

FACT SHEET: lesson 1 - An introduction to Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991.

Key Questions:

- ★ What was the **Cold War**?
- ★ **When** was the Cold War?
- ★ What was **'East'** and **'West'**?
- ★ What is **Communism** and **Capitalism**?

The **'Cold War'** is a term used to describe the **relationship** between the **USA** and the **Soviet Union (USSR)** after the Second World War. No direct fighting took place between the two countries. However, there was a high level of **tension** between them due to the threats made from each side. For many, the Cold War, was a **'war of words'** sent from one side against the other.



The USA and the Soviet Union were the world's **two superpowers** after **1945**. Both sides wanted to **prove** that their system of government and their **ideology** (ideas) were the best. These two different ideas were called **'Capitalism'** and **'Communism'**. Increased media coverage during this time, meant millions around the world were fearful of a **nuclear war**. The Cold War officially ended in **1991**, when the Soviet Union broke up into smaller states. However, aspects of the Cold War remain today with the relationship between Russia and the USA.

How did the superpowers try to compete against each other?

Spies	Media Propaganda	Finance	The Arms Race	The Space Race
Spies would be sent into each other's or neighbouring countries to find out more about what each country were doing.	Both sides published and broadcast negative stories about each other to win the support of their public.	Both sides gave money to other states/groups who were willing to support them to get them on side.	Both sides competed to develop nuclear, long range (distance) weapons or defence systems. The bigger and more powerful, the better.	Both sides competed to put the first man in space, on the moon and into orbit – all to try and prove who was the most technologically advance.

The main differences between Capitalism and Communism

Capitalism – Western Powers (USA, Britain, France, West Germany)	Communism – Eastern Bloc (The Soviet Union)
<p>Politics Democracy: Several political parties and voting for who should be in power.</p> <p>Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry owned by individuals - private ownership. • Business owners able to make profit and keep any money made. • Some people are wealthier than others. • Trade with other countries around the world. <p>Freedom of speech and censorship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little censorship of the media. • Freedom of speech allowed. 	<p>Politics Dictatorship: Only one political party – The Communist Party. No choice. No democracy.</p> <p>Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All industry and business owned by the government. • No private ownership allowed. Money shared equally for fairness. • Trade within Communist countries only. <p>Freedom of speech and censorship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High levels of government censorship and control. • Little freedom of speech or ability to criticise the government.



FACT SHEET: lesson 2 - Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam Conferences.

In the Second World War, the Grand Alliance was formed between the USA, the Soviet Union and Britain to defeat Germany and Japan. Although the three countries has formed an alliance, there was no real change in how they viewed each other. The USA and Britain didn't trust communism, and Stalin realised that the West would not want to take any actions that made the Soviet Union stronger in the long term.

The leaders of The Grand Alliance met up three times during the war: at Tehran (1943), Yalta (February 1945) and Potsdam (July 1945).



What were the different conferences?

Who was at Tehran?	Why did they have the meeting?	What did they want?	What was agreed?
Roosevelt (USA) Churchill (Britain) Stalin (Soviet Union)	The three countries wanted to agree how they would work together to fight Nazi Germany.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin wanted Britain and the USA to open a 'second front' to fight Germany in Europe. The USA wanted the Soviet Union to help it to fight Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They would work together to win WW2 To set up an international organisation after the war to prevent future wars Stalin agreed to go to war against Japan once Germany was defeated Britain and the USA agreed to start a 'second front' in Europe That after the war, they would keep Germany weak That after the war, the Soviet Union could keep some land in Poland
Who was at Yalta?	Why did they have the meeting?	What did they want?	What was agreed?
Roosevelt (USA) Churchill (Britain) Stalin (Soviet Union)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second front was pushing back German troops towards Berlin. The Soviet troops had defeated the German invasion of Russia and were also pushing back the German army. The allies wanted to talk about winning the war and how they would run Europe after the war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin wanted to make sure that he kept control of parts of Eastern Europe at the end of the war. Britain and the USA wanted to make sure that there was peace in Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany would be split into four zones, each run by one of the allies (Britain, France, USA and Soviet Union) Germany would pay \$20 billion in reparations for war damage Half the reparations would go to the Soviet Union as it had suffered the most Germany's Nazi Party would be banned. Nazis who were caught would be tried as war criminals The united Nations would be set up. It would start in 1945
Who was at Potsdam?	Why did they have the meeting?	What did they want?	What was agreed?
Truman (USA) Attlee (Britain) Stalin (Soviet Union)	Germany had surrendered. The Allies needed to finalise their agreement on how to run Europe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin wanted to make sure that the Soviet Union remained powerful in Eastern Europe. Truman wanted to have peace in Europe but also prevent communism spreading Attlee wanted to finish the conferences quickly and return to Britain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany would be divided into four zones, as agreed at Yalta Berlin would also be divided into four zones Each country could organise reparations from their own zone in Germany The Soviet Union could take a quarter of the industrial equipment from other zones to make up for them having the poorest zone

