

The Cold War Knowledge Organiser



Key Dates	
1941	Germany declares war on the USA - the origin of the Grand Alliance (US, USSR, Britain)
1943	Tehran Conference - Agreed to open a second front. The USSR could keep land it had seized from Germany.
1945	Feb: Yalta Conference : USSR had defeated Germany on the Eastern Front and were pushing back. Disagreement over Poland continued. July-Aug: Potsdam Conference : Roosevelt replaced by Truman- Hardline anti-Communist. Churchill replaced by Attlee. Germany had surrendered. USA tested atomic bomb during the conference. US A-bomb in Japan. Germany divided into zones. No agreement over Poland.
1946	Feb: The Long telegram - From Moscow to Washington by George Kennan. Mar: Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech ; formation of a Soviet dominated Eastern bloc in Europe Sept: Novikov's telegram from Novikov in Washington to Moscow.
1947	March: Truman Doctrine announced- \$400m aid provided to Greece and Turkey. Start of a policy of containment. June: Marshall Plan announced . 1948-52 \$25 billion given in aid to Capitalist countries. Sept: Cominform set up . Nine communist countries who formed a political union.
1948	April: 'Trizonia' in Germany agreed and Berlin Blockade begins . Stalin shut off land routes into Berlin. The Americans were soon able to fly in 1000 tonnes of supplies every day. In Jan 1949, 170,000 tonnes of supplies were sent into Berlin by Western aircraft.
1949	Jan: Comecon set up - 8 Communist countries with trade and credit agreements arranged between them. Bulgarian trade with other Comecon members increased from 10% in the 1930s to 90% in 1951. Apr: NATO set up . USA, Britain, France and 9 other Capitalist countries joined. This was a formal military alliance. May: Berlin Blockade ends and Federal Republic of (West) Germany founded. Aug: Soviet Union tests A-bomb Oct: (East) German Democratic Republic founded
1952	H-bombs developed by USSR and USA
1955	May: West Germany joins NATO . Warsaw Pact set up : Members were Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and East Germany. The leadership was entirely Soviet.
1956	Feb: Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech' Oct-Nov: Hungarian Uprising - Nagy set out reforms to stop protests about fuel shortages and poor harvests. His reforms included non-communist in the government. Nagy announced Hungary would leave the Warsaw Pact. On 4 th November 1000 tanks went into Budapest. Up to 20,000 Hungarians were killed as the Soviets regained control. Nagy was executed.
1958	Nov: Khrushchev's ultimatum to West - He demanded that Berlin should be demilitarised, and Western troops withdrawn and Berlin should become a free city. The West had six months to make these changes or Khrushchev would hand over control of transport into Berlin to East Germany.
1959	Jan: Castro takes over Cuba . He was a nationalist and did not want the Cuban economy- particularly oil- to be under the control of the USA. The USA refused to work with Castro about returning land to the USA and so in February 1960 Castro signed an agreement with Khrushchev. The USSR would buy Cuban sugar and provide economic aid and Cuba would receive arms from the USSR. Sep: Khrushchev visits Washington for Camp David summit meeting . No agreements made but the Soviets withdrew the ultimatum.
1960	May: Paris Summit . U2 spy plane shot down and Khrushchev walks out.
1961	Apr: Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba - 1400 Cuban exiles landed in Cuba. They wanted to overthrow Castro, however there were 20,000 soldiers waiting for them. This ended any chance of diplomatic relations between the USA and Cuba. June: Vienna Summit - Kennedy had become US President in January and was committed to building up military spending. Kennedy refused to appear weak and increased spending on the armed forces by \$2bn. Aug: Berlin Wall constructed - As the refugee crisis escalated, with 40,000 East Germans crossing the border on one day, Khrushchev acted. On the night of 12 August, a barbed wire wall was built around Berlin and between East and West Berlin. It was soon replaced by concrete and stretched 165km.
1962	Oct: Cuban Missile Crisis . On 14 th October a US spy plane spotted launch pads for medium range missiles in Cuba. Kennedy installed a blockade around Cuba to prevent any ships carrying nuclear warheads. Kennedy had repaired 54 bombers each with 4 nuclear warheads in case war broke out. On 24 October Soviet ships reached the blockade and turned around. On 28 October an agreement was reached that the USSR would remove missiles from Cuba if the USA removed them from Turkey, however this element was kept secret.
1963	June: Kennedy visits Berlin - Thousands of West Berliners came to see Kennedy as he gave his famous Ich Bin Ein Berliner speech. July: Limited Test Ban Treaty - The USA, USSR and Britain agreed to prohibit the testing of nuclear weapons in outer space, under water or in the atmosphere. Aug: Hot Line established between Washington and Moscow.
1967	Oct: Outer Space Treaty ratified . In this treaty the USA and USSR agreed not to use space for military purposes.
1968	Apr: Prague Spring announced by Dubcek in Czechoslovakia. This was a series of reforms including the relaxation of censorship and trade to the West increased. However, Dubcek remained committed to the Warsaw Pact. Brezhnev opposed these reforms, but Dubcek did not back down. Jul: Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty signed - This said that countries would not share their nuclear technology with other countries. Aug: Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia . On 20 th August, 500,000 Warsaw Pact troops invaded Czechoslovakia and ended the Prague Spring. Dubcek was removed but not killed. Nov: Brezhnev Doctrine - This stated that all communist countries would be prevented from introducing reforms to make them more liberal as it would pose a risk to other communist states.
1969	Détente - a period of peace between two groups that were previously at war or hostile to each other. This also allowed the two countries to have more money and time to spend on domestic issues.
1971	Jul: SALT I signed - ABMs allowed at only two sites, restrictions on the number of ICBMs and SLBMs each country could have and banned warheads on the sea bed. It had symbolic importance.
1975	Aug: Helsinki Accords signed - 33 nations from NATO and the Warsaw Pact signed the agreement. There were three baskets- 1. European borders- they cannot be altered by force. 2. International cooperation- trade agreements, technology exchanges and a joint space mission between the USA and USSR 3. Human rights- Rights respected such as free speech, religion and movement across Europe. This led to the Apollo Soyuz mission of 1975.
1979	June: SALT II signed . This included restrictions on missile launchers and strategic bombers. However, it was never ratified by Congress. Dec: Soviet invasion of Afghanistan . After a revolution in Afghanistan the USSR wanted to ensure that there was a pro-Soviet government in Afghanistan. This was implemented in April 1978. In September 1979 this was overthrown by Amin. In response on 24 th December, Soviet troops invaded. In response the USA trained the Muslim guerrilla fighters- the Mujahideen. This war lasted ten years and cost the Soviet Union \$8 billion a year and 15,000 Soviet troops were killed. This event ended détente.
1980	Jan: Carter Doctrine; US boycott of Moscow Olympics announced with over 60 nations supporting this.

