

Cold War Essential Learning

You must know and be able to explain all of these concepts:

Key concept	What is it? Give 1-2 facts to describe this concept	Explain consequences / importance Effects on relations? tensions? countries?
The Grand Alliance	Alliance between USA, USSR and UK against the Axis powers in WW2.	Ensured that the Allies stuck together and defeated Germany and Japan.
Tehran Conference 1943	Agreements made on second front in the West and to continue the war against Japan after Germany was defeated.	D-day landings in 1944. Further conferences at Yalta and Potsdam.
Yalta Conference 1945	Agreements on Continuing the War, UN, Division of Germany, Spheres of Influence and Poland.	Alliance remained strong and nobody made deals with Germany. Future disagreements over Germany.
Potsdam Conference 1945	Agreements on how Germany was to be run. Disagreements over the extent of reparations and elections in Poland.	Alliance started to break up. Stalin lost trust in Truman and began to take over Eastern Europe.
Ideological differences between the big 3	USA and UK were Capitalist, believed in free markets and elections USSR was communist – believed in state control of property and equality.	Differences in understanding of concepts like democracy in Europe. Different ways of running economies, eg in Germany.
Creation of the atomic bomb, 1945	Roosevelt had started developing the atomic bomb. Truman authorised it to be dropped on Japan in 1945.	Ended WW2. USSR was suspicious of USA. USSR developed its own bomb in 1949.
Kennan's Long Telegram, 1946	Kennan was a US diplomat to the USSR. He argued that the USSR was determined to extend communism around the world.	Increased fears in the USA. He influenced Truman's move towards the policy of containment.
Novikov Telegram, 1946	Novikov was the Soviet ambassador in Washington. He argued that the USA wanted to create an Empire.	He increased fears in the USSR. Stalin aimed to create a buffer zone against future threats.
Creation of Satellite States in E Europe	USSR used local communists to take control of governments through coalitions, secret police and rigged elections.	Series of puppet states were created. USA became concerned that the whole of Europe would become communist.
Truman Doctrine 1947	Truman offered to help any country under threat from external forces. Developed a policy of containment.	Used to justify intervention in Greece. Led to Marshall Aid to help with money. Stalin set up Cominform.
Marshall Aid 1948	\$13.5bn in aid to 16 countries to rebuild their economies, trade with the USA and stop them becoming communist.	Stalin was threatened when it was extended to Germany and Berlin Stalin set up Comecon.
Cominform 1947	This controlled the governments of Eastern Europe and ensured that they followed Stalin's policies.	Ensured that the Eastern European countries followed the USSR.
Comecon 1949	This coordinated Eastern European countries to produce goods to sell to the USSR.	Benefited the USSR Led to resentment in E Europe as they did not produce goods for themselves.