FACT SHEET: lesson 3 - The creation of Soviet satellite states and Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech.

Key Questions:

- ★ What and where were the Soviet 'satellite states'?
- ★ What was the **reaction** to the creation of the satellite states?
- ★ What was the impact of Churchill's '**Iron Curtain**' speech in 1946?

Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech, March 1946

Winston Churchill was no longer Prime Minister but he still had great respect and influence. On a visit to the USA he gave a speech which was remembered for his use of a famous phrase '**The Iron Curtain**'. Churchill stated that an **Iron Curtain had descended across Europe** and behind the Iron Curtain there were states controlled by Moscow. In the speech he made it clear that the Soviet Union were a threat to freedom and world peace. He made it clear that he did not like how **Communist governments** had been set up in Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Consequences:

In the same year as the Long and Novikov telegrams and with the same message, it caused even more tension between the USA and Russia. Churchill made it clear that he thought Russia was a threat to world peace and freedom. Making the speech in the USA showed that the USA believed the same and Churchill was on their side. Russian backed Communist governments had been set up on Hungary and Poland. Churchill saw this as a huge threat to the rest of Europe. It increased tensions even more between the USA and Russia and led to both sides strengthening their forces against each other.

It was an important speech as it made the divide between Communism in the east and capitalism in the west a real idea, with the 'Iron Curtain' being the dividing line between the two.

The Background:

At the end of the Second World War, Russia and its **Red Army** was able to 'free' countries in Eastern Europe from Nazi German control. The Soviet army pushed Germany back and its troops occupied many countries in eastern Europe. When the war ended, Joseph Stalin still had his Red Army in these countries and did not want to give them up again. Countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary were in chaos after the war with no government in place. Therefore, Britain and America agreed to allow Stalin to stay as a way of guaranteeing the countries were kept under control.

Why did Britain and America give control of eastern Europe to Stalin and the Soviet Union?

- Britain and America promised each country in eastern Europe an **election to vote** for the government they wanted in charge. This was an important part of capitalism and a way of freeing these countries of the dictatorship of Nazi Germany. They believed this would happen under Stalin's control. (Look under the map – it didn't!)
- Britain was in no position after the war to take care of the countries in eastern Europe. It was in massive war debt and needed to concentrate its energy on rebuilding Britain.
- With no organised government in the eastern European countries, it was better to give Stalin the control. This would stop uprisings and even more chaos after the war.
- The people of eastern Europe would be happy to live under the control of the country that had rescued them from Nazi control. The Soviet Union seemed to have the money and power to do this.

Why did Stalin want to keep these satellite states?

- Stalin wanted to create a **buffer zone** between Russia and Germany. If the Americans used Germany to attack from, they would still have to get through the buffer zone before reaching the Soviet Union.
- It would show strength as a 'super power' and 'empire' against the USA.
- It would increase the area of **Communist influence** in Europe and the Soviet Union would introduce Communist governments into these countries.



Which countries were Satellite States?

- East Germany** – given to Russia with the Western powers in control of West Germany. **No elections.**
- Poland** – taken over by Russia in 1947 who put a Communist government in control after the Warsaw Uprising. **No elections**
- Czechoslovakia** – taken over by Russia in 1948 with a Communist government. **No elections** held.
- Hungary** – Taken over by Russia in 1949 when the Russians **interfered in their elections** to guarantee a win.
- Romania and Bulgaria** – People voted in a Russian Communist government after being **intimidated** by the Communist Party in 1944

FACT SHEET: lesson 4 - The Consequences and importance of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan in 1947.

