

Superpowers relations and the Cold War 1941-91

Timeline of events		Key Themes – Increasing Tension 1941-56
1943	Tehran Conference	1. Early tension between East and West
1945	Yalta Conference	2. The Development of the Cold War
1945	Potsdam Conference	3. The Cold War intensifies – arms race and Warsaw Pact
1946	Novikov and long telegrams	4. The Cold War intensifies – Hungarian uprising and international response
1947	Truman Doctrine	More Key Words
1947	Marshall plan	Satellite States – supposedly independent states that were controlled by the USSR
1948/9	Berlin Blockade and airlift	Cominform – Organisation that controlled all communist parties in Europe
1949	NATO formed	Comecon – Plan to encourage trade within differing parts of Eastern Europe
1955	Warsaw pact signed	Berlin blockade - Stalin cut off all supplies to Berlin to try to force the West out.
1956	Secret speech and Hungarian uprising	Berlin airlift – successful USA plan to remove threat.
Key Words		Key individuals or organisations
Grand Alliance	Alliance between USA, Britain and USSR agreed to defeat Nazism in 1941	Josef Stalin dictator of USSR to 1953 developed the satellite states after WW2
Communism	The belief that the state should control society and own everything in it.	Harry S Truman US president who authorised the first use of the Atomic Bomb and was determined to stop the spread of Communism (doctrine)
Capitalism	The belief that individuals should have the freedom to work and earn money.	Nikita Khrushchev – Stalin’s successor who criticised him a secret speech which led to uprisings. Had to back down on Bay of Pigs.
Tehran Conference	Conference in 1943 where the big three agreed on their spheres of influence.	Imre Nagy – Leader of Hungary who led uprising and was executed.
Yalta Conference	Conference in 1945 where the big three agreed to set up the United Nations (UN)	NATO – Military alliance between USA and Western Europe
Potsdam Conference	Conference in 1945 where the big three agreed to divide up Germany	Warsaw Pact – military alliance between USSR and satellite states
Long & Novikov telegrams	Messages sent by the USA and USSR to assess each other’s strengths	Marshall Plan – A US plan to prevent the spread of communism

Timeline of events		Key Themes – Three Cold War Crises 1956-1968
1949-61	Berlin Refugee Crises – 3 million East Germans flee West	1. Increased tension between East and West
1949-61	Arms race	2. Cold War Crises – Berlin Wall, Cuba and Czechoslovakia
1956	Hungarian Uprising	3. Reaction to Crisis - Detente
1959	Cuban Revolution	
1961	Berlin Wall built	More Key Words
1961	Bay of Pigs invasion	Ballistic nuclear missiles – Nuclear missiles capable of being launched from one continent to another
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis	Doctrine – a statement of ideas
1964	Khrushchev replaced by Brezhnev	Fall-out shelter – Buildings designed to protect people in the event of a nuclear attack
1968	Czech uprising	Space-race – A period from the late 1950s to 1970s during which USA and USSR compete in space.
1968	Prague spring	Summit – a high level meeting between government representatives.
Key Words		Key individuals or organisations
Refugee crisis	3 million East Germans fled to the west from 1949-61	John F. Kennedy – US President who refused to back down Berlin and Cuba
Berlin Ultimatum	Threat by Khrushchev for the USA to leave Berlin in six months in 1958	Anton Dubcek – Czech Communist who tried to modernise Czechoslovakia but was deposed by force from USSR
Berlin Wall	Wall built in 1961 by USSR to prevent flow of refugees	Nikita Khrushchev – Stalin's successor He was replaced after backing down over Cuba.
Bay of Pigs	An unsuccessful invasion of Cuba by rebels supported by the USA in 1961	Leonid Brezhnev – Succeeded Khrushchev took hard line on Czechoslovakia but promoted "détente"
Cuban Missile Crisis	Confrontation between the USA and USSR over Soviet Missiles being sited in Cuba in 1962	Fidel Castro – Overthrew the US supported Government in Cuba and led a communist Government from 1958 to 2015.
Mutually Assured Destruction	Realisation by USA and USSR that Nuclear War would destroy them both.	Brezhnev Doctrine – The USSR had the right to use force against satellite states who were a threat to the Communist system
Prague Spring	Attempt by Dubcek to bring liberal reforms to Czechoslovakia in 1968	CIA = American organisation that monitored foreign governments.

Timeline of events		Key Themes – Unit 3 Why did the Cold War end 1970-1991
1967	Outer Space Treaty no nuclear arms in space	1. Attempts to reduce tension between East and West
1970s	USA and USSR want to reduce the chance of Nuclear War they cooperated more	2. Flashpoints – the significance of Olympic boycotts and Afghanistan invasion by USSR
1972	Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty – limiting Nuclear Weapons	3. The Collapse of the USSR, Gorbachev “new thinking”
1975	First joint space mission	4. The significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall
1975	Helsinki conference superpowers agree areas of cooperation e.g. human rights	Timeline of events continued
1979	USSR invades Afghanistan with USA supporting rebels. Led to 1.5 million people including 15000 USSR troops.	1990 – By this time communists had lost power in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Germany was reunited)
1980	USA boycotts the Moscow Olympics in protest at invasion of Afghanistan	1991 – Gang of eight force Gorbachev to resign.
1984	USSR boycotts the Los Angeles Olympics in retaliation	1991 – Just three days later the USSR falls and Gorbachev returned and after trying to rewrite the constitution but in December 1991 he dissolved the USSR and resigned.
1979-85	The Second Cold War started with Afghanistan ended with Glasnost	
1985	Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of USSR and slowly starts to modernise	
1985	Geneva Summit little agreed apart from working together	
1986	Reykjavik Summit – USA offer to scrap ballistic missiles	
1987	Inter-range nuclear forces (INF) At Washington 1987 agree to ban all long range missiles	
1989	9 th November – The Berlin Wall collapsed and travel was allowed between East and West Germany - The Warsaw Pact collapsed too	
Key Words		Key individuals or organisations
Detente	The policy of working towards easing tensions between two fiercely opposed enemies.	Ronald Reagan – US president 1981 to 1989
Glasnost	Term used for Gorbachev’s policy of greater openness the allowing of public the allowing of public discussion of issues and detente	Mikhail Gorbachev – Soviet leader from 1985 who modernised the USSR and led to it breaking up
Perestroika	Perestroika is the term used for Gorbachev’s economic reforms to allow for less state control and more international trade.	Nikita Khrushchchev – Stalin’s successor He was replaced after backing down over Cuba.
Star Wars	Also known as Strategic Defence Initiative where USA explored the possibility of destroying nuclear weapons from space.	Kabul revolution of 1978 Islamists overthrow communist government.
Second Cold War	Caused by the invasion of Afghanistan and Reagan who called the USSR evil ended with Gorbachev	George Bush – US president 1989 to 1993