



## ***Revision exercise booklet:***

# ***Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-1991***



### **Note:**

*This is a starting point for your revision - a minimum to gain a grade at GCSE.  
You should also use your exercise book to complete the tasks in this booklet.  
You should also use your question guide (for structure tips and sentence stems)  
when attempting exam questions.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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- The ideological differences between the superpowers and the attitudes of Stalin, Truman and Churchill.
- The impact on US-Soviet relations of the development of the atomic Bomb
- The Long and Novikov telegrams and the creation of Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe.

### **Key Topic 1.2: The development of the Cold War (Pages 9-13)**

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- Berlin: its division into zones. The Berlin Crisis (blockade and airlift) and its impact. The formation of the Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic.

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**Every subtopic has a 10 question knowledge check.**

**At the end of each key topic there are exam questions to help you revise.**

## Key topic 1.1: The origins of the Cold War, 1941-58

### Early tension between East and West

#### What was the Cold War?

The end of the Second World War saw the emergence of two superpowers, the USA and the USSR, who were locked in a struggle which lasted for 45 years. This was known as the Cold War.

The term **Cold War** was first used in 1947 to describe the conflict. **It was a war of words, of propaganda and of threat between the USA and the USSR, but it did not involve the two Superpowers in direct confrontation**. They both took part in proxy wars - that is they helped their allies to fight the other Superpower or their allies but did not become directly involved in the conflict themselves.



#### Why did the Cold War begin?

##### *1. Differing Ideologies:*

In 1917 Russia became the first communist country in the world. Both the USA and the USSR believed that their system was the best way of organising a country and that other countries should follow their example.

**The USSR** - one party state, no free elections, state owned industry and agriculture. The government planned the economy and what should be produced. There is a lack of freedom and strict censorship.

**The USA** - democratic and capitalist, free elections, industry and agriculture were privately owned and run for profit. Free press and freedom of movement.

Both sides feared the other was out to destroy it. The Soviets believed the west was out to destroy communism. The West believed Soviets wanted to spread communism around the globe.

##### *2. Stalin's Suspicion of the West*

**The USSR had been attacked previously**, Germany had invaded Russia in 1914, in 1918, Allied forces had invaded Russia during the Civil War. Hitler had invaded in 1941. Stalin believed it was essential to have friendly countries on his border to prevent this happening again.

**Stalin did not trust the West.** The West had been appeased Hitler in the 1930s - Stalin believed they had wanted Hitler to destroy communism. The West was also slow to open a Second Front during the Second World War to help the Russians fight Hitler.

## What was The Grand Alliance?

The Grand Alliance was established by USSR, USA and Britain from 1941 to defeat the axis powers led by Germany, Japan and Italy. Following the end of the Second World War the Big 3 hoped to continue their friendship but as it became clearer that the Germany was defeated, the Big 3 began to have conflicting aims and objectives.

## The Yalta and Potsdam Conferences

### Yalta Conference (February 1945)

The leaders present were Stalin (USSR), Roosevelt (USA) and Churchill (Britain).



#### Agreements:

- Stalin agreed to join the war against Japan once Germany was defeated
- All 3 agreed to join the **United Nations**.
- Germany to be divided into four zones of occupation (Br, Fr, USA, USSR)
- Berlin to be divided into four zones, as Germany
- Stalin to have '**a sphere of influence**' in Eastern Europe.
- 'Free elections' to be held to decide governments countries liberated from Nazi occupation
- USSR to join the war against Japan once Hitler had been defeated

#### Disagreements: However there was a **dispute over Poland**:

Stalin insisted on a 'friendly government' in Poland. The West demanded free elections in Poland.



Photo # USA C-1860 "Big Three" & Foreign Ministers at Potsdam, ca. July 1945

### Potsdam Conference (July 1945)

The leaders present were Stalin (USSR), Truman (USA), and Attlee (Britain)

**Personality clash:** Truman, the new President of the USA, was fiercely anti-communist. He was not prepared to negotiate with Stalin. This, in turn, angered Stalin.

#### Agreements:

- USSR to gain eastern Poland and Poland to be compensated with some German territory - the German border was settled at the Oder-Neisse Line.
- Nazi Party to be banned and Nazi war criminals to be put on trial.

#### Disagreements:



- Stalin demanded harsh reparations from Germany for the USSR - demanded \$20 billion compensation. This figure was rejected by Truman and Attlee - they did not want to make the same mistakes as at Versailles.
- Stalin denied a naval base in the Mediterranean
- Stalin had set up a communist government in Poland without free elections being held - this angered Truman and Attlee and made them suspicious of Stalin's motives.

### ***The Atom Bomb***

On 16<sup>th</sup> August, during the Potsdam Conference, the USA successfully tested their first A Bomb. Truman informed Stalin about it, but was not willing to share the technology. This made Stalin even more suspicious of the West and encouraged him to begin an **arms race** to make the USSR's weapons equal in force to those of the USA.