Key Questions:

- ★ What was the **1947 Truman Doctrine**?
- ★ What was the **1947 Marshall Plan**?
- ★ What were their **consequences** and why were they **important**?

The Background: After the war, the Soviet Union had set up **communist governments** in many eastern European countries. This gave Stalin control of the Soviet **satellite** countries. However, President Truman was worried about the **spread of communism** and came up with a set of ideas called a 'doctrine' to stop the influence of Communism in Europe. His '**idea**' to **give money and send troops** to Europe to fight against Communism was known as the **Truman Doctrine**. The **Marshall Plan**, carried out by the US Secretary of State, **George Marshall** went even further by giving economic aid to European countries who had fought in the war.



STEP 1: President Truman was worried about the influence of the Soviet Union

- ❑ The Soviet Union's **Red Army** still occupied much of Eastern Europe. They were therefore still seen as a threat to peace.
- ❑ Truman was worried that the people in Stalin's **satellite countries** would easily accept the 'Communist' way of thinking. They were living in **poverty and destruction** and Communism promised to share wealth from the rich to help the poor. Millions of people in eastern Europe would support the idea of communism with the hope of improving their lives. This would make communism, the Soviet Union and Stalin even stronger. It would also threaten capitalism in the west. Truman wanted a plan to stop this.

STEP 2: The Truman Doctrine

- ❑ President Truman came up with a set of **ideas**, called a 'doctrine', to **stop the spread of communism** in Europe. These ideas were known as the **Truman Doctrine**.
- ❑ It followed the idea of **CONTAINMENT** – To keep Communism in the Soviet Union and not letting it spread.
- ❑ Truman's idea was to **give money and military support** to any country in Europe that wanted to fight off the influence of Communism.

STEP 3: The Truman Doctrine 1947

- ❑ On **12th March 1947**, President Truman announced that he would provide **economic help** to countries such as **Greece and Turkey** which were being threatened with Communism by the Soviet Union. He promised them **\$400 million**.
- ❑ Truman sent **American soldiers** to Greece and Turkey to prevent them being influenced by Communism.
- ❑ Truman made a clear statement about the differences between **democracy** (the ability to vote) and communism, which he believed was a **dictatorship**. He told the world that democracy offered freedom and choice. He then said that Communism forced ideas onto people.
- ❑ He compared capitalism and communism to '**good and evil**'.
- ❑ America was able to afford the economic aid as it had joined the war late. It had not been destroyed like many other countries in Europe such as Britain and France.

STEP 6: The consequences of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan for US-Soviet relations?

- ❑ The idea of a friendly **Grand Alliance** had now gone completely. There was even more mistrust between the two countries and both believed the other was trying to expand their power and influence in Europe.
- ❑ The USA was now directly in opposition to the Soviet Union as the two nations had different beliefs in capitalism and communism. They clearly had little in common with each other.
- ❑ Europe became divided into Western Europe, which was supported by the USA and Eastern Europe which was controlled by the Communist Soviet Union. The '**Iron Curtain**' seemed real and the map of Europe now looked like two opposing sides.

STEP 5: The Soviet Reaction - 'Dollar Imperialism'.

- ❑ Stalin believed that the USA were trying to become even more powerful and create an **American empire** in Europe by offering 'free' money to Eastern European countries.
- ❑ Stalin called the USA's actions - '**Dollar Imperialism**'. In other words, a way to use money to take control and have influence over other countries.
- ❑ They saw the USA as an even greater threat as more American troops would be based in Europe.

STEP 4: The Marshall Plan

- ❑ The Marshall Plan was named after the **US Secretary of State George Marshall**. After Truman had set out the Truman Doctrine, George Marshall set out a plan to give money to countries in Europe that were needing help after the destruction of war. If the populations in each country were better off and happier, they would be less likely to support communism. The Marshall Plan gave **economic aid** to countries that had been hit by war. For example, Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Italy, Austria. The USA gave **\$12.7 billion dollars** between 1948-52.
- ❑ The British Foreign Secretary called it a '**Lifeline to sinking men, giving hope where there was none**'.
- ❑ Money was also offered to the Eastern European satellite states controlled by Stalin, but **Stalin refused the money** so these countries did not gain anything from America.

