

## Timeline

3 July 1945	France, Britain and the USA occupy parts of Berlin after the Second World War.
12 August 1945	USA drop the atomic bomb on Nagasaki.
5 March 1946	Winston Churchill makes his Iron Curtain speech declaring a divide in Europe.
12 March 1947	Harry Truman makes his Truman Doctrine speech.
1 April 1948	The Berlin Airlift starts.
1 October 1949	Mao Zedong proclaims the establishment of the People's Republic in China.
1961	The Berlin wall is built to divide East (Communist) and West (Capitalist) Germany.

## Key People

Harry Truman	President of the USA between 1945 and 1953. Truman announced his ambition to 'contain' the spread of Communism in 1947. He was committed to ensuring that Communism did not spread across the world.
Josef Stalin	Leader of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) between 1922 and 1953. Stalin was committed to strengthening Russia and spreading Communism to neighbouring countries such as Hungary. He supported Communist groups in China and Korea.
Mao Zedong	Leader of the Chinese Communist Party who won the civil war in 1949. Disagreed with Stalin over Communist policies in the 1960s.

## Key Terms

<b>Communism</b>	A political idea on how a country should be ran. This idea states that the people should have control of resources in society, like factories, mines, farms, etc. Also, It states that wealth should be divided.
<b>Capitalism</b>	A political idea on how a country should be ran. This idea states that companies should be ran to make a profit and owned by individuals rather than the people.
<b>Expansion</b>	The action of becoming larger or more extensive.
<b>USSR</b>	United Socialist Soviet Republics ; the name for Russia between 1922 and 1991.
<b>Arms Race</b>	A competition between countries to develop the largest and best military technology.
<b>Doctrine</b>	A belief or set of beliefs held by a political party. For example, the Truman Doctrine.
<b>Iron Curtain</b>	Refers to a speech by Winston Churchill in 1946 where he highlights the divide between East and Western Europe.
<b>Domino Theory</b>	The belief that if one country falls to communism then those around it will too.
<b>COMECON</b>	A nickname for the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. This was created by the USSR and aimed to support communist countries in Europe.
<b>Red Scare</b>	A period in the 1920s and 1950s in USA where the people feared Communism.



Europe had been divided by 1947.

## Key Events

### What was agreed at Yalta and Potsdam?

- At Yalta, Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed that Germany was going to be divided into four zones. Also, they agreed that countries would be free to have their own democratic elections.
- At Potsdam, Stalin, Truman and Attlee argued that Germany was to be divided into four zones, but they disagreed on free elections. Stalin was already trying to set up a communist government in Poland.

### What was the Nuclear Arms Race?

- At Potsdam, Truman informed Stalin that the USA had created an Atomic Bomb. Stalin was very suspicious of this.
- On August 6th 1946, the USA used an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. There were 100,000 deaths.
- On August 9th 1946, the USA used an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. There were over 50,000 deaths.
- The USSR developed their own atomic bomb by 1949.

### How did the Berlin Airlift increase tensions?

- Britain, France and the USA had joined their zones of Germany and Berlin together. Stalin decided to block their access to Berlin to starve the Germans,.
- The USA responded by flying supplies into Berlin, ignoring the blockade.
- Stalin was annoyed, but could not shoot them down as this might spark a war.

### How did the Marshall Plan increase tension?

- This was a US plan to support countries in Europe that had been devastated by the Second World War.
- The US planned to give these countries \$17 billion. This would make it harder for countries to turn to communism,.
- Stalin told communist countries to refuse this money. They were not allowed to apply for Marshall Aid.

### What impact did the Cold War have on the world?

- The USA and USSR supported Capitalism and Communism around the world and this led to civil war and crisis in countries such as Cuba, Korea and Vietnam.



### Trinity TV

For more help, visit Trinity TV and watch the following videos:

Trinity TV > Year 8 > History > KO > Term 6