**The Arms Race** was pushed along by fear.

Until 1949 the USSR could not risk a war against USA. When **the USSR exploded its own nuclear weapon in 1949** tension began to increase. The USA began to develop the H bomb. In 1952 the USSR exploded its own H-bomb. The USA began to build bomber aircraft, to deliver the H-bomb, in the mistaken belief that the USSR had more bomber aircraft than the USA did.

### ***The Secret Telegrams***

TRUMAN and STALIN both feared the breakdown of the GRAND ALLIANCE and the subsequent threat of a new war. Both had secret reports from their embassies for information on the other leader and their plans. The reports were sent as telegrams.

### **THE LONG TELEGRAM**

TRUMAN received a worrying telegram from **Kennan** - he was America's ambassador in Moscow. Kennan reported that:

- **Stalin** had given a speech calling for destruction of capitalism
- **America** could have NO peace with **Russia** while it opposed capitalism
- **Russia** was building military power.
- The USA should seek to contain communism.

### **THE NOVIKOV TELEGRAM**

**Stalin** received a worrying telegram from Novikov - he was Russia's ambassador in Washington. Novikov reported that:

- **America** desired to dominate the world.
- Following Roosevelt's death, the American government was no longer interested in co-operation with the USSR.
- The American public were being prepared for war with the USSR.

Following both telegrams, both countries believed that there was a great possibility of war. The USSR believed that war was inevitable whereas the Americans had labelled Stalin as 'the new Hitler'. By the end of 1946, the Grand Alliance was all but over. America believed the USSR were preparing for world domination and vice versa. This was the unofficial start of the Cold War.



### The creation of Satellite States

The USSR responded to its nuclear inferiority by strengthening its control over Eastern Europe.

Rigged elections, violence, intimidation and other methods were used to gain control over Eastern European states including Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

**By 1947 all eastern European states apart from Czechoslovakia had communist governments** (Czechoslovakia came under communist government in 1948)

No free elections had been held as agreed to at Yalta.

The **USSR** justified its actions;

- It had created a buffer zone against the West.
- It was afraid of the USA's atomic power
- It was afraid of an attack by the West in the near future.
- It had created a '**sphere of influence**' as agreed at Yalta.

The **USA** claimed;

- The USSR had seized control of Eastern Europe and rejected free elections as agreed at Yalta.
- The USA feared that the USSR was determined to extend its influence into Western Europe (and then the rest of the world!!)

The USSR claimed that their measures were defensive, but the USA claimed they were aggressive and a threat to the west.

### Key Topic 1.1 Knowledge Check:

1. *Name the two different ideologies of the USA and USSR?*
2. *Which countries were part of the Grand Alliance?*
3. *When was the Yalta Conference? Name one thing that was agreed there.*
4. *What did they disagree about at the Yalta conference?*
5. *When was the Potsdam Conference? What was there?*
6. *What did they disagree about at Potsdam*
7. *What happened on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1949? What did it lead to?*
8. *Who was George Kennan?*
9. *How did the USSR justify creating Satellite States?*
10. *Which countries became under the control of the USSR?*



## Key Topic 1.2: The development of the Cold War

### The Truman Doctrine

Between 1945 and 1949 the USA sought to **contain** the spread of communism, first in Europe but later around the globe. The USA believed that the USSR was determined to expand and that the USA should use any means possible to stop that expansion.

**Greece was the first country to benefit from this policy.** During WW2 the Greek resistance to the German occupation had been divided into supporters of the monarchy and the communists. At the end of the war British troops had helped to



"I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

restore the monarchy but were now under attack from the communists. By 1947, Britain could no longer afford to continue to keep troops in Greece and so they asked for help from the

USA. The USA provided money to keep the British troops in Greece

In **1947** President Truman outlined the USA's response in what became known as the **Truman Doctrine**.

This policy was designed to stop the spread of communism - it was called **containment**

Policy was driven by a belief in the '**Domino Theory**' - the USA should prevent one country from falling to communism to stop others from following suit.

It was believed that it was America's duty to protect democracies from the threat of communism. **It would do this by providing money, aid, advisors or even weapons to any country threatened by communism.**

USA showed this policy in action when it **installed ballistic missiles in Turkey** - the USSR had no such missiles and therefore saw this action as hostile.

### The Marshall Plan

**The Marshall Plan is another example of the Truman Doctrine in action**

Europe's economy had been shattered by WW2. Europe had to tackle the devastation caused by the war, the impact of the



bombing, the loss of lives, the destruction of industry, refugees and a mountain of debt. Europe owed the USA \$11.5 billion.

**US Secretary of State George Marshall** believed that countries suffering from poverty and unemployment were more likely to turn to communism. The aim of the Marshall Plan was therefore to **rebuild the shattered European economy so that it could contain the spread of communism**. A fund of \$15 billion was made available to any nation who applied for it.

The **Marshall Plan** aimed to:

- Raise living standards in Western Europe to reduce the appeal of communism.
- To rebuild Germany
- To weaken Soviet control over Eastern Europe
- To help the US economy by increasing US exports to Europe. They did not want a repeat of the 1920s.

