

Key Vocabulary...	
USSR (Soviet Union)	A collection of nations including Russia which were all governed by a single communist government from 1917-1991.
Dictatorship	A system of government in which one person has absolute power to make all decisions.
Communist	A political system in which the government controls everything including all wages and businesses.
Capitalist	Political ideas which are focussed little government intervention, and the right to freely trade to make money.
Cold War	A state of mistrust and tension between two or more countries. Not an actual war but the threat of war.
Conflict	Opposing actions between two different groups, if violent it can be called a war.
Tension	The potential for disagreements and opposing ideas to turn into conflict.
Democracy	The idea that a nation should choose its own leaders.

Timeline		
Yalta Conference	1945	A conference in February where Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt met to discuss post-war Europe.
Potsdam Conference	1945	A conference in July where Attlee, Stalin and Truman met to discuss post-war Europe.
First use of nuclear bomb.	1945	In August the USA dropped two nuclear weapons on Japan.
Iron Curtain Speech	1946	Churchill gives a speech in the US in which he says that Europe has been divided by an 'Iron Curtain'.
US intervention in Greece and Turkey	1947	The defeated Germany is forced to accept harsh terms for peace after losing WWI.
Truman Doctrine	1947	Truman unveils his new policy which is aimed at stopping the spread of communism.
Berlin Blockade	1948-9	Stalin blocks land access to West Berlin, the West supplies it by air
Formation of NATO	1949	NATO, the alliance of capitalist countries is created to help defend the West.

Important People	
Josef Stalin	Communist leader of the USSR from 1923 until his death in 1953. Led the country during WWII.
Winston Churchill	British politician and statesman who was the Prime Minister during WWII.
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Longest serving US President of all time until his death in 1945. Led the USA during WWII.
Harry S. Truman	Was Roosevelt's vice president and became the president on his death and served from 1945-53.

What changed over the period?
<p>In 1945, the United States along with Britain were in a successful wartime alliance against Nazi Germany. As soon as this war was won, the Grand Alliance started to break down as disagreements over the future of Europe allowed old enmities to resurface.</p> <p>By 1949, the USA and the USSR were locked in a state of Cold War, not daring to attack each other directly for fear of nuclear weapons but working against each other's interests wherever possible around the world.</p>

Always Remember...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The alliance between the USA and USSR was a marriage of convenience, it only worked whilst they had a common enemy: Nazi Germany. The USA was capitalist and the USSR was communist. These are opposite systems and incompatible with each other. Europe was divided between countries in the Soviet 'sphere of influence' and 'Western' countries, which had capitalist democratic governments. This divide was called the 'Iron Curtain'.

Exam Questions
<p>Write a narrative account of how the conferences of 1945 led to an increase in tension between East and West. (8)</p> <p>The Berlin Blockade was the main cause of tension in the 1940s. How far do you agree with this statement? (16)</p>

Remember that there are also 2 source questions on the Conflict and Tension exam paper - Find examples of these at [AOA | Subjects | History](#)

Key Vocabulary...

USSR (Soviet Union)	A collection of nations including Russia which were all governed by a single communist government from 1917-1991.
De-Stalinisation	A process of change after the death of Stalin where the USSR would pursue a more peaceful approach beginning in 1953.
Sputnik	The world's first man-made satellite, launched by the USSR in 1957, starting the Space Race.
Brinkmanship	A risky game of pushing the threat level to the limits to encourage the other side to back down.
Arms Race	A continual build-up of weapons and soldiers to gain an advantage over the other side.
Intelligence	Information about the enemy gained by spying or some other secret way.
ICBM	Inter-continental ballistic missile, developed in the 1950s to launch nuclear weapons across the world.
Summit	A meeting between the overall leaders of different countries.

Timeline

NATO formed	1949	The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, an alliance of capitalist countries.
Death of Stalin	1953	The leader of the USSR dies leading to a power struggle amongst his possible successors.
West Germany joins NATO	1955	The USSR feels threatened as West Germany brought into the alliance.
Warsaw Pact formed.	1955	An alliance of communist countries formed to oppose NATO.
The Secret Speech	1956	Khrushchev gives a speech in which he signals de-Stalinisation.
The Hungarian Uprising	1956	Led by Imre Nagy, the Hungarian people rebel against communism.
Development of ICBMs	1957	The USSR develops the technology to use nuclear weapons without dropping them from planes.
Launch of Sputnik I	1957	Both sides fear weapons orbiting over their territories in satellites.
U2 Spy Plane Crisis	1960	A US plane is shot down in the USSR derailing the Paris Peace Summit.
Berlin Wall Built	1961	A wall is built overnight separating West Berlin from East Germany.

Important People

Josef Stalin	Communist leader of the USSR from 1923 until his death in 1953. Controlled the Eastern Bloc with harsh measures.
Nikita Khrushchev	By 1956 he had become the successor to Stalin and tried to take a more peaceful approach until the Hungarian Uprising.
Dwight D. Eisenhower	President of the USA from 1953 until 1961. Refused to apologise for the US spying on the USSR and lying about it.
John F. Kennedy	President of the USA from 1961 until his assassination in 1963. Failed to respond to the Berlin Wall but dealt with the Cuban Missile Crisis well.

What changed over the period?

After the death of Stalin, Khrushchev became the Soviet leader and gave his 'Secret Speech' which signalled that the USSR would take a more peaceful approach and try to coexist with the West. This was proven to be false when Khrushchev sent tanks into Hungary in 1956 to deal with the uprising there. By the late 1950s the Space Race was well underway and ICBMs had made the Cold War even more serious. When Kennedy took office in the USA in 1961 he inherited a very poor relationship with the East which was immediately worsened by the building of the Berlin Wall.

Always Remember...

- The leaders of the USSR and the USA changed but the differences between their political and economic systems did not.
- NATO was formed in 1949 but the Warsaw Pact was not formed until 1955, when West Germany was invited into NATO. The USSR had fought a brutal war against Germany which had killed tens of millions, to allow Germany into the enemy alliance was too close for the USSR.
- The nuclear arms race was well underway by the 1950s but the development of H-bombs and ICBMs only increased the perceived threat.

Exam questions

Write a narrative account of how the Hungarian Uprising led to an increase in tension between East and West. (8)

The Space Race was the main cause of tension in the 1950s. How far do you agree with this statement? (16)

Remember that there are also 2 source questions on the Conflict and Tension exam paper - Find examples of these at [AQA | Subjects | History](#)