FACT SHEET: lesson 6 - Stalin's creation of Cominform (1947) and Comecon (1949)

Key Questions:

- ★ What was Cominform (1947)?
- ★ What was Comecon (1949)?
- ★ What were their **consequences** and why were they **important**?

The Background:

Stalin was worried about the impact of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. He worried that the USA were trying to control Europe and potentially take away the support that the Soviet Union already had from its satellite states in eastern Europe. Stalin created two organisations. These organisations were called '**Cominform**' (which started as a quick response to the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan in 1947, and '**Comecon**', which began running in 1949. Both of these communist organisations were a way to keep control and influence over the states controlled by the Soviet Union after the Second World War.

Cominform (1947)

'**Cominform**' (shortened from the Communist Information Bureau) was a political organisation set up by the order of Stalin in September 1947. As an organisation, it had 9 members. These members were expected to follow the rules set out by the Cominform organisation. The members were the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Communist Parties of the satellite states of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania and Yugoslavia. The Communist Party of France and Italy were also members. These two countries were not officially part of the Soviet Union, but Communism was strong enough for them to have an influential Communist Party.

What did Cominform do?

Cominform gave Stalin a way to CONTROL the governments of the satellite states. Cominform made sure that all of the rules and orders given out by Stalin were carried out in each country. It was a way to make sure that the satellite countries followed communism. This also meant that orders could be given by Stalin in Moscow, and Cominform would make sure they were followed in all of eastern Europe. Any political communication and contact with non-communist countries was discouraged. Cominform also began to spread negative, anti-American propaganda. This propaganda was then given to the members to spread themselves.

For example?

Stalin did not want agree with the Truman Doctrine or the Marshall Plan. He ordered that no other eastern European country accepted money from the Marshall Plan. Cominform made sure that each country followed his order.

Overall

Cominform was a way to control the 'inform'ation given to each eastern European country as a way to make them follow the orders set out by Stalin.

Comecon (1949)

'**Comecon**' (shortened from The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) was another organisation set up by the order of Stalin in 1949. It made sure that all communist states rejected (did not follow) capitalist ideas. It was an alternative to the Marshall Aid being offered by America and made everyone in communist countries believe that communism was just as strong and effective as capitalism.

What did Cominform do?

Comecon aimed to help the economies of the Soviet Union's satellite states. It arranged trade between all of the communist countries. It also allowed money to be lent/borrowed between all communist countries. It also planned for the growth of industry in the Soviet Union. Each communist country had a 5 Year Plan which aimed to give all industry and business to the government to control. Any trade with the USA and other capitalist countries in the west was banned. This would mean that any goods and trade would be in the Soviet Union only.

For example?

Bulgaria's trade with other communist countries increased from 10% in the 1930s to 90% by 1951.

Overall

Com'econ' was a way for Stalin to control the economy of each communist country. It made people living in communist countries believe that communism was much better than capitalism.

CONSEQUENCES & IMPORTANCE

- The creation of these two communist organisations was yet another way to highlight the difference between capitalism/the west and communism/the east. This just increased the tension and competition between the two sides.
- The propaganda that was published from both sides, increased. This made an even greater divide between the USA and the Soviet Union.
- The eventual consequence was the USA and Western European countries becoming even more worried about the threat of communism and creating their own military alliance called NATO.

Conflict and Tension 1945-72 Unit 1: The Origins of the Cold War

FACT SHEET: Lesson 7 – The Berlin Crisis, the Berlin Blockade and the Berlin Airlift (1948 - 9)



Key Questions:

- ★ What was the Berlin Crisis?
- ★ What was the Berlin Blockade and how did it lead to the Airlift?
- ★ What were the consequences of the end of the Berlin Airlift?