The US government was initially unsure about providing so much money to Europe, however, events in Czechoslovakia soon changed their minds.



### Stalin's Reaction to the Marshall Plan

Stalin called the Marshall Plan '**dollar imperialism**' and claimed the USA was trying to control industry and trade in Europe. He believed that it **sought to undermine communism and to promote the spread of capitalism across the globe**. He refused to accept any economic aid and stopped any Eastern bloc country applying for it.

### How did Stalin react to the actions of the West?

#### **Cominform (1947) and Comecon (1949)**

To try to prevent any eastern European countries applying for Marshall Aid, Stalin offered help and support to eastern Europe by setting up two organisations, **Cominform (1947) and Comecon (1949)**.

**Cominform** (Communist Information Bureau) was an alliance of European communist parties to help them plan and to work together and spread Stalin's ideas. It increased the control Stalin had over these countries, and limited their independence. Only Marshal Tito, the communist leader of Yugoslavia, would not accept Stalin's total leadership and split with Moscow.

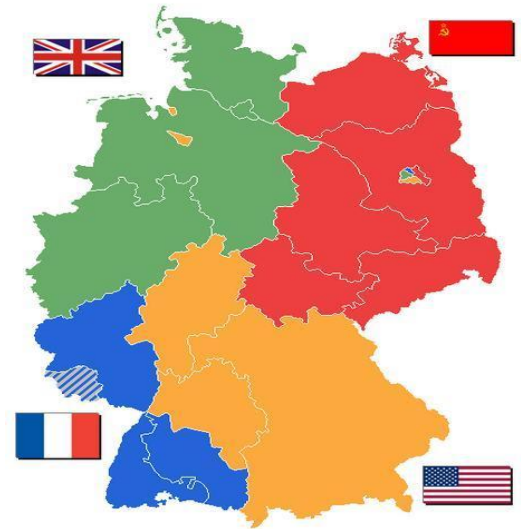
**Comecon** (Council for Mutual Economic Aid) was set up to coordinate the production and trade of the eastern European communist countries. They were expected to trade with each other and not the West. However, it favoured the USSR more than any of its other members.

## The Berlin Crisis: 1948-49

Germany, and Berlin, had been divided in 1945 into zones of occupation. This was a source of tension which peaked during the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49.

### **Causes of the Berlin Crisis/Berlin Blockade:**

- Britain, France and the USA had merged their zones of West Germany into one in March 1948
- Britain, France and the USA had then introduced a new currency called the '**Deutsch mark**' to western Germany, which was intended to help it become economically stronger.
- There was a crisis as capitalism was drawing many people away from the communist east towards greater opportunities and freedoms in the west.



As a result:

- Stalin felt threatened by Germany's growing strength
- Stalin was angry that the west had not consulted him before making changes in their zones of Germany
- Stalin wanted the 'cancer' of west Berlin to be removed from East Germany.

### **What happened?**

In June 1948 Stalin cut off all road, rail and canal links to West Berlin - the **Berlin Blockade**. The city only had 6 weeks supplies of food and fuel. Stalin aimed to starve the 2 million inhabitants in West Berlin into submission. He believed that Truman would either have to give up West Berlin or go to war.

But the West responded with a massive airlift - food, fuel and supplies were flown into Berlin for 10 months. Stalin dared not shoot down any planes - it would be an act of war. Stalin called off the Blockade in May 1949.



### **Outcomes:**

- A **propaganda victory for the West** - Truman had shown he would not allow the policy of containment to fail.
- **Stalin was humiliated** - the USSR had failed to extend its influence

- The **division of Germany into two separate states** - in May 1949 the new Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) was set up. In October, the eastern zone became the German Democratic Republic (GDR)
- The **formation of NATO**.
- **Deepened hostility** between East and West.

### What was NATO?

BUFFER EASTERN THREAT BLOCKADE TREATY MILITARY ALLIANCE  
SATELLITE FRANCE TROOPS 1955

The North Atlantic \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation (NATO) was formed in **April 1949** by the Western powers. This was during the period of the Berlin \_\_\_\_\_, and was partly in response to Stalin's aggression. The original twelve members of NATO in 1949 were the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, \_\_\_\_\_, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg. NATO was a \_\_\_\_\_ that **committed all members to the defence of all the others**.

But NATO was more than a promise of American help in an emergency. **The alliance was to be supported by large numbers of troops on the ground**. In particular, there were a large number of \_\_\_\_\_ in West Germany. By 1953, 5 divisions of US troops were permanently based there.

**Stalin, unsurprisingly, saw NATO as a \_\_\_\_\_ to the USSR and Eastern Europe.**

### What was the Warsaw Pact?

The Warsaw Pact was set up in \_\_\_\_\_. The Warsaw Pact was a **defensive military alliance of the USSR and its \_\_\_\_\_ states in \_\_\_\_\_ Europe**. It was intended as a **counter-force to NATO**, which was a military alliance of western powers.

The Warsaw Pact, like NATO, **relied on collective security** - if one nation was attacked, the others would come to its support. The Warsaw Pact helped to make Eastern Europe an effective '\_\_\_\_\_ zone' for the USSR against the West.



