



# Cold War (Conflict and Tension)

## Crucial Knowledge



### Factors

**Social** – relating to people and society

**Economic**- relating to businesses and wealth

**Political**- relating to the government or public affairs of a country

#### Cold War in the 1940s

- The USSR was Communist (everything is state owned and wealth shared equally). The USA was Capitalist (individuals could generate great wealth from their own businesses).
- During World War Two the USA & USSR worked together to defeat Nazi Germany. However, after the war their relationship broke down over how to deal with a defeated Germany.
- At the Yalta and Potsdam conferences the Allies agreed to split Germany and Berlin into 4 zones.
- The dropping of the Atomic Bomb caused great tension between the USA and USSR because the USA refused to share its secrets with the USSR.
- Stalin spread his influence in the East of Europe and the USA attempted to contain this by loaning war damaged countries money (Marshall Plan).

#### Cold War in the 1950s

- The Cold War spread into Asia in the 50s. The Korean War (1950 - 53) and Vietnam War (1954-1973) showed that the USA were prepared to follow the Truman Doctrine and contain Communism by getting involved in Proxy Wars.
- There was a military race between the USA and the USSR to develop bigger and better weapons. This race led to the threat of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).
- West Germany was allowed to join NATO in 1955. This upset the USSR and they formed their own version of NATO, the Warsaw Pact (1955).
- The USSR launched the first satellite in 1957 (Sputnik) starting the Space Race. A chance for each side to show the superiority of their government.
- In the USA there was a fear of Soviet spies (Reds under the bed). Senator Joe McCarthy fed peoples fears of Communism.

#### Cold War in the 1960s

- The Peace Summit in Paris between the two powers was ruined when an American spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union (U2 incident).
- In 1961 the Berlin Wall was built separating East and West Berlin. It was built by the USSR to prevent people seeking a better life in the West.
- In 1959 there was a Communist Revolution in Cuba lead by Castro. Because it was so close to home, America tried to stop the revolution in 1961 by invading (Bay of Pigs). This failed.
- In 1962 there was a stand -off between the USA and the USSR when the USSR tried to put missiles on Cuba. This was the closest the world ever came to nuclear war.
- In 1968 the USSR invaded Czechoslovakia in response to anti-Soviet reforms. The Soviets killed over 100 people and injured 500 more. A government loyal to Moscow was installed.

#### Cold War in the 1970s

- Despite better relations between the East and West in the 1970s, there were still concerns over human rights in the Soviet sphere of influence.
- Richard Nixon pulled all American troops out of Vietnam in 1973, easing tensions.
- China and the USSR fell out. This eased tension as the two big Communist allies no longer supported one another.
- In 1972, SALT 1 was signed, which limited the development and use of nuclear missiles by both countries.
- This period was known as 'Détente' which means a cooling in tension between the two sides. Things were getting better.