

Superpower Relations and the Cold War UNIT 2: Cold War crises, 1958–1970

Term	Definition
1. The Berlin Ultimatum	Growing frustrated with the existence of West Berlin within the German Democratic Party, Khrushchev issued a demand that the Western Nations left Berlin.
2. The 'brain drain'	One of the reasons for the Berlin Ultimatum was Khrushchev's annoyance at the huge numbers of young, well-educated people leaving Communist Germany through the 'hole in the Iron Curtain' in West Berlin.
3. The U2 Spy Crisis	In the days leading up to the Paris Summit, Gary Powers (a US Pilot) was shot down by the USSR flying over Soviet airspace. When interviewed he admitted spying on behalf of the USA.
4. The Berlin Wall	In 1961 Khrushchev ordered the construction of a barbed wire fence around the GDR edge of Berlin, surrounding West Berlin. This immediately ended the 'brain drain'. The wall was reinforced and stood until 1990.
5. The Cuban Revolution	Cuban Dictator Batista was overthrown and replaced with Fidel Castro. Castro proved popular with the Cuban people but the USA refused to recognise the new leader and stopped doing business with the island.
6. The Bay of Pigs	To encourage the overthrow of Castro, the USA supported a number of Cuban exiles to return to Cuba and try to gain popular support. The invasion was a disaster and made the new US President (JFK) look out of his depth.
7. The Cuban Missiles Crisis	After a U2 spy plane flew over Cuba and discovered a number of missile sites, the island of Cuba was blockaded. For thirteen days the world held its breath and anticipated the start of a third world war.
8. The 'hot-line'	To avoid a similar situation, to the Cuban Missiles Crisis, the superpowers placed a direct telephone link that connected the Soviet Union with the USA.
9. The Limited Test Ban Treaty	The first of a range of nuclear treaties, signed following the Cuban Missiles Crisis. The UK, USA and USSR agreed to stop testing nuclear weapons in space, underwater or in the atmosphere.
10. The Prague Spring	Alexander Dubcek introduced a series of reforms, known as 'socialism with a human face'. He was attempting to maintain Communism in Czechoslovakia whilst allowing greater trade and movement with the Western nations.
11. The Brezhnev Doctrine	Following the invasion of Czechoslovakia, Soviet leader Brezhnev, introduced the Brezhnev Doctrine. It justified a Warsaw Pact invasion in the event that any country threatened the stability of the alliance.
12. Passive resistance	Having learnt from the failure of the Hungarian Uprising, the Czech people used a series of non-violent ways to resist. These included moving street signs, overthrowing buses and waving a Czech flag in Prague (the capital).