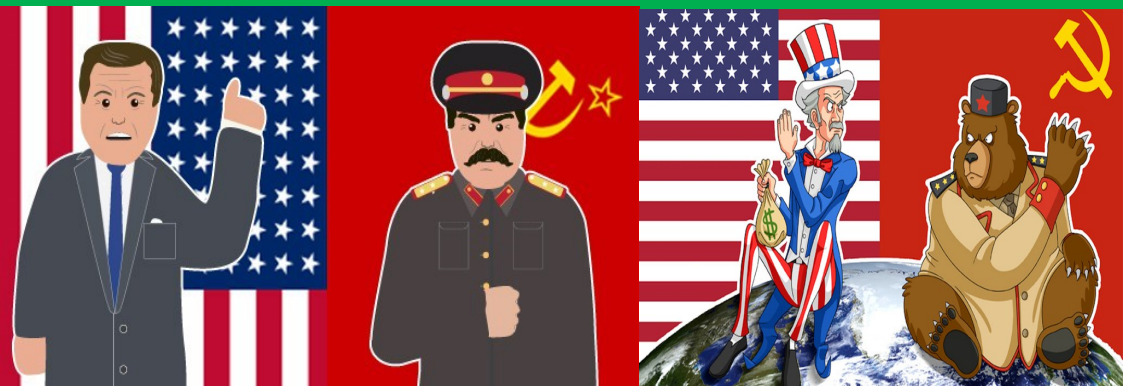


# THE DUSTON<sup>TDS</sup><sub>4-19</sub> SCHOOL

## Curriculum Knowledge History

Superpower relations and the Cold  
War, 1941-1991



## Enquiry Question:

### To what extent was the world on the brink of another hot war 1945-1991?

#### Big questions that will help you answer this enquiry question:

1. Why did two ideologies cause tension between the superpowers?
2. To what extent was the atomic bomb to blame for the unravelling of the wartime alliance?
3. Why was Stalin's takeover of Eastern Europe significant?
4. What were the consequences of containment?
5. Why was NATO and the Warsaw Pact important to the development of the Cold War?
6. To what extent did the arms race between the USA and Soviet Union increase international tension?
7. What was the impact of the Hungarian Uprising on international relations?
8. Why was the Berlin Wall built in 1961?
9. Why was the Cuban Missile Crisis important for the cooling of relations?
10. To what extent did the Prague Spring increase tensions again?
11. What attempts were made to reduce the tension between the East and West during the 1970s?
12. Why was the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan so important?
13. Why did the Cold War end in 1991?

The Soviet Union and the USA were allies in the fight against Hitler's Germany, but once the Second World War was over and there was no common enemy, the different political systems in the two countries made co-operation almost impossible. The communist Soviet Union and capitalist USA simply distrusted each other too much to remain on good terms. Instead, they drifted into a 'cold' war. The Cold War was not an open military conflict, but it did have characteristics of a traditional war. Military alliances were formed and huge arsenals of conventional and nuclear weapons were developed. In the years that followed the Second World War, Stalin tried to win security for the Soviet Union by consolidating his control over Eastern Europe, and if possible, extending communism into Western Europe. At the same time, the USA gave support to Western Europe and worked to undermine communism in Eastern Europe.

## Sample assessment material

You will answer three questions from a range of question stems...

Explain two consequences... (8 marks)

Write a narrative account analysing key events.... (8 marks)

Explain the importance of x for y .... (2 x 8 marks)

**Explain two consequences of the decisions made by The Grand Alliance at the Yalta Conference in February 1945 (8 marks)**

One consequence of the decisions made by The Grand Alliance at the Yalta Conference was would what would happen to Germany after the war. As a result of the conference, Germany was divided into four zones, controlled by Britain, the USA, the Soviet Union and France. Each country had the right to govern its sector as it saw fit. Stalin believed that in the end he had been given the poorest zone and resented the fact that the Western Allies administered the wealthier parts. This led to worse relations between East and West as Germany became an area of tension.

A second consequence was that there was an increase in suspicion between Stalin and the USA/Britain. This suspicion was as a result of the failure to agree on how Poland should be governed. There was general agreement that a government would be elected using free elections, but this meant different things to each country. To Stalin it meant using his influence to ensure a pro-Moscow government. Britain and the USA supported the London Poles who were non-Communists. Stalin wanted a Communist government in Poland as part of his plan to build a buffer zone. He saw the action of Britain and the USA as trying to undermine the security of the Soviet Union, so consequently, relations worsened.

