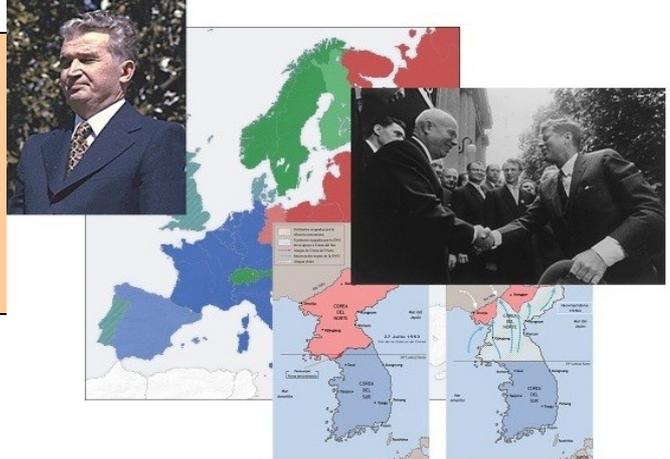


UNIT 14 – The Cold War

- Background
- Eastern Europe (1945-1962)
- The Cold War in Asia
- War in Korea
- The Cuban Crisis
- The Vietnam war



Background

After the Second World War the peace was not stable. The USA and the USSR were now the major superpowers in the world but they were very different, ideologically, economically and politically and this ended in a diplomatic conflict called the **Cold War**. It was called the Cold War because there was no fighting, instead both sides tried to “win” by forming alliances and making plans. Both sides had atomic weapons and were afraid of nuclear war.

There were two main reasons for tension between the USA and USSR:

1. Stalin was determined to force Communism onto Poland and other Eastern European countries.
2. The USA deliberately did not tell the USSR about the development and use of the atomic bomb on Japan. This made the USSR suspicious of the USA.

The USA was worried about the spread of communism.

President Truman was determined to stop the spread of Communism in two main ways:

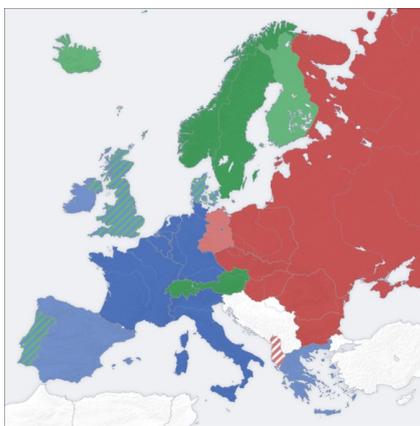
1. He promised that the USA would support any nation threatened by a communist invasion. This was called the **Truman doctrine**. The USA helped the Monarchy during the Greek Civil War.
2. He promised American aid to European countries to help rebuild their damaged economies. This aid was called the **Marshall Plan**.

In 1948 the USSR and the West disagreed over Berlin:

The Western allies (the USA, Britain and France) agreed to a single government in their zones.

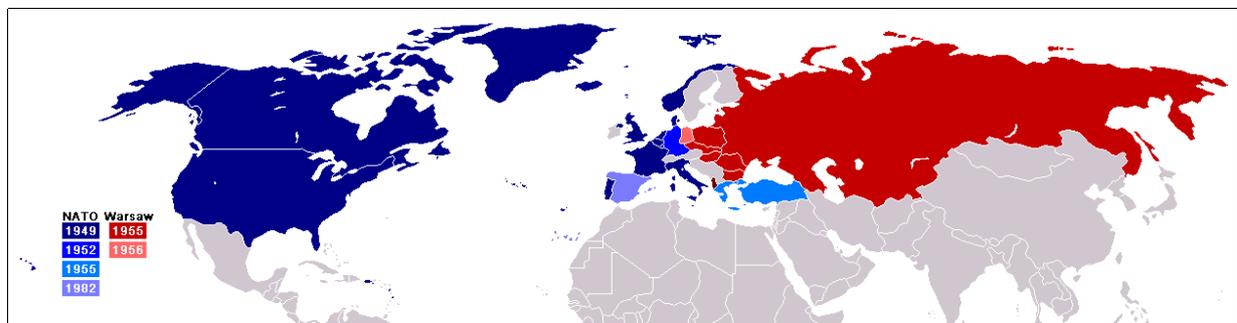
The Soviet Union was opposed to these moves. Stalin wanted to keep Germany as weak as possible so he decided to blockade Berlin:

Berlin was in Eastern Germany (controlled by the USSR). Stalin ordered that all land communication between West Berlin and the outside world should be cut off. They survived (June 1948 → May 1949) because they could obtain supplies from the outside world by air.



