



# Turton School History Department

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_



## Yr 9 History

Homework Book – Topic 4  
The Cold War

## **What was the impact of World War Two?**

World War II proved to be the deadliest international conflict in history, taking the lives of 60 to 80 million people, including 6 million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. Civilians made up an estimated 50-55 million deaths from the war, while military comprised 21 to 25 million of those lost during the war. Millions more were injured, and still more lost their homes and property.

The legacy of the war would include the spread of communism from the Soviet Union into eastern Europe as well as its eventual triumph in China, and the global shift in power from Europe to two rival superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—that would soon face off against each other in the Cold War.

### Damage to the United Kingdom

2 million British homes were destroyed in the German bombing of World War Two. 2¼ million people were made homeless and 45,000 civilians lost their lives including 8000 children. There were 250 000 people displaced [from their homes] in the first six weeks of the Blitz, from September 1940.

The heavy and frequent bombing raids carried out over Britain in 1940 and 1941 began with raids on London on 7 September 1940. In what became known as the Blitz, industrial sites and civilian centres from Plymouth to Liverpool and Portsmouth to Hull were targeted by the Luftwaffe, the German air force. In September 1940 alone, 5,300 tonnes of high explosives were dropped on London in just 24 nights. The Germans were intent on destroying morale before their planned invasion of Britain and as part of this strategy they extended their targets to include the major coastal ports and other key industrial towns and cities throughout the country.

1. In total, how many people were killed during World War Two?
2. What did the legacy of the war include?
3. List 5 statistical impacts of the conflict for the UK

## Homework 2

## To be completed by:

### How did Europe and the world begin to divide when the fighting ended?

You would presume that the end of the fighting in World War Two meant that the world now lived in peace and harmony. Indeed, horrible regimes such as Nazi Germany and imperial Japan had been defeated, and the values of freedom, justice and democracy has been victorious.

Or had they?

The end of the fighting saw the victorious Allies meet in Germany. The American and British armies approaches from the west, whilst the Soviet forces approaches from the east. They met at the Elbe River on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1945. Germany would formally surrender on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1945 and VE Day was celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Despite the celebrations, the Allies were already beginning to turn against each other. The issue came down to one of ideology. These are the ideas and values behind how a country is run. The USA and UK were both capitalist democracies, whereas the Soviet Union was a communist dictatorship.

Capitalist countries value freedom and choice. They allow people the freedom to vote for their own governments and to live and function as liberal democracies. Communist countries value equality. In these countries, freedom is often restricted so that the government can try to ensure things are equal, and that people are the same. Both sides believed that their system was superior. Despite being Allies in WW2, the USA and Soviet Union now became leaders of opposite sides in an argument that became known as the Cold War.

1. When did Germany surrender?
2. Where did Allied troops meet each other?
3. Explain the argument between the two ideologies?



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## Homework 3

## To be completed by:

### Why did Germany become the centre of the Cold War?

The fighting in Europe came to a halt when Germany surrendered on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1945. Each of the Allied armies now had soldiers based on German *territory*, and decisions had to be made about what should happen next.

Following conferences at Yalta and Potsdam, it was decided that Germany as a country would be divided into 4 *zones* of occupation. The *USA*, *UK*, *Soviet Union (or USSR)* and *France* were all given a zone to administer. *Berlin*, the capital city, was also divided in the same way into 4 zones, each given to a country listed above.

The zones were *run* by the country in charge, who implemented the rules and beliefs that it thought appropriate. Therefore, as *capitalist* democracies, the USA, UK and France all ran their zones in this way. Alternatively, the USSR ran its zones following their *communist* ideology.



The divide between the capitalist zones and the communist zones became known as *the Iron Curtain*. This was because each side treated the other with mutual suspicion and often refused to co-operate.

In March 1948, the USA, UK and France all decided to merge their zones of Germany into one zone initially known as *trizonia*. This would later change its name to the Federal Republic of Germany or more simply, *West Germany*. The Soviets responded by changing their zones to be called the Germany Democratic Republic, or, *East Germany*. Germany was now officially divided into two separate countries, each following a completely different ideology

Explain how Germany became two divided countries, including all of the words in *italics*

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**How did Communism spread?**

At the end of World War Two, the USSR was the only communist country in the world. Twenty years later and there would be over 20 communist countries across three continents.

How did Communism spread in Europe?

