

**AQA GCSE History**  
**End of Year Exam Revision**

**Unit 1**

**International Relations:  
Conflict and Peace in the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Century**

## International Relations Topics

### 1. The origins of the Cold War 1945-55

#### Why did the USA & USSR become rivals in the years 1945-49?

- Ideological differences between the USA & USSR.
- Yalta & Potsdam
- The Iron Curtain (Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe)
- The Truman Doctrine
- The Marshall Plan
- Cominform & Comecon
- The Berlin Blockade & Airlift

#### How did the Cold War develop 1949-55?

- NATO
- The Arms Race
- The Korean War
- The Warsaw Pact
- Death of Stalin, Khrushchev & the 'thaw' in the Cold War

### 2. Crises of the Cold War 1955-70

#### How peaceful was peaceful coexistence?

- Khrushchev's policies (destalinisation & peaceful coexistence).
- Hungary 1956
- The arms race
- The space race
- The U2 Crisis
- The Berlin Wall

## International Relations Topics

### How close was the world to war in the 1960s?

- The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962
- Czechoslovakia, 1968
- The Brezhnev Doctrine

### 3. Failure of détente and the collapse of Communism 1970-91

#### Why did détente collapse in the 1970s and 1980s?

- Détente
- The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
- Ronald Reagan
- Solidarity

#### Why did Communism collapse in Central & Eastern Europe?

- Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
- Reagan
- Solidarity
- Policies of Gorbachev
- The revolutions in Eastern Europe & the fall of the Berlin Wall
- The fall of Gorbachev & the break-up of the USSR

## The Exam Paper

There will be 6 questions on the exam paper:

1. The Origins of the First World War.
2. Peacemaking 1918-1919 and the League of Nations.
3. Hitler's Foreign Policy and the Origins of the Second World War.
- 4. The Origins of the Cold War 1945-55**
- 5. Crises of the Cold War 1955-70**
- 6. Failure of the détente and the collapse of Communism, 1970-90.**

You have to answer 3 questions, each worth 20 marks (60 marks in total).

You have been prepared for questions **4, 5 & 6** and should therefore complete these questions.

### The grade boundaries:

A*	A	B	C	D	E
54/60	48/60	42/60	36/60	30/60	24/60

## The Exam Questions

Each question has 3 parts and will be laid out in the format below:

4. Study **Source D** and answer all parts of Question 4 which follow

**Source D** A Soviet view of the Marshall Plan, written in 1988 by Dimitri Sukhanov.

Sukhanov had been a senior Soviet politician when the Marshall Plan began in 1947.

We saw the Marshall Plan as the Americans wanting to control the countries to which they gave Marshall Aid. We saw it as an act of aggression by the Americans. This is why it was never accepted by the Soviet Union.

- (a) In 1946 Winston Churchill claimed that Europe had been divided by an 'Iron Curtain'. Describe how Europe became divided in the years 1945-46. *4 marks*
- (b) **Source D** suggests reasons why the Americans introduced the Marshall Plan **Do you agree that these were the main reasons for the Marshall Plan?** Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source, as well as using its content and your own knowledge. *6 marks*
- (c) Which was more important as a reason for the development of the Cold War in the years 1948-55:
- The Berlin Blockade 1948-49
  - The Korean War 1950-53?

You must refer to **both** reasons when explaining your answer.

*10 marks*

## In each question

### Part (a): Describe

- A **'describe'** question focusing on an event in the part of the cold war that the question relates to.  
Question 4: The origins of the Cold War  
Question 5: The crises of the Cold War  
Question 6: The failure of détente and the collapse of communism.
- **You should aim to produce a detailed paragraph** describing the aspects of the event/topic in the question.

### Part (b): Do you agree with the source?

- The question is asking you whether you agree with what the source says about an event.
- **What does the source say?** You need to work out what the source says about the event. It will normally focus a reason.
- **What do you know that agrees with the source?** Write down what you know that backs up the source.
- **Is the source a strong/ limited source?** Explain whether the source is strong or limited.
- **To what extent do you agree with the source?** Briefly conclude saying how much you agree with the source and why.
- **You should aim to produce two paragraphs:**

Paragraph 1: What the source says and what you know that supports it.

Paragraph 2: What makes the source strong/limited and to what extent you agree with what it says.

### Part (c): Which was the more important reason?

- You will be given two factors (normally events/policies)
- Each question will focus on how the factors contributed to something:

Question 4: How did the factors contribute to the development of the Cold War OR increase tension?

Question 5: How did the factors threaten peace OR the Soviet Union OR the USA?

Question 6: How did the factors contribute to the failure of detente OR contribute to the collapse of communism?

- You must write about both factors and **produce three paragraphs:**

Paragraph 1: Factor 1 (How did it contribute to the development of the Cold War/threaten peace/ contribute to the collapse of detente/ communism?)

Paragraph 2: Factor 2

Paragraph 3: Which factor was more important?

## Suggested Timings

You have to answer 3 questions in 1 hour 45 minutes.

You are advised to spend 35 minutes on each question.

For each question:

**Thinking time:** 5 minutes

**Part (a): 4 marks** 5 minutes

**Part (b): 6 marks** 10 minutes

**Part (c): 10 marks** 15 minutes.

You should not spend a lot of time on part (a) as it is only worth 4 marks.

You should leave enough time to produce a good answer to part (c). We suggest at least 15 minutes. This will give you enough time to cover both factors in the question.