In 1949 **two new states** were formed: the **German Federal Republic** (West Germany) and the **German Democratic Republic**. The frontier between Eastern and Western Europe had been drawn in Berlin.

In 1949, the Western Powers formed **NATO** (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) against the communist threat. The Eastern Bloc formed the **Warsaw Pact** (1955).



TASKS:

1. Mention two reasons why tension between the USA and of Soviet Union increased during 1945.
2. Which American president was concerned about the spread of communism?
3. How did he try to stop this spread in Europe?
4. Give the full official names of the two new states formed in Germany.
5. Explain the soviet attitude towards the administration of Berlin in 1948.
6. What does NATO stand for?

Eastern Europe (1945-1962)

The USSR controlled Eastern Europe:

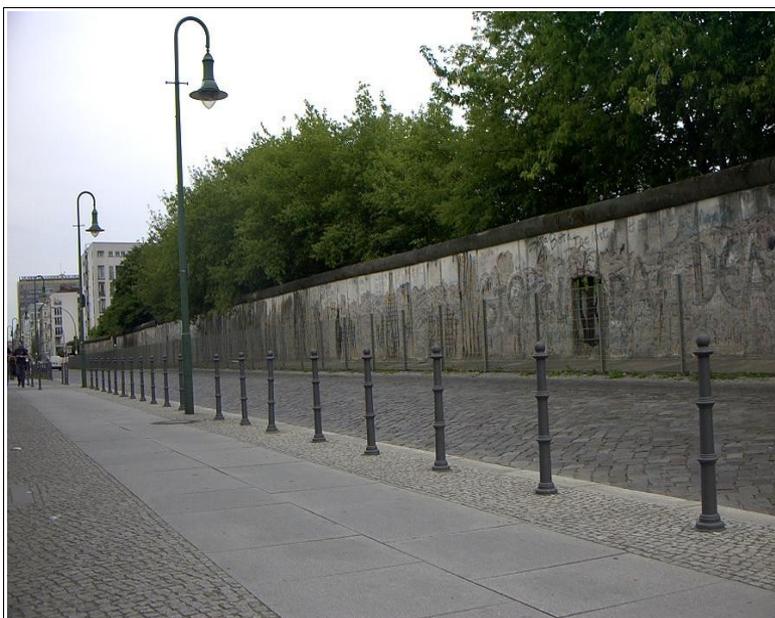
- By 1948, **Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Albania** and **Bulgaria** had pro-soviet Communist governments controlled by Russia (Stalin).
- **Yugoslavia** had a Communist government, led by Josip Tito, but it was not pro-soviet, so Stalin opposed Tito's power.
- **Polish workers** in Poznan went on strike (1956) but were soon controlled by Russian troops.
- In **Hungary**, the people of Budapest (1956) protested against the harsh government of Rakosi. They were treated differently at first allowing them to hold free elections, ending communism there.

But Soviet tanks invaded Hungary, killed a lot of people (20,000 Hungarians) and the new Primer Minister, Kadar, was loyal towards Russia.

In Berlin, 2,5 million people left East Berlin for the West, half of them were young people.

A 30 mile barrier (wall) was erected (13th August 1961) across the city of Berlin dividing the Eastern sector from the West. Consequences:

- West Berliners were suddenly separated from their relatives in the East for the next 30 years.



- No more people could leave East Berlin for the West. Those who tried to escape were shot dead.
- The wall was fortified with barbed wire and machine gun posts.

TASKS:

7. When did Stalin die?
8. Who succeeded him?
9. What is the capital of Hungary.
10. What were the results of the Soviet invasion of Hungary?
11. Why was the Berlin wall built?
12. What were the consequences of this action?

The Cold War in Asia

In 1949, the Communist State of **China** was set up by Mao Tse–Tung. This meant that the USA was also worried by the communist threat in Asia, and the Cold War was extended to Asia.

