

FACT SHEET: Lesson 8 – The creation of NATO (1949) and the Warsaw Pact (1955)

The Background:

By the end of the Berlin Crisis in 1949, it was clear that the relationship between the USA and the Soviet Union was becoming even more tense. America were concerned about the threatening actions of the Soviet Union, such as the Berlin Blockade. The Soviet Union believed that America were wanting to gain power and influence in Europe. There was a **clear divide** in the beliefs of the West and East. The **political difference** was the belief in **Capitalism** and **Communism**. On a map, there was now a clear **geographical divide** between the two sides in Germany with the official creation of **West Germany/Berlin** and **East Germany/Berlin**. By the end of 1949, there was to be one more divide between the two sides – a **military divide**. America and its allies (friends) created a military organisation called **NATO**. The Soviet Union in response created a similar military organisation called the **Warsaw Pact** by 1955.



NATO (1949)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation



Why was NATO created in October 1948?

- America and its allies believed that Stalin and communism were becoming an even greater threat. Stalin had attempted to gain control of Berlin with the Berlin Blockade. This was not successful but showed his intention of spreading communism further in Europe.
- However, also in 1948, the Soviet Union were successful in taking over Czechoslovakia. They put a communist government in place there. The western powers believed they needed to protect themselves from the communist, Soviet threat.

What was NATO?

- For this reason, the USA persuaded other western powers that they needed a formal military alliance to protect themselves from the Soviet Union.
- In April 1949, the USA, France, Britain and 9 other western countries joined together in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation – N.A.T.O.. They agreed that if any of the NATO members were attacked, all of the other members would help.

The Consequences of NATO

- The creation of NATO meant that American troops would continue to be present in Europe after the Second World War. American troops could be called upon at short notice to help European countries fight against the communist threat.

A further turning point

- By 1955, it was agreed by all members of NATO that West Germany could join the organisation as it was then strong enough to offer help if needed elsewhere. This led to the Soviet Union creating their own military alliance in response.

The Soviet Perspective

- Stalin simply saw this as more evidence of America trying to show their strength and influence in Europe. The Soviet Union would see the NATO organisation as a threat towards communism.

The Warsaw Pact (1955)



Why was The Warsaw Pact created in 1955?

- The Soviet Union believed by this point that they needed to respond to the creation of NATO and form their own military alliance. In 1955, NATO made the big step of allowing newly created West Germany to be a member.
- The Soviet Union were unhappy with this as it would mean American and other European troops being stationed on the border of the Soviet Union – to close for comfort! Within a week of West Germany joining NATO, The Soviet Union created their own version of the military alliance between communist countries. This was known as **The Warsaw Pact**.

What was The Warsaw Pact?

- It was created by the Soviet Union in May 1955. Its members were the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and East Germany.
- All of these countries became known as the 'Eastern Bloc'. These countries promised to help each other if another member was attacked.

The Consequences of The Warsaw Pact

- It was now clear that Europe was divided into two. One half was part of the NATO military alliance and worked together to stop the spread of communism and strengthen capitalism and democracy. The other half was under the control of the Warsaw Pact and worked to expand the influence of communism.
- There was now a real fear that Europe could end up in war so soon after the end of World War Two. Having a political set of differences was one worry, but now each side essentially had an army, it created even more fear of another war.

The perspective of the western powers

Other NATO powers saw the creation of the Warsaw Pact as another threat. Now there were two opposing military alliances in Europe and any small disagreement could lead to war between the two sides.

FACT SHEET: Lesson 9 – The importance of the Arms Race during the 1950s.



The Background:

By the 1950s, there was a very clear divide in Europe. Germany had been officially split into East Germany and West Germany after the events of the Berlin Blockade and Berlin Airlift. Berlin itself was split into 'east' and 'west'. As a consequence of the increasing tension between the USA and the Soviet Union, the two sides created their own military alliance with NATO in 1949 and then following West Germany's membership of NATO, the Soviet Union formed their own military alliance in 1955. Throughout this time, it was not just two military alliances that were being created. There was a build up and competition between the USA and the Soviet Union for nuclear superiority. The 1950s would be the start of the Arms Race, where both sides competes to develop and test bigger and more powerful nuclear weapons.

