



Cold War

Origins

1945 - 1949

Revision Activities

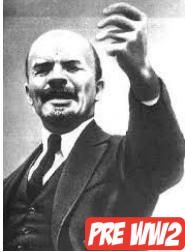
Full Teaching Pack

Access - [Here](#)



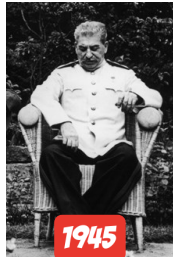
Origins of the Cold War - 1945 to '49

Origins - seeds of conflict



Even before WW2 ended there were reasons why the West and the East would split - The Russian Revolution, Appeasement, the Nazi-Soviet Pact and the actions of both sides during the war made a **post-war alliance a very unlikely prospect.**

Yalta + Potsdam Conferences



After the 'friendly' meeting at **Yalta** little was agreed at **Potsdam**. Importantly, Stalin now occupied Eastern Europe and the new Western leaders, Truman + Attlee - had little trust in Stalin.

The Eastern Bloc Formed



At **Yalta**, Stalin had agreed to allow Eastern European countries under Soviet influence hold **democratic elections**. By 1946, it became clear Stalin would **not allow this to happen**.

Marshall Plan - US aid to Europe



The West watched as more countries fell under Stalin's control. The **Truman Doctrine** influenced the US policy to flood parts of Europe with US Dollars to help prop up the war-torn economies and save them from communism.

The Berlin Blockade



Berlin was deep inside the Soviet zone of a partitioned Germany. To try and squeeze the West out of their zones in Berlin the **Soviets blocked all road, canal and rail access**.

The Berlin Airlift



Rather than give up and face a humiliating defeat over West Berlin, the USA began a **massive airlift dropping supplies to the blockaded population**. All eyes were on Stalin's response - Stalin allowed the planes to fly over the Soviet zone.

NATO Formed



NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, was a **military alliance set up by the West**. This meant Europe was clearly split into two opposing alliances. The USA / West and USSR in the East.

Cominform + Comecon

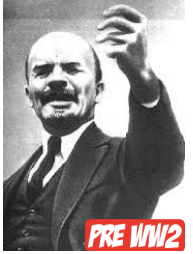


Stalin organised all countries under Soviet influence into **Cominform** by 1947. In response to Marshall Aid, Stalin set up **Comecon**. A Soviet led economic alliance of communist countries.



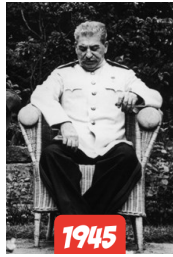
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SEE BERLIN



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Revision Summary / Timeline

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Yalta Agreed



JAPAN

- Stalin agreed to enter the war and help the USA fight against Japan once Germany had surrendered.

ELECTIONS

- They agreed that as countries were liberated from occupation by the German army, they would be allowed to hold free, fair elections to choose the government they wanted.

WAR CRIMINALS

- The Big Three agreed to hunt down and punish war criminals who were responsible for the genocide in the Nazi concentration camps.

GERMANY

- They agreed that Germany would be divided into four zones amongst the Allies: USA, France, Britain and USSR.

UNITED NATIONS

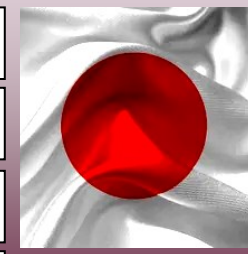
- The Big Three all agreed to join the new United Nations Organisation, which would aim to keep peace after the war.

EASTERN EUROPE

- The Big Three agreed that Eastern Europe should be seen as a 'Soviet sphere of influence' as Stalin was concerned about the future security of the USSR.

February 1945

Potsdam Agreements



Soviets can harvest their zone
USSR take any amount reparations


Bonus 10 % for Soviets
10% of reparations from other zones to USSR

Nazi War Criminals
To be captured and put on trial

Japan
Must surrender without condition

July 1945

Potsdam Disagreements



Stalin's Influence in East
Forming 'Eastern Bloc' - pro leaders in Poland

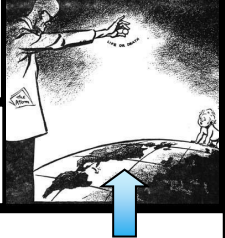
Boundaries for Zones
Disagreements at to where these should be

USSRs role ending war with Japan
USA now did NOT want Stalin involved.

Severity of German Punishment
Stalin wanted German crippled - USA did not

July 1945

Changes between Ya + Po



Leadership - less friendly
RIP FDR died - replaced by hardliner Truman.
Churchill replaced by Attlee

Eastern Bloc taking shape
Stalin had begun to insert pro communists into Eastern Europe - Poland.

US Atomic Weapon
The USA now tested this new weapon - advantage over Stalin (and Japan).
"If it works I'll sure have a hammer on these boys" - Harry Truman.

US President Harry Truman




President at Potsdam Conference.

Did not like Stalin and was openly anti-communist.

Aim = to limit Stalin's influence in eastern Europe and backtrack on idea that the USSR should join the fight against Japan. Did not want Germany crippled after WW2.

"tired of babying the Soviets"

British PM - Clement Attlee



British Prime Minister.

He took over from Churchill at Potsdam - who had lost the British general election in July 1945.

Although a socialist he became increasingly concerned about Stalin and his tactics in Eastern Europe.

"anti-Communist struggle"

Stalin + Eastern Bloc



Stalin wanted a **buffer zone** of pro-Soviet countries.

He (justifiably?) said he wanted to stop invasion from the West as in WW1 + WW2.

Salami Tactics = take each part, country by country - rigged voting, violence + murder.

