

HISTORY

The Cold War

The story of *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* takes place in 1957, during the Cold War.

At this time, Russia was part of the USSR (the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) or Soviet Union, and was controlled by a Communist* government. The USSR and its leader, Joseph Stalin, were very powerful. After the end of the Second World War in 1945, they took control of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland. The USA and Western Europe were very afraid of Stalin, of the Soviet Union, and of communism.

People call this time the Cold War. There was no fighting between East and West, but there was a lot of fear and hate. The Cold War didn't end until the early 1990s.

Joseph McCarthy was a US politician. In the 1950s, he believed that the USA was full of communist spies. Many people were put in prison, although there was little or no proof that they were really spies. The FBI** checked everyone who worked for the government. Then they checked soldiers, teachers, writers ... everybody. They made life difficult for thousands of people. Often people didn't know why they were in trouble. Most of them weren't communists at all, but they lost their jobs anyway.

* *Communism* comes mainly from the ideas of Karl Marx. People do not own anything; everything belongs to the government. People are paid what they need, so a doctor and a cleaner might earn the same.

** The *FBI* (Federal Bureau of Investigation) leads the fight against criminal activity in the USA.

CHAPTER 1

'You will tell us'



Nevada, USA 1957

The line of green army vehicles drove along the empty road. There were jeeps, trucks and a weapons carrier. At the front was a green Ford. Signs everywhere said 'Private area', 'Do not enter' and 'No photography allowed'. The vehicles climbed up a hill. At the top was a huge gate, and next to it a small guard house. Three guards came out carrying guns. They waved to the driver to stop.

An officer got out of the Ford.

'Sorry, gentlemen, but this whole area is closed for twenty-four hours,' said one of the guards. 'They're testing some weapons.'

The officer walked towards the gate.

'This order is for everyone,' said the guard, 'including officers.'

The officer continued walking.

The guard realised something wasn't right. He reached for his gun. Suddenly three soldiers with guns jumped out of a truck and shot the three guards dead. More soldiers jumped down behind them. Some hid the guards' bodies in the guard house. Others attacked the lock on the gate.

The vehicles drove through the gate and stopped in front of a huge building with no windows. Next to the building was a railway line. Two soldiers jumped from a truck and hurried to the Ford. They opened the back and pulled a man to his feet. He was a big man in his fifties, with dirty clothes and several days' beard. His body was black and blue with injuries.

'Not him,' said the officer. 'Where's the other one?'

The soldiers reached into the back again and pulled a second man out. He looked even worse than the first.

Indiana Jones had been a prisoner for two days. He was working with Mac in Mexico when they were both grabbed in the middle of the night. Since then, they had been in a plane and several trucks. Their hands were tied tight and their eyes and mouths were covered. For the past few hours they had been in the back of a car.

He looked at Mac. His friend for years. It was amazing they could both stand up after their terrible journey. He looked at the soldiers. US Army! He couldn't understand what they wanted with him. Then he heard them speak ... in Russian.

'Russians!' whispered Mac. 'This won't be easy.'

'Not as easy as it used to be,' said Indy.

One of the soldiers picked up Indy's hat and put it on his head. Indy could see his bag and his whip too. But not his gun.



'You know this building, don't you?' the officer said to Indy.

'I'm telling you nothing,' Indy replied.

The officer hit Indy hard in the face. He fell to the ground. The Russian got ready to hit him again, but just then a car arrived.

'*Prasteete!*' shouted a woman's voice.

A tall, slim woman got out of the car. She was about thirty-five and had straight black hair. A sword hung at her side. The Russian let Indy go and stood to attention.

'Where did you find him, Dovchenko?' asked the woman.

'In Mexico,' Dovchenko said. 'He was searching for things in the earth.' He took Indy's bag and emptied it onto the ground. Several valuable pieces of art fell out and broke. They were centuries old.

'Oh no,' thought Indy. 'All those months of hard work.'

The woman smiled at Indy. 'I'm afraid Dovchenko doesn't understand history, Dr Jones,' she said. 'But allow me to introduce myself. I am Dr Irina Spalko. I am very good at what I do. I know things before anyone else. And

what I do not know, I learn.’ She knocked on Indy’s head. ‘I am going to learn what is in here, Dr Jones.’

Just then, the huge doors to the building opened. Inside, there were machine parts, suitcases, pieces of furniture, and boxes of all shapes and sizes. Thousands and thousands of boxes, as far as the eye could see.

The soldiers pushed Indy and Mac inside.

‘This is where your government hides valuable things, yes?’ said Spalko. ‘We are looking for a box that is two metres by one metre by two hundred centimetres. It’s highly magnetised. You know the one that I mean, don’t you?’

‘I have no idea what you’re talking about,’ said Indy.

‘You will tell us,’ said Spalko. Her voice was hard. She took her sword and pressed it against Indy’s throat.



‘Killing me won’t help you,’ said Indy.

‘You’re right,’ she said. Two soldiers took Mac and threw him under one of the trucks. His head was under a wheel. Spalko shouted something in Russian and the truck began to move. She looked at Indy. ‘I say once more, Dr Jones ... you will help us find that box.’