



History Cold War Notes

History (Best notes for high school - GB)

Unit 2: The Cold War

Capitalism

- Any person should be free to start a business and employ people
- Any profit he or she makes is reward for hard work
- Average standard of living higher than under communism, but wide spread between rich and the poor
- Opportunity for all
- A free economy
- Choice of many parties for government, chosen by the people (a democracy)
- Freedom of speech afforded – people can disagree with politicians

Communism

- No private person should be allowed to profit from the work from other citizens
- All profits, instead of going into the pockets of one owner or even shareholders, goes to the state – everyone benefits
- Lower average standard of living but in theory everyone equal
- Fairness and equality for all
- A controlled economy
- Only one party for government, no need for anymore
- No freedom of speech – media can only print what the government allows

Yalta (February 1945)

- The 'Big Three' consisted of the leaders of the UK, the USA and the USSR – Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin respectively
- They met in Yalta in Ukraine to agree what would happen in post-war Europe
- Churchill wanted to ensure the survival of the British Empire and saw the USSR as a danger to the West that had to be stopped
- Roosevelt wanted the creation of a free world protected by the United Nations as a peacekeeping body. He was prepared to work with Stalin and the USSR to do this
- Stalin sought the creation of a buffer zone within Eastern Europe between Western Europe and the USSR to protect itself from any further attack – it was hoped these countries would be controlled by communist governments friendly to Moscow

Agreements:

- Germany and Berlin would be divided into four separate zones to be occupied by the armies of Britain, France, the USA and the USSR
- Germany would have to pay reparations
- The UN would be established
- The USSR would declare war on Japan within three months after Hitler was defeated
- Poland would have new borders (no agreement on its gov)

- Eastern Europe would come under the influence of the USSR however free, democratic elections would be held in these countries

Potsdam (July 1945)

The Big Three met again in July 1945 and by this time several changes had taken place:

- The war had ended in Europe and Hitler was dead
- Soviet troops were spread throughout Eastern Europe
- Plans were being made to return most US troops home
- Roosevelt had died and was replaced by Harry Truman – Truman was suspicious of Stalin's aims and his advisers urged him to take a harsh line against Stalin
- Churchill had been replaced by Clement Attlee as Britain's Prime Minister during the conference
- US and British attitudes towards the Soviet Union were hardening as they watched Germany being stripped of its resources and puppet governments being set up in Eastern European countries under Soviet occupation
- Stalin's fear of the West increased when he was told the US had developed the atomic bomb and would not share the technology

Decisions made at Potsdam:

- How Germany would be divided and occupied, each power could only take reparations from their own zone but not so much as to endanger lives of ordinary Americans
- The USSR could also take reparations from the British and US zones in exchange for supplying food, fuel and raw materials
- How Austria would be divided and occupied
- The changes of Germany's border with Poland

The suspicions and tensions at Potsdam became the first 'drop in temperature' in what would become the Cold War

Spread of Communism in Eastern Europe

By the end of 1945:

- The USSR and USA were both by far the strongest nations in the world
- Each feared the other wanted to spread their influence
- Each believed that the other wanted to destroy them – the USA feared the Red Army and the USSR feared the atomic bomb

In March 1946 Churchill made a speech that condemned Stalin's attempts to control Eastern Europe – it was in this that the phrase 'Iron Curtain' was coined. Stalin reacted angrily and argued the USSR was only protecting itself from invasion

Between 1945 and 1947 elections in **Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Romania** resulted in communist governments being set up in these countries. The West suspected these elections were rigged. Yugoslavia was already under communist control but its leader Tito was less inclined to do what Stalin told him.

Communism took control in these countries through certain trends:

- Soviet pressure that communists obtained key positions in the temporary puppet governments set up after the war
- The suggestions of radical changes to help economic recovery, gaining popularity for the communists
- Controlling/rigging the elections to ensure a communist victory

By the end of 1947 only Czechoslovakia was free from Communist control in Eastern Europe (it would fall under communist control in February 1948)

The US viewed this differently and so this increased tension:

- America's view was influenced by George Kennan (a US diplomat based in Moscow) who argued the two superpowers could never live in peace and that the US must act to contain the USSR's 'aggression'. This resulted in the policy of **containment**.
- The US failed to see the USSR was obsessed with its own security and suspicion, fear and hostility were only increased

Truman Doctrine

After WW2, it was agreed that Greece would come under influence of the British and so the Allies had agreed to fight a war against Greek communists. In March 1947 Britain announced it could no longer support the war and looked to America for help. Truman believed countries would become communist if they were poor and if economic recovery took place they would not fall to communism and could trade with the US.