Two new superpower leaders:

- ☐ The USA elected a new President in 1953: **President Eisenhower.**
- ☐ Stalin died in 1952. After short term, temporary leaders, **Nikita Khrushchev** became the next key Soviet leader in 1956.

Status and Pride

This competition to develop even bigger nuclear weapons became known as the arms race. Both countries had huge numbers of 'conventional' (normal) weapons which had been used in previous wars. However, the world saw the impact of the first atomic bomb on Japan and knew that nuclear weapons would be another way to give status and power to a country.

Propaganda Opportunity

The USA and the Soviet Union both knew that the country to develop the most powerful nuclear weapon, could promote this to their own people and around the world. It would be the perfect way to prove that their country was the best. It would also be a way to prove that either capitalism or communism was the most successful way to run a country.

The Cost of the Arms Race

The development of nuclear weapons meant both countries spending huge amounts of money. It was important that they stay ahead of each other to claim a victory in the arms race.

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

It was believed that from the early 1950s, both countries had such powerful nuclear weapons that the bombs could have destroyed the world many times over. This meant that the risk of starting a war would have extreme consequences.

A potential chance of peace?

The new Soviet leader from 1956, Khrushchev, openly criticised the policies and ideas of Joseph Stalin in his opening speech. He suggested there would be more peace between the USA and the Soviet Union if either side stopped being so hostile towards each other. He believed that both countries could 'peacefully coexist' with each other. This gave **hope** around the world of peace and an end to the Cold War.

Other reasons to hope for peace

The war in **Korea** between the North (supported by the Soviet Union) and the South (supported by the USA) had ended. Both countries were spending so much **money** on the arms race, they knew this competition had to come to an end at some point. A **meeting of both sides in Austria in 1955** went peacefully and both America and the Soviet Union co-operated with each other, despite not agreeing on a final outcome for how to help Austria.

1. America were the first to create an atomic bomb. This was used on Japan to end the Second World War in 1945

2. Stalin was keen for the Soviet Union to make their own and this was achieved by 1949.

3. In response, America then developed an even more powerful **hydrogen bomb in 1952** which was 1,000 more powerful than the atom bomb.

4. In 1953, the Soviet Union now also developed and tested a hydrogen bomb.

5. Then in June 1957, the USA developed **ICBM Inter-continental ballistic missiles** which could fire a nuclear bomb **4,500km away**. This was enough distance to reach the Soviet Union.

6. The Soviet Union then had their own ICBM by August 1957. This meant they too, could potentially target the USA mainland from the Soviet Union.

Weapons as a deterrent

Both sides and the rest of the world could see that there were huge risks with conflict. Rather than developing weapons to win a war, the tactic changed to using nuclear weapons as a deterrent. A deterrent is a force that prevents something from happening. A country would be deterred from using their own weapons as the consequence of a nuclear attack would be even worse.

1955 An end for peace

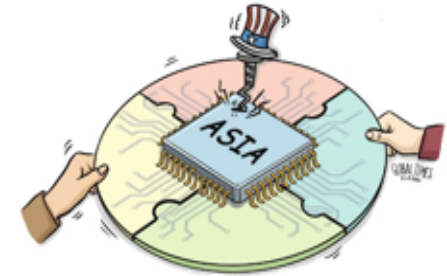
However, by the end of 1955, West Germany had been allowed to join NATO and this made the Soviet Union angry with the west. The potential peace between the two sides had gone, when the Soviet Union then formed the Warsaw Pact.

FACT SHEET: Lesson 9 – The Cold War in Asia.

The Background: Following WWII, the USSR was in desperate need of further allies outside of eastern Europe. They were able to take this opportunity in 1949 when China became a communist country following a revolution. The USA were unable to prevent this from happening as they were too focussed on containing communism in Europe.

- **Chairman Mao** became the leader of the new People's Republic of China (PRC)
- The old, nationalist leader **Chiang Kai Shek** being exiled to the island of Taiwan.

The USA now had a new objective in the 1950's, the containment of communism in Asia.