**Doing well =**

**Knowing the facts**

**+**

**Knowing how to answer  
the questions.**

***The Origins of the  
Cold War  
1945-55***

## Ideological differences between the USA and USSR.

During **World War Two** the USSR and USA were **allies**. To a large extent this was not a strong alliance. They were only allies because they had a **common enemy**-Nazi Germany.

Towards the end of the war, **suspensions** between the USA and USSR **began to grow** mainly because they had **different ideologies** and the alliance began to fall apart.

The USA was **capitalist** and the USSR was **communist**. Both the Americans and the Soviets believed their way of life was better and feared the other way of life.

**Ideological differences were important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- The USA believed the USSR wanted to **make the world communist** and so it was suspicious of anything the USSR did.
- The USSR believed the USA wanted to **destroy communism and spread capitalism** and so it was suspicious of anything the USA did.
- For example, at the end of WW2, the Soviet Union took control of countries in **Eastern Europe**. The Americans and the West believed this was because **Stalin wanted world communism** and that they needed to stop the spread of communism.

However, the Soviets argued all they wanted to do was **protect the Soviet Union** from a future invasion. The USSR had been twice invaded by Germany and Stalin wanted to build a **buffer zone of friendly states** around the USSR to protect it.

## Yalta Conference, February 1945

The leaders of **Britain (Churchill), America (Roosevelt) & USSR (Stalin)** met at Yalta in early 1945 to discuss what was going to happen to **Germany and the rest of Europe after WW2**.

The Germans were near to defeat.

**At Yalta the leaders agreed:**

- **Germany** would be **divided into four zones**: US, British, Soviet & French.
- **Berlin** (which was in the **Soviet zone**) would be **divided into four sectors**.
- Hunt down the Nazi war criminals.
- Allow **free elections** in the liberated countries of Europe, including **Poland**.
- Eastern Europe was to be a **Soviet 'sphere of influence'**.
- The **United Nations** would be set up
- The Soviet Union would enter war against Japan once Germany was defeated.

**The Yalta Conference was important in the development of the Cold War because:**

It **revealed tensions** over Germany & Europe:

- Stalin wanted to **secure the Soviet Union** from a further **invasion**
- However, **western powers** (especially Churchill) **feared** the Soviet Union wanted to dominate Europe and **spread communism**.
- Western powers also feared the Soviet Union wanted a Soviet controlled govt. in **Poland**.

## Potsdam Conference, July 1945

By the time of the Potsdam Conference:

- **Germany** had been **defeated**; **Soviet troops** had liberated countries in **Eastern Europe** but had not removed troops.
- Stalin had set up a **communist government in Poland** (ignoring Yalta).
- **Roosevelt had died** and was replaced by **Truman** who was more **suspicious of Stalin**.
- America had successfully tested the **atomic bomb** but had not told Stalin about it until later.

**At Potsdam the leaders agreed to:**

- **Divide** Germany and Berlin (as agreed at Yalta)
- **Demilitarise** Germany
- Re-establish **democracy** in Germany
- **De-nazify** Germany.
- Make **all decisions** about the future of Germany **together**.

**The Potsdam Conference was important because:**

- It **revealed differences** over Germany & Europe: Stalin wanted to **keep Germany weak**, the west wanted to **make Germany strong**.
- It **further developed tension** as Truman wanted free **elections in E.Europe** but Stalin refused.
- It convinced **Truman** that Stalin wanted to take over the whole of Europe and made Truman determined to stand up to Stalin. He said he was going to **'get tough' with Stalin**.
- It revealed a lack of **trust** between the USSR and USA; Potsdam saw both sides take an **aggressive stance** especially as the USA had not told Stalin about the **atomic bomb**.

## The Iron Curtain (Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe)

The Soviet Union saw a **'buffer zone'** as essential to the security of the Soviet Union to prevent a future invasion.

At the end of the war it was clear that **Europe was divided** between the **democratic west** and countries occupied by **the Soviet Union in the East**.

**Churchill called this division an iron curtain.**

Between 1945 -1948 the Soviets went about taking over countries in Eastern Europe (Poland, Romania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia).

The **Red Army** had remained in these countries when they liberated them from the Nazis. They then helped a **communist takeover**, by **arresting opposition** and **fixing elections** so that the communists won.

They were known as **satellite states** because although countries like Poland appeared to be independent they were actually **controlled by the Soviet Union**.

Although **Yugoslavia** became communist, it was **not controlled** by the Soviet Union.

**The expansion of the Soviet Union was important because:**

- **Major differences** began to develop.
- The Soviet takeover of E.Europe was seen by the West as just the beginning of Soviet expansion and the spread of communism.
- It led to the development of an **'Iron Curtain'**
- It led to the US policy of **containment** which was first expressed in **The Truman Doctrine**.



## Truman Doctrine, March 1947

This was a **policy of containment**.

Truman announced the **US would support countries needing protection** from threats inside/outside their border. He basically meant the US would protect countries threatened by **communism**.

**The Truman Doctrine was announced because:**

- Britain was unable to continue to support **the Greek government** in a civil war against communist rebels. If the USA did not step in, Greece was at risk of turning communist.
- The US wanted to **stop the spread of communism**.
- The US was concerned about Soviet expansion in Europe because they saw **communism as a threat**.