" If the Slav (majority of east European) people are united no one will dare move against them" Stalin

1945 - 49


Iron Curtain Speech





Churchill's words were clear enough. This was a turning point - arguably the start of the Cold War!


"From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an **iron curtain** has descended across the continent."


March 1946

Yalta and Potsdam = 

Stalin + Eastern Bloc = 

Marshall Plan / Aid = 

Berlin Blockade / Airlift = 

Unit Overview = 

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Poland



After WW2 Communists joined a coalition government then took over as the majority.

Other non-communist party leaders were forced into exile.

Formation of the Eastern Bloc - 1947

Hungary



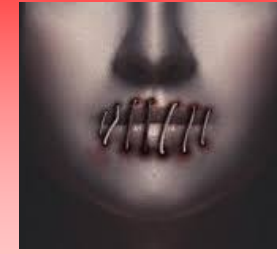
Communists took over the majority of the government.

Opposition leaders put in prison.

Church leaders attacked.

Formation of the Eastern Bloc - by 1947

Czechoslovakia



Communists took over the majority of the government.

Then banned all other parties thus creating a **ONE party, communist state.**

Formation of the Eastern Bloc - by 1948

Meanwhile ... Greece Civil War

Communists V Monarchists

Civil war started after Nazis abandoned Greece

Communist Winning

Britain unable to continue to help monarchists

Britain Appealed

To the USA to help in fight to stop communists

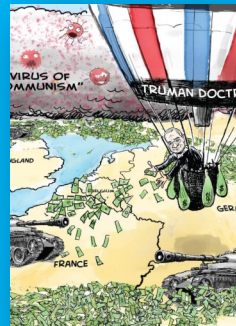
Impact = USA Support

One of the reasons for Marshall Aid / Plan



1945 - 49

Truman Doctrine



"I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation."

March 1947

Nutshell = USA to stand against Stalin's Expansion in Europe

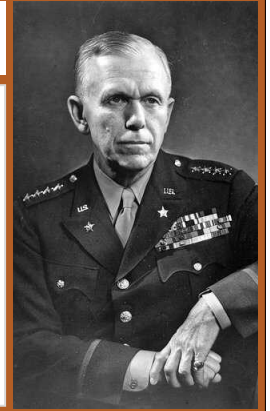
George Marshall

U.S. Secretary of State.

Believed that the best way to stop communism was to make people prosper.

He crafted and delivered the generous and far-sighted Marshall Plan.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.



Marshall Aid



George Marshall believed every country in Europe was so poor it was in danger of falling to communism. He felt that US aid was needed to stop ...

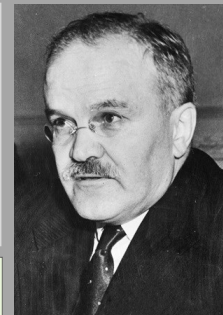
\$13 billion dollars.

1947

Vyacheslav Molotov / Plan

Stalin's Minister of Foreign Affairs

He attacked the Marshall Plan naming it "Dollar Imperialism". He rejected any idea of allowing U.S aid into the Eastern Bloc. He created his own economic plan that developed into COMECON.



"Dollar Imperialism"



Cominform

Cominform was an alliance of the communist parties / governments in Europe to coordinate their activity **under the direction of Stalin** during the early Cold War.

October 1947 = Communist Club

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Bizonia



USA + Britain merged zones.
This allowed them to better develop and improve the economy.

Stalin was not invited to these talks and not given access to meeting minutes. It was against agreements made at Yalta + Potsdam.

May 1947

Why did 'S' Block Berlin ?

Angry over and in response to ...
Marshall Aid

Angry over and in response to ...
Bizonia

Main aims were to ...
Force West out + propaganda win



" We are closing Berlin off and the Western Allies are going to stand there like dumb sheep" Stalin.

June 1948

The Berlin Airlift

The USA and UK created an 'air bridge' to fly in food, fuel and supplies to West Berliners cut off in their zones. Planes landed or took off every 30 seconds!

A propaganda win for the West.
A propaganda bloody nose for Stalin!



" It seems to me it was the Soviets first clear defeat in the Cold War "- Historian John Gaddis.

1948 - 1949

Comecon



The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance was an organisation created by Molotov to counter the Marshall Plan.

It was an economic union of Eastern Bloc and socialist governments.

This allowed the USSR to benefit economically from satellite states and gave Stalin more control over them.

1949


Impact of Berlin

Berlin = now a symbol / battleground
Oasis of democratic freedom V Soviet workers' party

Berlin = potential flashpoint.
US and Soviet troops faced off against each other

New aspect of Cold War - NATO set up
All trust now gone / other types of conflict - economic

" In April 1949, the USA, Britain and France officially announced the formation of ... West Germany"





NATO TAPTOE ARNHEM

25-26-27 JUNI
29-30 JUNI
1 JULI '59

HOLLAND

Why West / USA to Blame ?



Truman Doctrine + Marshall Plan
"Dollar Imperialism"

Bizonia + Creating West Germany
Against agreements and excluded Stalin.

Creating NATO
A military alliance of Western powers

"I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples"

Why Stalin to Blame ?

Creation of the Eastern Bloc
Violation of Yalta + Potsdam / Salami Tactics

And ... creation of Cominform
Eastern Bloc put under Soviet influence.

Berlin Blockade
Attempt to humiliate Western Allies + force out.



"We are closing off Berlin and the Western Allies are going to stand there like dumb sheep"

Political Differences

Capitalism v Communism
Owned by people V Owned by government.

Democracy V One Party System
People vote and choose leaders v Dictatorship

Importance of individual V Importance of state
Government out of people's lives V People work for greater good.

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