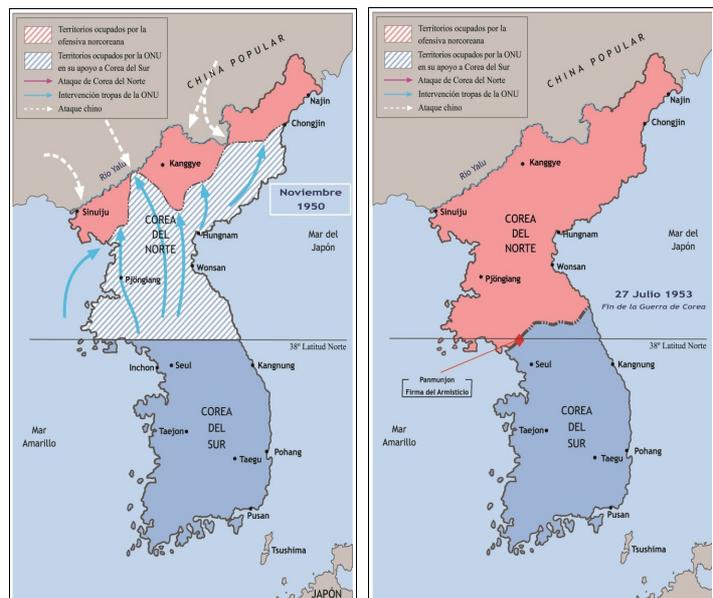
War in Korea (1950)

Before the Second World War Korea was a colony of Japan. Japan was defeated and Korea was divided into North and South Korea along the 38th parallel. The North was communist and the South was under the influence of the USA and had an anti-communist dictatorship.

Communist North Korea went to war with South Korea in order to reunite the country. The USA and the Western powers intervened on behalf of the

United Nations to stop the spread of communism and sent North Koreans back North of the 38th parallel.

- President Truman allowed General MacArthur (UN Commander) to invade North Korea. This worried China, because they were afraid of a Western



invasion. China attacked the UN forces, capturing Seoul (the capital of South Korea).

- MacArthur wanted to attack China but Truman disagreed and MacArthur was dismissed.
- Truman looked for peace and a cease-fire was agreed on in 1953.
- Korea remained as it was before the war but more than one million people died.

TASKS:

13. Who became the leader of China in 1949?
14. Who was the UN commander during the Korean War?
15. Name the capital of South Korea.
16. Why was the UN commander fired by President Truman?
17. What were the consequences of this action?

The Cuban crisis

Cuba, which was only 100 miles away from the USA, had been ruled by a military dictator, Batista, since 1940. He allowed American businessmen and the Mafia to make huge profits in a country where most people lived in poverty.

In 1956, a rebel named Fidel Castro attempted to overthrow the government, but was defeated and forced into exile. In 1959, Castro began a *guerrilla* war and soon marched on Cuba's capital, Havana, and overthrew the government.

- Castro shut down casinos and brothels.
- He nationalised American-owned sugar mills.

The USA cut off diplomatic relations with Cuba. Castro began to cooperate with the USSR.



In 1961, President Kennedy authorised an invasion of Cuba by rebels trained by the CIA. They landed in the Bay of Pigs, but they were defeated.

After this invasion Castro decided that Cuba needed Soviet military assistance: Soviet missiles were shipped to Cuba which could be used to attack US cities.

President Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba. All soviet ships were stopped and searched to prevent further missiles being transported to Cuba. Kennedy asked Khrushchev to withdraw his missiles and prepared to invade Cuba.

The world was on the brink of nuclear war, but on the last minute Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba only if the US promised not to place missiles in Turkey near the Soviet border.

Kennedy lifted the blockade and promised not to invade Cuba.

After this a telephone hot-line (IWIK) was set up between the Kremlin and the White House.



TASKS:

- 18. Why did the American government aid South Vietnam?**
- 19. Name the military dictator who was overthrown in Cuba in 1959?**
- 20. Who became the new leader of Cuba?**
- 21. How did he reduce American influence on Cuba?**
- 22. Which country offered Cuba support?**
- 23. Where did rebel troops attempt an invasion of Cuba?**
- 24. Why did the world almost face a nuclear war in 1962?**
- 25. What was IWIK?**
- 26. When did the Cuban missiles take place?**

The Vietnam War

Chinese support helped to establish a Communist government in North Vietnam. South East Asia had been controlled by France, but French forces were completely defeated by the North Vietnamese in 1954 (*Dien Ben Phu*).

By the Geneva Agreement of 1954 France withdrew from Indochina, losing their Empire.

Vietnam was partitioned into the communist North and the democratic South.

Laos and Cambodia were set up as independent states.

The Truman doctrine dictated that the USA would assist the new democracy of South Vietnam.

During the cold war, the USA was terrified that many other countries might become communist and help the USSR.

The domino theory of communism says that if one country is knocked over by the communist threat, soon all the nearby countries will become communist as well.

In South Vietnam there was a group called the Vietcong that wanted the South and the communist North to join.

President Johnson was determined to keep south Vietnam communist free, so he increased troop numbers from 23.000 in 1964 to 500.000 in 1967.