- Truman decided to ask Congress for help and said that rather than remain isolated, the USA's policy would now be to use military or economic means to stop the spread of communism – through external invasion or internal revolution. This became known as the **Truman Doctrine**.
- Congress released \$400 million to stop the communist threat in Greece

Marshall Plan

- US Secretary of State George Marshall agreed and proposed an investment of \$13.3 billion into Europe over a four-year period. This became known as the Marshall Plan or Marshall Aid
- Initially Congress was reluctant and unconvinced but after the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in February 1948 it changed its mind.
- The two criteria were that these countries had to have their economic records open for inspection and that they were willing to trade with the US and Western goods
- Sixteen countries, especially the UK and Allied parts of Germany benefited from the Marshall Plan, overseen by the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation

Stalin described the Marshall Plan as 'dollar diplomacy' and argued the US would gain influence over countries by controlling their economies. He rejected the offer of finance and made sure all countries he controlled did the same by establishing:

- the Communist Information Bureau (Cominform) to ensure communist nations worked together more closely and effectively and;
- setting up the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon). It was the Soviet version of the Marshall Plan and encourage economic cooperation among all iron curtain states

Impact:

- The USA was indicating its desire to stay involved in European affairs
- The economies of many war torn European countries recovered rapidly
- The US economy developed rapidly
- Political and economic divisions between the East and West had deepened
- The USSR had strengthened its grip over the Iron Curtain countries
- 1947 was the first time the phrase 'cold war' was used to describe East-West relations

Confrontation & Containment

Berlin Blockade & Airlift

Causes of the Crisis:

- Marshall Aid was accepted by the Western zones of Germany and Berlin but Stalin made sure the Eastern sectors refused. This resulted in prevalent economic divisions between the two parts of the country and Stalin wanted to keep Germany weak to prevent another German invasion of Russia
- The Western zones were merged into a single bloc in January 1948 and in June a new currency was introduced, the Deutschmark. They believed it was essential for economic recovery however Stalin was not consulted and was not happy
- Stalin feared the people of East Berlin would see how better off their Western neighbours were and that discontent at lower living standards of the communist zone would develop. He also saw the reconstruction of Germany as a threat to Russia

Events:

- On 24 June 1948, in violation of what was agreed at Potsdam, Stalin ordered the closure of all road, rail and canal links with West Berlin from East Germany and East Berlin (The official reason given was technical difficulties)
- Stalin hoped that the closure of access to Berlin from the West would result in the Allies being forced out and that Berlin would become dependent on the USSR; America feared it would have to take action or else it would lose control over Europe
- Two million people lived in West Berlin and they only had enough food for a month and coal for ten days. The electricity supply was also cut off.

- The USA, along with the West, responded with the Berlin Airlift, in which from June 1948 until May 1949 up to 13,000 tons of supplies were brought by air every day. It lasted 324 days
- Coal was a major import but everything from food, machinery and medicine was brought in, as well as presents and sweets dropped from parachutes for children
- Harsh weather conditions caused 79 casualties throughout the winter of 1948 but Soviet planes never attacked or shot down Allied planes as this would have been seen as an act of war
- Although Berlin had to endure severe rationing by mid-1949 Stalin had to admit defeat and ended the blockade on 12 May 1949

Impacts:

- Propaganda triumph for the USA and setback for the USSR
- Containment was seen to work as communism did not spread to West Berlin
- In April 1949, 12 western nations set up the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to ensure the West could cooperate against future Soviet aggression – an attack on one nation would be an attack on all
- The Soviets saw NATO as an aggressive alliance although it was a defence organisation. When West Germany was allowed to join NATO in 1955 this opinion seemed to be confirmed and Soviet fear of a strong Germany was revived.
- In May 1955, the Warsaw Pact was set up and was essentially a communist version of NATO – it was dominated by the USSR
- Hopes for the reunification of Germany now seemed to be gone, in May 1949 the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was established and in October the USSR renamed its zone the German Democratic Republic (East Germany)
- The problem in Berlin was not solved
- Lord Ismay said NATO was designed 'to keep the Americans in, the Germans down and the Russians out'.
- By the end of 1949, Churchill's prophecy of an 'iron curtain' became reality.

Spread of Communism in Asia

Since the 1920s Chinese communists led by Mao Zedong had been fighting a civil war with Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist Kuomintang (KMT). They fought together in WW2 against the Japanese but shortly after the war the conflict restarted. Despite US support for the KMT the communists were eventually victorious. On 1 October 1949, Mao Zedong announced the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan.

The USSR was delighted that China became communist and Stalin wanted to establish a link with this new communist neighbour. In 1950, a Treaty of Friendship was agreed and committed the USSR to support China's economic, technological and military development.

The USA was worried by these developments, as China was a vast country with huge resources, and they wrongly suspected that the fall of China was part of Stalin's plans to make the world communist. The US government refused to recognise the new regime as

China's legitimate government and continued to support Chiang Kai-shek's right to represent China in the UN. Stalin's attempts to obtain the Chinese seat at the UN for the communists were rejected and in response the Soviets boycotted the UN.

This resulted in the USA's fear of neighbouring countries becoming communist one after another. This became known as the domino theory and made containment a worldwide policy.