The Background:

When the Grand Alliance met, it was agreed that Germany and its capital Berlin would be divided into 4 zones. One zone would be run by the Soviet Union. The other zones would be run by Britain, France and America. Berlin was significant as it was located in the middle of the **Soviet controlled zone**. Military checkpoints were put in place to control the movement of people between the zones. There was an **informal agreement** with the Soviet Union that any supplies needed in West Berlin could be transported in without challenge. However, in **1948**, this was about to change. A 'Crisis' with Berlin led to Stalin '**blockading**' goods from coming into West Berlin. The only answer was to transport goods **via aircraft** into Berlin. This '**Berlin Airlift**' eventually succeeded with Stalin backing down and taking away the Berlin Blockade. This event led to many longer lasting and important consequences for the development of the Cold War.

A narrative of the key events

1. After WW2, it was agreed at **Potsdam** by the Grand Alliance that **Germany** and its capital **Berlin**, would be split into **4 zones**. The Soviet Union would run the eastern sector and Britain, France and the USA would run the other three. The main issue about this agreement was that **Berlin**, the country's capital was located **deep inside Soviet** run Germany. This meant the 3 'western zones' in Berlin were '**trapped**' deep in Soviet controlled territory.

2. **Military checkpoints** were placed in each zone to control the **movement** between the 'western' zones and the Soviet 'eastern' zones. There was also an informal agreement to allow the transportation of supplies such as food and fuel into the west of Berlin.

3. There were constant disagreements about Berlin and By **March 1948**, Britain, France and America decided to take two actions:
A) Unite their zones in Germany into one. This united, 'western' zone would be called '**TRIZONIA**'.
B) Create a new currency (money) for Trizonia called the **DEUTSCHMARK**. This meant any trade and business in the western, capitalist zones would be easier with the same currency.

4. The result of the creation of **Trizonia** and the **Deutschmark**, was that the **divide/difference** between **capitalism** in the west and **communism** in the east was even more clear.

5. **Joseph Stalin** was also angry. He believed he had not been spoken to about the changes, that Britain, France and America were **uniting against him** to show their strength and it went against what was agreed at **Potsdam**.

6. Stalin therefore responded by using his troops to block the routes used by Britain, America and France to take supplies to **West Berlin**. This was known as the Berlin Blockade. It began in **June 1948**. West Berlin was essentially cut off.

10. The consequences of the successful Berlin airlift were significant for the development of the Cold War.

- ❑ The defeat made **Stalin look weak**. Many of his close communist leaders criticised Stalin for giving into the capitalist, western powers. This was the first time, Stalin had been defeated.
- ❑ It proved that America and the other western powers could defeat the Soviet Union using **peaceful tactics**. No troops or civilians were killed in this action and so another war was avoided.
- ❑ Stalin's blockade made the western powers worry about the future threat of the Soviet Union. Therefore, **3 days** after the end of the blockade in May 1949, they officially united their 3 zones and sectors in Berlin. Trizonia was now officially the **Federal Republic of Germany** or '**West Germany**'.
- ❑ Stalin reacted by October 1949 to this by making the Soviet zone the **German Democratic Republic** or '**East Germany**' for short. This geographical divide made the difference between east and west even clearer.
- ❑ Finally, the western powers believed they now needed military protection against the Soviet Union. They formed a military alliance (friendship) with other capitalist countries who promised to help out if each other were attacked. This was called the **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation** or **NATO**. It began shortly after in 1949.

9. The **Berlin Airlift** was successful. Stalin gave in and ordered the blockade to end.



8. President Truman now needed to plan a way to get food, fuel and supplies to the French, British and Americans in western Berlin. The answer was to **use aircraft**. This was risky as the Soviets may shoot the aircraft down. However, they did not. Between **June 1948 and May 1949**, **1,000 tonnes** of food and supplies were flown in to keep the western Berliners alive. This was known as the **Berlin Airlift**.

7. Stalin's reasons for the Berlin Blockade in June 1948 were:

- ❑ He needed a quick way to **respond** to the creation of Trizonia and the Deutschmark to show his anger.
- ❑ He believed that if people in West Berlin started to **starve**, the 'western' powers would give in and allow Stalin to control all of Berlin – essentially **pass control** of the capital city to the Soviet Union.
- ❑ It was a clear message to the 'west' that Stalin wanted to show **his strength**.