**Key Topic 1.2 Knowledge Check:**

1. What was the Truman Doctrine?
2. Which was the first country to benefit from the Truman Doctrine?
3. What did George Marshall believe could happen to Europe after WW2?
4. How much money did the USA make available for the Marshall Plan?
5. How did the USSR respond to the Marshall Plan?
6. What is Cominform?
7. What is Comecon?
8. Identify 2 causes of the Berlin Crisis.
9. What happened during the Berlin crisis?
10. How did the West respond to the Berlin Crisis?

## Key Topic 1.3: The Cold War intensifies (pages 11-15)

### The death of Stalin

Stalin died in 1953. After a short struggle for power, in 1955 Khrushchev became the new ruler of the USSR. At first, the western powers hoped that Khrushchev would be the start of a 'thaw' in the Cold War.



-Khrushchev met western leaders at 'summit' meetings and even travelled to the USA.

-In the '**Secret Speech**' at the Twentieth Party Congress in **1956**, Khrushchev attacked Stalin, saying that Stalin was a murderer and a tyrant. Khrushchev began to '**de-Stalinise**' Russia - political prisoners were set free and the activities of the secret police were reduced.

-Khrushchev said that he wanted **peaceful co-existence** with the West. Western leaders hoped this meant the end of the Cold War.

Given hope that Stalin's era of repression and fear had come to an end, opponents of communism in Eastern Europe began to make demands.

### The Hungarian Uprising, October 1956:

*The Hungarian people decided to protest against communist rule - with devastating results.*

#### **Causes of the uprising**

##### **1. Poverty**

Hungarians were poor, yet much of the food and industrial goods they produced was sent to Russia.

##### **2. Russian Control**

The Hungarians were very patriotic, and they hated Russian control - which included censorship, the vicious secret police and Russian control of what the schools taught.

##### **3. Religious issues**

The Hungarians were a religious people, but the Communist Party had banned religion, and put the leader of the Catholic Church in prison.

##### **4. Help from the West**

Hungarians thought that the United Nations or the new US president, Eisenhower, would help them.

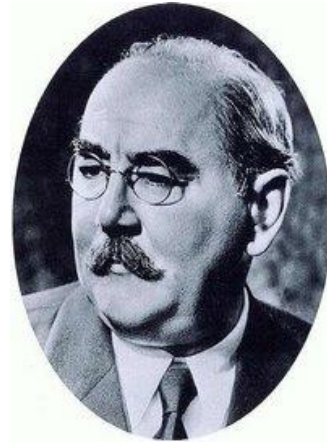
##### **5. De-Stalinisation**

When the Communist Party tried to de-Stalinise Hungary, things got out of control. The Hungarian leader **Rakosi** asked for permission to arrest 400 trouble-makers, but Khrushchev would not let him.



### ***Events of the uprising***

- **23 October:** Riots of students, workers and soldiers. They smashed up the statue of Stalin, and attacked the Secret Police and Russian soldiers.
- **24 October:** Imre Nagy took over as Prime Minister. He asked Khrushchev to take Russian troops out of Hungary.
- **28 October:** Khrushchev agreed, and the Russian army pulled out of Budapest.
- **29 October - 3 November:** The new Hungarian government introduced democracy, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion (the leader of the Catholic Church was freed from prison). Nagy also announced that Hungary was going to leave the Warsaw Pact.
- **4 November:** At dawn, 1000 Russian tanks rolled into Budapest. By 8.10 am they had destroyed the Hungarian army and captured Hungarian Radio - its last words broadcast were 'Help! Help! Help! Hungarian people - even children - fought them with machine guns. Some 4000 Hungarians killed fighting the Russians.
- **Khrushchev put in Janos Kadar**, a supporter of Russia, as Prime Minister.
- **Nagy was executed.**



### ***Outcomes/Consequences of the Hungarian Uprising:***

- 1) **200,000 Hungarian refugees fled into Austria.**
- 2) **Russia stayed in control** behind the Iron Curtain.
- 3) **People in the West were horrified** - many British Communists left the Communist Party.
- 4) It was clear to Eastern Europe that **the West would not come to their aid** to help them overturn communism.
- 5) However, whilst they would not intervene in countries that were within the Soviet sphere of influence, **Western leaders became even more determined to 'contain' communism.**

### Key Topic 1.3 Knowledge Check

1. When did Stalin die?
2. Who became leader after Stalin died?
3. Give two examples of methods of de-Stalinisation
4. When was the Hungarian Uprising?
5. Identify two causes of the Hungarian Uprising.
6. What did the new Nagy introduce between 29<sup>th</sup> October- 3<sup>rd</sup> November?
7. How many tanks entered Budapest on 4<sup>th</sup> November?
8. What happened to Nagy?
9. Who replaced Nagy as leader of Hungary?
10. Identify 2 consequences of the Hungarian Uprising

