

History 9.6 – How Cold were international relations between 1945 and 1991?

What was the Cold War?

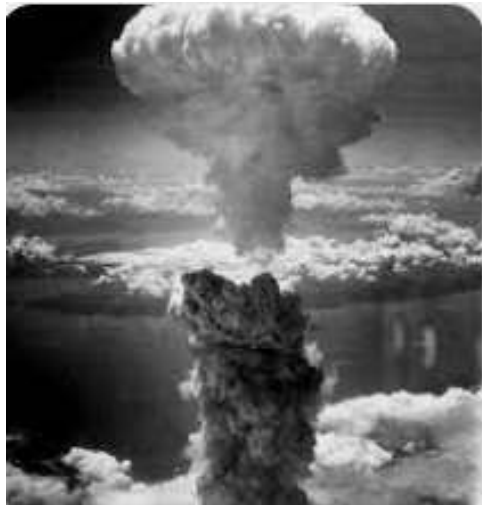
- After WWII the USA and the USSR (Russia) no longer had a common enemy that tied them together. The two countries were so different and both wanted to be the global **superpower**.
- The USSR was **communist** and the USA was **capitalist**. Two political systems that were directly opposed to each other.
- From 1945-91 the two countries were involved in a cold war – this means there was no direct fighting, but huge tension and **proxy war** (indirect fighting, involving other countries)



Capitalism	Communism
Governments are chosen by democratic elections	One-party state with no democratic elections
Individuals rights and freedoms are important	Obedience to the state is the main priority
Freedom of speech and freedom of press	Censorship and state-controlled media
People are free to set up private businesses and make money for themselves	All businesses and factories are controlled by the state

Key events	
Year	What happened
1945	Atomic bombs dropped on Japan ending WWII. It is warning from the USA to the rest of the world.
1949	NATO formed. This is an alliance of European countries and the USA who have sworn to protect each other
1955	Warsaw Pact formed. This is in response to NATO. Communist countries like the USSR and Poland promise to help each other.
1961	Cuban Missile Crisis- The USSR put Nuclear missiles on Cuba that are pointed at the USA. This is in response to American weapons pointed at the USSR. This is the closest the world came to a nuclear war.
1989-1991	The Berlin Wall is taken down and the city unified. In the following two years the Warsaw Pact and then the USSR break up and it ends Communism in Europe and the Cold War

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Is the enemy of my enemy my friend? Potsdam and Yalta conferences.

- **Yalta** - USSR would enter the war against Japan.
- **Yalta** - Germany to be split into 4 zones of occupation.
- **Yalta** - USA, Britain and the USSR to join the United Nations.
- **Yalta** - Free elections to take place in Eastern European countries occupied by Soviet forces.
- **Yalta** - Stalin wants to take more from Germany in reparations than the other allied countries.
- **Potsdam** - Communist government already established in Poland.
- **Potsdam** - USA had tested the atomic bomb at the start of the conference.
- **Potsdam** - Berlin to be divided into 4 zones of occupation.
- **Potsdam** - Stalin given free reign to take what he wanted in reparations from the Soviet controlled sector of Germany.

The Atomic Age

- Atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force a Japanese surrender in WW2.
- The unprovoked Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and the murder of American prisoners of war was used by President Truman to justify the dropping of these bombs.
- There were around 100,000 to 180,000 casualties caused at Hiroshima.
- It is estimated that around 35,000 people were killed at Nagasaki.
- Flash burns and radiation sickness accounted for around half the casualties.
- Many injuries at both locations would have been caused by falling and flying debris.



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Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan

- Truman gave a speech in 1947 which became known as the 'Truman Doctrine'
- He pledged support to European countries to stop the spread of communism.
- Truman promised \$400 million to Greece and Turkey for economic and military aid.
- The Marshall Plan followed in 1948. General George Marshall visited European countries to see what support they needed for their recovery after WWII.
- The Marshall plan was a system where countries could apply for loans from America.
- The USA believed that countries were less likely to turn toward communism if their economy was improved.
- Around £13 billion was given out to Europe in grants and loans under the Marshall Plan.
- Stalin did not allow any of the Eastern European countries under his influence to accept Marshall aid.



The Berlin Crisis and Airlift

- **Trizonia** – Britain, France and the USA agree to merge their sectors of Berlin together. Stalin saw this as being against the agreements of Yalta and Potsdam.
- **Blockade** – In June 1948 Soviet troops set up roadblocks, closed railways and blocked canals preventing the USA, Britain and France getting supplies to Berlin.
- **Shortages** – As a result of the blockade, the allied sections of Berlin only had enough food for 36 days.
- **Airlift** – Berlin could only be accessed by air. For 11 months the allies flew supplies into Berlin. It became so efficient that a plane would land in Berlin airport with supplies every minute. The airlift lasted for 11 months.
- **Cost** – The Berlin airlift cost Britain around £17 million and the USA \$360 million. 79 pilots lost their lives in this process.
- **Consequences** – Britain, France and USA progressed with the idea of Trizonia and West Germany was formed in April 1949. NATO was also created to protect capitalist countries from the threat of communism. Stalin called off the blockade in May 1949.