Korean War

In 1945 Korea was freed from Japanese control by Soviet troops who moved into the north of the country and American soldiers who landed in the south. The country was partitioned along the 38th parallel until elections could be held and the country reunited. Unfortunately, the two superpowers could not agree on Korea's future as Moscow wanted it to become communist and Washington wanted it to be a capitalist democracy. By the time the armies left in 1949 the north had a communist regime set up under Kim Il Sung and was named the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or North Korea. The south had a capitalist dictatorship led by Syngman Rhee named the Republic of Korea or South Korea.

Both states sought reunification of the country and on 25 June 1950, North Korea invaded the south.

Why the US got involved:

- Follow the policy of the Truman Doctrine
- Truman had to prove he was still tough on communism as he had received criticism from Senator Joseph McCarthy at the loss of China to communism
- They had assisted against communism in China
- Truman believed the Soviet Union was behind North Korea's attack
- The USA had sought the establishment of a regime that would ensure the introduction of a capitalist democracy in the Korean peninsula
- USA had atomic bombs
- The USSR and China had established a Treaty of Friendship
- There was fear the American position in the Far East would be at risk
- They feared the domino theory would begin leading to one country falling to communism after another
- They wanted to protect then capitalist regime that was already established in South Korea
- The North had attacked without warning to unite Korea and spread communism, so the USA had to act on its policy of containment and the Truman Doctrine and keep S. Korea free from communism – the US would not have attacked first

Why the USSR and China got involved:

- Expansionism of communism
- They were keen to see the election of a government sympathetic to communism/communist itself

- On 1 October 1949, the People's Republic of China was established by Mao Zedong. As a communist state, it also wanted to see communism protected in Korea – USSR and China's treaty of friendship 1950
- Stalin had reluctantly supported Kim Il Sung's actions to stop North Korea becoming a Chinese satellite
- He was worried Mao, like Tito, would threaten the Soviet claim to be leader of the communist world and so supported North Korea
- The USSR was unable to block UN intervention in Korea because they were boycotting the UN in protest at the refusal to admit China into the UN Security Council so they had to get involved some other way
- When UN troops got too close to the Chinese border (Yalu river), China allowed 250,000 volunteers to enter Korea and fight back the UN forces.
- China feared the UN would restore Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalists.

Actions the USA took:

- The USA asked the UN to intervene to stop the attack; the UN agreed with its reasoning and began to put together a military force to counteract the invasion
- The UN force was 90% US troops, almost all weapons provided from the US and the US General Douglas MacArthur led the attack
- They landed in Pusan and Inchon in September 1950 and before long pushed the North Korean forces back to the 38th parallel – rollback
- Although it was beyond the UN's orders the UN force marched across the 38th parallel to unite the country under MacArthur's direction and Truman's agreement – they took Pyongyang and advanced to the Yalu River
- MacArthur wanted to allow an attack that would destroy communism in China, he even urged use of the atomic bomb. Truman however decided on containment rather than confrontation and MacArthur was sacked in April 1951 for criticising the president's policies
- When China attacked rollback was ended and retreated to 38th parallel
- From mid-1951 US planes were sent out when the war took to the skies; this was kept secret from the US population in case they demanded all-out war with the USSR
- Over two million dead
- US participated in peace talks from 1951 to 1953

Actions USSR and China took:

- The USSR had limited intervention to avoid hostilities but enough intervention to ensure influence in N. Korea.
- Stalin was apprehensive to take part in the war and within one week of then North invading the South he pulled out all Soviet forces.
- China sent over 250,000 volunteers (not soldiers, as war would have been declared) into North Korea in November 1950 after UN forces reached the Yalu River. They pushed the UN forces back to the 38th parallel and the war was now between the USA and China.

- China considered their actions as self-defence as they considered there to be a threat to their border
- China participated in aerial battles against the UN
- Along with the Chinese, Soviet pilots took to the skies from mid-1950. However, they wore Chinese uniforms and flew planes with Chinese markings. Over 6000 planes were lost over the next two years.
- Established China as a key communist force/power in Asia, 500,000 losses

End of the war:

Peace talks started in June 1951 but were unable to find an acceptable solution. In 1953 President Eisenhower succeeded Truman and Stalin died, eventually leaving Nikita Khrushchev in control. Both leaders sought peace and a ceasefire was agreed at Panmunjom in July 1953. Although a peace treaty was never signed, the agreement saw the creation of a permanent border – slightly north of the 38th parallel and a demilitarised zone (DMZ) between the two states.

Results of the war:

- Over 2 million died.
- Containment had worked and communism did not spread into South Korea.
- The relationship between North and South Korea remained tense and bitter.
- US-Chinese relations deteriorated further.
- To prevent Japan falling to communism, America signed a peace treaty, ended military occupation and invested heavily in the Japanese economy.
- The US signed agreements with the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, confirming its position as protector of the region.
- NATO was changed from a mainly political association into a full-blown military alliance.

