

Superpower Relations and the Cold War UNIT 1: The origins of the Cold War, 1941–58

Term	Definition
1. The Grand Alliance	The term given to the three allies who worked together to defeat Nazi Germany. They were the Soviet Union, the USA and Great Britain.
2. Peace Conferences	The Grand Alliance met at three peace conferences. They met in Tehran (1943) and agreed a second front, Yalta (1945) to discuss Germany and Potsdam (1945) where the A bomb was announced by the USA.
3. Superpowers	This term describes the two most powerful countries that emerged after WWII. The Capitalist USA, which was the richest country in the world and the Communist USSR, which began to take control of Eastern Europe.
4. Long and Novikov Telegrams	The US ambassador in Moscow wrote a telegram back to the USA complaining of the Soviet desire to take control of Eastern Europe. In response the Soviet ambassador in Washington wrote of America's desire to dominate the world.
5. Satellite states	Following the end of WWII Soviet leader Stalin began a programme of Soviet expansionism. The USSR took control of countries, such as Romania, Poland and Czechoslovakia through a mixture of rigged elections and use of Soviet troops.
6. The Truman Doctrine	As Europe began to rebuild following WWII it was clear that countries had no money. Worried about Communists winning the Greek Civil War President Truman came up with an idea to loan countries money to remain Capitalist.
7. The Marshall Plan	The money given to countries, following the Truman Doctrine, is known as the Marshall Plan. The UK, France and West Germany were amongst the highest receivers of aid. Some Communist states tried to claim Marshall Aid but Stalin refused to let them.
8. Cominform	The USSR decided to control the economies of Eastern Europe. For example, Czechoslovakia were to produce luxury goods. The Soviet Union then planned to take all of the goods and redistribute them across the Communist bloc.
9. Comecon	Having refused to let Communist countries claim Marshall Aid, Stalin came up with his own policy. Comecon gave money to Communist countries who were prepared to allow the collectivisation policy of Cominform.
10. NATO	The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was set up as an alliance of Western nations. It included the USA, UK and France. The nations of NATO were determined to stand up to Stalin and the Soviet Union.
11. The Berlin Crisis	The first crisis of the Cold War era. Stalin decided to blockade West Berlin by blocking the road, rail and canal links. To get around this the UK and USA decided to drop food and supplies from the air in the Berlin Airlift to the people of West Berlin.
12. The Federal Republic of Germany	The Capitalist country established in West Germany was known as the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). The FRG were closely aligned with the USA throughout their existence.
13. The German Democratic Republic	The Communist country established in East Germany was known as the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The GDR were closely aligned with the USSR throughout their existence.
14. The Arms Race	Following the announcement of America's intention to use an atomic bomb on Japan an arms race began between the USA and the USSR. This meant that the two sides poured huge sums of money into making nuclear weapons to try to rival one another.
15. The Warsaw Pact	Following the formation of NATO the Soviet Union decided to establish its own alliance system, the Warsaw Pact. Member nations included Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Romania. Their aim was to support one another against the capitalist powers, such as the USA.
16. The Hungarian Uprising	Following a period of De-Stalinisation the new Hungarian leader, Imre Nagy, threatened to leave the Warsaw Pact. As a result, Warsaw Pact forces invaded the country and reversed the changes. Imre Nagy was hanged and replaced by a hard-line leader, Janos Kadar.