

Cold War

The origins of the Cold War

- Cold War: struggle between USA and USSR after WW2
- **Superpowers:** a country that dominates world affairs
- USA supported by the West and USSR supported by Soviets - divided the world into two
- Cold War was the clash between political and economic ideologies: Capitalism and Communism
- Called a Cold War because it never developed into a physical war

The end of WW2: why did the Cold War develop?

- 1917: mistrust developed between West and USSR after a communist government came to Russia
- During WW2: temporarily set aside differences because of the Nazi threat
- 1941: Britain, USSR, USA formed Grand Alliance; alliance was never truly stable

Yalta Conference (February 1945)

- Leaders of the Grand Alliance (Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill) met at Yalta
- Purpose: decide what to do about Germany and German controlled countries in Eastern Europe
- Agreement: Germany would be divided into **zones of occupation** (areas under the military control of the main countries that conquered Germany)
- Furthermore: countries in Eastern Europe should be able to hold free elections - determine what type of government they wanted

Potsdam Conference (July - August 1945)

- May 1945: Germany defeated - Grand Alliance broke up
- Tensions and suspicions between USSR and USA @ Potsdam

Changes that influenced leader relationships

- Soviet army controlled much of Eastern Europe
 - Stalin set up communist government in Poland (ignoring Polish wishes)
 - Roosevelt replaced by Truman: much more anti-communist and suspicious of Stalin
 - Americans developed and tested first atomic bomb
 - Churchill replaced by Attlee in general elections
- Key disagreement: what to do about Germany
 - Stalin: reparations for extensive damage caused to the USSR during WW2. Wanted to cripple Germany economy = inability to invade USSR
 - Truman: did not want to create a bitter and hostile Germany

- Final decision: 4 zones of occupation

Soviet Union	Eastern zone
USA, Britain, France	Western zones

- Berlin: divided into 4 sectors
- Germany would remain united; economically, superpowers should work in cooperation

The creation of spheres of influence

- **Spheres of influence:** area under the influence or control of a dominant country

The installation of Soviet-friendly governments in the satellite states

- Issue between former Allies: Western concern about Soviet control extension in Eastern Europe
- WW2: USSR annexed Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and eastern parts of Poland
- Soviet army presence ensured that Soviet-friendly governments came to power in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and East Germany
- Soviet-friendly governments: **Soviet satellites**
- Free elections did not take place
- 1948: communist coup in Czechoslovakia confirmed Western suspicions that USSR was trying to extend sphere of influence
- Perception to USA and Britain: USSR's main aim in joining Grand Alliance was to increase Soviet dominance in Eastern Europe
- Worry: communism would expand to the rest of Europe
- Churchill warned against the **iron curtain** dividing Europe
- **Iron curtain:** an imaginary dividing line between communist Eastern and non-communist Western Europe

The USA's policy of containment: the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan

- Concerns for Soviet expansion = radical change in American foreign policy
- Instead of **isolation**, turned to **containment**: policy after WW2 to contain the spread of communism

The Truman Doctrine

- Greece: civil war between communist led guerillas and Greek government
- Turkey: similar situation broke out
- USA believed USSR was supporting communists
- March 1947: Truman announced change in policy
- Announced USA was prepared to send money, military equipment, advice to **ANY** country that was threatened by communist takeover
- Truman Doctrine: basis of American policy during Cold War
- America sent aid to Greece and Turkey almost immediately to help them defeat communist guerillas

The Marshall Plan

- More than military aid was needed to contain communism
- Sent US Secretary of State (George Marshall) to Europe to investigate post-war situation
- Marshall: much of Europe destroyed and people suffering
- Result: plan for economic aid = Marshall Plan
- Aim: rebuild post war European economies and destroy conditions under which the appeal of communism would spread
- 1948-1952: US spent \$17 billion of Marshall aid to Western Europe
- Marshall Aid brought economic recovery in Western Europe

The Soviet Response to the Marshall Plan

- Stalin saw Marshall Plan as a form of **dollar diplomacy**: using economic and financial pressure to suit American interests
- Would not allow any Soviet satellites to accept
- Marshall Plan increased divisions between eastern and Western Europe
- 1947: Stalin set up Communist Information Bureau to coordinate the communist parties of Eastern Europe
- Used it to keep firm control of Soviet satellites
- 1949: Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Aid) formed by communist bloc dominated by USSR

