Mutually Assured Destruction, nuclear weapons, propaganda
 - In general
 - <https://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/cold-war-aviation>
 - https://www.centennialofflight.net/essay/Air_Power/cold_war/AP34.htm
 - Reconnaissance and Stealth
 - <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/news/features/history/u2.html>
 - U-2 Dragon Lady, one was shot down during the Cuban Missile Crisis, one was shot down over the Soviet Union
 - <https://www.cnn.com/style/article/sr-71-blackbird-spy-plane-design/index.html>
 - SR-71 Blackbird - high and fast, still holds the record for the fastest speed; designed to replace the U-2 and avoid enemy detection, "SR" for strategic reconnaissance
 - Deterrence
 - Both sides had to keep improving their armament to deter the other from attacking them and causing MAD
 - Berlin Airlift
 - <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep13825.9>
 - Effort to give food and supplies to people living in West Berlin
 - Soviets blocked ground supply routes, only way in was by air
 - Flew 266,600 sorties
 - Soviets wanted to take control of Germany; Taking Berlin was an important part of that
 - Part of the reason why Berlin had so many airports
 - New technologies
 - Scramble for new technologies to one-up each other, also a part of deterrence strategy
 - In-air refuelling
 - Satellites for reconnaissance
 - Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)
 - B-52
 - <https://www.boeing.com/history/products/b-52-stratofortress.page>
 - Created during the Cold War for missiles and nuclear weapons
 - Very long range
 - First flew in 1954
 - Still in service today and will probably remain that way for a while
- Vietnam War
 - Background
 - <https://www.britannica.com/event/Vietnam-War>
 - Manifestation of the Cold War; fight against communism

How was aviation used and how did it develop during the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War?

The Vietnam war was one of the most unpopular wars in US History. It is notable as the first war in which helicopters were widely used in combat.

- North Vietnam and Viet Cong vs South Vietnam and US
 - South & the US lose the war
 - In general
 - <https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/exhibits/helicopter/>
 - Helicopters are very important in this war
 - Used to transport troops, supplies, evacuate people, etc
 - Also used for close air support
 - Vietnamization
 - <https://www.jstor.org/stable/207045>
 - Gradually remove US forces from Vietnam while still providing some airpower support and other supplies
 - Technologies
 - V/STOL
 - https://www.centennialofflight.net/essay/Evolution_of_Technology/VSTOL_aircraft/Tech30.htm
 - Allows for aircraft to be used in more versatile ways, esp on aircraft carriers
 - Helicopter is included in this
 - Sikorsky, Helicopter
 - <https://www.britannica.com/technology/helicopter>
 - Igor Sikorsky makes the first practical helicopter VS-300
- [Aviation's Heartland: The Flying Farmers and Postwar Flight](#)
[The Counter Iron Curtain: Crafting an American-Soviet Bloc Civil Aviation Policy: 1942-1960](#)
[KOREAN SKIES AND KOREAN WATERS](#)
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep19586.28>
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep19586.26>

Summary

The Cold War era brought many improvements and developments in aviation technology. Deterrence strategy led to a nuclear, aircraft, and space arms race between the US and the Soviet Union, leading to the creation of satellites, stealth aircraft, and the B-52. The Korean War saw the widespread use of jet fighters and dogfights. In Vietnam, helicopters were a key component in combat.