World War Two ended when the Soviet army moved west across the continent of Europe, pushing the Nazis back to Germany itself. As they moved further and further west, the Soviet army began to 'liberate' the countries they passed through. At the end of the fighting, rather than leave those countries to enjoy peace and freedom, the Soviets remained in charge and began to establish 'friendly' governments there – communist governments therefore soon spread across Eastern Europe. Between 1944 and 1948, eight European countries became communist – East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

In each example, communist politicians in the eight countries rose to power by following a similar method. They started by taking control of the police, army and radio stations. They then arrested or murdered any politicians who wouldn't support communism. Finally they held rigged elections where the outcome was pre-decided. All of this was supported by the Soviet army who never left the countries, even after WW2 ended.

The capitalist countries of the west were horrified by what was happening. Poland in particular was especially concerning for Britain. After all, we had declared war on Germany in 1939 for invading Poland, in order to protect its freedom. To now see it become communist, with little choice, felt as if our fighting may have been in vain.

1. How did the Soviet Union find themselves in charge of many of the countries of Eastern Europe?
2. Which countries became communist between 1945 and 1948?
3. What method was followed to establish communism in these eight countries?

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**How did America attempt to restrict the spread of communism in Europe?**

The USA were especially concerned by the spread of communism in the east. When visiting the country to give a speech, the former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill famously stated that an 'Iron Curtain' had descended down the middle of Europe, separating capitalist west from communist east.

The Americans were not prepared for communism to continue to spread. Indeed, they saw communism as a threat to their capitalist way of life that had to be 'contained.' In response to the threat of communism spreading into Greece and Turkey, the American president, Harry Truman declared that the USA would help any nation threatened by communism. This policy was known as the Truman Doctrine. For Greece and Turkey, this meant the USA would give \$400m in aid to help their governments defeat the communist threat.

America was also concerned that communism would continue to spread further west, possibly to countries such as Italy, France and Britain. America saw the devastation of WW2 as an opportunity for communism to appeal to people who were living in poverty. In June 1947, the American general George Marshall visited Europe to survey the damage for himself. His subsequent report, known as the Marshall Plan put the Truman Doctrine into action.

The aim of the Marshall Plan was to help Europe recover as quickly as possible, so that it would be better able to resist the spread of communism. The Americans believed it would also benefit them directly as a strong Europe would help improve international trade. The Marshall Plan set up a fund of \$15bn in March 1948. Sixteen European countries asked for help, including Britain who received over \$3bn. The aid often arrived in the form of goods, such as machinery and fertilisers.

Between 1948 and 1950, industrial production in western Europe rose by 25% and communism began to appear more and more unpopular there. Stalin and the Soviet Union were furious with all of this. Not only was the Marshall Plan making communism unpopular, but he also saw this fund as a way of America controlling the countries of western Europe. Stalin referred to the scheme of 'dollar imperialism'.

1. Create a timeline to explain how America attempted to contain the spread of communism

1947	1948	By 1950

**What did the people of Eastern Europe think about living under communism?**

As you learnt in homework 4, communism spread across Eastern Europe at the end of World War Two. As the Soviet army moved westwards, they occupied the countries they passed through, helping to establish communist governments in eight countries. On each occasion, they seized control of key areas of society, arrested or murdered opponents, and held rigged elections. The people of Eastern Europe were not always welcoming of their new communist dictatorships. They were often unhappy that they had no say in what happened to their country, as there was no true democratic vote. Many resented the loss of freedom they experienced, as communist countries often restrict things like free speech, free movement and freedom of the press.

Hungary, 1956

In October 1956, a new Hungarian communist leader was appointed called Imre Nagy. He was known to be a reformer and announced a series of reforms to try and improve communism in Hungary. These included the end of government control of the press and radio and a promise of free elections.

The Soviet Union could not accept these reforms and responded by sending in the Red Army. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1956, fighting between the Soviet army and Hungarian protestors began. 4000 Hungarians were killed, 7000 Soviet troops and 200,000 Hungarians fled to live in the West. Imre Nagy was arrested by the Soviets and later executed. The uprising had failed.

Prague, 1968

The capital city of Czechoslovakia was the scene of the next rebellion. Again a new communist leader, Alexander Dubcek, was appointed who began to reform the country. He too promised free press, freedom to travel and more trade with western capitalist countries.

The Soviets reacted in the same way. Seeing this as a threat against the established communist system, 500,000 troops were sent to invade the country. A key difference this time was that the Czech people did not fight back, instead following passive resistance, which meant only a handful of people were killed. Dubcek was arrested and sacked from his job and a new more traditional communist leader took charge.

