

# Knowledge Organiser: Causes of the Cold War

## Key words:

**Berlin Airlift:** To get around the Berlin Blockade, the three western allies airlifted food into Berlin as they knew if the Soviets shot down their planes they would be seen as the aggressor. They were able to ship 1,000 tones of food a day and after almost a year of blockade Stalin gave in

**Berlin Blockade:** Stalin stopped shipments of food coming in hoping that this would make the three western allies give up West Berlin.

**Capitalism:** Capitalists believe that everyone should be free to own property and businesses and make money. The USA's economic ideology was capitalist.

**Communism:** Communists believed that all property should belong to the state, to ensure that every member of society has a fair share. The Soviet Union was communist.

**Hotspots:** Specific locations where tension increased during the wider context of the Cold War

**Iron Curtain:** A barrier separating the former Soviet bloc and the West

**Kennan Long telegram:** – It claimed in a telegram that Stalin wanted to destroy capitalism and was worried that the rest of the world was hostile and looking to destroy communism. It also stated that Stalin would back down if facing strong resistance. It was responsible for the policy of containment.

**MAD:** Mutually assured destruction

**Marshall Plan:** Following the Truman doctrine the USA started to give out economic aid to the countries of Europe to prevent the spread of communism. By 1952 the US had given \$12.7 billion of aid

**NATO:** NATO-(North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) In response to Stalin's threat to Berlin NATO was created. This had a collective security agreement that meant if any country was attacked all other countries would support them. This organisation resulted in a continued American military presence in Europe

**Novikov telegram:** It claims that with Roosevelt dead the USA was less interested in co-operating with the USSR and he believed that the American people supported the idea of a war against the Soviet Union

**Potsdam:**.. Though Germany would be split into 4 its economy would remain as one. Berlin would be split in four even though it was in Soviet land

**Satellite states:** A nation that was once independent but is now under the control of another. In the Cold War this term is usually used to describe nations under the control of the Soviet Union.

**Tehran:** The USA and Britain agreed to open a second front to take pressure off the Eastern Front. Stalin would declare war on Japan and supply troops to fight Japan once the fighting in Europe had finished. They discussed how Europe would be split after the end of the war.

**Trizonia:** The unification of French, British and US occupied Germany to form West Germany

**Warsaw Pact:** Warsaw Pact-When West Germany were allowed into NATO the USSR became concerned about a powerful Germany bordering them to the west. Within a week of West Germany joining NATO the Soviets created the Warsaw Pact which is a defensive military alliance between its satellite states which was referred to as the 'Eastern Bloc'.

**Yalta:** They agreed that Germany would be split into four parts, the USA, Britain, France and the Soviet Union, would each take a part. Germany would pay \$20 billion in reparations.

## Timeline of key events

1943	Tehran peace conference takes place.
Feb 1945	The Yalta Peace conference takes place
July 1945	Potsdam conference happens
Aug 1945	US Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Sep 1945	End of the Second World War
1946	Winston Churchill made his Iron Curtain
1946	Long Telegram and the Novikov telegram sent.
1947	The Berlin Crisis led to the division of Germany into East and West
1949	Comecon and NATO were established.
Aug 1949	The first successful Soviet atom bomb test.
1955	The Warsaw Pact was formed.

## Key People:

**Churchill:** served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945, during the Second World War, and again from 1951 to 1955.

**Atlee:** served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1945 to 1951

**Roosevelt:** President of the US. In office March 4, 1933 – April 12, 1945

**Truman:** 33rd president of the United States, serving from 1945 to 1953.

**Stalin:** Leader of the Soviet Union

# Knowledge Organiser: Flashpoints of the Cold War

## Key words:

**38th parallel:** A line of latitude that divides Korea into two: North and South Korea

**Atomic bomb:** A weapon which explodes due to a reaction between atoms

**Bay of Pigs invasion:** invasion of Cuba in April 1961 by some 1,500 Cuban exiles opposed to Fidel Castro . The invasion was financed and directed by the US government.

**Brinkmanship:** Pushing disagreements to the point where there is a risk of war

**Censorship:** Removal of information/ details from groups of people

**CIA:** US government organisation. Central Intelligence Agency. They collect information on other countries to try to protect the US.

**Collectivisation:** The peasantry were forced to give up their individual farms and join large collective farms

**'Cult of personality':** to create an idealized and heroic image of a leader by a government, often through unquestioning flattery and praise.

**DEFCON:** levels of U.S. military defence readiness depending on the perceived threat to national security,

**Guerrilla Warfare:** A small independent group that fights without the routine, rank or rules of an army

**Intercontinental ballistic missiles:** Rocket powered missiles with a range of over 5,500 km

**Missile Gap:** A belief by the US that their missile technology was falling behind the USSR

**Naval blockade:** Cutting off use of a port by surrounding it

**Peaceful coexistence:** A policy of peace, putting political ideas aside. Encouraging competition but without war

**Policy of containment:** Preventing the spread of communism beyond those already under the control of Stalin at the end of WW2

**Sputnik:** Soviet Satellites launched into space (the first one being the first satellite ever to be launched into orbit)

**Stalemate:** Neither side can win in the war (both are stuck)

**Thaw:** A relaxation or decrease of Tension

**The Prague Spring:** relaxed censorship, discussed multi party elections and increased trade with the west. This was met with harsh intervention by the Soviet Union.