**Write a narrative account analyzing the key events leading to the break-up of the Warsaw Pact in the years 1985-1991. You may use the following in your answer**

- **Gorbachev becoming leader of the Soviet Union in 1985**
- **The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989**

**You must also use information of your own (8 marks)**

The break-up of the Warsaw Pact probably started when Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union. Although he did not intend to end Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, Gorbachev decided that the Soviet Union could not continue to spend huge sums of money of the arms race and foreign policy. Because of this, in 1985, he announced that the Soviet Union was abandoning the Brezhnev Doctrine. As a result, the members of the Warsaw Pact realised they could not introduce reforms in their countries, without fear of being invaded by Warsaw Pact forces like Hungary and Czechoslovakia. So when, in September 1989, East Germany started travelling to West Germany through Hungary and Austria little was done to stop them. The countries of Eastern and Western Europe was becoming more connected. In the same month, the communist government in Poland was replaced after earlier being defeated in free elections. In October, communist government came to an end in Hungary. Moscow made no attempt to prevent the Polish elections or get rid of the new non-communist leaders in either country. Since the Warsaw Pact existed mainly to protect its communist members from the West, the reasons for its existence was fading away. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 made it even clearer that East and West were not divided any more. Its fall was symbolic and encouraged further challenges to communist rule. Communist regimes in Czechoslovakia and Romania were also toppled shortly afterwards. By the summer of 1990 all the old communist governments that had been democratically elected. With most countries of Eastern Europe now being led by non-communist governments there was no need for the Warsaw Pact, and as a result it was dissolved in July 1991.

## Sample assessment material

Explain two of the following:

- 3.1 The importance of the Hungarian Uprising (1956) for the development of the Cold War
- 3.2 The importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union
- 3.3 The importance of the Olympic boycotts for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union (16 marks)

3.1: The Hungarian Uprising was important for the development of the Cold War because it demonstrated Soviet determination to maintain control in Eastern Europe and worsened relations between the two superpowers. In October 1956, demonstrations against Soviet control began, Khrushchev sent troops and tanks to Budapest to try and restore peace. On 26th October Nagy was reinstated as prime minister. Nagy held talks with the Soviet Union as it was agreed the tanks would be withdrawn. On 31<sup>st</sup> October, Nagy's proposed reforms were published. His most controversial reform was his intention to withdraw Hungary from the Warsaw Pact. On 4<sup>th</sup> November, Khrushchev decided that Nagy had gone too far, and 1000 Soviet tanks rolled into Hungary with 200,000 Soviet troops. Nagy was replaced with Kadar, and Nagy was shot and arrested. There was very little the West could do, apart from condone the actions of the Soviet Union. Hungary was too far away for military intervention, and if the USA did help, like Hungary had requested, it would be seen as an aggressive measure, and the Soviet Union could have launched their atomic weapons. The crisis was important because it highlighted the determination of the Soviet Union to maintain its control of Eastern Europe and prevent any further attacks on Communist control. It was also important because it intensified superpower rivalry. The USA was furious with the brutality of the Soviet Union.

3.3: By the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, détente was coming to an end. As a result of the invasion, the Americans issued the Carter Doctrine and looked for ways to show their disapproval of the Soviet Union. Boycotting the Moscow Olympics provided an excellent opportunity. This really upset the Soviet Union because it was hoping to use the Olympics to show everyone how great communism was and how successful athletes from Warsaw Pact countries were – proving that Communist societies were better. The American boycott was important because it made it plain to the Soviet Union that the period of co-operation was over and that the USA still considered itself as the leader of the democratic world, ready to resist attempts to spread communism.

Equally, the Moscow boycott angered the Soviet Union which retaliated by leading the Warsaw Pact countries in a boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. This showed that the world was still divided into two camps – East and West. The Olympic boycotts made the Cold War colder and showed that the USA and the Soviet Union were still bitter rivals.