TASKS:

- 27. Explain the domino theory and how it is related to South Vietnam.**
- 28. What two main changes did President Johnson bring about in Vietnam?**
- 29. Who were the *Vietcong*?**
- 30. What was the capital of South Vietnam?**
- 31. Why did the American public opinion turn against the Vietnam War?**
- 32. Explain why the USA effectively lost the Vietnam War?**

He began a bombing campaign of North Vietnam. The offensive resulted in the loss of thousands of American lives (14,000 in 1969), most of whom were young men.

The war was very expensive and public opinion soon turned against the war.

President Nixon wanted to finish the war quickly. American troops were gradually withdrawn from Vietnam. Instead the US started training the South Vietnamese to fight

the Vietcong. As a result they began heavy bombing of North Vietnam and Cambodia. In 1973 a ceasefire was arranged.

By 1975 Saigon (the South capital) had been captured by the Vietcong.

The Americans were defeated for several reasons:

- US bombs killed a lot of civilians.
- Vietcong guerrillas were very skilful soldiers.



- American troops were not used to fight in the jungle.
- North Vietnam had the support of China and the Soviet Union.
- American public opinion turned against the war.
- The Vietcong treated the South Vietnamese well and gained their support.

After the war. In 1972, the USSR and the USA agreed to limit their nuclear weapons and they signed the strategic Arms Limitation Talks Agreement (SALT 1). They planned more arms limitation but the USA refused to sign the SALT 2 agreement (in 1979) after the soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

In 1980 Ronald Reagan was elected president of the USA and the period of détente ended.

The USA developed intermediate cruise and pershing nuclear missiles which could be launched from almost anywhere. They also developed the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) for using laser weapons to shoot down soviet missiles from space.

In 1985, the USSR began to change its policies. Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and brought some changes:

- a disarmament treaty was signed so the USA and the USSR agreed to remove medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe within 3 years.

- Gorbachev announced the immediate reduction of the weapons stockpile and the number of troops in the soviet armed forces.

The Cold War was ending and the USSR began to reform.

TASKS:

33. What does SALT stand for?

34. Why did the USA refuse to sign the SALT 2 agreement?

35. What changes to USA foreign policy did Ronald Reagan bring about in 1980?

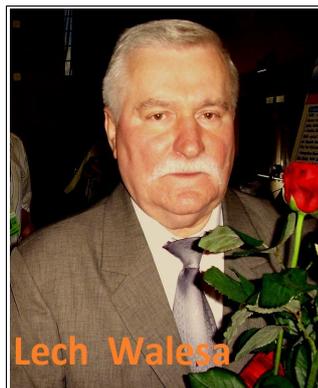
36. How did General Secretary Gorbachev signal the end of the Cold War?

Eastern Europe and the USSR during and after the 1960s

Czechoslovakia rebelled against communism (1968)

Czechoslovakia's president, Alexander Dubček, made some changes in his country: people were free to travel to the West; free elections were to be held, opposition parties were permitted.

The USSR (Brezhnev was the leader) decided to stop this and 500,000 soviet troops invaded Czechoslovakia.



Poland. In 1980, Lech Walesa led shipyard workers in the port of Gdansk in protest against the increase in food prices.

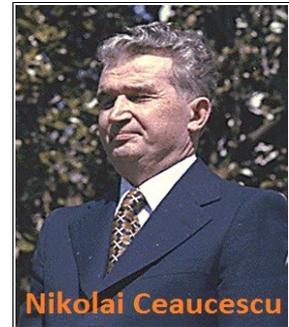
1. They set up their own independent trade union called Solidarity and demanded rights. Polish leader General Jaruzelski, with soviet help,

seized control.

In 1988, the soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told the United Nations that Eastern European countries were now free to choose their own governments and the USSR was not going to control them any more.

2. After this, free elections were held in Poland, Solidarity won and a new non-communist government came to power.

3. Hungary opened its frontier with Austria.
4. The Berlin wall was demolished (November 1989).
5. Czechoslovakia became a non-communist country.
6. In December a revolution began in Romania against the cruel, corrupt regime of the dictator Nikolai Ceaucescu (on the right). He was executed on Christmas day 1989.



7. In 1990 Germany was reunified. The Soviet control of Eastern Europe collapsed.

Gorbachev and US president George Bush, Reagan's successor, announced the **end of the Cold War** (1989).

In 1991, the USSR itself dissolved when Gorbachev could no longer control the pressure from the nationalist movements for independence in its fifteen member republics.

It was replaced by a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with the Russian Republic as the dominant member.