1983	Mar: Reagan's 'Evil Empire' speech. Reagan announced he would support anti-communist governments and those trying to overthrow them. Reagan proposes Strategic Defence Initiative ('Star Wars') . This would place a series of satellites in space which had lasers to shoot down Soviet missiles. This was years from being ready but Reagan spoke of it as a reality. The Soviet Union knew they could not compete with this.
1984	May: Soviet boycott of Los Angeles Olympics announced. They were joined by 15 communist countries.
1985	Mar: Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader. He introduced Perestroika- Capitalist economic policies- and Glasnost- a reduction in censorship and freedom of speech. The Brezhnev Doctrine was ended and the Soviet union withdrew from Afghanistan under his leadership. Nov: Geneva ("Fireside") Summit- This established a working relationship between Reagan and Gorbachev.
1986	Oct: Reykjavik Summit- Gorbachev proposed phasing out nuclear weapons if the Americans gave up their SDI programme.
1987	Dec: Washington Summit - INF Treaty signed. This treaty said both countries would abolish land based missiles with a range of 500-5500 km.
1988	Dec: Moscow Summit- Gorbachev announces the end of the Brezhnev Doctrine and Soviet forces to leave Afghanistan.
1989	Aug: Hungary opens its borders to East Germans Oct: Soviets announce Eastern bloc states can choose their government and whether to remain in the Warsaw Pact. Nov: Berlin Wall falls Dec: Communist governments fall in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. The Malta Summit. This was seen by both Bush and Gorbachev as the end of the Cold War.
1991	Gorbachev removed from power. Hardline communists blamed Gorbachev for losing control of the Eastern bloc. In August 1991 they staged a coup against Gorbachev. He survived the coup but it damaged his reputation. He resigned on 25 December 1991. This was immediately followed by the break up of the Soviet Union.

