



Cold War Knowledge Organiser



Cold War Background

- **Grand Alliance** of USA, USSR, Britain and France in WW2 to defeat Nazi Germany
- Met at **Tehran** (1943) and **Yalta** (1945) to agree how to defeat Germany and how Europe should look after the war.
- **Potsdam Conference** (1945) agreed to de-nazify Germany and split it (and Berlin) into 4 zones shared between the 4 allies. Agreed USA would have a sphere of influence in the West, and the USSR would have one in the East.

Increasing Tension

Long and Novikov Telegrams 1946

- USA and USSR used their ambassadors to secretly report on the other country
- Both reported fears that their opponents were building up their armies

Truman Doctrine 1947

- President Truman declared that he feared the spread of communism and said it was a threat to freedom- the USA had the right to use its military and economy to fight the spread of communism

Marshall Plan 1947

- USA offered \$13 billion of aid to Europe to stop poverty leading to communism
- This upset the USSR who thought USA was trying to bribe its satellite states

Iron Curtain Speech 1947- Churchill declared Europe was divided into two spheres

Cominform/Comecon

- In response to the Marshall Plan the USSR united all communist parties together from satellite states- Cominform. Also tried to tie all satellite states together economically- Comecon

The Berlin Blockade (1947-1948) and its consequences

- USSR worried the Western allies were trying to unite West Germany into Trizonia.
- Blocked all road, rail and canal access to force them out of West Berlin
- USA kept West Berlin supplies through a huge airlift of supplies for 11 months. USSR eventually backed down. Couldn't shoot down planes as would be act of war.
- **FRG and GDR**- Germany became officially divided into 2 different countries- FRG in West and GDR in East. Berlin also official split.
- **NATO**- USA and Western European military alliance against USSR
- **Warsaw Pact**- USSR responded to NATO by creating own military alliance of satellite states in Eastern Europe

Hungarian Uprising 1956

- Encouraged by Khrushchev's Secret speech which criticised the hard, repressive policies of Stalin
- Imre Nagy wanted to take Hungary out of the Warsaw Pact and make the country less repressive
- USSR sent in troops and executed Nagy. Reforms undone. West didn't help at all despite promising to.

The Berlin Ultimatum and Summits

- By 1958 3 million East Germans had crossed to the West (1/3 pop) Showed unpopularity of communism
- Khrushchev wanted to take over West Berlin to stop this- 1958 demanded West recognise East as independent country, and Berlin to be demilitarised (**Berlin Ultimatum**) or he would hand control of Berlin transport to the East government.
- **Camp David Summit 1959**
- Eisenhower and Khrushchev met and agreed to withdraw ultimatum.
- **Paris Summit 1960**
- USSR shot down US U2 spy plane. US tried to cover up and Khrushchev walked out of the meeting
- **Vienna Summit 1961**
- Khrushchev saw Kennedy as weak and reissued Ultimatum. Kennedy refused to make concessions, so nothing was agreed.

The Berlin Wall

- 12 August 1961 East German Leader Ulbricht ordered a barbed wire fence around West Berlin to stop the refugee problem.
- Soon grew to 165km, cutting through streets and even buildings.
- Two walls separated by no man's land with booby traps, barbed wire, watch towers and guards with machine guns
- People tried to escape- 130 killed, most famous was Peter Fechter.
- Khrushchev had to abandon plans for a united communist Germany and showed how unpopular communism was, but it did stop the refugee problem and showed communism was in control in the East
- The Berlin Wall became a symbol of freedom and defiance against communism, and showed Khrushchev had accepted Western control in Berlin
- Kennedy's '*Ich Bin Ein Berliner*' speech 1963 very popular

The Fall of the Berlin Wall

- 1989 Gorbachev refused to help East Germany stop protests.
- East Germany then announced border into West Berlin to be opened. Huge numbers cross the border and the wall is quickly pulled down.
- Germany officially reunited 1990

The Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

- 1959 Fidel Castro and Che Guevara topple the pro-American government in Cuba.
- US boycotted buying Cuban sugar, so Castro sold it to Khrushchev, and receive arms from USSR.
- 1961 CIA trained Cuban exiles to invade Cuba and overthrow Castro (**Bay of Pigs invasion**) but failed as USA backs out of air support and Cuban army superior to exiles. Makes USA look very bad!
- Khrushchev sent nuclear missiles to Cuba to help defend from future US attacks. USA discovers them in 1962
- Kennedy decides to blockade Cuba to stop missiles arriving from USSR.
- Khrushchev sent a telegram saying he would remove missiles from Cuba if USA wouldn't invade.
- Khrushchev then sent another telegram adding he wanted US missiles removed from Turkey too.
- Kennedy responded to first telegram publicly and second one secretly, increasing his reputation as a strong leader, making Khrushchev look like he backed down- maybe why he was dismissed as leader of USSR in 1954
- Moscow-Washington **Hotline** set up and 3 treaties (**Test Ban 1963, Outer Space 1967, Non-Proliferation 1968**) signed to reduce testing and spread of nuclear weapons.

Czechoslovakia 1968

- Alexander Dubcek introduced reforms '*Socialism with a human face*'. Not anti- communist, just wanted more freedom. This became known as the **Prague Spring**.
- Brezhnev worried about reforms spreading so invaded with 500,000 troops. Czechs didn't fight back- learn their lesson from Hungary!
- Brezhnev Doctrine**- actions of any individual country affected whole Eastern Bloc, so he would use Warsaw Pact troops to stop any reforms.

Gorbachev's New Thinking

- USSR couldn't afford war in Afghanistan or new missiles to compete with USA, and living standards were low.
- Perestroika**- reform economy to include some capitalist ideas
- Glasnost**- introduce more openness and less corruption in government, allowed opposition to government.
- Brezhnev Doctrine would also be dropped.
- Reagan saw this as an opportunity to end the Cold War
- Reykjavik Summit 1986**- Gorbachev suggested phasing out nuclear weapons if USA gave up SDI. No agreement but improved relations.
- Washington Summit 1987**- Agreed a treaty reducing abolishing intermediate range missiles
- Malta Summit 1989**- No new agreements but seen as the end of the Cold War as both sides announced peaceful intentions

Détente 1970s

- After the Cuba crisis the USA and USSR wanted to get on better in the 1970s- this thaw (peaceful period) in the Cold War is called **détente**
- Both needed to focus on economic and social problems at home, not war
- SALT 1 1972**- Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. Limited the number of nuclear weapons both sides had
- Helsinki Accords 1975**- agreed to respect borders, work for closer relations and respect human rights.
- SALT 2 1979**- Tried to introduce restrictions on missiles, but USA didn't trust the USSR after invasion of Afghanistan so US withdrew from talks

Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan 1979

- There was a communist revolution in Afghanistan in 1978 and civil war broke out.
- USSR invaded in 1979 to help the communist government
- USA very unhappy with this and ended détente. Supported Afghan rebels (Mujahedeen)
- Carter Doctrine**- USA would use force to repel any threats in Persian Gulf area, and introduced sanctions
- USA boycotted the Moscow Olympics in 1980. USSR then boycotted LA Olympics in 1984
- Cost USSR \$8 billion a year and 15,000 troops were killed

Reagan's Second Cold War

- Reagan became President of USA in 1980, called the USSR an 'evil empire' and ended détente.
- Planned the **Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI)** 1983 nicknamed 'Star Wars'- using satellites to destroy soviet missiles in space.
- USSR too poor to compete but didn't know USA hadn't actually made SDI yet.
- Reagan increased funding for the Cold War and supported anti- communist groups in South America

End of the Cold War

- Without Brezhnev Doctrine, satellite states could introduce reforms without fear
- Many hold new elections and elect non-communists (Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia)
- 12 Soviet Republics left the USSR and formed the Commonwealth of Independent States after hard-line communists tried to remove Gorbachev.
- Gorbachev resigned on Christmas Day 1990, dissolving the USSR and ending communist rule in Europe.
- Warsaw Pact formally dissolved 1991.