**The Truman Doctrine was important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- It marked a **turning point** in US foreign policy by **committing the USA** to a policy of **containment**.
- It showed that America was willing to **use force** to stop the spread of communism.
- It increased tension as Truman publicly stated that the **world was divided** between two ways of life: Free and un-free.
- It led to the introduction of the **Marshall Plan**.
- It made Stalin suspicious of the USA as he saw this as a **declaration of war against communism**.
- As a consequence Stalin formed **Cominform** to tighten his control over Eastern Europe.

## Marshall Plan, June 1947

- Announced by **US Secretary of State**, George Marshall.
- Officially called the **European Recovery Plan**.
- Supported the Truman Doctrine by providing economic aid to countries in Europe
- Aid was in the form of cash, machinery, food, technology.

**The Marshall Plan was introduced because:**

- The US wanted to stop the **spread of communism**.
- Truman believed communism generally **thrived in poor areas** where there high unemployment & poverty.
- The plan also **boosted the US economy** by providing them with markets to sell their products to.

**The Marshall Plan was important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- It **increased tension** between the USA and USSR. Stalin accused the USA of using the plan for their own **selfish interests**. He believed the USA wanted to **dominate Europe, promote capitalism** & boost the US economy. **Stalin called the Marshall Plan dollar imperialism**.
- It strengthened the **division in Europe** as Stalin prevented European countries like Czechoslovakia and Poland from becoming involved.
- It contributed to the **first major crisis** of the Cold War, **The Berlin Crisis of '48-49** when West Berlin started receiving Marshall Aid.
- Led to **Comecon (The Molotov Plan)**.

## Cominform & Comecon

**Cominform** was **created in 1947** by Stalin to **spread communism** protect communist states from **US aggression**.

It was a response to the **Truman Doctrine & Marshall Plan**.

It gave orders to the communist parties of other countries.

In **1948 Yugoslavia was expelled** from Cominform because its leader, Tito, would not follow Stalin's wishes. This suggested to the West that **Stalin wanted complete control** of the communist world and **increased suspicion** that he just wanted to increase Soviet control.

In 1949 the USSR introduced **Comecon** (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance). It was also known as **The Molotov Plan**.

Comecon was the Soviet response to the Marshall Plan and provided countries with economic aid from the USSR.

**Comecon and Cominform were important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- The USA saw **Cominform & Comecon as serious threats** as they **strengthened the Soviet's control** over communist countries and also suggested that the Soviet Union wanted to **spread communism**.
- They also **strengthened the division of Europe** between those in Cominform, controlled by the Soviet Union and those that were free.

## Berlin Blockade & Airlift 1948-49

- June 1948 Stalin **blockaded all routes** by road, rail and canal **to West Berlin** to try and force the Allies out of Berlin.
- **12<sup>th</sup> May '49** Stalin called off the blockade because the allies got round the blockade by carrying out the airlift, dropping supplies over Berlin.
- **Berlin** was in the heart of the **Soviet zone** and Stalin wanted the Allies out:
  - Western powers could observe the Soviets.
  - Stalin didn't want capitalist way of life on show.
  - West Berlin was receiving Marshall Aid.
- The trigger for the Berlin Blockade was the **introduction of the Deutschmark**.
- The Soviet Union was annoyed at the formation of **Bizonia** and the Western powers plans to create a **West German State**.

**The Berlin Blockade was important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- It massively **increased tension** as it showed how **divided** the USA and USSR were over **Germany (Strong V weak)**
- It led to the **Berlin Airlift** which showed Truman was **determined to stand up** to the Soviet Union and was serious about **containment**. Truman wanted **Berlin** to be a **symbol of freedom** behind the Iron Curtain.
- It made Stalin even more determined to get the atomic bomb. Stalin had not dared shoot down the planes in the airlift as he could not risk a war because the USA had the atomic bomb.
- It led to the **official division of Germany**: GDR (East Germany) and FGR (West Germany).
- It convinced the allies that the Soviet Union was a threat and led to the **creation of NATO in 1949** which turned the Cold War from an ideological conflict to one involving military alliances.

## NATO, 1949

The Cold War and Superpower rivalry increased in the years after the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49 as rival alliance systems were formed.

By the mid 50s the Superpowers were members of two rival alliance systems, NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

### NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

- The **Berlin Crisis** triggered the formation of NATO as the Berlin Blockade highlighted the **Soviet threat to Western Europe**.
- It showed that **western European states** even joined together were no match for the Soviet Union and showed they **needed** the formal support of **the USA**.
- In carrying out the **Berlin Airlift**, Truman confirmed he wanted to **contain communism**.
- In **April 1949 NATO** was formed. It was a **defensive alliance** meaning if one member was attacked all other members would defend it. However its main purpose was to **prevent Soviet expansion**.

### NATO was important in the development of the Cold War because:

- It **increased the chances of an actual war** as it meant that the USA could build air bases in Western Europe where planes equipped with **nuclear bombs** could be stationed **ready for use**.
- The **Soviet Union saw it as an aggressive move** as NATO was formed as an alliance against the Soviet Union.
- It **led to the formation of the Warsaw Pact**, a Soviet military alliance, which resulted in Europe being divided into two armed camps.

## The Arms Race

When America dropped the atom bombs on Japan in 1945 a nuclear arms race started between the two superpowers.

Until 1949 the Americans had the advantage: the USSR would not risk a war against the USA.

In 1949 the USSR exploded its first atomic bomb (A-bomb)

In 1952 the USA developed the hydrogen bomb (H-bomb).

In 1953 the USSR developed their own H-Bomb.