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Creation of NATO, 1949	Defensive alliance of USA, W European countries and Canada.	Increased ties between USA and W Europe. Increased tensions and arms race.
Division of Germany and Berlin	Germany was divided into 4 zones – USA, USSR, UK and France. Berlin was in the Soviet zone, also divided 4 ways.	The led to arguments about how Germany should be run. Led to the Berlin blockade.
Berlin Blockade	Stalin was angry about W attempts to rebuild Germany. He shut off access to W zones by air, rail and canal.	Increased tensions. USA launched an airlift. Creation of NATO.
Berlin Airlift	USA flew supplies of coal, food and medicine in to Berlin. 1 plane every 3 mins.	Stalin gave up the blockade after nearly a year. USA created NATO.
Creation of FRG and GDR	FRG – Federal Republic of Germany (West) GDR – German Democratic Republic (East) Both were created in 1949.	Division of Germany became permanent. Refugees started to move from East to West Germany.
Arms Race	USSR detonated atomic bomb in 1949 USA detonated H bomb in 1952 USSR detonated H bomb in 1953	Tensions escalated. Concept of mutually assured destruction was as a deterrent to war.
Creation of Warsaw Pact 1955	Khrushchev created the Warsaw Pact as an alliance of the E European countries + the USSR after W Germany joined NATO	Increased tensions and arms race. Hungary attempted to leave in 1956 leading to the Invasion of Hungary.
Hungarian Uprising 1956	Students protested vs the repressive policies of Rakosi. When Gero replaced him there were mass protests in favour of Nagy	Nagy became PM He offered reforms eg freedom of speech, elections and leaving the WP.
Soviet invasion of Hungary 1956	Khrushchev was angry that Nagy was considering leaving the Warsaw Pact. He invaded with other WP countries.	Nagy was arrested and executed. It deterred others from reforms.
International response to Soviet invasion of Hungary	USA Secretary of State Dulles said that the USA was with the Hungarians. But USA + UK were involved in Suez Crisis.	USA + UK did not get involved. Suggested that they would stick to containment, not intervention.
Refugee problem in Berlin	4m refugees left East Germany 1945-61. 1000 refugees left each day in 1960 Mainly younger professionals.	East Germany's economy was failing. Khrushchev's ultimatum.
Khrushchev's Berlin ultimatum 1958	Khrushchev demanded that the Western powers leave Berlin or face consequences.	Eisenhower invited Khrushchev to the USA in 1959. Relations improved.
Paris Summit 1960	The USSR shot down a US spy plane before the conference. USA did not apologise. Khrushchev stormed out of the conference.	Tensions increased. Another Summit in Vienna was planned.
Vienna Summit 1961	Khrushchev tried to intimidate Kennedy by increasing military spending. Kennedy also increased spending.	Tensions increased. Khrushchev built the Berlin Wall.

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Construction of the Berlin Wall 1961	Temporary barrier went up overnight. East and West were separated. Later this became a concrete wall.	Standoff at checkpoint Charlie. Families were separated. In long-term tensions decreased.
Standoff at Checkpoint Charlie, 1961	USA continued to demand free access to East Berlin. E German forces stopped this. Big standoff at the checkpoint.	Very tense moment. Possibility of war. Both sides backed down slowly. Kennedy visited Berlin in 1963.
Kennedy's visit to Berlin, 1963	Kennedy visited Berlin and made a famous speech – "ich bin ein Berliner".	This reinforced US commitment to W Berlin and Germany. USA was seen as country of freedom.
Cuban Revolution 1959	Castro succeeded in removing Batista and taking over Cuba in a Revolution.	Castro nationalised several US businesses. Many Cubans fled to the USA.
US actions in Cuba 1959-61	USA put sanctions on Cuba. Refused to buy sugar or refine oil. Fire sprayed Cuban sugar plantations.	This damaged the Cuban economy. Pushed Cuba towards the USSR.
Soviet actions in Cuba 1960-62	USSR gave Cuba a loan of \$100m. USSR offered to refine oil for Cuba. Operation Anadyr – sending missiles to Cuba.	Cuba declared itself a Communist State. Tensions increased dramatically when missiles were found in Cuba.
Invasion of Bay of Pigs	Kennedy authorised an invasion force of Cuban rebels trained by the CIA to invade Cuba and seize control from Castro.	The invasion was a failure. Castro turned to the USSR for help. Kennedy was humiliated by the incident.
Events of the Cuban Missile Crisis	U2 spy plane photographed missiles: Oct 62. Kennedy ordered a blockade and USA went to DEFCON II. 1 ship was intercepted. A US spy plane was shot down over Cuba.	World prepared for WW3. Very high tensions. Khrushchev sent 2 telegrams to offer a deal.
Resolution of Cuban Missile Crisis	Khrushchev offered to remove missiles if: Tel 1: USA agreed to leave Cuba along Tel 2: USA removed missiles from Turkey	Kennedy accepted Tel 1 and Tel 2 secretly. Tensions declined. China split from the USSR for giving up.
Creation of the "hotline"	Direct telephone line between Washington and Moscow.	Communications improved. Sensitive problems could be discussed quietly away from the media.
Limited Test Ban Treaty 1963	This banned the testing of new nuclear missiles except deep underground.	Slowed the arms race down. Improved tensions as both sides had to trust each other to follow it.
Outer Space Treaty 1967	Stated that no nuclear weapons would be placed in space.	Stopped arms race from spreading to space. Improved relations and increased trust.
Nuclear non-proliferation treaty 1968	The Superpowers guaranteed not to supply nuclear technology to other countries.	Stopped the arms race spreading to other countries. Improved relations and increased trust.
The Prague Spring 1968	Dubcek took over from hard-liner Novotny. He called for "Communism with a human face" and initiated many reforms.	Brezhnev was concerned that these would spread out of control. Warsaw Pact countries disapproved.