Vietnam War

Background:

- Since the nineteenth century Vietnam had been a part of the French Empire and along with Cambodia and Laos made up an area known as Indo China.
- During the Second World War, the Japanese replaced the French as occupiers but soon found themselves under attack from the Vietminh, a nationalist army led by the communist Ho Chi Minh.
- At the end of the war the Vietminh declared Vietnam independent but when France tried to move back into the country it was resisted by the Vietminh.

US involvement:

- The US initially opposed France's actions as colonialism but later provided support for the French, under President Eisenhower, as they saw the war as part of the ongoing world struggle against communism

- After France's humiliating defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 an armistice was agreed and the country was split along the 17th parallel. North Vietnam was led by the Vietminh which was communist, and South Vietnam was led by the anti-communist Ngo Dinh Diem.
- Elections were planned to later reunite the country but they never took place because South Vietnam and the US were afraid that the communists would win and cause neighbouring countries to fall to communism (domino theory)
- Eisenhower provided money, weapons and military advisors for the South Vietnamese government and this aid was increased under his successor John F. Kennedy during increasing guerrilla attacks against the South's army by the National Liberation Front/Vietcong.
- South Vietnam was a useful satellite as it was rich in tungsten, tin and rubber.
- Diem was an unpopular leader in the South and was assassinated in 1963, just three weeks before Kennedy himself was shot in Dallas – by this time there were 16,000 US military advisors in Vietnam
- US pride and honour were at risk in Vietnam

How the USA's role changed after 1964:

- In August 1964, the North Vietnamese attacked a US destroyer, the USS Maddox, in the Gulf of Tonkin
- This was seen as an unjustified attack against the US (although the ship was involved in covert operations) and this led to Congress passing the Tonkin Resolution allowing President Lyndon B. Johnson to fight a war as he saw fit without consulting Congress
- With these powers Johnson ordered repeated bombings (Operation Rolling Thunder) and in March 1965 sent in American troops to fight the Vietcong
- The US used chemicals such as napalm (a petroleum jelly) and Agent Orange (which can damage the brain and central nervous system) and used them to burn civilians indiscriminately and clear forests of foliage respectively.

Problems the US faced:

- By 1968, the US had over 500,000 troops in Vietnam but the expected victory did not happen
- The US army was made up of many inexperienced soldiers (conscripts) who were sent home after one year after they got the hang of things fighting an enemy that used guerrilla tactics, dressed like Vietnamese peasantry and knew the land well
- The Vietnamese had no reason to support the US forces which seemed prepared to harass and kill civilians to root out the Vietcong – My Lai massacre where nearly 350 villagers were massacred but no Vietcong were found
- Back in the US discontent at the war was emerging – many people burned their draft cards, Johnson became so unpopular he decided not to run for re-election in 1968 and in one student protest the National Guard killed four students at Kent State University, Ohio.

Tactics of the Vietcong:

- The Vietnamese had already seen off foreign armies i.e. French and Japanese
- The Vietcong used guerrilla tactics, dressed like Vietnamese peasantry and knew the land well
- The Vietcong developed a vast network of underground tunnels to support their guerrilla campaign
- In January 1968, the Vietcong launched a massive counter-offensive known as the Tet Offensive against the US forces. Over 70,000 Vietcong troops attacked 100 towns in South Vietnam including the capital Saigon. Targets included the US embassy, the Presidential Palace and the Saigon radio station. Although it was a military defeat for the Vietcong, it was a political success for them because the unexpected scale of the attack was a blow to US prestige and as a result the US lost the will to fight

The end of the war:

- Nixon wanted to remove the US from the war but didn't want it to seem as if they had lost so he increased the levels of bombing against the North, ordered secret bombings in Cambodia and Laos which housed the Ho Chi Minh trail and introduced the policy of Vietnamisation where US troops were withdrawn and South Vietnamese forces would do the fighting
- By improving diplomatic relations with the USSR and China, North Vietnam came to the negotiating table with the US for peace talks
- In 1973, a peace treaty was signed in Paris that allowed the withdrawal of US troops and the return of US POWs. It also allowed the Vietcong to remain in the South and put off decision on the political future of the country until a later date.
- Nixon felt able to argue that he had achieved his aim of 'peace with honour' but by 1975 the country was reunited under the hands of the communists and American involvement seemed to have achieved very little at an immense cost.

Results of the war:

- Many US veterans suffered severe mental damage because of their experiences
- Vietnam was devastated by the war economically, socially and geographically.
- Cambodia and Laos also became communist; containment had failed, domino theory proven
- The US spent at least \$120 billion on the war
- There were huge military and civilian losses (1,000,000 Vietnamese civilian dead)
- The war proved that an enemy that used suitable tactics could humble the USA.