### The arms race was important in the development of the Cold War because:

- The arms race **increased the climate of fear** between the two superpowers.
- It created the **possibility of a nuclear war** when the two powers disagreed.
- Each side was afraid that the other might try to win a 'hot war' by launching a **pre-emptive strike**.
- **Although some historians argue the nuclear arms race made war less likely as both sides realised declaring war on the other could result in them destroying each other (MAD theory).**

## The Korean War 1950-53

**Between 1950 and 1953** there was a war between North Korea and South Korea.

### Background to the war:

- After WW2 **Korea was divided** into two along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.
- The **North was communist** and the **South was anti-communist**.
- Both the leaders of North and South claimed to be the rightful government of all Korea and there were **frequent clashes along the border**.
- Before 1950, America did not see Korea as in its 'sphere of interest'.
- However after **China became communist in 1949**, the **USA became determined to contain communism in Asia**. They believed that if they didn't communism would spread and countries would fall to communism like dominoes (**domino theory**).
- In 1950 the leader of North Korea, Kim Il Sung got Stalin's permission to invade South Korea. The Soviet Union provided North Korea with military equipment.

### The war:

- In **June 1950 the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) invaded South Korea** and **gained control** of all of South Korea **apart from the Pusan Pocket**.
- South Korea asked the United Nations for help and a **UN force led by America** forced back the North Koreans.
- **UN troops advanced towards China** and China warned UN troops not to move further north.
- General MacArthur ignored China and **China sent in troops to help push the UN troops back** beyond the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.
- The **Americans deployed more men** & drove the Chinese back to the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.
- There was a **stalemate and in 1953 a cease-fire was agreed**.

### The Korean War was important in the development of the Cold War because:

- It intensified the Cold War because it **spread the conflict to Asia**.
- It **led to the formation of SEATO** (South East Asian Treaty Organisation) in 1954 which increased tension between the USA and USSR as it showed the USA were committed to containing communism in Asia.
- It led America to believe that they **could contain communism** and made them consider **moving to a policy of 'roll-back'**.
- It showed China was not scared of the West and **brought China closer to the USSR**.

## The Warsaw Pact, 1955

The Warsaw Pact was a military alliance for mutual defence which the USSR signed along with Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, East Germany and Albania.

All the forces of the pact countries were placed under the leadership of the Soviet Union and Soviet troops were stationed in the countries of the pact.

It was formed when West Germany joined NATO in 1955 as the Soviet Union was concerned about the re-emergence of a strong Germany.

**The Warsaw Pact was important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- It meant that **Europe was now divided into two rival alliances** and if there was a war all the countries in NATO and the Warsaw Pact would be involved. It made it look like the **Cold War was going to be a permanent state**.
- It **increased the Soviet Union's power** over its satellite states as it placed Soviet troops in those countries.
- It showed that even though there was a thaw in relations (following Stalin's death) **Khrushchev was committed to maintaining the security** of the communist states that surrounded the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union itself.

## Death of Stalin, Khrushchev & the 'thaw' in relations

**Stalin died in 1953.** After Stalin's death there was an **improvement in relations**. This became known as a **'thaw' in the Cold War**.

There was also an improvement in relations because Khrushchev was in power. Khrushchev criticised Stalin and spoke of peaceful coexistence.

**The death of Stalin was important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- It **improved relations** as the West saw **Stalin as a main cause of the Cold War** and were more willing to work with the Soviet Union following his death.
- It led to Khrushchev coming to power and **Khrushchev's policies were not seen as aggressive by the West**. Khrushchev **changed Soviet foreign policy** from one of confrontation **to peaceful coexistence**. Khrushchev argued that the USSR had to live in peace with the USA. The USA believed this new approach could end the Cold War.
- Khrushchev also pulled the Red Army out of the Soviet occupied zone of Austria. (Austria had been divided like Germany at the end of the war). Khrushchev seemed to be a man that **did not want to dominate the world**.
- Khrushchev also **criticised Stalin** in his secret speech in 1956 and began a policy of **destalinisation**, reversing some of Stalin's measures. This made him **popular with the West**.

***Crises of the Cold  
War***

***1955-70***

## Khrushchev's Policies

Khrushchev became leader of the Soviet Union in **1955**. When Khrushchev came to power he **criticised Stalin** and began a process of **destalinisation** and began to reform the Soviet Union. There was **less repression**.

Khrushchev also spoke about **Peaceful Coexistence** saying that the USSR had to live in peace with the USA.

Some in the West believed peaceful coexistence meant that the Cold War was coming to an end, however Khrushchev believed that communism was a better system and **still wanted to compete with the USA**.

The **space race** and **arms race** continued and the two powers competed on a world stage at the **Olympics**.

Peaceful coexistence did not mean Khrushchev would allow the **security of the Soviet Union** to be threatened. To protect the security of the Soviet Union, Khrushchev:

- Crushed the Hungarian Uprising in 1956.
- Continued the arms race & space race.
- Challenged the USA over the U2 Crisis in 1960.
- Built the Berlin Wall in 1961.
- Challenged the security of the USA in the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

In 1964 Khrushchev was forced to resign and Brezhnev became leader of the Soviet Union.

