

GCSE History Topic 2: Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945 – 1972

Key topic 1 – The origins of the Cold War



Key people	
Joseph Stalin	Leader off the USSR between 1924 and 1953
Winston Churchill	British Prime Minister 1940 – 1945 and 1951 – 1955
Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR)	US President 1933 – 1945
Harry S Truman	US President 1945 – 1953
Clement Atlee	British Prime Minister 1945 – 1951. Leader of the Labour Party 1935 – 1955

Key Tier 3 vocabulary	
Delegation	A person or group sent to represent the country abroad at a meeting
Doctrine	A rigid set of beliefs or principals
Telegram	A message sent down a wire then printed out
Dollar imperialism	The idea that the USA spreads its influence and power around the world using money
Reparation	Money paid to country after a war to pay for reconstruction
Domino Theory	Eisenhower’s theory that communism would spread and countries would fall like dominoes
Guerrilla warfare	The use of ambushes and raids by small armed groups; used successfully in Cuba by Castro and by the Vietcong in Vietnam
Red Scare	The widespread fear of communism
Trade Union	An organisation of workers that protects their interests, negotiates pay and improves working conditions

Key Tier 3 vocabulary	
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; a ‘soviet’ is a workers’ council
Superpower	A country that has significantly more power than other; either military or economic. The USA and the USSR were both seen as superpowers during the Cold War.
Propaganda	Information used to promoted a particular point of view
Cult of personality	When a leader (e.g. Stalin) uses the media to create a god-like image of themselves.
Regime	A government
Proxy war	An indirect war between the superpowers where the USA or USSR funded another enemy e.g. the Korean War, the Vietnam War
Capitalism	The economic system followed by the West in the Cold War
Communism	The economic system followed by the East in the Cold War
Democracy	A system of government when citizens elect their leader or have a say in the country’s laws
Ideology	A guiding political belief e.g. Communism
Bourgeoisie	The middle classes who hold the power and need to be overthrown (according to Karl Marx)
Bolshevik	The Political Party who took over Russia in 1917 during the Revolution
Cheka	The secret police of East Germany during the Cold War
Proletariat	The workers who should rise up and take control according to Marxism

GCSE History Topic 2: Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945 - 1972



Key topic 1 - The origins of the Cold War

Key dates

1945	February - Yalta Conference
	May - End of World War Two in Europe
	July - August - Potsdam Conference
	August - the Atomic Bomb is dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
1947	February - The Long Telegram
	March - Iron Curtain Speech (Churchill)
	September - Cominform is established
1948	April - The Marshall Plan is put into action
	June - Berlin Blockade begins . Ends May 1949
1949	April - NATO is formed
1950	June - North Korea invades the South leading to the Korean War
1952	July - the Korean War ends
1955	The Vietnam War begins

Source Analysis

Content - what can you take from the source? What is it saying? What can you see?

Provenance - what is the NOP of a source?

N - nature (type of source)

O - origin (when the source was made, where the source was made, who made the source)

P - purpose (why the source was made, who the intended audience was, what the intended message was)

How can this affect the reliability of the source?

Accuracy - How accurate is the source? What own knowledge do you have that can support or challenge the source.

Yalta

Big Three

- Winston Churchill (Britain)
- Franklin D Roosevelt (USA)
- Joseph Stalin (USSR)

Potsdam

Big Three

- Clement Attlee (Britain)
- Harry S Truman (USA)
- Joseph Stalin (USSR)

Main agreements

1. Germany and Berlin were divided into four zones
2. The liberated countries of Western and Central Europe would be allowed to hold elections
3. The United Nations would be created to ensure future cooperation
4. The Declaration of Liberated Europe was signed

Main agreements

1. Germany was to be divided as discussed at Yalta
2. The Nazi Party was banned and its leaders were to be tried as war criminals
3. Germans living in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia were to be returned to Germany
4. Poland was to lose some territory in the east to the USSR

Prior knowledge required:

- World War Two
- Nazi Germany

Provides building blocks for:

- A Level - Britain 1930 - 1979



Berlin