## Key Topic 1 Exam Questions:

Q1. 8 Marks	Q2. 8 Marks	Q3. 8 Marks (x2)
Explain two consequences of the Yalta Conference	<p>Write a narrative account analysing the main developments in US-Soviet relations in the years 1945-47.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Yalta Conference, 1945</li> <li>• Truman Doctrine, 1947</li> </ul>	Explain the importance of Truman Doctrine for the development of the Cold War.
Explain two consequences of the Potsdam Conference	<p>Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Berlin Crisis, 1948-49.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stalin's fears</li> <li>• The Airlift</li> </ul>	Explain the importance of the events in Berlin 1948-49 for the development of the Cold War.
Explain two consequences of the Berlin Blockade	<p>Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Hungarian Uprising, 1953-56.</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death of Stalin</li> <li>• Nagy</li> </ul>	Explain the importance of the Grand Alliance for relations between Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt in the years 1941-1945 (8)

## Key topic 2: The three Cold War crises, 1958-70

### Crisis 1: The Berlin Crisis - 1961

#### **Causes: Why was the Berlin Wall built?**

Berlin had been a source of tension between the superpowers since 1945. In 1961 it again reached crisis point.



- The high standard of living in West Berlin contrasted sharply with the condition in communist East Berlin - it continually reminded people in the eastern areas that communism was not a successful system to live under.
- It was estimated that 2.7 million people had crossed from East to West Berlin between 1945 and 1960. Many of these were young, skilled, professional people - the East was suffered a 'brain drain' as these educated men and women left to make new lives in the West. It seemed likely that this would continue if their exit route through West Berlin was not blocked.
- Khrushchev also suspected the USA of sending spies into East Berlin and from there into the Eastern bloc through West Berlin.
- Khrushchev gave the USA a 6 month ultimatum to get out of Berlin or go to war.
- In 1959 there were two summit meetings at Geneva and Camp David to negotiate what to do with Berlin.
- The USA and USSR then met in May in 1960 at Paris to continue negotiations. However, during the discussions an American U-2 spy plane got shot over the USSR and the pilot, Gary Powers was captured.



#### **Events: What happened?**

- 13 August 1961 - The East Germans began building a wall around West Berlin. This was initially a barbed wire fence, which was gradually replaced with concrete.
- All movement between East and West was stopped.
- For several days Soviet and US tanks faced each other across the divided Berlin streets.

#### **Outcomes: What were the consequences?**

- The flow of refugees was reduced to a trickle. Between 1961 and 1989 (when the wall came down), only 5000 people managed to escape across it.
- Western nations were given a propaganda victory, as it seemed that communist states needed to build a wall to stop their citizens leaving.
- The wall became a symbol of the division of East and West.

## Key Topic 2: Berlin 1961 Knowledge Check

1. Give two reasons why there was tension in Berlin by 1961.
2. How many people had travelled from east to west Germany between 1945-1960?
3. Why was the refugee crisis in Berlin called the 'Brain Drain'?
4. What was the 6 month ultimatum?
5. Which places did the USA and USSR meet in to negotiate about the future of Berlin?
6. Who was Gary Powers?
7. What happened on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1961?
8. What was the first barrier between east and west Germany made of?
9. How many people managed to escape from east Berlin between 1961 and 1989?
10. What did the wall become a symbol of?

## **Crisis 2: The Cuban Missile Crisis - 1962:**



### **Causes: Superpower tension**

#### **Fidel Castro's Cuba**

Fidel Castro, a socialist, had overthrown the American-backed leader Batista in 1959. Cuba was only 90 miles off coast of America - they didn't want a socialist (or worse, a communist) country 'in their backyard'. USA tried to ruin Cuba by refusing to buy their main export - sugar. Facing financial collapse, Castro did a deal with the USSR - they would buy Cuba's sugar crop. Cuba nationalised American companies and sold off US-owned property

#### **Bay of Pigs Crisis**

(April 1961) - America sent in 1400 exiled Cuban rebels to overthrow Castro but they were easily defeated. This was a humiliation for the USA, and just encouraged Castro to turn to the USSR for protection. USSR started shipping weapons and equipment to Cuba.

#### **Missile bases**

14 October 1962 - American U-2 spy planes photographed Soviet missile sites on Cuba and Soviet ships on their way to Cuba with missiles on board.

#### **Events - The 'Thirteen Days':**

- Kennedy ordered a naval blockade and threatened retaliation if any missile was fired.
- The world was on the brink of nuclear war.
- Kennedy promised to remove US missiles from Turkey in return for the bases on Cuba being dismantled and the missiles (which were still on their way to Cuba) taken back to the USSR.
- 28 October Khrushchev removed the missiles and the crisis was over



#### **Outcomes:**

- **Khrushchev seemed to have failed** - he had backed down in the face of American pressure.
- **Kennedy became the hero of the Western world.** The public did not know that Kennedy had secretly agreed to remove US missiles from Turkey.
- **Telephone 'hot line' set up between Moscow and Washington** so that the leaders could speak directly. This was to try and head off any future crises before they became serious.
- The two powers realised how close they had come to nuclear war. **Arms talks began and the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963.**