## Hungarian Uprising, 1956

- Hungary was a **satellite state** of the Soviet Union and many Hungarians **wanted independence** from the Soviet Union because they wanted their **living conditions to improve**.
- They hated their leader, **Rakosi** because he was a **cruel and brutal leader**. People **wanted** the more moderate **Nagy** as their leader.
- Hungarians were **encouraged by Khrushchev's destalinisation** and the fact that he allowed **reforms in Poland**. (Khrushchev allowed Gomulka, who had been imprisoned by Stalin, to become leader of Poland)
- In **October 1956**, **riots** broke out in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. **Stalin's statue** was pulled down and dragged through the streets.
- **Rakosi** was forced to resign and **Nagy became Prime Minister**.
- Nagy **began to make reforms**, such as an end to the secret police and even free elections.
- At first, Khrushchev accepted Nagy's reforms, but when Nagy asked if Hungary could withdraw from the **Warsaw Pact**, **Khrushchev sent in the Red Army**.
- Over **1,000 tanks** moved into the city to crush the rising. Nagy appealed to the West for help, but none came. The Soviets claimed they were forced to intervene to **defend the Soviet Union**.
- **Nagy** was arrested and **executed** and between 2,500 and 30,000 Hungarians were killed.
- **A new hard-line, pro-Soviet government**, under Kadar, was **set up** and all of Nagy's reforms were abolished.

## The Importance of the Hungarian Uprising

**The Hungarian Uprising was a threat to the Soviet Union because:**

- Nagy was considering leaving the Warsaw Pact and Khrushchev needed **to keep the Warsaw Pact intact** for the security of the Soviet Union.
- If Hungary was allowed to challenge the authority of the Soviet Union other satellite states may have joined in. By crushing the uprising, Khrushchev **set an example** to the rest of Eastern Europe.

**The Hungarian Uprising was important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- It **strengthened the position of the USSR** as other satellite states did not dare **challenge the authority** of the Soviet Union in the years after the Hungarian Uprising.
- It showed that **peaceful co-existence had its limits**. Khrushchev was not prepared to risk the security of the Soviet Union.
- It marked **a stalemate in the Cold War** as the West showed they would **not interfere** with Soviet activities in Eastern Europe, even though Hungarians had appealed to the UN and Eisenhower for help during the uprising.

## The Space Race

When Khrushchev came to power he wanted to increase Russian power.

One of the ways he did this was to begin a **space race with America**.

Winning the space race was about proving who was better: the USA or the USSR.

The Space Race began in **1957** when the **Soviets launched Sputnik**, the first satellite. Later that year they launched a **dog into space**.

**The Space Race was important in the development of the Cold War because:**

- **America** became **determined to win the space race** and became increasingly **suspicious of the Soviet Union**.
- American suspicion of the USSR led to the USA **spying** on the USSR. This triggered the **U2 Crisis of 1960**.
- The launch of Sputnik increased the **fear of a missile attack** from space.
- It became a **symbol of the tension** between the two countries and competition increased:  
In 1961 a Soviet, Yuri **Gagarin**, became the first astronaut to orbit the earth.

The **USA** launched their first satellite in **1958**. They sent a chimpanzee into space in **1961**.

When **Kennedy** became President he set NASA scientists the challenge of putting a **man on the moon** before the end of the decade. In 1969, the American, **Neil Armstrong** became the first man on the moon.



## The Arms Race

The arms race, which **began in 1945** (when the Americans dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan) continued in the late 1950s and early 60s.

By **1953** the USA and USSR both had the **hydrogen bomb**.

By **1960** both countries had **Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles** (ICBMs). These were land-based strategic missiles which could strike targets up to 6400 km away.

Both sides tried to **put ICBMs in friendly countries close to enemy borders**. The USA placed missiles in **Turkey** in 1959 and the USSR tried to place them in **Cuba** in 1962.

The arms race moved on in **1960** when the Americans fired a new **Polaris** missile from a submarine. This meant that a **missile could be fired from the sea close to the USSR** and therefore be **more accurate**.

**The arms race was important in development of the Cold War because it threatened the peace:**

**By 1960 both sides had enough nuclear weapons to destroy** every living thing on earth. This became known as Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

Although some argue the arms race deterred the USA and USSR from attacking each other, the arms race resulted in the two countries coming to the brink of war in 1962 during the **Cuban Missile Crisis**.

The threat of nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis led to **an attempt at disarmament** following the crisis.

## The U2 Crisis

The USA and USSR were due to meet at a **summit in Paris in May 1960** to discuss the future of Berlin and nuclear weapons. The year started off positively and **relations seemed to be improving**.

However, the **U2 Crisis in May 1960**, massively increased tension and threatened the peace.

**The crisis:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 1960, **2 weeks before the Paris Summit**, an American **U2 spy plane was shot down** over the Soviet Union.

The American pilot, **Gary Powers**, was captured by the Soviets and **admitted to spying**.

The **Americans** did not know about Powers confession and **tried to cover up** by saying that the U2 plane had been studying **weather conditions** and had got lost! They didn't want to ruin the Paris Summit.

**Khrushchev** then announced that they had Powers and that they knew the Americans were spying on them. He offered to **attend** the Paris Summit **if Eisenhower apologised**.

**Eisenhower refused** to apologise because he argued he had a duty to protect America from a surprise attack. U2 flights were part of **US defence strategy**.

Khrushchev then refused to attend the summit talks.

**The U2 Crisis developed the Cold War and threatened world peace because:**

It **ended the Paris Summit** and the **progress** towards a solution to the Cold War.

It **increased the mistrust** between the two superpowers and placed American forces on alert, expecting some form of retaliation by the USSR.

It **ended the cooperation** that had been **associated with peaceful coexistence**.