Soviet relationship with the PRC

- Whilst the USA pumped millions of dollars into Asian countries like Taiwan and Japan, the USSR became closer with China
- The USSR were one of the only countries to recognise the PRC as the official Chinese country and fought for Chairman Mao to have a seat in the UN.
- 1950 Treaty of Friendship: \$300 million aid to China as well as questionable advice from the USSR to China which seemed to benefit them more than China itself.

Origins of conflict in Korea

- Following WWII, Korea became no longer controlled by Japan. The UN agreed that Korea would be divided along the 38th parallel with the northern zone being controlled by the USSR and the south by the USA
- Elections were supposed to occur in 1948 but the USSR refused to allow them to take place. Korea remained divided.
- The North was controlled by communist Kim Il-Sung with the South controlled by US backed Syngman Rhee
- In March 1949 the North asked Stalin to support an invasion of South Korea. He initially refused but by 1950 the situation had changed after the USSR had tested its own nuclear bomb. Stalin agreed to the invasion and the Korean War began.

The Korean War

- The USA asked the UN to call for a ceasefire. The USSR would usually be able to veto this but were boycotting the UN by not taking their seat.
- Eventually, the UN sent an army of mostly American and British troops under the leadership of General MacArthur.
- After initial success of the UN pushing the North right up to the border of China, Chairman Mao sent 200,000 of his troops to push the UN back.
- Eventually, there was stalemate with neither side winning. General MacArthur was dismissed after suggesting the use of nuclear weapons against China. The war ended with a ceasefire in 1953.

Origins of conflict in Vietnam: Following the USA's perceived success of containing communism to only the north of Korea, they felt more confident to get involved with other Asian countries at risk of turning communist. Vietnam became the next country.

- USA felt that if Vietnam fell to communism a "domino" effect would occur with neighbouring countries following suit. This was called the domino theory and convinced the USA to intervene heavily in Vietnam.
- Vietnamese nationalist Ho Chi Minh fought against the French to gain independence after WWII. His Vietminh/Vietcong began to be supplied by communist China and won independence from France in the 1954.
- The country was split in 2, north and south. North was led by Ho Chi Minh with the South led by Ngo Diem

Escalation of conflict in Vietnam: It took a while for USA to become entirely involved in Vietnam.

- 1955-1962: Leader of the south Diem became increasingly corrupt, persecuting non-Catholics and communists. Support grew for the Vietminh who were now communist and fully supported by China.
- 1963: As conflict escalated, the USA began sending military advisors to help the south. They began to grow frustrated with Diem Diem who grew more incompetent and corrupt.
- 1964: Captains of the USS Maddox and USS Joy reported they were being attacked by North Vietnamese ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. Despite later reports proving this may have been false, President Johnson gains power from Congress for a full military operation in Vietnam.
- 1965: Operation Rolling Thunder begins. By the end of 1965 there were nearly 200,000 US troops in Vietnam.

Consequences:

- USA found themselves appearing as an aggressive power invading a small, irrelevant country in Southeast Asia
- USA found themselves in an unwinnable war. They were no closer to winning by the 1970's and the public support for the war was dreadfully low.
- Communist feelings in Asia increased as a result of the conflict and actions of Diem Diem. However, few other countries fell to communism.
- The USA generally managed to contain communism in only China, North Korea and North Vietnam.
- By the late 1960's, as USA were finding the Cold War financially difficult, they began looking for ways out of the Vietnam War. They backed out entirely by 1973.

FACT SHEET: lesson 10 - The events and consequences of the Hungarian Uprising in 1956.

The Background:

A key Soviet satellite country was **Hungary**. By **1949**, the country had voted in a **Communist government**. The elections that had been held were **not fair**. Voters were **intimidated** on their way to vote and the Soviet Union spent huge amounts of money on propaganda. The Communist Party were the **only political party allowed** in Hungary. This meant that the Hungarian people were living under a **dictatorship**. It was no surprise that many Hungarian people wanted to take action to remove the influence of the Soviet Union. By **1956**, they had attempted this in an **uprising**. However, this **failed** and their actions ultimately led to even **greater control and restrictions** in every Soviet controlled country in Eastern Europe.