**Viet Cong:** Military group who resisted US influence in Vietnam

## Key People:

**Ho Chi Minh:** Leader of North Korea (Communist)

**Rakosi:** Communist leader of Hungary at the start of the Uprising until 1956

**Nagy:** Took over leadership of Hungary from Rakosi, brought in reforms to make society more open

**Eisenhower:** President of the US 1953 to 1961.

**Kennedy:** President of the US 1961-1963

**Fidel Castro:** Communist leader of Cuba

**Dubček:** Leader of Czechoslovakia during the Prague Spring

**Brezhnev:** Leader of the Soviet Union 1964 to 1982

**Khrushchev:** Leader of the Soviet Union 1953 to October 14, 1964.

## Timeline of key events

Aug 1945	US Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
1949	Soviets test an atomic bomb – arms race begins
Oct 1949	China becomes communist
June 1950	North Korea invades South Korea
May 1951	Korean war had reached a stalemate
1952	US tests hydrogen bomb
1953	Armistice signed in Korean War Soviets test hydrogen bomb
1954	Vietnam is split into North and South at the Geneva Conference
1956	The Hungarian Crisis.
1957	Soviets launch first satellite (Sputnik) into space
1958	Great Leap Forward in China
1959	Communist revolution in China
12th of August 1961	Berlin Wall built
17th of April 1961	Bay of Pigs invasion
1963	Hotline set up between US and USSR
1964	Gulf of Tonkin incident. US enters the Vietnam War
January 1968	Prague Spring begins
August 1968	Warsaw Pact troops put down Prague Spring.
1968	Tet Offensive and My Lai Massacre in Vietnam
1973	Ceasefire in Vietnam agreed to in Paris
1975	Communist North Vietnam invades the south and takes control

# Knowledge Organiser: End of the Cold War

## Key words:

**Détente:** The easing of hostility or strained relations, especially between countries

**Glasnost:** Russian for openness or transparency

**Perestroika:** Russian for reconstruction. It was used in the Gorbachev era to describe his programme of reorganising the Soviet State

## Key People:

Gorbachev: Last leader of the Soviet Union 1986-1991

## Timeline of key events

1979	Soviet Union invades Afghanistan
1986	Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union
1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall
1991	Gorbachev removed from power

## Summary of the changing interpretations of the Cold War:

<u>Type of interpretation</u>	<u>Historians</u>
Traditional – Ideological differences. USSR at fault.	Herbert Feis, 1972, from From Trust to Terror Roosevelt and his colleagues were right: the nations needed moral law and freedom. Churchill was right: the nations needed magnanimity and balance of power. Stalin was sullyng a right: they were trying not only to extend their boundaries and their control over neighbouring states but also beginning to revert to their revolutionary effort throughout the world.
Revisionist – USA at fault.	Whitcomb - Revisionist interpretations begin to turn against USA (1960s and 1970s): A new account emerged in the wake of the Vietnam War. U.S. involvement in Vietnam disillusioned some historians and created antipathy towards the American position. In the 1960s and 1970s, the revisionists (e.g. Whitcomb) stressed that American expansionism was the cause of the Cold War. They pointed out that, at the end of the Second World War, the Soviet Union was severely weakened, whereas the United States prospered and possessed a monopoly on the atomic bomb. According to the revisionists, Stalin's main priority was to recover from the devastating war years. They placed the cause of the Cold War in the nature of capitalism and viewed Marshall Aid as a way of seeking new markets and expanding the U.S. economy. The Soviet Union thus correctly understood that their sphere of influence in Eastern Europe was in danger.
Post-revisionist – Both sides should be blamed. They feared each other.	From We Now Know: Rethinking the Cold War by the American historian John Lewis Gaddis, published in 1997. Gaddis was writing about relations between the USA and the USSR immediately after the Second World War. Here, then, was the difficulty after the war. The Western democracies wanted a form of security that would reject violence. Security was to be for everyone, it was not to be a benefit denied to some in order to provide it to others. Stalin saw things very differently: security came only by intimidating or eliminating potential challengers. The contrast, or so it would seem, made conflict unavoidable. A summary of Gaddis' post-revisionist view: Gaddis identified several factors that contributed to the emergence of a US-Soviet cold war: historical problems pre-1941, including a lack of communication and formal recognition; the delay in opening up a second Allied front in Europe, leaving the Soviets three years to battle the Nazis unaided; Washington's refusal to recognise a Soviet sphere of influence in eastern Europe; and Truman's 'atomic diplomacy' and refusal to share nuclear technology with the Soviets.
Post-1991 – The end of the Cold War was the end of History as we know it.	Fukuyama Writing in 1992, Fukuyama claimed that the end of the Cold War was the final victory for democracy and capitalism. Liberal democracy had emerged as mankind's highest-evolved and best form of government, surpassing all other systems. According to Fukuyama, this marked the "end of history": not of historical events or change, but of the great historical struggle between ideologies.