Gorbachev introduced two major **new policies**:

- **Glasnost** that means "*new freedom*", and
- **Perestroika** that means economic restructuring.



In the end communism was rejected in the USSR. The soviet republics became independent and USSR ended.

TASKS:

37. Match the words on the left with the definition on the right

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| (a) CIS | 1) New Freedom |
| (b) Glasnost | 2) Common Wealth of Independent States |
| (c) Perestroika | 3) Independent trade union in Poland |
| (d) USSR | 4) Soviet leader |
| (e) Gorbachev | 5) Economic restructuring |
| (f) Solidarity | 6) United Socialist Soviet Republic |

38. Next use these words to write a composition about the end of the USSR (10-12 lines minimum)

39. Comment on one of the maps in this unit (15 lines minimum).

Find out more at...

- these websites:
 - ✓ www.schoolhistory.co.uk
 - ✓ <http://historylastra.blogspot.com/2011/05/unit-10-cold-war-and-decolonization.html>
 - ✓ <http://www.elcivics.com/cold-war-lesson.html>
 - ✓ <http://www.manythings.org/voa/history/> (choose sections about the period: there are audio files)
 - ✓ <http://www.khanacademy.org/#history>
 - ✓ <http://www.claseshistoria.com/index.html>
- these books from our school library:
 - ✓ BINGHAM , Jane: *The Usborne internet-linked Encyclopedia of World History*. Usborne Publishing Ltd.2000. pages 378-379. ISBN 978074605361-4.
 - ✓ DOWSWELL, Paul: *The World Wars*. Usborne Publishing Ltd. 2007. pages 232-237. ISBN 978074608788-6.
- and these films:
 - ✓ *D-The torn curtain, 1966 by Alfred Hitchcock. An American physicist and rocket scientist, is to attend a scientific conference in East Berlin. He went together with his fiancée and they were pursued by the Stasi.*
 - ✓ *The Spy Who Came from the Cold, 1965, by Martin Ritt. The main character accepts overtures from German communists to reveal British secrets for payment and this obviously causes him many problems.*
 - ✓ *Funeral in Berlin* is a 1966 British Spy film based on the novel *Funeral in Berlin* by Len Deighton. The film was directed by Guy Hamilton.

- ✓ *The Third Man*, 1949 by Carol Reed a pulp novelist who has come to post-WW II Vienna with the promise of work from his friend. When he find that he has just been killed in a questionable car accident, he decides to remain in the city to investigate.
- ✓ *The Innocent*, 1993, directed by John Schlesinger. This is a tense and suspenseful love story with a spy background.
- ✓ *Red Dawn*, the late Patrick Swayze stars in this 1984 movie along with Charlie Sheen. They are brothers who fight the Russians on American soil after a invasion. It is one of the best 1980s' Cold War movies.
- ✓ *The Falcon and the Snowman*. Sean Penn and Timothy Hutton star in this 1985 political intrigue movie. It is actually based on a true story which makes the plot more believable than a normal spy movie. If you like CIA vs. KGB films, this is one of the best 1980s' Cold War movies.
- ✓ *Red Heat*, 1988, Cold War movie. Arnold is the Russian and Belushi is the American. It is funny but it has also got a lot of action. Arnold actually pulls off the Russian accent and Belushi is great as his comic sidekick.
- ✓ *Firefox*, This 1980s' Cold War movie stars Clint Eastwood. It came out in 1982 and is still great to watch today. Eastwood battles the KGB during the movie as he tries to steal one of the planes. He also produced and directed the movie and did a good job handling all of his duties.
- ✓ *Apocalypse Now*, 1979, by Francis Ford Coppola. During the on-going Vietnam War, Captain Willard is sent on a dangerous mission into Cambodia to assassinate a renegade who has set himself up as a God among a local tribe.
- ✓ *Indochina* the 1992 by Régies Wargnier. French film which presents a partial but accurate picture of colonialism in French Indochina. It opens in the 1930s and ends with scenes in Geneva during the 1954 conference which followed French defeat. The film's historical setting, therefore, is the final period of French colonialism in what became, after World War II, a divided Vietnam.

Pictures from:

- Banco Imágenes ITE
- Korea 1950 and 1953 by Alejandro Cana Sánchez-ITE
- Ceaucescu by Kightlinger-Wikimedia
- Llech Walesa by Slawek-Wikimedia
- Wojciech Jaruzelski, Soviet Union stamp 1988, Student Vietnam protesters, Nato vs Warsaw (1949-1990) and Flag map of Germany (separation) -Wikimedia
- JFK-Khrushhev by Handshake-The Commons-The National Archives