The Berlin Crises (1948-1961)

- Crux of the tension in the Cold War
- Berlin: symbol of freedom behind Iron Curtain
- Different political systems introduced in each zone of occupation:

Soviet zones	• Communist dictatorship • Communist economic system - nationalised industry and set up state collective farms • Economic recovery slow - Government rejected American aid and USSR forced East Germans to pay reparations
Western zones	• Democratic elections held - different political parties formed • Free enterprise economic practices encouraged • Rapid economic recovery (Marshall Aid) • 1948: Western zones had united to form a single economic unit and introduced new currency

The Berlin Blockade and Airlift: 1948-49

- Western currency became dominant currency in Berlin; Soviet currency lost its value

- Stalin believed this was the West waging economic warfare
- June 1948: USSR closed all surface routes linking Berlin to the West
- **Berlin Blockade:** cut off citizens in West Berlin from supplies and contact with Western zones
- USSR sent generous rations into West Berlin - attempt to persuade citizens to agree to Soviet control
- West did not want to risk war by forcing USSR to lift blockade
- **Berlin Airlift:** supplied Western sectors by air with all requirements
- May 1949: Stalin called off blockade and land routes reopened
- Crisis created a tense balance between superpowers
- Berlin: flashpoint - a place where conflict or violence is likely to break out
- After crisis, Germany divided into two separate states:

May 1949	Western zones became German Federal Republic (Bonn - capital) Leader: Konrad Adenauer
October 1949	Soviet zone became German Democratic Republic (East Berlin - capital) Leader: Walter Ulbricht

- Allied aim = failed

Uprising in East Berlin: 1953

- Worker protests spread throughout East Germany
- Demanded greater political and economic freedom, union with West Germany and the end of communism ergo, the withdrawal of the Soviets
- Uprising crushed by Soviet army, Germans executed; others fled to the West
- **Result:** government introduced reforms and USSR allowed greater independence

Further tensions over Berlin: U2 spy plane incident (1958-60)

- 1958: Khrushchev demanded West hand over Berlin to East
- West did nothing; Khrushchev did not force them
- 1960: Khrushchev and Eisenhower planned to meet in Paris to discuss Berlin
- USSR cancelled meeting after American spy plane shot down while flying over USSR - plane had been photographing military installations
- US government initially strongly denied knowledge, but admitted involvement when presented with proof
- Eisenhower refused to apologise = Khrushchev stormed out of Paris meeting
- Increased tensions between superpowers; left Berlin unresolved

The building of the Berlin Wall: 1961

- After creation of East Germany, several East Germans fled to the West (highly skilled youth)
- The West posed a greater standard of living and freedom
- Challenge to Soviet expansion, ergo, wanted to stop the loss of people
- August 1961: East German authorities with Soviet backing built a wall to divide East and West Berlin
- Berlin Wall: fortified, high, with machine-gun posts and searchlights = stopped flow of refugees

Opposing military alliances: NATO and Warsaw Pact

- NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation): formed as a result of policy of containment
- Response: USSR formed Warsaw Treaty Organisation

The formation of NATO: 1949

- Berlin Blockade worried USA about USSR expansion of control
- Military strength of USSR was greater than combined Western forces
- Therefore, formed a military alliance = kept American soldiers readily for Soviet attacks
- **Result:** defence alliance NATO formed
- USA provided most weapons and forces; bases set up in Britain, Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey
- NATO: seen by the West as a form of protection against Soviet expansion and spread of communism
- USSR: saw NATO as an attempt to increase sphere of influence and attack Soviet Union
- Both superpowers determined to maintain spheres of influence
- 1966: de Gaulle withdrew French forces from NATO - wanted independent nuclear weapons programme and foreign policy
- NATO HQ moved to Belgium
- 1955: CENTO (Central Treaty Organisation) formed in Middle East. Included pro- Western states.