## The Berlin Crisis, 1961

### The Berlin Wall

**Do not confuse the Berlin Wall Crisis of 1961 with the Berlin Blockade of 1948-49.**

**The Berlin Wall was built because Khrushchev wanted the Western powers out of Berlin.**

West Berlin (which was capitalist) was in the Soviet zone of Germany. As a result of the Marshall Plan living standards were better than in East Berlin so **West Berlin** was like **an advert for capitalism**.

Between **1945 and 1961, 2 million East Berliners** crossed the border to live in West Berlin. Many of those were **skilled or educated** people whom the East needed.

In 1961 at the **Vienna summit**, Khrushchev **demanding Kennedy** (the new President of America) **give up Berlin**, Kennedy refused.

**On 13<sup>th</sup> August 1961**, Khrushchev then decided to make it impossible for East Berliners to travel to West Berlin by placing **barbed wire** between East and West Berlin; this was protected with **machine guns**.

The wire was then replaced with a **wall**. This wall remained until **1989**.

The wall **separated friends and family**. Anyone trying to cross the wall was shot. More than **40 Germans** were shot trying to cross into West Berlin in the **first year**.

**Khrushchev argued that by building the wall he was protecting the security of the Soviet Union.**

**The Berlin Crisis threatened world peace because:**

- It was a **propaganda victory for the USA** but there was **pressure on Kennedy to** react by **taking direct action**. Kennedy did not want to go to war over Berlin, but he was concerned that he **did not want to be seen as weak**. This may have encouraged his reaction in the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- In **1963 Kennedy visited Berlin** and declared "Ich bin ein Berliner" **promising to defend Berlin** against the Soviets. This made the Soviets angry.
- It **showed** the USA that **Khrushchev could be just as cruel and brutal system** as Stalin.
- However in some ways **it removed an area of conflict** between the superpowers as the USA no longer feared a repeat of the Berlin Blockade (1948-49) and the USSR showed it was no longer committed to removing the West from Berlin. It also reduced the number of defectors

## The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962

**The Cuban Missile Crisis began in October 1962 when American a U2 spy plane photographed Soviet missile sites in Cuba.**

**Cuba** was a problem for the USA because:

- It was led by **Fidel Castro**. Castro had overthrown the pro- American government in Cuba and had announced he was **a communist** in 1961 following the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion by Cuban exiles .
- Castro was **allies with the USSR** and had appealed to the USSR for help following the Bay of Pigs Invasion. (The Bay of Pigs was an attempt by Cuban exiles, supported by the USA, to overthrow Castro).
- **Khrushchev began to provide Cuba with weapons** and missiles that could be used if America invaded.
- Cuba was only **90 miles off the coast of America** and having missiles on Cuba threatened American security. Long-range missiles launched from Cuba could **reach major American cities**.

**The Cuban Missile Crisis:**

- Began on **14<sup>th</sup> October 1962** when an American U2 plane photographed Soviet missile sites in Cuba,
- In response, Kennedy considered a number of options, including launching a nuclear attack on Cuba.
- In fact Kennedy decided to put in place a **naval blockade** around Cuba to stop Soviet missiles reaching the island. At the same time, America prepared to invade Cuba if the Soviet ships did not turn back.
- Khrushchev ordered the **ships to turn back** but the crisis did not end because Kennedy **demanded the Soviets dismantle** the missile sites in Cuba.
- Khrushchev sent Kennedy **two letters**, the first offered to **remove the missile sites** if Kennedy **ended the blockade**. The **second** demanded the USA removes **missiles from Turkey** (which threatened the USSR).
- Kennedy publicly responded to the first and privately agreed to remove American missiles from Turkey (only if it was not made public).

**The Cuban Missile Crisis threatened world peace because:**

The way Kennedy responded to the crisis caused tension. When Soviet ships continued to sail towards Cuba after Kennedy imposed a **naval blockade**, the world watched **expecting war**.

It brought the superpowers to the **brink of nuclear war**. **Kennedy had considered a nuclear attack** as an option when responding to the photos of missile sites in Cuba.

During the crisis, there were **moments** when the possibility of war was high- once when **Cubans shot down a U2 plane** and once when Americans stopped and boarded a **Soviet ship containing nuclear bombs**.

**However the crisis actually resulted in an attempt to reduce tension & limit the arms race because they had got so close to war.**

## Czechoslovakia 1968

**In 1968 Dubcek became leader of Czechoslovakia and tried to make communism more Democratic. He called it 'socialism with a human face' and his changes were referred to as the 'Prague Spring'. Brezhnev responded to these changes by invading Czechoslovakia and removing Dubcek from power.**

Before World War Two Czechoslovakia was a democracy. During WW2 the Nazis took over Czechoslovakia and later the Red Army liberated them from Nazi rule. However in **1948** the **communists** forced their way to power and **Czechoslovakia became a satellite state** of the Soviet Union. **Living conditions** in Czechoslovakia were poor and in the **1960s protests** and demands for change grew.

**Dubcek came to power** promising to improve life. He wanted to increase the standard of living, trade with the West and have **more freedom**, including free elections and allowing opposition parties. However, Dubcek promised Brezhnev (the Soviet leader) that he would **not leave the Warsaw Pact**.

**Brezhnev** believed the reforms, known as the **Prague Spring**, still **threatened the security of the Soviet Union** because they would lead to demands for change in other satellite states and possible demands to leave the Warsaw Pact.

Brezhnev also felt that if Czechoslovakia increased trade with the West, Czechoslovakia may be closer to the USA than the USSR thus creating a gap in the Iron Curtain.