## Key Topic 2: Cuban Missile Crisis Knowledge Check

1. *What political ideology did Fidel Castro believe in?*
2. *How close was Cuba to the USA*
3. *How did the USA try to ruin Cuba after Fidel Castro took over?*
4. *How many Cuban exiles invaded Cuba in 1961?*
5. *Where did the Cuban exiles invade?*
6. *What was the main consequence of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion?*
7. *What did American spy planes notice on Cuba?*
8. *How did Kennedy try to prevent missiles from reaching Cuba?*
9. *What deal did Kennedy make to ensure missiles were not placed in Cuba?*
10. *Identify two consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis.*

### Crisis 3: Czechoslovakia 1968

#### **Causes: The Prague Spring**

On April 5th 1968, Dubček (the leader of Czechoslovakia) embarked on a programme of reform that included amendments to the constitution of Czechoslovakia that would have brought back a degree of political democracy and greater personal freedom. These reforms became known as the Prague Spring.



Dubček announced that he wanted the Czech Communist Party to remain the main party in Czechoslovakia, but that he wanted the oppressive aspects of the party to be reduced. Communist Party members in Czechoslovakia were given the right to challenge party policy. In what became known as the 'Prague Spring', Dubček also announced the end of censorship and the right of Czech citizens to criticise the government. Newspapers took the opportunity to produce scathing reports about government incompetence and corruption. Trade unions were given increased rights to bargain for their members.

#### **Soviet Response:**

Dubček assured Moscow that Czechoslovakia would remain in the Warsaw Pact and that they had nothing to worry about with regards to the reforms. This did nothing to reassure Soviet leader Brezhnev and on the night of August 20th/21st troops from the Warsaw Pact invaded Czechoslovakia to reassert the authority of Moscow.

#### **Consequences:**

The reforms of Dubček were abandoned. He was arrested and sent to Moscow. Here he was told what was expected of Czechoslovakia and he was released and sent back to Prague. Dubček did as was required and announced that all reforms were ending. However, his days were numbered and in April 1969, Dubček was removed from office.

The Prague Spring had proved that the Soviet Union was not willing to even contemplate any member of the Warsaw Pact leaving it. The Warsaw Pact remained strong – the USSR thought this was vital to the survival of communism in Europe.

Brezhnev then outlined the **Brezhnev Doctrine**. This was a Soviet foreign policy which called for the use of Warsaw Pact forces to intervene in any Eastern Bloc nation which was seen to compromise communist rule and Soviet domination, either by trying to leave the Soviet sphere of influence or even moderate its policies.

## Key Topic 2: Czechoslovakia 1968 Knowledge Check

1. Who was the leader of Czechoslovakia?
2. What year did the Prague Spring reforms take place?
3. Where is Prague?
4. Give two examples of Prague Spring reforms.
5. What did Dubcek say about the Warsaw Pact?
6. Who was the Soviet leader at this time?
7. How did the Soviet Leader respond?
8. What happened to Dubcek in April 1969?
9. What happened to the Warsaw Pact?
10. What was the Brezhnev Doctrine?

## Key Topic 2 Exam questions

Q1. 8 Marks	Q2. 8 Marks	Q3. 8 Marks (x2)
Explain two consequences of the Berlin Crisis, 1961.	Write a narrative account analysing the main events in East-West rivalry over Berlin, 1958-61	Explain the importance of the building of the Berlin Wall 1961 for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union
Explain two consequences of the Bay of Pigs invasion, 1961.	<p>Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1961-62</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay of Pigs</li> <li>• 13 Days</li> </ul>	Explain the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962 for the relations between the USA and the Soviet Union
Explain two consequences of the Prague spring reforms.	<p>Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia, 1968</p> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prague Spring</li> <li>• Brezhnev Doctrine</li> </ul>	Explain the importance of the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia for the relations between the USA and the Soviet Union in 1968.

## **Key Topic 3: Détente & the End of the Cold War**

### **Key Topic 3.1: Attempts to reduce tension between East and West**

A number of treaties were signed in this period that reduced tension between the USA and USSR. This period became known as détente. Détente means the easing of tension.



#### **Outer-Space Treaty 1967:**

- *Stopped the arms race spreading to space.*
- *Both superpowers said that they wouldn't have nuclear weapons in space.*

#### **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 1968:**

- *Neither country would supply weapons to other countries to aid their development.*
- *This stopped other countries being engulfed by the arms race.*

#### **SALT 1 (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) 1972:**

- *Signed in 1972, it successfully limited the number of weapons they had.*
- *It imposed limits on the nuclear capability of the USA and USSR.*
- *They agreed there would be no production of ballistic missiles.*
- *Submarines would only be produced when the nuclear missiles ran out*

#### **Helsinki Conference 1975: The superpowers agreed on**

- Security -> *Recognition of Europe's borders - USSR accepted that West Germany existed and that it did not belong to them.*
- Cooperation -> *There was a need for closer economical, cultural and scientific links between the superpowers. This would lead them to closer political agreement.*
- Human Rights -> *Each superpower agreed to respect their citizens human rights. E.g. thought, speech etc.*
- *This stabilised the situation in Europe as there was greater cooperation between the superpowers and their European allies.*