1. Why were the Hungarian unhappy?

- They complained about their **lack of freedom** under a Communist system.
- They **could not vote**. There was no **freedom** to say what they felt in newspapers/press.
- There were **fuel and food shortages** due to poor harvests and many resources being taken by Russia.
- The Hungarian communist leader was brutal and the Hungarian people called him the **'Bald Butcher'** for how cruel he was to anybody who opposed him.

2. What did they do?

- The Hungarian people **protested** in capital city **Budapest**.
- They tore down a **statue of Stalin** to show the hatred of Communism.
- This worried the Soviet Union as they wanted to control the people in their satellite states.

3. How did the Soviets respond?

- The new Soviet leader Khrushchev sent in the **Red Army** (Soviet troops) with tanks to **stop the riots**.
- Khrushchev tried to please the Hungarians by giving them a new leader called **Imre Nagy**.
- Nagy was **still a communist** but would allow the Hungarian people **more freedom**. Khrushchev believed this would keep the Hungarians happy and stop any future protests.

4. How did Nagy help?

He wanted **voting and democratic elections** in Hungary rather than a dictatorship. He asked for **political prisoners to be freed**. He asked Khrushchev to **remove Soviet Troops** from Hungary.

5. Khrushchev's reaction?

- Khrushchev was happy for these changes to happen, as long as the people of Hungary remained calm and did not start to rebel again.
- Khrushchev also made sure that Hungary joined the **Warsaw Pact**. This way, the Soviet Union could take action quickly to stop any rebellions.

6. How did things change by 1956?

In **November 1956**, Nagy went further and told the Soviet Union that it would **leave the Warsaw Pact**. Khrushchev was not pleased. If Hungary left the military alliance, other countries might do the same. This would ruin the power of the Soviet Union. This threat to **leave the Warsaw Pact** led to the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

10. What were the longer term consequences of the Soviet Invasion of Hungary?

- Khrushchev seemed **more powerful** now he had shown other Soviet satellite states what he was prepared to do if they protested against Communist rule.
- A new, stronger and more Communist leader was appointed in Hungary to control the people even more.
- It showed other Eastern European states that the **USA** was not willing to help them. This made Khrushchev even more confident.
- The only way America helped was by taking in **80,000 refugees** from Hungary and offering medical aid.
- Khrushchev could now be even **more aggressive** in Eastern Europe as he knew the USA would not want to start a war against the Soviet Union.
- It made the **USA look weak** as they had not been prepared to support Hungary by sending in troops.
- Overall, it made the Soviet Union look strong and the USA look weak.**

9. Short term consequences of the Hungarian Uprising.

- The Hungarian Uprising **failed**. Hungary was taken over again by force by the Soviet **Red Army with 20,000 troops**. The Hungarians asked for help from the **America** but no support came.
- The Soviet Red Army were brutal and **20,000 Hungarians** were killed in the uprising.
- Over **1,000 Russian troops** were killed by the Hungarians.
- Imre Nagy** and several of his supporters were **executed**.
- Khrushchev announced that Nagy's death was 'a **lesson to the leaders of all Communist countries**'. He sent out a **threat** to other countries who threatened to leave the Warsaw Pact.

8. Why did America and the West not help the Hungarian Uprising?

- Despite being offered help with the Marshall Plan, no military help was given to the Hungarians.
- America wanted to stop Communism from spreading with the policy of **containment** but did not want to interfere too much with those countries already taken over by the Soviet Union.
- It was **too risky** to plan a military attack on a Soviet satellite state as this might start a **nuclear war**.

7. The Soviet Invasion of Hungary 4th Nov. 1956 and the Hungarian Uprising.

In response to the threat of leaving the Warsaw Pact, Khrushchev sent in the **Red Army into Budapest**. The Hungarian people **fought back** in what was known as the **Hungarian Uprising**. Hungarians, including women and children took up arms against the invading Red Army.

FACT SHEET: Lesson 11 – Khrushchev’s Berlin Ultimatum and the Summit Meetings: 1959-61.

The Background:

By 1958, Germany and its capital city, had been officially **divided** into West Germany (capitalist) and East Germany (Soviet Communist). Berlin had already seen the attempted Berlin Blockade by the Soviet Union and the response of the Western countries with the successful Berlin Airlift. Throughout the 1950s, there were further problems, tensions and divisions regarding Berlin which led to the building of the Berlin Wall by 1961. In this lesson we will look at what the tensions in Berlin were, the reaction of Soviet leader **Khrushchev** and how both sides attempted to deal with his **Berlin Ultimatum**.

