

PAPER 1

Cold War Crises

WHEN

1945 onwards

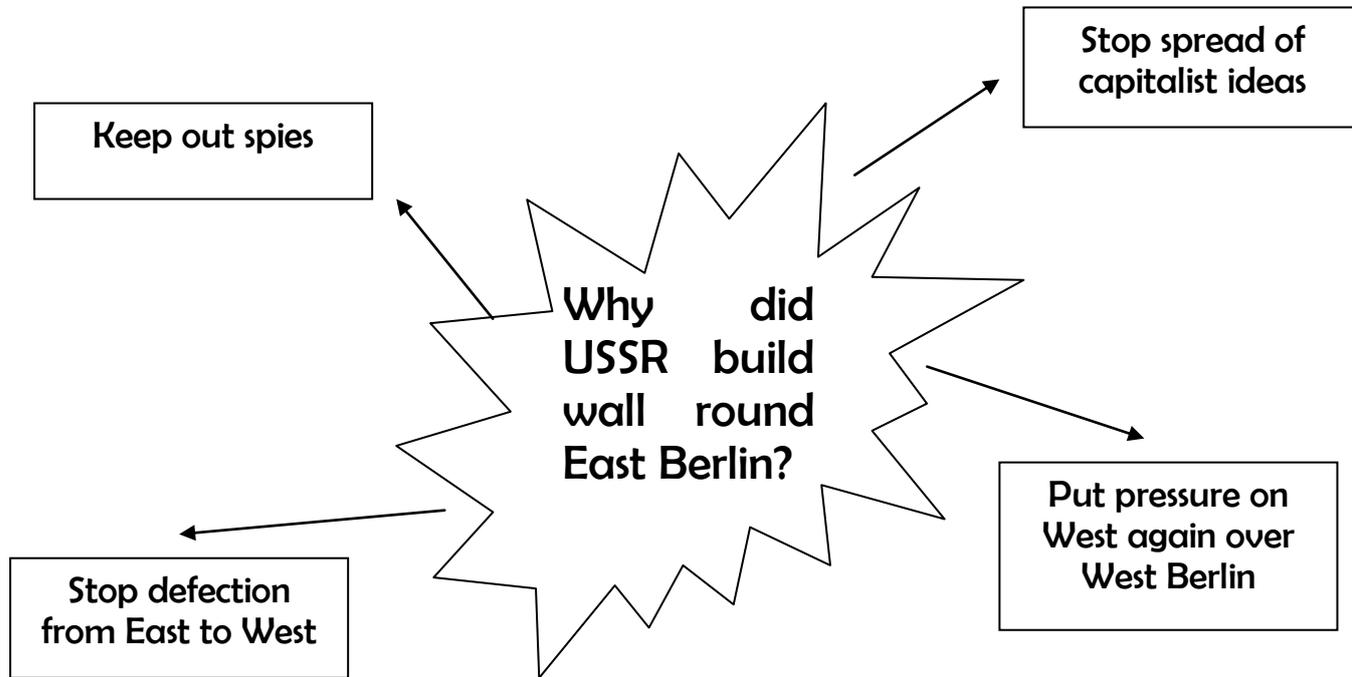
WHAT

A war with no fighting or direct conflict

WHO

USSR v USA
Communism v Capitalism
East v West

- August 1961 USSR built wall around East Berlin to seal off the rest of the city



The Cuban Missile Crisis

- ⇒ Before 1959 Cuba led by Batista and supported by USA
- ⇒ 1959 Cuba taken over by Castro who USA suspected as a Marxist – USSR and Cuba made pact

Bay of Pigs

- President Kennedy tried to help Batista retake Cuba
- A failure at Bay of Pigs led by Castro rejecting USA and turning more towards USSR
- From June 1962 USSR shipped weapons to Cuba including nuclear missiles capable of reaching American cities

Kennedy seen as weak because of

1. Building of Berlin Wall
2. Lost at Bay of Pigs

What should his response be?

22nd Oct 1962 - Kennedy announces a blockade of Cuba

25th Oct 1962 - Soviet ships meet the blockade, but turn round and go home

28th Oct 1962 - Soviet government agree to remove missiles from Cuba

Results of the Cuban Missile Crisis: Who won?

Kennedy	Khrushchev
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USSR remove missiles from Cuba 2. USSR did not get through American Naval blockade 3. He gained popularity for making Khrushchev back down 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USSR gained a communist ally close to USA 2. Naval blockade was over 3. USA promised not to invade Cuba

Czechoslovakia 1968

Czechoslovakia was a Soviet satellite state but was not happy about their economic and political loss of independence to USSR

In January 1968 change finally came under their new leader Alexander Dubcek and although still a communist he brought change known as the Prague Spring. Promising people

"socialism with a human face"

Added to all of these reforms, Dubcek remembered what had happened to Hungary so promised the Soviet leader Brezhnev that he would not leave the Warsaw Pact.

Brezhnev was not convinced by Dubcek and saw Czechoslovakian independence as a threat to the USSR. Backed by the countries of the Warsaw Pact, he set out the Brezhnev doctrine.