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The Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia 1968	Brezhnev ordered an invasion of 500,000 troops. Approx 80 people were killed.	Dubcek was removed and imprisoned in the USSR. The Prague Spring was over.
The Brezhnev Doctrine 1968	A Communist country could not revert to Capitalism. All Communist countries had to follow the USSR's form of Communism.	Communism became unchanging and old-fashioned. It was increasingly resented by the Eastern Europeans.
International reaction to Soviet invasion of Czech	USA was involved with Vietnam and so did not intervene. Romania and China criticised the USSR.	USSR was left increasingly isolated. USA stuck to the principle of containment in Europe.
Détente in the 1970s	A period of relaxation in tensions. Both sides wanted to reduce the costs of the arms race and reduce tensions.	Relations improved. Nixon visited Moscow in 1972 and 1974. Arms race was stopped temporarily.
SALT I	Stopped increases in certain types of nuclear missiles. Limited each side to 1 ABM system each.	Put a freeze on the arms race. Signified increasing trust. Reasserted principle of MAD.
SALT II	Proposed to reduce stocks of nuclear warheads to 2,250 each. Was never implemented.	Negotiations lasted a long time. USA suspected that the USSR was not serious about reducing weapon stocks.
Helsinki Conference	3 baskets: Security, Human Rights, Trade / Co-operation.	Trade increased b/w USA and USSR. Criticism that the USSR did not fulfil its human rights obligations.
Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan 1979	USSR invaded Afghanistan to remove failing leader Amin and to stop instability spreading to Muslims in the USSR.	This ended détente. Tensions increased. Carter Doctrine.
Carter Doctrine 1980	Carter condemned the invasion, increased military spending and issued sanctions against the USSR.	Economic problems increased in the USSR. Carter started to fund the mujahidin.
Olympic Boycotts, 1980 and 1984	USA boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics. USSR boycotted the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.	Increasing tension. Both sides used propaganda to try to gain an advantage in the Cold War.
Reagan's attitude to the Cold War	Called the USSR an "evil empire". Ended the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction. Was willing to consider a first strike.	Tensions escalated. Increased military spending. Restarted the arms race, SDI.
Strategic Defence Initiative	A plan to create a defence shield against nuclear missiles in space, using the latest laser technology.	Scared the USSR. Showed the superiority of US technology and innovation.
Gorbachev's "new thinking"	Perestroika – restructuring the Soviet economy to include some free market reforms. Glasnost – openness, freedom of speech.	Increasing criticism of the Communism within the USSR and E Europe. Reagan began to work with Gorbachev.
INF Treaty 1987	Agreement in Washington to remove all intermediate range nuclear missiles from Europe. USA kept the SDI system.	Ended the arms race. Big step towards ending the Cold War. Made NATO and WP less relevant.

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Impact of Gorbachev's policies on E Europe	Gorbachev abandoned the Brezhnev Doct. Said that Eastern European countries were free to choose their own governments.	Elections in Poland and Hungary. Solidarity won the Poland elections. Hungary opened border with Austria.
Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1989	Protests at the Wall led to it being opened in Nov 1989. Families were reunited.	Germany reunified in 1990. Germany became a full member of NATO.
Collapse of the USSR, 1991	States in the USSR (Lithuania, Ukraine, Azerbaijan) declared independence. Yeltsin became leader of Russia.	15 new countries were created. Communism was ended.
End of the Warsaw Pact	Warsaw Pact was abandoned in 1991.	Many of its countries, eg Poland, Lithuania and Hungary, joined NATO.