### ***Apollo-Soyuz Mission 1975:***

- *A joint mission between the USA and USSR.*
- *The US Apollo space craft docked with the Russian Soyuz craft in space.*
- *The 60s was a competitive space race but this represented cooperation between the superpowers.*

### **Key Topic 3.1: Attempts to reduce tension between East and West Knowledge Check**

1. **What is the meaning of Détente ?**
2. **Describe 2 key terms of the SALT 1 Treaty**
3. **What treaties were signed in 1975?**
4. **What did the USA and USSR agree about security at Helsinki in 1975?**
5. **What did the USA and USSR agree about cooperation at Helsinki in 1975?**
6. **What did the USA and USSR agree about human rights at Helsinki in 1975?**



### **Key Topic 3.2 Flashpoints**

From 1977, talks for a new S.A.L.T (S.A.L.T. II) agreement took place. The aim was to limit every type of rocket and warhead.

It was meant to stay in force until 1985, and limited each superpower to 2,400 strategic nuclear weapon systems. The treaty was drawn up in 1979, but the USSR then invaded Afghanistan, so the USA refused to ratify the treaty.

Although it was never ratified, both sides pledged to follow its guidelines. However, it did not mention tactical (short-range) weapons or designate how many strategic warheads each side could deploy.



### ***Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan (Dec 1979)***

#### ***Causes:***

In April 1978, there was a Communist revolution in which Taraki took control of Afghanistan.

Many Muslim leaders across Afghanistan did not like the new socialist reforms introduced by the government so they began a civil war against the Communists in the Spring of 1979.

Meanwhile, the Communist government were also fighting amongst themselves; in October 1979 Amin supporters assassinated Taraki and Amin claimed Presidency over Afghanistan.

The USSR did not trust Amin – the KGB believed he was a US spy. The USSR had a fear that, if the civil war was won by the Islamic fighters, Afghanistan would reject Communism and encourage nearby countries to do the same.

Soviet troops invade Afghanistan, kill Amin and declare Karmal president. (December 1979)

America had tolerated Soviet invasions previously (Czechoslovakia 1968) but this time they did not. The USA through the CIA armed the Mujahedeen to fight against the Soviets.

#### ***Consequences:***

- Effectively ended détente and worsened relations
- SALT II ratification suspended
- USA stopped exportation of grain to USSR

- USA gave military and economic aid to Mujahedeen rebels fighting Soviet troops
- Boycotting of 1980 Moscow Olympics
- USA began rearmament

### ***CARTER DOCTRINE***

In response to Afghanistan invasion Carter was appalled by the Soviet aggression and released a statement that became known as the '**Carter Doctrine**'. He stated the USA would:

- Not allow the USSR to gain control of the oil-rich Middle East.
- Take a number of immediate steps to try to remove Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

### ***THE RENEWED COLD WAR***

Reagan was elected as the new US president in January 1981. He was elected as he had a tough anti-communist stance; referring to the Soviet Union as 'that evil empire'. He believed that Carter had been too soft on the Soviets. Reagan had been a hard line anti-communist and believed détente caused USA to lose ground with USSR; called Soviet Union 'The Evil Empire'.

### ***THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE (SDI) AKA 'Star Wars'***

In 1983 US scientists began working in the SDI. This project was informally named 'Star Wars'. The aim was to prevent Soviet nuclear missiles from reaching US targets by creating a huge laser shield in space. If successful, SDI would mean USA wouldn't be victim of 'first strike'. It also created a 'gap' in the arms race and would mean an end to M.A.D. Clearly this caused increased tension between the Superpowers.

In 1982 meetings between the USA and USSR resumed under the banner of START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks). Reagan demanded huge cuts in Soviet nuclear capability. In response, the Soviets pulled out of the talks. Reagan's statements were very aggressive - this terrified the Soviets into thinking he was preparing the US to fight a war with them.

USA invaded Grenada to stop Communist government from taking control. As a result, the LA Olympics were boycotted by USSR and Communist countries because of Grenada invasion

"I urge you to beware the temptation of pride --the temptation of blithely declaring yourselves above it all and label both sides equally at fault, to ignore the facts of history and the aggressive impulses of an evil empire, to simply call the arms race a giant misunderstanding and thereby remove yourself from the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil".