The formation of the Warsaw Pact: 1955

- Eastern European satellites made up organisation
- Immediate cause: West decision to allow West Germany to join NATO (1955)
- Fear: could lead to military growth
- Warsaw Pact agreement: Soviet troops remained in most Warsaw Pact countries
- West perception: means of maintaining control over East Europe
- Problems: Warsaw Pact members threatened to withdraw (Hungary in 1956)
- USSR used army to crush resistance. Also used soldiers from other countries to regain control of Czechoslovakia (1968)
- **Brezhnev Doctrine:** basis of Soviet foreign policy, giving USSR the right to intervene in the satellite states
- Thus, Soviet bloc = socialist one-party state belonging to Warsaw Pact

Competition between opposing military alliances

- **Arms race:** competition to build up armed forces
- US was the only country with technology to build nuclear weapons = clear advantage
- USSR caught up eventually
- Caused tension: both sides had ability to start nuclear warfare
- **MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction):** concept that knowing each side had the power to start nuclear warfare would be enough to stop the other side from attacking first
- Drained the economies
- **SALT (Strategic Arms Limitations Talks):** 1960's talks to reduce arms race
- SALT 1 agreement: 1972 - slowed down arms race
- **Space race:** competition over space technology
- 1957: USSR launched first satellite into space (Sputnik)
- 1961: USSR sent Yuri Gagarin to space
- USSR first country to send a woman into space: Valentina Tereshkova
- 1969: US landed Neil Armstrong on the moon
- Superpowers tried to protect spheres of influence through espionage
- CIA and KGB built huge networks of spies to learn secret information from other side
- Propaganda to convince their citizens that their ideology was right
- Furthermore, used popular culture and sport

The Cuban Missile Crisis: Containment and Brinkmanship

- Crisis that came closest to war between the superpowers
- Developed after communist revolution in Cuba = gave USSR an ally uncomfortably close to the USA
- **Brinkmanship:** trying to gain advantage by seeing how far you could push your opponent
- Wanted to push each other to the point of declaring open warfare

The Cuban Revolution

- American companies controlled much of the economic wealth of the country
- Cubans lived in extreme poverty (illiteracy, shortage of skilled labour)
- 1952: Batista seized power and abolished the constitution, closed parliament and brutally suppressed all opposition
- His government had support from army, large land owners and wealthy people and USA
- Fidel Castro: led group of revolutionaries and overthrew Batista
- January 1959: Fidel Castro welcomed by huge demonstrations

American response to the Cuban Revolution

- US suspicious of government under Castro: started introducing socialist reforms (redistribution of land, collectivisation, nationalisation)
- These reforms affected American investors
- USA response: ban Cuban sugar imports to America and breaking off diplomatic relations with Cuba
- Expectation: force Cuba to change policies

- USA became more hostile = Castro started negotiations with USSR
- US became convinced that Castro regime was communist
- Fear: communist country so close to the US and Cuba was being used to spread sphere of influence through central and South America
- Americans started secretly planning to invade Cuba and overthrow Castro
- Armed forces one middle class exiles from Cuba, with CIA backing, invaded Cuba
- April 1961: landed at Bay of Pigs
- Attempt = failure
- Castro's forces easily defeated them, either killing them or taking them as prisoners
- USA publicly embarrassed
- Castro then announced he was communist, readily turning to USSR for diplomatic and economic support

The Cuban Missile Crisis: 1962

- Castro allowed USSR to build missile bases
- USSR thought it was appropriate given that NATO had missile basis in Turkey
- October 1962: American spy plane photographed the missile bases
- Created alarm in Washington = each major US city would be in range of missiles
- Kennedy wanted to avoid confrontation therefore ordered a **naval blockade** (using ships to surround an area to cut off movement and trade) to prevent Russian missiles from reaching Cuba
- Soviet ships turned back once they reached the blockade
- Khrushchev unwilling to risk war and prepared to negotiate
- Superpowers reached agreement: USSR would dismantle the missile bases, USA lift the blockade and guarantee not to invade Cuba
- USA would also remove missile bases in Turkey
- Cuban Missile Crisis: brinkmanship - neither superpower willing to risk nuclear war
- Hotline set up between Kremlin and White House - to be used if a similar crisis developed
- Nuclear test ban also signed

Who was to blame for the Cold War

Soviet view	- Blamed US for starting the war: - West did not understand USSR was trying to ensure security against future invasion: Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe = defensive not expansionist - USSR suffered in WW2. Needed to ensure it would not happen again
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Western view	- Blamed Stalin for the start of the war - Stalin set out to conquer as much territory as possible - Wanted to increase USSR sphere of influence, prepared to use force - Satellite states became one-party socialist states - Forced West to adapt to policy of containment to prevent further spread of communism

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