Cuban Missile Crisis

The Relationship between Cuba and the USA before 1959 and how it changed:

- The USA had originally supported Cuba and its military dictator Batista, who had been in power since 1953
- Many US businesses were set up in Cuba and the USA was Cuba's biggest trading partner – their main export was sugar to the US
- In 1959, Fidel Castro overthrew Batista as a nationalist with no support from the US
- Castro wanted to ensure Cuba's independence and so nationalised US businesses and land that belonged to US citizens
- Eisenhower refused to meet Castro when he visited America in 1959 and refused loans and economic aid
- Castro established economic links with the USSR in 1960 and so US banned all trade
- In 1961 he established a communist government, the USA would not tolerate one in their sphere of influence, Cuba was 90 miles from the US coast
- After JFK was inaugurated in January 1961, the CIA informed him of plans to invade Cuba with anti-Castro exiles that Eisenhower had approved before he left office. JFK approved this but made disastrous changes
- They were to land in the Bay of Pigs in April 1961 to overthrow Castro but the result was a disaster as they overestimated support from Cubans. This lowered Kennedy's popularity but made Castro a hero

The Relationship between Cuba and the USSR before 1959 and how it changed:

- Before 1959, Cuba and the USSR had no real relationship as, under Batista, Cuba was heavily aligned with the USA.
- When Castro came to power and Eisenhower refused loans and economic aid to Cuba, they turned to the USSR for help.
- By 1962, 80% of Cuba's trade was with countries in the Soviet bloc, and Soviet arms and troops had arrived.
- After the Bay of Pigs incident, in May 1962 Castro allowed the Soviet Union to station missiles in Cuba. This was to counterbalance US missiles in Turkey
- Khrushchev placed these missiles as:
 - the short and medium range missiles were cheaper;
 - a need for a major success in foreign policy to strengthen Khrushchev's personal position in the USSR and abroad;
 - Khrushchev had shown a tendency to take risks;
 - He thought Kennedy was young and inexperienced and wanted to exploit his weakness.

By 14 October 1962 US intelligence services obtained convincing proof of the missile bases by sending a U2 plane over Cuba. Throughout the crisis, ExComm (Executive Committee of the National Security Council), advised Kennedy, they considered:

- an invasion,
- a naval blockade,
- air attacks,
- a nuclear attack,
- doing nothing and allowing the missile to be built.

The Thirteen Days:

16 October: Kennedy was informed and ExComm was set up. They decided against negotiating with Moscow as it would be too slow but JFK used his brother Robert to contact the Soviet ambassador in Washington.

17 October: Khrushchev assured Kennedy that he had no intentions of installing missiles in Cuba.

20 October: Kennedy decided on a naval blockade around Cuba which would prevent Soviet ships carrying missiles from reaching Cuba and forced Khrushchev to make the next move.

22 October: Kennedy speaks to the American public about the situation on television and about his decision to impose a blockade – the news shocked the world.

23 October: The USSR condemned the USA's actions as piracy and argued it was only helping Cuba improve its defences.

The blockade was put into effect.

24 October: U2 spy planes report missile sites nearing completion, Soviet ships nearing the naval blockade were either stopped or turned away.

26 October: A U2 spy plane was shot down over Cuba but no one reacted violently.

Kennedy received a telegram from Khrushchev stating that if the USA ended the blockade and did not invade Cuba, the USSR would remove the missiles from Cuba.

27 October: Kennedy received a second letter from Khrushchev that demanded the USA to remove missiles from Turkey if the USSR removed theirs from Cuba.

A U2 spy plane violated Soviet airspace.

Against advisers recommending an air strike, Kennedy took his brother's advice and responded to the first telegram ignoring the second. He agreed to end the blockade and not invade if Russia removed the missiles. He added that if he did not receive a reply by 19 October an invasion of Cuba would begin.

28 October: Khrushchev agreed to Kennedy's offer and the removal of the missiles began. (Kennedy agreed to remove the US missiles from Turkey but this was kept secret from the public)

The Significance of the Cuban Missile Crisis and its impact on superpower relations:

- Shortly after the crisis ended the USA began to dismantle some of its missiles from various bases in Europe – within 6 months US missiles were gone, Castro remained in power
- Both sides agreed that such a confrontation should be avoided and so a hotline between Moscow and D.C. was set up (Pentagon and Kremlin)
- Khrushchev was criticised by China for putting missiles into Cuba and then backing down
- The Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963 – it forbade atmospheric and underwater tests but not underground tests
- In 1969, the superpowers agreed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons – it limited spreading and use of weapons
- May have led to Khrushchev's downfall in 1964
- Promoted 'peaceful co-existence' and paved the way for détente

Challenges to the Control of the USSR in Eastern Europe

Poland - July 1956

Reasons:

There were high levels of resentment towards a decade of communist rule because Soviet satellite countries had to pay the USSR reparations in food and goods while their standards of living fell. In Poland specifically, the Poles rebelled against high food prices and low wages. There was also fear of the secret police and labour camps.

Events:

Peaceful protests were crushed by Soviet tanks that killed 53 workers in riots. Afterwards, Khrushchev agreed to some reforms, most importantly by agreeing to the appointment of moderate communist Wladyslaw Gomulka as leader of Poland.

