

Superpower relations and the Cold War

Revision Guide

Key terms

<u>Key term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<i>Soviet Union</i>	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR. A union of republics ruled from Moscow, Russia.
<i>Ideology</i>	A set of shared beliefs.
<i>Capitalism</i>	The ideology that everyone should be free to own property and business and to make money. The USA's political ideology was capitalist.
<i>Communism</i>	The ideology that all property, including homes and businesses, should belong to the state to ensure that every member of society has a fair share. The Soviet Union's political ideology was communist.
<i>Democracy</i>	A political system in which a nation's leaders are chosen in free elections.
<i>Satellite state</i>	A nation that was once independent, but is now under the control of another.
<i>Colonialism</i>	Economic, political, and cultural control of another country.
<i>Reparations</i>	Payments in money or goods after a war from the losing country to the victors.
<i>London Poles</i>	A group of politicians who left Poland after the German invasion in 1939 and set up a government-in-exile, first in Paris and then in London.
<i>Veto</i>	Forbid or refuse. Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council can stop resolutions being passed with a single 'no' vote, even if all the other members think it should be passed.
<i>Buffer zone</i>	An area of land between two countries designed to protect them from attack.
<i>Isolationism</i>	Not getting involved in the affairs of other countries. Between the First and Second World Wars, the USA followed a policy of isolationism.
<i>Containment</i>	Limiting the spread of something - the US policy of containment meant preventing the spread of communism outside a small number of countries.
<i>FRG</i>	The Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)
<i>GDR</i>	The German Democratic Republic (East Germany)
<i>NATO</i>	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation: a military alliance between Western countries
<i>Conventional weapons</i>	Weapons which are not nuclear, chemical or biological.

<i>Deterrent</i>	A force that prevents something from happening. During the Cold War, many people believed in the 'nuclear deterrent' - that countries would be less likely to use nuclear weapons because of the danger that the other side would respond with an equally devastating attack.
<i>Peaceful coexistence</i>	The Soviet theory that communism and capitalism could co-exist peacefully, without the need for hostile relations.
<i>Disarmament</i>	The reduction or withdrawal of weapons or military forces.
<i>Ultimatum</i>	Final demand, often backed up with a threat to take action.
<i>Hawks</i>	Those in the US administration who supported going to war.
<i>Doves</i>	Those in the US administration who supported peaceful negotiation.
<i>Brinkmanship</i>	Pushing disagreements to the point where there is risk of war.
<i>Non-proliferation</i>	Stopping the spread of something, usually weapons.
<i>Doctrine</i>	A belief or philosophy
<i>Détente</i>	A period of peace between two groups that were previously at war, or hostile to each other.
<i>Status quo</i>	The existing state of affairs; the norm.
<i>ICBM</i>	Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles.
<i>SLBM</i>	Ballistic Missile
<i>MIRVs</i>	Multiple
<i>Hawks</i>	Someone who favours the use of military force to resolves international disputes.
<i>Doves</i>	Someone who favours the use of military force to resolves international disputes.
<i>Ratify</i>	Formal approval by the US Senate to turn an agreement or idea into official US policy.
<i>Mujahideen</i>	A group of Muslim guerrilla fighters.
<i>Catalyst</i>	Someone or something which speeds up or causes an event or reaction.
<i>Rhetoric</i>	Language designed to have a persuasive or impressive effect.
<i>Evangelical</i>	A Christian denomination which emphasises the importance of the Bible and the need for personal belief in Christ.
<i>Gerontocracy</i>	A state, society, or group governed by old people.
<i>Perestroika</i>	Russian for 'reconstruction'. Part of Gorbachev's 'New Thinking', which included reorganising the structure of the Soviet state and economy.
<i>Glasnost</i>	Russian for 'openness' or 'transparency'. Part of Gorbachev's 'New Thinking', which included allowing more freedom of speech and openness in government and foreign relations.

The origins of the Cold War, 1941-58

1) Early tensions between East and West

During the Second World War, the Soviet Union, USA and Britain formed 'The Grand Alliance' against Nazi Germany. However, once Germany had been defeated, tensions between the allied countries began to increase for several reasons.

Causes of tension

1. Ideological differences

	USA & Britain	Soviet Union
Politics	Democracy: free elections with a choice of parties	Single-party rule
Social structure	Some people have more power than others because of family, background, wealth, education, or achievements	Classless society where everyone is equal
Economy	Capitalist: private ownership of property and business	Communist: state ownership of property and business
Rights	Individual freedoms guaranteed	The rights of all workers more important than individual rights

2. Differences between leaders

Leader	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Winston Churchill	Joseph Stalin
Date of leadership	1933-45	1940-45, 1951-55	1920s-1953
Country	USA	Britain	Soviet Union
Politics and beliefs	Strongly believed in democracy, but formed an alliance with the Soviet Union to protect the USA against Japan. Was not as tough with Stalin as Churchill wanted him to be.	A conservative with traditional values. Strongly believed in democracy, the British Empire and was very suspicious of Stalin.	Strengthened one-party rule in the USSR and cut back on personal freedoms for Soviet citizens. Stalin was convinced the West wanted to destroy communism.

3. A new world order

After the Second World War, the 'old powers' like Britain and France were now less important. Two new 'superpowers', the Soviet Union and the USA had emerged. Their strong militaries and economies created rivalry between them.

4. The Grand Alliance

Although Britain, the USA, and the Soviet Union united against Germany and Japan in the Second World War, there was no real change in how they viewed each other. The USA and Britain were still suspicious of the communist Soviet Union, whilst the USSR distrusted the capitalist world.

5. The Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences

Conference	Tehran	Yalta	Potsdam
Date	November 1943	February 1945	July-August 1945
Leaders	Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin	Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin	Truman, Attlee, Stalin
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The USA and Britain would attack Germany in Western Europe, helping the Soviets fighting in the East. Stalin would declare war against Japan and help the USA to defeat them once the war in Europe was over. Agreed that the aim of the war was Germany's unconditional surrender, and that it should be kept weak after the war. Poland could take land from Germany, and the USSR could keep land it had taken from Poland in 1939. An international organisation should be set up to settle disputes through discussion and negotiation (later became the United Nations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany to be split into four zones, each controlled by a different power: the USA, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. Half of Germany's \$20 billion reparations would go to the Soviet Union, the Nazi Party would be banned and war criminals prosecuted. The United Nations was set up The Soviet Union joined the war against Japan Stalin agreed the future governments of Eastern Europe would be decided by free elections Polish borders were agreed, and free elections were guaranteed. Stalin expected this to result in a pro-communist government, whereas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany split into four zones, but the economy would be run as a whole Berlin split into four zones controlled by different countries, even though it was within the Soviet zone of Germany Each administering country would take its reparations from the zone of Germany it controlled. As the Soviet Union controlled the poorest zone, it could take a quarter of the industrial equipment from other zones. Truman objected to Soviet control over the countries of Eastern Europe