

# Term 6: What caused tension to rise during the start of the Cold War?

Year 8

Term 6



## (1) Communism Vs Capitalism. Yalta & Postdam.

- After World War II the United States and the Soviet Union were the superpowers of the world. They became rivals as they each sought to prevent the other from gaining too much power. This became known as the Cold War.

**February 1945** The Yalta Conference takes place. It is agreed that Germany will be divided into four 'zones' that would be controlled by USA, USSR, Britain and France.

**Capitalism** 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 government.

**Communism** 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

## (2) Germany after 1945 and the Nuclear Arms Race

- Germany was divided along the Berlin Wall into East and West Germany.
- Life in East Germany was difficult with limited political freedom, few jobs and scarce housing. East Germany was controlled by the Communists.
- Life in West Germany was more comfortable with many jobs, good wages and political freedom.

**6th August 1945** USA used an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. There were 100,000 deaths.

**Arms Race** A competition between countries to develop the largest and best military technology. There was a nuclear arms race between the USSR and USA.

## (3) Berlin Blockade and the Truman Doctrine.

- Stalin decided to block Britain, France and Russia's access to Berlin in an attempt to gain control of Berlin.
- The Berlin Airlift:** The USA responded by flying supplies into Berlin.
- Truman Doctrine:** A policy that the United States would provide money and support to countries in need, to contain the spread of communism around the world.

**1st April 1948** The Berlin Airlift starts.

**Doctrine** A belief or set of beliefs held by a political party. For example, the Truman Doctrine.

## (4) NATO and Cold War Spies

- Spies were often used during the Cold War to find out information about the other.
- Oleg Gordievsky was a double agent. He was a Russian KGB agent but started spying for Britain.

**1949** NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was established. It stated that if one of the members was attacked, it be like attacking them all. Britain, France, USA and West Germany were all members.

**1955** The Warsaw Pact was created in response to NATO. They also agreed that if one of them was attacked, it would be like they were all attacked. It included the USSR and East Germany.

## (5) Cuban Missile Crisis and the Space Race

- The Cuban Missile Crisis was probably one of the most dangerous periods of the Cold War. For 13 days in October 1962, the world appeared to stand on the brink of nuclear war.
- Russia were the first person to put a man into space (Yuri Gagarin). However, USA were the first country to put man on the moon (Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong).



**1962** The Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Space Race** Period of competition between the Soviet Union and the United States over who could conquer space exploration first.

## (6) Berlin Wall and Proxy War

- 12th August 1961, Khrushchev, worried about the number of East Germans leaving decided to close the border. Overnight, the troops of East Berlin built a barbed wire fence around Berlin and between East and West Berlin.
- The Korean and Vietnam War were both proxy wars within the Cold War. The USSR backed communist North Korea and North Vietnam and the USA backed capitalist South Korea and South Vietnam.

**Berlin Wall** The barrier that surrounded West Berlin and prevented access to it from 1961 to 1989.

**Proxy War** A proxy war is a conflict that is instigated or supported by a superpower, that does not itself get openly involved in the war.



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