Key terms

Grand Alliance	An alliance formed between the USA, Soviet Union and Britain to mastermind the defeat of Germany and Japan in the Second World War.
Arms Race	A competition between America and the USSR to build more destructive and a higher number of nuclear weapons. It began in full after the USA used the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The USSR tested their first atomic bomb in 1949. The USA developed a hydrogen in 1952, this was 1000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb. In 1957 the USA developed the ICBM which could fire a warhead at a target more than 4500 kilometers away.
Buffer zone	An area giving someone protection against a threat, e.g. the USSR wanted a buffer zone around them after being invaded by Germany in both World Wars.
Capitalism	An economic system based on privately owned, as opposed to state-controlled, businesses and the creation of profit.
Communism	A classless society where all property is owned publicly.
Containment	An American policy to try and stop communism from spreading, to restrict it from spreading to other countries.
Eastern Bloc	The communist countries of eastern and central Europe that were dominated by and allied with the Soviet Union after World War Two.
Iron Curtain	A phrase used by Winston Churchill to describe the division in Europe between the communist east and capitalist west
Marshall Aid	A plan introduced by the American government to provide financial support to European countries to help them recover from the effects of World War Two.
MAD theory	Mutually Assured Destruction-Situation that developed due to the nuclear arms race where both America and Russia knew if they started a war it would destroy the world.
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization - a military alliance of western powers that was originally created to provide a counterforce to the Soviet armies of Eastern Europe.
Refugee crisis	In 1949 Germany was divided into two. As a result of poor conditions in East Germany, by 1958, 3million East Germans had crossed to the West. Many were skilled workers that were needed for the East German economy but whom wanted a higher standard of living found in the West.
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - collection of states, also known as the Soviet Union.
The Warsaw Pact	A collection of twelve communist countries who agreed to defend each other if one of them was attacked.

Key Individuals

Winston Churchill	Prime Minister of Britain between 1940 and 1945 when he led Britain to victory in the Second World War. His Iron Curtain speech in 1946 was the first time there had been a public acknowledgement of the beginning of the Cold War.
Josef Stalin	Leader of the USSR from 1929 to 1953. Stalin sought to expand its territory and promote communism at the end of World War II, notably through the creation of the Eastern Bloc.
Harry Truman	Truman became President in April 1945, just weeks before the end of World War Two. He attended the Potsdam Conference and made the decision to drop two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 to end World War II. He was committed to containing communism post-1945.
Nikita Khrushchev	Leader of the Soviet Union from 1953 to 1964. He attempted to de-Stalinise the Eastern bloc and thaw relations in the Cold War.
Imre Nagy	Nagy became leader of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 against the Soviet-backed government, for which he was executed two years later.
John F. Kennedy	JFK was the President of the USA from 1961-1963. He was key figure in the Cuban Missile Crisis and gave his "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech in West Berlin in 1963.
Castro and Guevara	These two men lead a communist revolution in Cuba in 1958. Cuba is only 145Km away from the US mainland.
Alexander Dubcek	Leader of the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia from 1968-1969. His liberal reforms ('Socialism with a human face') led to the Soviet invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia in August 1968 (The Prague Spring).
Richard Nixon	President of USA from 1969 to 1974. He is often associated with the period of Détente and the MAD theory.
Henry Kissinger	Appointed National Security Adviser to Nixon in 1973. He was the key figure in the US policy of détente (the period of peace).
Leonid Brezhnev	Leader of the Soviet Union from 1964-1982. His leadership is known for its massive build-up of nuclear arms, but at great cost to the Soviet economy.
Jimmy Carter	President of the USA 1977-1981. Détente ended after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, which led to the United States boycott of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.
Ronald Reagan	President of the USA from 1981 to 1989. Associated with the Second Cold War and Arms Race. He announced the Regan Doctrine which stated that USA would support anti-communist governments and groups and increased military spending by 13% in 1982.
Mikhail Gorbachev	Leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 to 1991. He introduced the policies of glasnost (openness with the West) and perestroika (rebuild and modernise the Soviet Union) in an attempt to improve relations with the West. His 'New Thinking' policies were significant in ending the Cold War and the breakup of the Eastern bloc.