Impact on Superpower Relations:

There was no foreign intervention at all and international relations were not affected. However, Poland would not be allowed to leave the Warsaw Pact.

Hungary - October 1956

Reasons:

The Hungarian Uprising was a result of many years of unrest and bitterness at the hardships of communist rule – it was a full-blown rebellion. Under communist rule, Hungarians had their religion oppressed, their economy ruined and their freedoms crushed.

Events:

- On **October 23** Hungarian students followed Polish example and took to the streets demanding reforms, supported by the workers and the Hungarian army.
- On **October 26** with unrest growing, Imre Nagy, a moderate communist was brought back to replace the hard-line Matyas Rakosi.
- On **October 28** Soviet tanks began to withdraw and, confident with US support, pressure mounted for various reforms.
- On **November 1** Nagy announced that Hungary would withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and hold free, multi-party elections
- On **November 4**, over 6000 Soviet tanks crossed the border into Hungary and brutally crushed the revolt. 30,000 people were killed and a quarter of a million fled westward. Pleas were made to the West and UN to intervene but were in vain. NATO could not pass through neutral Austria and Khrushchev threatened Britain and France with rockets if they attempted to intervene.
Nagy sought refuge in the Yugoslav Embassy but was later captured and executed. He was replaced by Janos Kadar and communist control was reasserted (although some reforms were introduced)

Impact on Superpower Relations:

- It gave clear warning to Soviet satellites and none dared try for greater independence for years

- Khrushchev was criticised at home for his handling of the affair and needed a foreign policy success to re-establish his position
- Eisenhower faced criticism as the Truman Doctrine and talk of 'roll-back' suggested he would help the Hungarians, but did nothing. West distracted by Suez Crisis
- It was realised it was too dangerous to challenge the USSR in Eastern Europe and the USA accepted it as a Soviet sphere of influence

Berlin Wall - August 1961

Reasons:

- People in East Berlin/Germany were using West Berlin as a point of escape from Eastern Europe
- West Berlin had received US investment and, compared to the poverty of East Germany, became living propaganda for capitalism
- By 1962, it was estimated over 2 million people, particularly those young, educated and highly skilled, fled through Berlin ('Brain drain')
- This worried the USSR as it meant there was a significant loss in workers and implied people preferred to live under capitalism to communism
- Khrushchev was concerned West Berlin was being used by the West as a 'listening post' to gather information about activities behind the Iron Curtain

Events:

- In 1958 Khrushchev threatened the West to leave Berlin by placing an ultimatum to hand control of Berlin to East Germany but this failed
- In 1960 in a summit meeting in Paris he tried to persuade the West to leave but the meeting collapsed when Khrushchev revealed Russia had shot down a U2 spy plane flying over its territory
- On the morning of 13 August 1961 East German soldiers set up a barbed wire fence along the border of East and West Berlin
- Movement was stopped between the sectors; overnight people lost their jobs and families
- The wire was quickly replaced by a concrete wall patrolled by armed guards that were prepared to shoot and kill defectors.

Impact on Superpower Relations:

- The US protested but did nothing as they were not willing to risk war
- On a visit to the city, JFK called himself a Berliner but this did not remove the feeling that the USSR had won this round of the Cold War – changes in leadership did not thaw relationships as expected
- This 'Concrete Curtain' became a powerful symbol of the ideological, social and economic divisions that existed between the East and West.

The Prague Spring - Czechoslovakia 1968

Reasons:

The new, moderate Alexander Dubcek wanted Czechoslovakia to remain communist and in the Warsaw Pact but to achieve 'socialism with a human face'. This included freedom of speech and press, less centralised economic control, development of foreign trade, removal of restrictions on travel abroad and reduction in powers of the secret police. These reforms were greeted with widespread public approval but less enthusiastically by Moscow.

Events:

In July the leaders of the USSR, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland and East Germany wrote to Dubcek expressing their concerns. He assured them of Czechoslovakian commitment to socialism. However, on 20 August 1968, Brezhnev ordered 400,000 troops into the country, claiming senior Czech communists had invited them. Dubcek urged people not to be violent but oppose with passive resistance. Dubcek was summoned to Moscow and on his return to Prague announced the end of the 'Prague Spring'. He resigned a few months later and was replaced by hard-line Gustav Husak. 73 Czechs were killed.

Results:

- Dubcek ended up working in a forestry office for the next 20 years
- Czechoslovaks now felt bitter and resentful towards Soviet control; protests continued into 1969
- China criticised the use of force by the USSR against fellow communists and Romania refused to support them, after 1968 they became increasingly independent like Yugoslavia
- In November 1968, Brezhnev justified his actions by saying it was the duty of communist countries to prevent another communist state turning to capitalism; this became known as the **Brezhnev Doctrine**

Why was the USSR concerned with events in Czechoslovakia?