On 20<sup>th</sup> **August 1968, 500 000 troops** from the Warsaw Pact **invaded Czechoslovakia** to remove Dubcek and crush demands for change. The Czechoslovakian radio told people not to fight back and only **protest peacefully** to avoid a repeat of the violence that had occurred in Hungary in 1956.

**Dubcek was removed** from power and replaced by Husak who withdrew the reforms of the Prague Spring.

As a result of the Prague Spring, Brezhnev issued the **Brezhnev Doctrine** which stated the Soviet Union would **not let any communist country abandon communism** and would use force to keep them communist.

The **USA** had welcomed Dubcek's reforms but **did not intervene** to help because they did not want to interfere and risk war with the Soviet Union.

**The Prague Spring threatened the Soviet Union because:**

If Brezhnev allowed Dubcek to introduce democratic reforms in Czechoslovakia **other satellite states may also want reforms** and this would weaken the Soviet Union's control over them.

**Soviet security** was dependent on maintaining tight control over its satellite states.

**If the USA had intervened** the USSR may have declared **war** on the USA.

***Failure of Détente  
& the collapse of  
communism  
1970-1991***

## Détente

*Détente refers to a period of lessening tension between the USA and USSR. It occurred after the Cuban Missile Crisis and ended following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.*

During détente the USA and USSR tried to lessen tension by:

- Setting up a Hotline in 1963 between the White House and Kremlin.
- Limiting the Arms Race (Test Ban Treaty, Non-Proliferation Treaty & SALT).
- Recognising the borders of Europe
- Trading with each other.

However détente came to an end for a number of reasons:

- The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
- Ronald Reagan
- Solidarity in Poland.

## The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

In the 1970s a Soviet-backed **communist group** was **in power** in Afghanistan. They introduced **reforms that went against the Muslim culture** of Afghanistan.

The government became increasingly unpopular, **opposition, led by the Mujahidin**, developed and civil war broke out.

The Mujahidin, who were Muslim fundamentalists, were being **financed by the USA** and a rich Saudi, Osama Bin Laden.

The communist Afghan government **asked the USSR for help** and On **Christmas Day 1979**, 80 000 **Soviet troops entered Afghanistan**.

Afghanistan was important to the USSR because it **linked** it to the **oil-rich Middle East**.

The USSR also wanted to **prevent a Muslim government forming in Afghanistan** because there were **30 million Muslims living in the USSR** who could be encouraged to rebel if a Muslim government was set up in Afghanistan.

The USSR also argued they were **fighting against the secret involvement of the USA** in Afghanistan.

**America argued** the Soviets invaded Afghanistan because they **wanted to expand their influence in Asia** and gain **control of the oil** supply.

**The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan contributed to the collapse of detente because:**

- America saw the Soviet Union's invasion as **an aggressive move** and a threat to world peace.
- American **President Carter** stopped exporting grain and technology equipment to the USSR, **did not ratify SALT II** (a treaty limiting the arms race) and the USA **boycotted the Moscow Olympics** in 1980.
- America continued to **support the Mujahidin** and said they would resist any attempt to control the Persian Gulf.

## Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan became **President of the USA** in **1981**, determined to be **tough on communism**.

He called the Soviet Union **the 'evil empire'** and believed the Soviet Union had deceived America during detente. He believed the USSR still wanted to spread communism and Reagan was determined to **stand up to the USSR**.

Reagan started a **'New Cold War'** by pouring **billions of dollars into defence**, including the **SDI (Strategic Defence Initiative)** known as **Star Wars in 1983** and the **neutron bomb**.

The Soviet leaders were convinced Regan was preparing to **launch a nuclear attack** on the USSR.

Although **arms reduction talks** did take place in 1982 (**START**- Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) **Reagan made massive demands on the Soviet Union**, demanding they make huge cuts to their nuclear arms. The Soviet Union was forced to pull out of the talks.

Reagan also gave **financial support to Solidarity**, a protest movement that formed in Poland in 1980, and in doing so showed he was willing to get **involved in the Soviet sphere of influence**.

**Ronald Reagan contributed to the collapse of detente because:**

- He started a **"New Cold War"** and increased defence spending.
- He was openly critical of the Soviet Union calling it an **'evil empire'**.
- He got involved in Soviet **satellite states**
- The Soviet Union believed he was preparing to launch a **nuclear attack** on the USSR.

## Solidarity in Poland

In **1980** the first free **trade union** in the whole Soviet system was formed.

It was formed **to improve the living and working conditions** in Poland. Poland, like other Soviet satellite states, had poor living conditions and in the **1980s protest movements** formed.

Solidarity began when workers at the **Gdansk Shipyard** went on strike. The strikers were led by an **electrician, Lech Walesa**.

Walesa then **formed Solidarity**.

**Strikes spread across Poland** and the **membership of Solidarity increased to nine million**.

The Polish government declared Solidarity to be **an illegal organisation** and members of Solidarity, including **Walesa**, were **arrested**.

Even though Walesa was put in prison, Solidarity continued as an **underground organisation**.

President **Reagan** of America and the **Pope** (who was himself Polish) **gave Solidarity support** and they discussed how to destroy communism in Poland.

In 1982 Walesa was released from prison and in 1983 he was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

**The formation of Solidarity in Poland contributed to the collapse of détente because:**

- The **USA was seen to be aggressive** by the Soviet Union providing support for Solidarity.
- The USA had not interfered in the satellite states of the Soviet Union before.

## The Collapse of Communism

The **Cold War** officially ended in **December 1989**.