## Key events: The origins of the Cold War

1.	Nov 1943	Tehran Conference
2.	Feb 1943	Yalta Conference
3.	1945	First successful US atomic bomb test. The USA then detonates atomic bombs over Japan in Aug 1945
4.	May 1945	The Second World War ends
5.	July 1945	Potsdam Conference
6.	Feb 1946	Kennan's Long Telegram
7.	March 1946	Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech
8.	Sept 1946	Novikov's Long Telegram
9.	Jan 1947	Communist government elected in Poland
10.	March 1947	Truman Doctrine announced
11.	June 1947	Marshall Plan announced
12.	Sept 1947	Cominform set up
13.	Feb 1948	Communists seize power in Czechoslovakia
14.	June 1948	Berlin blockade
15.	Jan 1949	Comecon established
16.	April 1949	NATO established
17.	May 1949	Communist government elected in Poland
18.	Sept 1949	Federal Republic of Germany founded
19.	Oct 1949	German Democratic Republic formed
20.	Nov 1952	USA test hydrogen bomb
21.	Jan 1953	Eisenhower elected as President in the USA
22.	March 1953	Stalin dies
23.	Aug 1953	The Soviet Union successfully tests the hydrogen bomb
24.	May 1955	German Federal Republic (West Germany) join NATO
25.	May 1955	Warsaw Pact established
26.	Feb 1956	Khrushchev, new leader of the Soviet Union, makes a speech criticising Stalin
27.	Nov 1956	Hungarian Uprising crushed
28.	June 1957	USA launch the first ICBM (inter-continental ballistic missile)
29.	Aug 1957	The Soviet Union tests first ICBM
30.	June 1958	Imre Nagy, PM of Hungary, is executed

## Key terms: The origins of the Cold War

1.	Soviet Union	USSR. Made up of different republics, but ruled from Moscow, capital.
2.	Ideology	A set of shared beliefs. In 1941, the USA and the Soviet Union had different ideologies
3.	Capitalism	Believe everyone should be free to own property and businesses and make money. The USA was capitalist
4.	Communism	Believe all property should belong to the state to ensure that every member of society has a fair share. Ideology of the USSR
5.	Democracy	A political system in which a nation's leaders are chosen in free elections.
6.	Satellite state	A nation that once was independent that is now under the control another. Describes the states under the control of the Soviet Union
7.	London Poles	A group of politicians who left Poland after the German invasion in 1939 and formed a government-in-exile, in Paris and then London
8.	Veto	Forbid or refuse.
9.	Isolationism	Staying apart, not getting involved in the affairs of others.
10.	Containment	Limiting the spread of something
11.	Conventional	Ordinary or normal. Defined as weapons that are not nuclear, chemical or biological
12.	Deterrent	A force that prevents something from happening. In the Cold War they thought a country would be deterred from using nuclear weapons

### Key people: the origins of the Cold War

Stalin	Leader of the Soviet Union till 1953
Churchill	PM of Britain up till the Yalta conference
Roosevelt	US president up till Yalta
Truman	US President after Yalta
Kennan	US ambassador in Russia sent the long telegram
Novikov	Soviet ambassador in US
Khrushchev	Soviet Union leader between 1953 and 1964
Rakosi	Hungarian Leader under Stalin
Nagy	Hungarian leader under Khrushchev

## 1. Key events Cold War crises, 1958-1970

1.	Nov 1958	Khrushchev's Berlin Ultimatum
2.	Jan 1959	Castro becomes leader of Cuba
3.	May 1959	Geneva Summit. Cuban government nationalises foreign-owned land in Cuba
4.	Sept 1959	Khrushchev visits the USA
5.	Sept 1959	Camp David Summit
6.	Feb 1960	Castro signs agreement with Khrushchev
7.	May 1960	U-2 Crisis. Paris Summit
8.	Jan 1961	USA breaks off diplomatic relations with Cuba
9.	June 1961	Vienna Summit—Berlin Ultimatum renewed
10.	Aug 1961	Construction of the Berlin Wall. Bay of Pigs invasion
11.	Sept 1961	Khrushchev offers weapons to Cuba
12.	14th Oct— 28th Oct 1961	13 day crisis
13.	June 1963	Kennedy visits Berlin
14.	Jan 1968	Dubcek becomes leader of Czech government
15.	April 1968	Prague Spring reforms begin
16.	Aug 1968	Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia
17.	Sept 1968	Pravda newspaper publishes speech setting out Brezhnev Doctrine
18.	April 1969	Dubcek dismissed