The USSR was concerned with events in Czechoslovakia as they feared the liberal ideas of the Prague Spring would spread to other countries within the Eastern European bloc. They were worried this would cause instability and threaten the security of the Soviet Union. They were also concerned by growing trade links between Czechoslovakia and Western Germany and that this would spread Western influence into Czechoslovakia which lay in the centre of the Eastern bloc.

How did the West react compared to Hungary in 1956?

Similarly to Hungary in 1956, the West reacted to the events in Czechoslovakia with little more than words of sympathy. The USA was preoccupied with the war in Vietnam – with 500,000 troops there at the time. Again, like Hungary, they had also accepted that there was no point in trying to intervene in events behind the Iron Curtain, it had become accepted as part of the Soviet sphere of influence. By 1968, East-West relations had also improved and the USA was keen not to damage this period of détente that was developing by getting involved in Czechoslovakia.

Détente

Why did the USA, USSR and China pursue détente in the 1960s and 70s?

Due to tense relations between the USA and China, China had felt isolated by US policies resulting in the refusal to recognise its communist government and refusal to allow it to sit on the UN Security Council. By the late 1960s both countries realised the benefits of an improved relationship, such as economic links that opened new markets and grew China technologically, military benefits to end the Vietnam War for the US, give China an ally against the USSR and diplomatic benefits that could help in the power struggle against the USSR.

As the USSR became concerned in the improvement in relations between the US and China its desire to keep China isolated led to them improving relations with the USA. This also helped solve problems including the issue of nuclear war and M.A.D., the need to cut back on military spending due to economic problems as well as creating export markets for the USA and providing grain for the USSR after its harvests failed in 1972.

Timeline 1960-79

Event/Agreement	What occurred? Who was involved?
August 1970 Moscow Treaty	Between the USSR and West Germany where West Germany accepted the division of Germany and the loss of German territory to Poland and the USSR in 1945
September 1971 Final Quadripartite Protocol	Between the USSR and West Germany – the USSR recognized the ties between West Berlin and West Germany
May 1972 Strategic Arms Limitations Talks I (SALT I)	Between the USSR and the USA to limit the number of certain types of weapons
Interim Treaty	Limited numbers of ICBMs, SLBMs, bombers for 5 years
ABM Treaty	Each side limited to 2 ABM sites of no more than 100 missile launchers
Trade Agreement	Soviet war debts settled – USSR purchased US technology on credit and \$1 billion worth of agricultural products. Wheat deal doubled US-Soviet trade.
December 1972 Basic Treaty	Between East and West Germany Both accepted the existence of two German states
August 1975 Helsinki Agreement	Between all European countries (inc. USSR), the USA and Canada. Recognition of the USSR's sphere of influence by US acceptance of European borders; Soviets agreed to respect human rights in Eastern bloc (freedom of speech etc.). However, there was no real improvement.
June 1979 SALT II	Between the USSR and USA. Agreed on a maximum of 2400 missile launchers. Never ratified due to Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979.

The Collapse of Communism and End of the Cold War

Why did the USSR invade Afghanistan and what impact did it have on superpower relations?

The USSR invaded Afghanistan because the anti-Muslim and pro-Russian People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was overthrown in 1979 by Amin. This new leader called in CIA aid to help maintain control of the country and was an Islamic fundamentalist. The USSR feared US intervention so close to their border and so invaded Afghanistan to reinstate the PDPA. This had a negative impact on superpower relations and brought an end to the period of détente. As a result, the USA stopped trading grain, SALT II was never ratified and the 1980 Olympics in Moscow were boycotted by the USA. Following this, in 1980, the fiercely anti-communist Ronald Reagan was elected US president and supported the Strategic Defence Initiative ('Star Wars' – a laser defence system that would effectively completely shield around the USA, which could not be penetrated by Soviet missiles), that economically drained the USA and USSR.

Why and how did superpower relations change under Gorbachev?

Under Mikhail Gorbachev USSR policies were completely changed as he knew they could not afford to spend money in a vain attempt to keep up with US defence spending as it was draining the economy and millions were on the verge of starvation. In 1986, Gorbachev indicated the USSR's desire to get rid of all nuclear weapons and ended the Brezhnev Doctrine. Other changes such as the 1987 INF Treaty and removal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and Iron Curtain countries impressed US President George W. Bush and in Malta in 1989 the two leaders met and declared the end of the Cold War. In July 1991 the Warsaw Pact was dissolved removing East-West divisions.