The **USSR** formally ended in **December 1991**.

There were many factors that contributed to the end of the Cold War and the collapse of communism:

- The Soviet invasion of **Afghanistan**.
- Ronald **Reagan**
- The emergence of **Solidarity** in Poland.
- The policies of Mikhail **Gorbachev**.
- Protests in **Eastern Europe**.

## The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

**The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan contributed to the collapse of communism because:**

- It was costing the Soviet Union too much money. The Mujahidin were difficult to beat and by the mid-80s it was clear that the Soviet Union could not win.
- By the 1980s the Soviet Union was spending 25% of its GNP (Gross National Product) on the military and defence. America was spending 7% of its GNP on the military and defence.
- It put an extra strain on an already weak Soviet economy.

## Ronald Reagan

**Reagan contributed to the collapse of communism because:**

- He started the New Cold War and the Soviet Union could not compete. By pouring billions of dollars into defence, Reagan put pressure on the Soviet Union and forced them into a position where they could not compete. America won the arms race.
- The Soviet Union was already spending 25% of its GNP on the military and defence. It could not afford to spend any more.
- The renewed Cold War led to Gorbachev (when he came to power in 1985) seeking disarmament.
- He gave support to Solidarity in Poland, which started the collapse of communism in Poland and contributed to the eventual collapse of communism in other Eastern European countries.

## Solidarity in Poland

**The emergence of Solidarity in Poland contributed to the collapse of communism because:**

- It showed that the authority of Soviet Union could now be challenged.
- It showed how unpopular communism was and encouraged other satellite states to push for change.
- It contributed to the collapse of communism in Poland.
- The fact that the Soviet Union did not invade Poland to put down the protests showed how weak the Soviet Union had become by the 1980s.



## The Gorbachev Factor

In **1985 Mikhail Gorbachev** became leader of the USSR. He came to power **wanting to reform** communism because:

- The Soviet Union was not winning the war in Afghanistan.
- They were spending too much money on the arms race.
- The economy was inefficient.
- The standard of living was poor
- The Communist Party was corrupt and people had lost faith in the system.

Gorbachev introduced **two main reforms**:

**Glasnost**: This involved allowing **more openness** and disagreement with government policies. For example, non-communists were allowed to stand for election and there was **free speech**.

**Perestroika**: This involved **changing Russia's economy** to allow competition. For example, businesses could respond to demand and make profit.

He also decided to:

- **Withdraw Soviet troops** from Afghanistan: The last Soviet troops left Afghanistan in 1989.
- **Reduce arms**: In 1987 the USA and USSR signed the INF Treaty.
- **Reduce control** over satellite states: In **March 1989** Gorbachev said he would not use force to put down protests.

**Gorbachev contributed to the collapse of communism because:**

He **led the reform** of the Soviet Union and **ended the Cold War in 1989**.

**Perestroika** led to more people **losing faith in communism** because the economic reforms were benefitting them more than communism.

**Glasnost** led to **large spread anti-communism** in the satellite states of Eastern Europe, especially after Gorbachev said in March 1989 that he would not use force to put down protests. This led to **revolutions across Eastern Europe** in 1989.

His policy of Glasnost made **communist hard-liners** think he was weak which led to the failed **coup of August 1991** and the collapse of communism in the USSR.

## Events in Eastern Europe

The **satellite states** of the Soviet Union had become increasingly **unhappy about being controlled** by the Soviet Union.

In **March 1989** Gorbachev told the communist leaders of Eastern Europe that the Soviet **Red Army would no longer protect** them.

Glasnost encouraged people within the satellite states to **protests against communism** and push for reform.

**Non-communists were allowed to stand for election** in **Poland** and in 1989 Solidarity was legalised. **Solidarity** went on to form the first non-communist government in the Soviet Bloc.

In Hungary reformers came to power and brought greater freedom to Hungary. In **May 1989 Hungary** opened its border with **Austria**, creating a **hole in the Iron Curtain**.

In Czechoslovakia the communist government collapsed and reformers, including Dubcek, came to power.

The East German leader, Honecker, refused to implement Gorbachev's reforms but increasing protests led to him stepping down from power. On **9<sup>th</sup> November 1989** the **Berlin Wall came down** and the border between East and West Germany was opened.

In 1990 Germany was united again.

**Eastern Europe was important in the collapse of communism because:**

- They showed how **unpopular communism** was. Glasnost let people express their hatred.
- The **quick disintegration** of communism in Eastern Europe led to criticism of Gorbachev in the USSR which led to the **attempted coup** in August 1991.
- They led to the **Baltic states** of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia (non-satellite states) **breaking away** from the USSR.

## The Collapse of the Soviet Union

Gorbachev's policy of **Glasnost** meant that criticism became public and this increased **demands for change** culminating in the **collapse** of communism in **Eastern Europe**.

**Hard-line communists** believed Gorbachev had not done enough to prevent the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

They also argued that the economic reforms had not solved food shortages and rising prices.

In **August 1991** hard line communists tried to **overthrow Gorbachev in a coup**. They kept Gorbachev **prisoner in his home**. People feared that old-style communism was making a return.

However, **Yeltsin**, the President of Russia, led a demonstration **against the coup**. He said reform had to continue.

**Gorbachev returned** to power but his position was **weakened**. On 25<sup>th</sup> December 1991 **Gorbachev resigned** and the **USSR was formally disbanded** the next day.

**Yeltsin became the President** of the Russian Federation, which replaced the USSR.