1. Complete the table below comparing the two uprisings

Similarities (x3)	Differences (x3)

**Why was the Berlin Wall built?**

When Germany and Berlin were divided into 4 zones in 1945, many German people were confused at what had happened to their country and their capital city. The people of Berlin in particular found it bizarre that their city had become so divided in such an arbitrary way.

However, to begin with, the dividing lines between the 4 zones were initially just painted lines on the floor and signs informing you of which zone you were entering/leaving. This meant people could easily cross into a different zone for work or leisure. This freedom to move between zones meant people could also freely move between capitalism and communism. Many Berliners took the opportunity to permanently move, escaping a zone they didn't like for another. For most, this meant moving out of the communist controlled zone, into the capitalist controlled areas. More than 2m had done this by 1961, with a daily amount of 2000 skilled workers abandoning communism for capitalism.

The East German leaders could not allow this to continue. They worried that at this rate there would be no people left in their communist zones, and were especially worried that it seems to be the young and bright people who were leaving their country. So, on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1961, the decision was taken to build a wall to separate East and West Berlin. It initially began as a barbed wire fence but in time became a 45km long, 12 feet high concrete wall. Guards patrolled the wall using watchtowers, whilst the land around the wall was laced with mines and bobby traps.

It was made clear by the Soviets that anyone trying to cross the wall without permission would be shot. Indeed, 41 East Berliners were shot trying to escape to the West in 1961 alone. The Wall was seen as a great propaganda defeat for the East. It was seen as a wall to imprison their own people.

It remained standing until November 1989.

1. Why was the Berlin Wall built?

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2. When was it built?

3. How was it built?



## Homework 8

## To be completed by:

### How close did the Cold War get to turning 'Hot'?

It is widely regarded that the most tense confrontation between USA and USSR was in 1962 over a small island off the coast of America called Cuba.

Cuba had become a communist country in 1959 when a revolution overthrew the old government that has been friendly to America. The new communist leader of Cuba was called Fidel Castro, who immediately became friendly with the USSR. The two new friends began to trade goods with each other. Cuba sold the Soviets sugar and food whilst the Soviets sold Cuba military hardware to protect itself from an American attack.

The situation escalated in 1962 when US spy planes took pictures of missile sites being set up on Cuba. These missiles had a range of 4000km and could potentially be used to attack and destroy many American cities. These missiles also had the potential to deliver a nuclear attack. The American President, John F. Kennedy could not tolerate this situation and threatened to invade Cuba and/or launch a nuclear attack, if Cuba and the Soviets did not demolish the missile sites.

A tense week passed as the leaders of America and the Soviet Union exchanged letters. This was the closest the two sides had ever come to direct military confrontation, and certainly the closest the world had come to nuclear war. Eventually, on 28<sup>th</sup> October, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to dismantle the bases on Cuba if America agreed to do the same in a country on the Soviet border, Turkey. Nuclear war had been averted.

1. Why did the friendship between the Cubans and Soviets annoy the Americans?

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2. How was the situation resolved?

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## Homework 9

## To be completed by:

### What happened in Vietnam?

Another key flashpoint of the Cold War was in Vietnam. This did not involve the USSR directly, but saw America take a leading role. The small country of Vietnam is based in South East Asia. It had previously been part of the French empire but became an independent country in 1954.

Vietnam was divided into a capitalist south and a communist north. America supported South Vietnam and their new leader Ngo Dinh Diem. The new communist leader of North Vietnam was Ho Chi Minh. He wanted all of Vietnam to be united as a communist country under his control. America feared that communism would spread into more countries around the world if Vietnam was allowed to turn.

Fighting between the north and south started almost immediately. In the early 1960's the Americans began to send weapons and 'advisers' to help the southern army. By 1964 this had evolved into openly sending American troops to fight with the South Vietnamese army. Between 1964-75, 2.8m US soldiers went to fight in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War proved very controversial. Many Americans could not understand why they were being sent thousands of miles to fight in a country many of them had never heard of. This also took place at the time of the Civil Rights Movement, and many leaders such as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the boxer Muhammad Ali were famous critics of the war.

1. Who were the leaders of the two parts of Vietnam?

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2. Why did America get involve din the conflict?

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3. Why was it controversial?

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**Research Task – Why did the Cold War end?**

To become a good historian you will need to be able to conduct your own research and wider reading (at A level students are expected to carry out 5 hrs of wider reading a week – just for History!).

You do not need to conduct 5 hrs reading but for your first research task you are to visit this website and read about how and why the Cold War came to an end

Visit this web site (you can scan the QR code on your phone):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zq63b9q/revision/1>

Read the information, revise and complete the test. Bring a print out of your final score to your next lesson.