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The Berlin wall

- **Defection** - by 1958 3 million people had left East Berlin for a new life in the west. Khrushchev was humiliated by this and was concerned by the harm it was causing the East German economy.
- **Ultimatum** - In 1958 Khrushchev gave an ultimatum to the western powers, demanding that they leave Berlin within 6 months. This ultimatum was refused.
- **Resolution** - Attempts were made to resolve the crisis in Berlin but these collapsed in 1960 after a US spy plane was shot down by Soviet forces.
- **Brain Drain** - Skilled and educated East Berliners continued to move to the west. 40,000 people left East Berlin in one day alone in August 1961.
- **The Wall** - On the 13th August 1961 the border between East and West Berlin was closed. Orders were given to shoot anyone who tried to leave the Soviet sector without permission. The wall began as barbed wire but this was quickly replaced by a brick and concrete wall.
- **Impact** - People still tried to escape to the West but at huge risk. 130 people were killed trying to cross from East to West between 1961 and 1989. The wall was symbolic of the differences that existed between the Capitalist West and Communist East.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

- **Bay of pigs** - Tension existed between the USA and Cuba since a failed invasion to replace Fidel Castro happened in 1961. Cuba developed closer relations with the UUSSR after this.
- **USSR arms Cuba** - in September 1961 Khrushchev agreed to supply Cuba with weapons so that could protect themselves from the USA.
- **Missile Sites** - In September 1962 a USA spy plane took pictures of nuclear missile sites being prepared in Cuba.
- **Quarantine** - After debating several options the USA's response was to cut off Cuba with a blockade of US Navy ships. They checked all ships coming into Cuba for weapons.
- **Tension** - In October Soviet ships approached the blockade carrying missiles. If they refused to stop at the blockade nuclear war might break out.
- **Agreement** - The crisis was resolved when the USA agreed to remove their nuclear missiles in the USSR agreed to remove theirs from Cuba. A hotline was established between the USA and the USSR to improve communication and avoid a crisis in the future.

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The Korean War 1950-53

- **China** – Had become a communist country in 1949. The USA believed that communism might spread to other Asian countries. This was known as the Domino Theory.
- **Divide** – Korea had been divided into a communist north lead by Kim Il Sung and a non-communist South lead by Syngman Rhee.
- **Invasion** – June 1950, The North Korean People's Army advance into South Korea
- **USA'S Response** – USA send troops into South Korea to prevent a communist take over. They appeal to the UN for assistance
- **Roll Back** – UN force lead by Douglas MacArthur push the North Korean army back and advance into North Korea near the Chinese border.
- **Chinese intervention** – China invaded North Korea in October 1950 and push the UN back into South Korea. MacArthur wants to use atomic weapons against China but is refused.
- **Stalemate** – The war continues until 1953 until an armistice was signed. North Korea remained communist and South Korea remained non-communist.

The Vietnam War

Causes

- Ho Chi Minh and the NLF want to unite Vietnam
- Domino Theory
- Gulf of Tonkin incident - USA believes they have come under attack

Events

- Guerrilla Tactics of the Vietcong
- US response to guerrilla tactics, Agent Orange, search and destroy, My Lai massacre.
- Role of media in changing attitudes towards the war, especially during the Tet offensive.

Consequences

- The fall of Saigon
- Spread of communism in South East Asia.

Cold War thaws in the 1970s

- **SALT I** – Agreements to reduce the amount of nuclear weapons
- **Cooperation** – US and USSR Space mission
- **Agreement** – The Helsinki accords, agreements reached about security, borders and human rights.
- **SALT II** – Further attempts to reduce nuclear weapon capacity.



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The end of Détente - The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

- **March 1978** - A Pro Soviet Afghan army officers establish a communist government in Afghanistan.
- **March 1979** - Islamic revolution in Iran prompts Soviet fears of a similar revolution in Afghanistan. Islamic warriors, the Mujahidin, start to fight the Afghan Army.
- **September 1979** - Hafizullah Amin is the new leader of Afghanistan and appeals to Soviet leader Brezhnev to help fight against the Mujahidin.
- **December 1979** - Soviet forces invade Afghanistan to ensure the security of a communist government.
- **January 1980** - USA launch the 'Carter Doctrine'. This involved trade sanctions towards the USSR and gave military assistance the Mujahidin.
- **1980-1989** - Fighting rages in Afghanistan. The Soviets were unable to defeat the Mujahidin thanks to military assistance from the USA and Saudi Arabia (\$600 million every year).
- **Impact** - 15,000 Soviet soldiers died and 55,000 wounded. 1 million Afghan civilians dies in the conflict.

The End of the Cold War

- **Gorbachev's new policies** - Glasnost and Perestroika. This leads to more freedom in the media, greater freedom on expression and a more capitalist approach to trade in the USSR.
- **Ronal Regan and Gorbachev** - INF agreement to remove nuclear weapons from Europe. Regan says that the USSR is no longer the evil empire.
- **Hungary** - Opens its border with non-communist countries, many East Germans travel to the West through Hungary.
- **Poland** - Demand free elections and install their first non-communist leader since the Second World War.
- **Berlin** - The Berlin wall is brought down in November 1989 following an announcement that citizens of the GDR would be free to cross the border into West Germany.
- **Unification** - Germany was formally reunited in October 1990.
- **End of the USSR** - Following a failed coup to replace Gorbachev, the Soviet leader formally announces the end of the USSR in December 1991.