What was the refugee crisis in Berlin?

- ❑ West Germany and West Berlin were much **wealthier**. They had been able to accept the help from the USA called **Marshall Aid**. However, East Germany and East Berlin still suffered with **food shortages** and a **lack of basic goods**. There were many restrictions on people in the Soviet controlled areas with little freedom of speech and **censorship**.
- ❑ This led to **3 million East Germans** choosing to leave home and move to West Germany for a better life. This was **1/6th of the population** of East Germany.
- ❑ All they needed to do was **travel** from East Berlin into West Berlin. Once in West Berlin they could have the freedom to move into West Germany.
- ❑ The type of people leaving were **skilled workers** such as engineers, teachers and electricians. It was therefore called the **'Brain Drain'** of East Germany.
- ❑ These people knew they would earn more money in West Germany.

Why did Khrushchev not like the high numbers of refugees leaving?

- ❑ This many people leaving East Germany was an **embarrassment** for the Soviet Union. People in Europe were obviously choosing capitalism over communism. It made communism look bad.
- ❑ Khrushchev needed these skilled workers to help East Germany.
- ❑ Khrushchev needed to stop these people moving to West Germany.

What did Khrushchev want to happen with Berlin?

Khrushchev wanted the **whole of Berlin** to be controlled by East Germany. To him, this made sense as Berlin was located deep in East German territory. He also wanted to look strong after the Hungarian Uprising.

What was Khrushchev's 'Berlin Ultimatum' in November 1958?

Khrushchev made a set of final **demands** that:

- ❑ Western Troops should be removed from East Berlin
- ❑ Berlin should become a **free city (controlled by the Soviets)**.
- ❑ The West were given 6 months to do this. If they did not, he **threatened** to take over all transport routes in East Germany to stop people traveling to West Germany.

The reaction of the West to Khrushchev's 'Ultimatum' (final demand).

- ❑ The West were annoyed by his demands and saw this as another example of the Soviet aggression and trying to spread the influence of communism.
- ❑ By the late 1950s, both sides had large numbers of nuclear weapons and both sides believed that if the military was used, it could start a nuclear war. The number of nuclear weapons being built by the Soviet Union and the USA was rapidly growing.
- ❑ One attack by one side could lead to retaliation by the other. It was hoped that by meeting, a solution could be found.

The Summit Meetings of 1959-61

MEETING 1:

The Geneva Summit May 1959

Both sides met in Switzerland but their ideas forward about what to do with Berlin but **no agreements** were made.
US President Eisenhower invited Khrushchev to the USA for further talks.
At least they talked.



MEETING 2:

Camp David (USA) Sep. 1959

- Eisenhower and Khrushchev met face to face for the first time. The two enjoyed their time together and got on personally.
- Khrushchev took away his Berlin Ultimatum terms but no agreement was made about Berlin.

MEETING 3:

Paris Summit May 1960

- There was little chance of these talks being a success.
- The Soviet Union had just **shot down an American Spy-Plane** as it flew over the Soviet Union. The Americans said it was a 'weather' plane that had gone off track. However, the Soviets interrogated the pilot who was shot down called **Gary Powers** and he admitted it was a spy plane on a secret mission.
- **Eisenhower refused to apologise** for the spy plane and **Khrushchev walked out** of the meeting with nothing being achieved.



MEETING 4:

Vienna Summit (Austria) June 1961

- **F Kennedy** was now President of the USA. He wanted to keep building up the military but really wanted to work hard negotiating with the Soviets.
- Khrushchev believed that as Kennedy was **young and inexperienced**, he could get the better of him and get his own way. Therefore, Khrushchev went back to his idea of the **Berlin Ultimatum** of 1958.
- Kennedy refused to give in.
- The talks ended with **no agreement** again.
- The **personal relationship** between Khrushchev and Kennedy was also poor.
- Kennedy decided to **increase spending** on the American military by an **extra \$2 billion**.
- This was a strong message to the Soviet Union that the USA was prepared to use the military if it needed to.

