

The Cold War is the name given to the relationship that developed primarily between the USA and the USSR after the Second World War.

Key concepts	Key words
<p>Capitalism An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state</p> <p>Communism A political and economic system in which the major resources in a society are owned by the state and wealth is divided equally among citizens</p>	<p>Arms Race: A competition between nations for superiority in the development and accumulation of weapons</p> <p>CIA (Central Intelligence Agency): US office which coordinates and conducts espionage and intelligence activities</p> <p>Comecon: Association of Soviet-oriented communist countries set up in 1949 to coordinate economic development</p> <p>Cominform: Communist Information Bureau established in 1947 to exchange information among nine eastern European countries and coordinate their activities</p> <p>Marshall Plan: A special system of loans from the USA to European countries implemented at the end of the Second World War which allowed for reconstruction and economic regeneration. General George Marshall was the senior US army officer who devised the plan</p> <p>NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation): Created in 1949 following the Berlin Crisis of 1948- 49, its 12 founding members included the USA and Canada, Britain and France.</p> <p>Satellite State: A country that is politically and economically dominated by another country</p> <p>Truman Doctrine: US President Truman's idea that it was the USA's duty to prevent the spread of communism to eastern Europe and the rest of the world. To do this, he was prepared to engage the USA in military enterprises all over the world</p> <p>United Nations: International body set up in 1945 to promote peace and international cooperation and security</p>

Key people

<p>Joseph Stalin: Communist leader of the USSR during WW2. After this conflict he became committed to taking both political and ideological control of eastern European states, believing this to be integral to creating a buffer between the democratic West. This quest for domination is seen as one of the predominant factors in starting the Cold War.</p>	<p>Sir Winston Churchill: Served as Prime Minister between 1940 and 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. He took over after a disastrous start to the war in which Nazi Germany conquered much of Europe. The manner in which he forged crucial alliances with countries like the US and Russia undoubtedly aided the Allies victory. After the war, he was one of the first public figures to hypothesise about the significant dangers of an Iron Curtain descending across Europe.</p>	<p>John F Kennedy: The majority of his presidency involved managing relations with the Soviet Union. He authorised the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, but subsequently helped to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis, and made a famous speech about the Berlin Wall as being symbolic of Communist failure. He also expanded the US space programme.</p>
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Key events

<p>1945, United States, France, Britain and the Soviet Union occupy zones of Berlin</p> <p>1945 Potsdam Conference begins in Germany</p> <p>1945 United States Army Air Force drops atom bomb on Hiroshima</p> <p>1945 United States Army Air Force drops atom bomb on Nagasaki</p> <p>1946 Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech. Long and Novikov telegrams</p> <p>1947 Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan. Setting up of Cominform</p> <p>1948 Beginning of Berlin Blockade</p> <p>1949 Setting up of Comecon. End of Berlin Blockade. The formation of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic and the setting up of NATO</p> <p>1950 General Douglas MacArthur orders troops into North Korea</p> <p>1953 Nikita Khrushchev is appointed first secretary of the Soviet Communist Party</p> <p>1955 Setting up of Warsaw Pact</p> <p>1956 The Hungarian Uprising</p> <p>1960 Nikita Khrushchev walks out of summit meeting in Paris because of the U-2 incident</p> <p>1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba</p> <p>1961 The first American troops arrive in South Vietnam</p> <p>1962 John F. Kennedy announces that the Cuban Missile Crisis is over</p> <p>1963 Nikita Khrushchev and John Kennedy agree to establish a hot line to use in a Cold War crisis</p> <p>1964 United States aircraft bomb North Vietnam for the first time</p> <p>1968 Vietcong launch the Tet Offensive against South Vietnamese cities</p> <p>1973 The last of the US troops leave Vietnam</p> <p>1979 Soviet troops invade Afghanistan</p> <p>1989 Fall of the Berlin wall</p>