Date/Event	Description
December 1979 Soviets invade Afghanistan	Ended détente, ruined superpower relations, aim was to reinstate People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan
November 1980 US Presidential Election	Won by the fiercely anti-communist Ronald Reagan who served two terms (1981-1989)
1984 LA Olympics	USSR boycotted due to high tensions around the 'Star Wars' programme
March 1985 New USSR leader	Mikhail Gorbachev becomes new Soviet leader, as the third new leader in three years – ended the Brezhnev Doctrine
Perestroika	Restructuring of the Soviet economy through introduction of Western-style policies
Glasnost	Meaning 'openness'. Introduced more freedom e.g. to debate, for the media and from government control.
November 1985 Geneva Summit	The two leaders (Reagan & Gorbachev) declared in a joint statement that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought"
October 1986 Reykjavik	Proposals went beyond arms reduction to complete disarmament; Gorbachev indicated his willingness to get rid of all nuclear weapons
December 1987 INF Treaty	At Washington the Intermediate Range Nuclear Force Treaty was signed and reduced weapons and allowed inspections of each other's nuclear arsenals
1988 Soviet withdrawal	Soviets agree to withdraw from Afghanistan (completed February 1989)
1989 January Hungary	Opposition parties allowed to stand in elections

February Bulgaria	A free trade union was established
March Hungary	Demonstrations held against Soviet troops
April Poland	Solidarity group legalized; workers granted the right to strike
May Czechoslovakia Hungary	Huge protest rallies demanding reform Fences cutting off border with Austria removed
June Poland	Solidarity wins all contested seats in Poland's election
August Poland	Non-communist government installed – first since 1945. Gorbachev sent his congratulations to Solidarity
September East Germany	1000s of East Germans pass into West using border between Hungary and Austria
October East Germany + Bulgaria Hungary	Demonstrations for reform took place Non-communist government set up
9 November Berlin	Berlin Wall taken down
10 November Bulgaria	Communist leader resigned
24 November Czechoslovakia	Communist government overthrown in 'Velvet Revolution' with no loss of life
December Czechoslovakia Romania	Non-communist government set up After ordering the execution of large numbers of people protesting for food the leader fled. He was caught and executed by the army (only violent rev)
East Germany	Government resigned
1989 Malta	Bush and Gorbachev declare the Cold War over
1990 Yugoslavia	Four different regimes set up leading to wars 1991-95
October 1990 Germany	Germany is reunited
1991 Baltic States	Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania declare independence from the USSR
July 1991 Warsaw Pact	The Warsaw Pact is dissolved
August 1991 Soviet coup	Attempt to overthrow Gorbachev by army hardliners – defeated by troops loyal to Gorbachev. Within 4 months the USSR no longer exists – all 15 members had declared independence
Christmas Day 1991 Gorbachev resigns	As a president without a country, Gorbachev resigned as leader of the USSR

Technique Notes

Section A

Question a) - Comprehension

5 mins – 4 marks -> 4 points required

- “Source A...” – 4 times
- Explain your point in light of the question asked – do not just rewrite what the source says
- 1 paragraph
- No need for introduction and conclusion
- Quote **and** paraphrase from source

Question b) - Comparison

8 mins – 6 marks

- Points of similarity + points of difference (includes omitted points)
- ‘How far does Source ___ support Source ___ that...’
- 1 paragraph
- Judgement the whole way through
- TIP – look at the language used (similar etc.)
- Open with stating either absolute agreement, partial agreement or disagreement/opposition

Question c) – Analysis

12 mins – 9 marks

- ‘How useful and reliable is Source ___ to a historian studying...’
- Two paragraph answer **and** short concluding paragraph
- Para. 1: USEFUL; Para. 2: RELIABLE
- Use CADAPTL: **C**ontent, **A**uthor, **D**ate, **A**udience, **P**urpose, **T**one, **L**imitations
- *All sources are useful but not all are reliable*
- CONTEXTUAL KNOWLEDGE is essential
-> Contextual knowledge is not everything you know about a topic but rather what you know about the content/context of the source

Question d)

20 mins – 15 marks

- ‘Using Sources A, B, C + D and your own (relevant) knowledge explain whether you agree with...’
- Interpretations = opinion/viewpoint
- Written like a traditional essay: introduction, 4 paras (1 for each source), conclusion (link to question throughout)
- Make a **judgement** – essential, key, the literal point
- Relevant contextual knowledge to the source given
- Tips

- **INTRODUCTION**
- **SENTENCE ONE** – State whether the sources agrees or disagrees with the interpretation
- **SENTENCE TWO** – State WHO the author of the source is and what role/job they had/how they were involved
- **SENTENCE THREE** – State WHY the author of the source has the interpretation that they do
- **SENTENCE FOUR** – Explain WHAT the interpretation/opinion in the source actually is
- **SENTENCE FIVE** – Use your KNOWLEDGE to explain/give context to the content and Opinion in the source – link back to the interpretation in the question to suggest how far you agree with it or not in light of the evidence provided
- **REPEAT FOR OTHER THREE SOURCES**
- **CONCLUSION**

Section B

20 mins – 16 marks (5 SPAG)

CCEA says: “You have to answer 1 question out of a choice of 2. In this section you will get a question asking you to look at the change in relations between the USA and USSR over a period of time. Remember, when writing an essay, it is not just a matter of telling the story of what happened. If the question is on causes, you must make connections and construct an explanation of why something happened. This usually involves more than one reason; most events take place as a result of several different factors acting together at the same time. If a question is on consequences or effects, you must consider what happened because of these factors/reasons; usually more than one group is affected and in different ways.”