## 2. Key people: Cold War crises, 1958-1970

John F. Kennedy	US President 1961-63
Fidel Castro	Cuban leader 1959-2015
Alexander Dub- cek	Czechoslovakian leader in 1968
Leonid Brezhnev	Leader of Soviet Union after 1964

### 3. Key Terms/Concepts: Cold War crises, 1958-1970

Ultimatum	Final decision/order
Free city	A city with its own independent government.
Summit	Meeting to discuss important issues
Bay of Pigs incident	Where US troops and Cuban exiles tried to invade Cuba
Exile	Living outside your own country by choice
Prague Spring	A period of increased political freedom
Berlin Wall	Wall built to divide East and West Berlin
Brezhnev Doctrine	The right to invade satellite states if security was threatened
M.A.D.	Mutually Assured Destruction
Détente	A less stressful informed relationship between the USA and the Soviet Union
Hotline Agreement	Direct phone line set up to communicate between US and Soviet Union
Conference	A meeting where ideas are shared
Hawks	During the Cold War, those who supported going to war were known as Hawks. Their counterparts, who tried to find solutions to problems without going to war, were known as Doves.
Brinkmanship	Pushing disagreements to the point where there is a risk of war.
Non-proliferation	Stopping the spread of something, usually weapons or armaments
Socialism	Communist countries sometimes refer to themselves as socialist.
Doctrine	A belief or philosophy



## Key terms: The end of the Cold War, 1970-1991

1.	1968	Nixon elected as President of the USA
2.	1969	Brandt elected as Chancellor of West Germany
3.	1972	SALT I
4.	1973	Brezhnev visits Washington
5.	1975	Helsinki Accords, Appolo-Soyuz Space mission
6.	1979	SALT II
7.	Dec 1979	Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
8.	1980	Carter Doctrine, US boycott of Moscow Olympics, the election of Ronald Reagan, the beginning of a 'Second Cold War'
9.	1981	Martial law declared in Poland
10.	1982	Death of Brezhnev
11.	1983	SDI announced by President Reagan
12.	1984	Soviet boycott of Los Angeles Olympics
13.	1985	Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader, Geneva Summit
14.	1986	Reykjavik Summit
15.	1987	Washington Summit
15.	1987	Intermediate Range Nuclear Force Treaty (INF)
	1988	Moscow Summit
	1989	Malta Summit
16.	1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall
17.	1990	Gorbachev wins Nobel Prize
18.	1991	Gorbachev overthrown, Soviet Union dissolves

## **2. Key Terms/Concepts: The end of the Cold War, 1970-1991**

19.	Détente	A period of peace between two groups that were previously at war, or hostile to each other
20.	Interim	Short-term— SALT I only applied until 1977
21.	S.A.L.T.	Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
22.	Treaty	An agreement
23.	Ratification	Formal approval.
24.	Glasnost	'Openness' -freedom of speech
25.	Perestroika	'Restructuring' new ways of doing things
26.	Carter Doctrine	End of cooperation with Soviet Union and confronted it instead
27.	Mujahideen	Afghan rebels who fought the Soviets in Afghanistan
28.	I.N.F.	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces
29.	Evil Empire	Regan's description of the Soviet Union
30.	S.D.I	Strategic Defense Initiative

## **3. Key people: The end of the Cold War, 1970-1991**

Ronald Regan	US President 1981-91
Mikhail Gorbachev	Soviet Union leader 1985-91
Jimmy Carter	US president 1977-81
Hafizullah Amin	Replaced Soviet choice Taraki as leader of Afghanistan
Barbrak Karmal	Made president of Afghanistan after Amin was killed

## Enquiry Question:

To what extent was the world on the brink of another hot war  
1945-1991?

## Wider Reading List

- The Cold War by John Lewis Gaddis
- The Cold War: A World History by Odd Arne Westad
- Cold War: For Forty-five Years the World Held its Breath by Jeremy Isaacs and Taylor Downing
- The Cold War: A New Oral History of Life Between East and West by Bridget Kendall
- From Cold War to Hot Peace: The Inside Story of Russia and America by Michael Mcfaul
- Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938 by Stephen E. Ambrose and Douglas G. Brinkley
- Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944-56 by Annie Applebaum
- A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House by Arthur Meier
- One Minute To Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War by Michael Dobbs
- Nineteen eighty-four by George Orwell