The Brezhnev doctrine stated that the Soviet Union would interfere if any communist country appeared to be turning against communism.

On 20 August 1968 500,000 troops invaded Czechoslovakia, however the Czechs wanted to avoid the bloodshed of Hungary and opted for **passive resistance**. Eventually the Soviet forces crushed all resistance and Dubcek was expelled.

The event further damaged East/West relations. The west were horrified at USSR's response to Czechoslovakia, but were not prepared to risk war.

The east was not prepared to lose communist states
The west was not prepared to stand up to them though

Arms Race

Two superpowers competed to gain an advantage in the arms race.

- Until 1957 a nuclear bomb would have been carried to its target by a long range aircraft and dropped. October 1957 the USSR developed a rocket, the R-7, which could launch a satellite, Sputnik 1 into space. Two months later the Americans tested their own rocket, the Atlas-A. The rocket could be fitted with a nuclear warhead and launched at a target thousands of miles away.

- By 1960 both countries had inter-continental ballistic missiles. These land-based strategic missiles were stored in concrete silos in underground bases. From these bases they could reach up to 6400km away. Both sides tried to

position ICBM's in friendly countries close to enemy borders. Americans based in Turkey, a country bordered the USSR.

- Arms race moved on in 1960, when USA fired a new Polaris missile from a submarine. Now possible to fire missiles with a range over 1600km from under sea. Soviets soon made their own.

By 1960 both side could destroy everything living on Earth.

Space Race

The space race began in 1957 when USSR launched Sputnik 1. The Soviets continued to lead the way with the first dogs in space on Sputnik 2 which orbited the earth, and then in 1959 when Luna 3 took pictures of the moon. Then in 1961 Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit the earth, a sign of Soviet superiority perhaps?

However the Americans at first experienced problems. Their first satellite, Explorer 1 was only launched in 1958 and they did not orbit the earth until 1962. At this point a worried Kennedy made it NASA's priority to get a man on the moon before the end of the decade and certainly before the Soviets.

In the early 1960s the Soviet Union again took the lead; the first woman in space and the first space walk. However the race to be the first on the moon sapped the Soviets money and the Americans were able to triumph and Neil Armstrong became the first man on the moon on 21st July 1969.

Détente

Détente - a political term for the easing of tensions between the USA and the USSR in the 1970s

Pressure from USSR

- Brezhnev wanted to extend peaceful co-existence
- Iron curtain countries had very poor industrial efficiency
- USSR had argues with China and needed friendly relations with USA
- The USSR had caught up with USA in Arms race and it therefore made sense to cut back on military spending

Pressure from USA

- Stagflation in the USA - rising inflation and economic stagnation, with huge spending on Vietnam was crippling USA economy
- Vietnam war had produced a huge peace campaign

SALT(1)

Strategic Arms Limitation Talks began in 1969 and were agreed in 1972

This limited inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that both superpowers would hold

Each side was allowed spy satellites to use on the other

Seen as a huge achievement at the time

Helsinki Agreement (1975)

USA, USSR and 33 other countries signed this agreement

- The west recognised frontiers of eastern Europe and acknowledge Soviet influence in this area
- Soviets agreed to buy US grain and to export oil the other way

- All countries agreed to improve human rights and freedom of speech

Criticisms of détente

After the mid 1970s there were signs that détente was failing

- Human rights abuses continued in USSR
- Brezhnev cancelled an agreement when USA tried to get Soviet Jews written into a trade agreement
- Suspicions that the USSR was not keeping to SALT 1 talks
- Dissidents in the east were dismissed from work, children expelled from school, driving license and citizenship cancelled
- Carter tried to extend SALT agreement by linking to discussions about human rights, but this annoyed Brezhnev

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

Explain why?

1. Afghanistan was a land route between oil rich Middle east and USSR. It had been under Soviet influence since 1947
2. Iran was on the other border of Afghanistan, it's Shah (king) was overthrown by Muslim fundamentalists in 1979
3. There was an unstable government in Afghanistan, Amin seized power in 1979 and he was not friendly with the USSR
4. Amin was also opposed by Muslim groups within Afghanistan who were plotting to seize control from him
5. The Soviets feared this Muslim takeover over Afghanistan as well as Iran, which might block their land route to oil

Describe events

25 December 1979 - Soviets invade Afghanistan

Kabul airport taken over by 350 Soviet aircraft

50,000 Soviet troops had arrived within the week

Amin was killed by Soviet troops

New government in Afghanistan was led by Soviet friendly Karmal

Assess the reactions of the world

1. Brezhnev told the world he had invaded to protect Afghanistan
2. However this provoked an angry American reaction, describing the invasion as a threat to world peace
3. China also threatened to help the Afghan fighters known as the Mujaheddin
4. Carter (US president) showed the world his anger by pulling USA out of Olympics in Moscow in 1980
5. Carter also sent a US Navy task force to the Arabian sea to protect oil in the Middle East
6. To inflict further economic damage he cut trade between the USA and USSR, stopping the export of 17 million tons of grain and stopping the sale of technological equipment.