

KEY TERMS

Soviet Union	Short for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The republics were Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and several smaller countries. They were ruled over from Moscow.
Ideology	A set of shared beliefs. In 1941, the USA and the Soviet Union had different ideologies concerning how a country should be governed and how society should work.
Capitalism	Capitalists believe that everyone should be free to own property and businesses and make money. The USA's economic ideology was capitalist.
Communism	Communists believed that all property should belong to the state, to ensure that every member of society has a fair share. The Soviet Union was communist.
Democracy	A political system in which countries leaders are chosen through free elections. Both the USA and the Soviet Union said they were democracies but the Stalin believed elections had to lead to a communist government only the Communist Party represented the working class.
Satellite States	A nation that was once independent but is now under the control of another. In the Cold War this term is usually used to describe nations under the control of the Soviet Union.
Colonialism	Economic, Political and cultural control of another country.
Reparations	Payments in money or goods, after a war, from the losing country to the victors. Reparations are compensation for loss of life and damage to land.
London Poles	A group of politicians who left Poland after the German invasion in 1939 and formed a government-in-exile first in Paris then in London.
Veto	Forbid or refuse. Permanent members of the US security council can stop resolution being passed with a single 'no' vote, even if all the other members think it should be passed.
Isolationism	Staying apart, not getting involved in the affairs of others. The USA followed a policy of isolationism after the First World War. It was forced to abandon this policy in 1941 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbour. In 1945 many Americans hoped they would return to this.
Containment	Limited the spread of something. In US foreign policy 'containment' meant preventing the spread of communism outside of a small number of countries.

Cold War Background

- **Grand Alliance** of USA, USSR, Britain and France in WW2 to defeat Nazi Germany. As the Second World War wound down conferences were called to decide what the victors should do after the war.
- There were three main **conferences**: Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam.
- **Tehran** – The USA and Britain agreed to open a second front to take pressure off the Eastern Front. Stalin would declare war on Japan and supply troops to fight Japan once the fighting in Europe had finished. They discussed how Europe would be split after the end of the war. They agreed that Germany should be kept weak after the war. They also agreed that an international organization should be set up post war.
- **Yalta** - They agreed that Germany would be split into four parts, the USA, Britain, France and the Soviet Union, would each take a part. Germany would pay \$20 billion in reparations. The USSR agreed to join the war against Japan 3 months after victory in Europe. There would be free elections in all Eastern European countries. The borders of Poland and the Soviet Union would return to those of 1921 which favoured the USSR.
- **Potsdam** - Roosevelt had died and had been replaced by Harry S. Truman. Clement Attlee had replaced Churchill as prime minister. Germany had surrendered by this point. The atomic bomb was being successfully tested as the conference went on. Though Germany would be split into 4 its economy would remain as one. Berlin would be split in four even though it was in Soviet land.

Increasing Tension

- **Long and Novikov Telegrams 1946** -USA and USSR used their ambassadors to secretly report on the other country. Both reported fears that their opponents were building up their armies.
- **Truman Doctrine 1947**—President Truman declared that he feared the spread of communism and said it was a threat to freedom- the USA had the right to use its military and economy to fight the spread of communism
- **Marshall Plan 1947** •USA offered \$13 billion of aid to Europe to stop poverty leading to communism. This upset the USSR who thought USA was trying to bribe its satellite states
- **Iron Curtain Speech 1947**- Churchill declared Europe was divided into two spheres
- **Cominform/Comecon** • In response to the Marshall Plan the USSR united all communist parties together from satellite states - **Cominform**. Also tried to tie all satellite states together economically- **Comecon**.

KEY DATES

Sept 1939	Second World War breaks out in Europe
1943	Tehran peace conference takes place.
Feb 1945	The Yalta Peace conference takes place
July 1945	Potsdam conference happens
Aug 1945	Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Sep 1945	End of the Second World War
1946	Winston Churchill made his Iron Curtain
1946	Long Telegram and the Novikov telegram sent.
1947	Truman Doctrine and Marshall plan were
1947	The Cominform was created

The Berlin Blockade (1947-1948) and its consequences:

- USSR worried the Western allies were trying to unite West Germany into Trizonia.
- Blocked all road, rail and canal access to force them out of West Berlin
- USA kept West Berlin supplies through a huge airlift of supplies for 11 months.
- USSR eventually backed down. Couldn't shoot down planes as would be act of war.
- FRG and GDR- Germany became officially divided into 2 different countries
- FRG in West and GDR in East.
- Berlin also official split.
- NATO- USA and Western European military alliance against USSR
- Warsaw Pact- USSR responded to NATO by creating own military alliance of satellite states in Eastern Europe

KEY DATES

1948	The Berlin Crisis led to the division of Germany
1949	Comecon and NATO were established.
Aug 1949	The first successful Soviet atom bomb test.
1955	The Warsaw Pact was formed.

USSR

Chairman Stalin 1922-53



USA

President Roosevelt 193-1945



USA

President Truman 1945-53



Great Britain

PM Churchill 1939-45, 1951-55



Great Britain

PM Atlee 1945-51