**1983 'Evil Empire' Speech**



### Key Topic 3.2 Flashpoints Knowledge Check

- 1) What talks began in 1977?
- 2) What happened in April 1978?
- 3) Why did the Soviets invade Afghanistan?
- 4) Identify 2 consequences of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
- 5) Who supported the Mujahedeen?
- 6) Identify 2 points about the Carter Doctrine.
- 7) Who were the leaders of USSR and USA at this time during the Cold War
- 8) What did Reagan describe the USSR as?
- 9) What was SDI?
- 10) Why were the LA Olympics boycotted

### Key Topic 3.3 The collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe

#### *Gorbachev's new thinking 1985 (The beginning of the END)*

Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in March 1985. He inherited a poor economy because of the Soviet War in Afghanistan lasting 10 years. He wanted to improve living standards for those in the USSR. He pushed for reforms to change the USSR's government spending habits and allow a more open society. Gorbachev thought the best way to solve economic problems was to rebuild economy from scratch. He argued it was necessary for government to be more flexible and allow some private ownership of property and business. He introduced the twin policies of **Perestroika** (economic restructuring) and **Glasnost** (openness & free speech). Gorbachev wanted more openness to halt the constant falsification of government figures. The powers of the KGB (secret police) were limited and criticism of government was permitted

Gorbachev also understood that the Soviet economy was under immense pressure and the huge investment on military spending severely limited state support for its own people so he also wanted to change foreign policy

- Reduce defense spending
- Avoid danger of nuclear war
- Not to interfere with the running of countries outside Soviet Union
- Realised USSR was bankrupt and could not afford arms race with USA
- Withdrew Soviet troops from Afghanistan
- Reduced Soviet aid worldwide (previously the USSR supported communist countries worldwide through COMECON)
- Sought détente to reduce spending on defence and to be able to borrow money

"We are not abandoning our convictions, our philosophy or traditions, nor do we urge anyone to abandon theirs."  
(Gorbachev speaking in 1988)



#### *GORBACHEV and BUSH become friends.*

In 1985, Reagan invited President Bush to a meeting in Geneva. After discussing policy, Reagan invited Gorbachev to go with him to a beach house, which was strictly against rules. But Gorbachev went, and the two leaders spoke well over their time limit and came out with the news that they had planned more summits. They agreed on these things:

## **INF Treaty (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces).**

In 1987 Gorbachev signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with the USA, which banned all nuclear and conventional ballistic missiles that could travel between 500-5,000 miles. This was a revolutionary event, and signalled the end of the Cold War.

## **Malta Summit**

In December 1989 at the Malta Peace Summit between the new US President Bush and Gorbachev, Gorbachev said, "I assure the President of the United States that I will never start a hot war against the USA."

In 1989 Gorbachev ended the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and pulled out all remaining soldiers. He pressured the chancellor of East Germany (Honecker) to give more freedom to East Berliners, which eventually led in 1989 to the collapse of the Berlin Wall

The Warsaw Pact dissolved, and was replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), with Russian Republic as dominant member.

## ***THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION***

In 1990 the three Baltic states, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, declared independence from the Soviet Union - these were not just Soviet satellites; they had been part of the USSR itself.

### ***People were fed up with Gorbachev:***

- Felt he had done too little to stop the fall of communism in Eastern Europe - saw this as an act of weakness
- The economic reforms, perestroika, he had introduced had had no immediate effect: still food shortages and rising prices

Other Russians wanted the complete collapse of the communist system. In February 1990, 250,000 people demonstrated against the communists in Moscow. In the annual May Day parade in Moscow's Red Square, Gorbachev was booed!

In August 1991, hard-line communists led a coup against Gorbachev. They imprisoned him in his own dacha (country home) in the Crimea. To seemed as though the USSR was about to return to the bad old days, when reform movements were stamped out by the communists.

Boris Yeltsin wanted to destroy Soviet communism and led a demonstration against the coup. He insisted that reform had to continue in order for Russia to be saved. Yeltsin was seen as hero who would save Russia from a slide back into communism repression. He was also seen as the man with the power.

He formally ended the USSR in December 1991! Later in the same month, Gorbachev resigned as Soviet president (there was no longer a Soviet Union for him to be president for!). The communist red flag that flew over Kremlin was lowered for the last time.

### **Key Topic 3.3 The collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe Knowledge Check**

- 1) What were the two policies Gorbachev introduced?
- 2) What does Perestroika mean?
- 3) What does Glasnost mean?
- 4) Why did Gorbachav want to introduce his two new policies? Give two reasons.
- 5) Which three Baltic states declared themselves independent from the USSR in 1990?
- 6) Why did some people dislike Gorbachev?
- 7) What happened in February 1990?
- 8) What happened to Gorbachev in 1991?
- 9) What did Yeltsin do?
- 10) Who resigned Christmas Day 1991?



**Key Topic 3 Exam Questions:**

<b>Q1. 8 Marks</b>	<b>Q2. 8 Marks</b>	<b>Q3. 4 Marks (x2)</b>
<b>Explain two consequences of Gorbachev coming to power in the Soviet Union</b>	<b>Write a narrative account analysing the key events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the years 1989-91</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The impact of "new thinking"</li><li>• The fall of the Berlin Wall</li></ul>	<b>Explain the importance of SALT 1 for the development of the Cold War</b>
<b>Explain two consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.</b>	<b>Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kabul revolution</li><li>• Mujahedeen</li></ul>	<b>Explain the importance of the Helsinki Agreement for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union</b>
<b>Explain two consequences of SALT 1.</b>		<b>Explain the importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union</b>