

Byrchall School

History Department

Revision Notes

Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945 - 1972

The Cold War

After World War 2 the superpowers of the USA and USSR grew suspicious of each other. Joined by the war against Germany before 1945 they soon became virtual enemies. But why?

COMMUNISM (USSR)

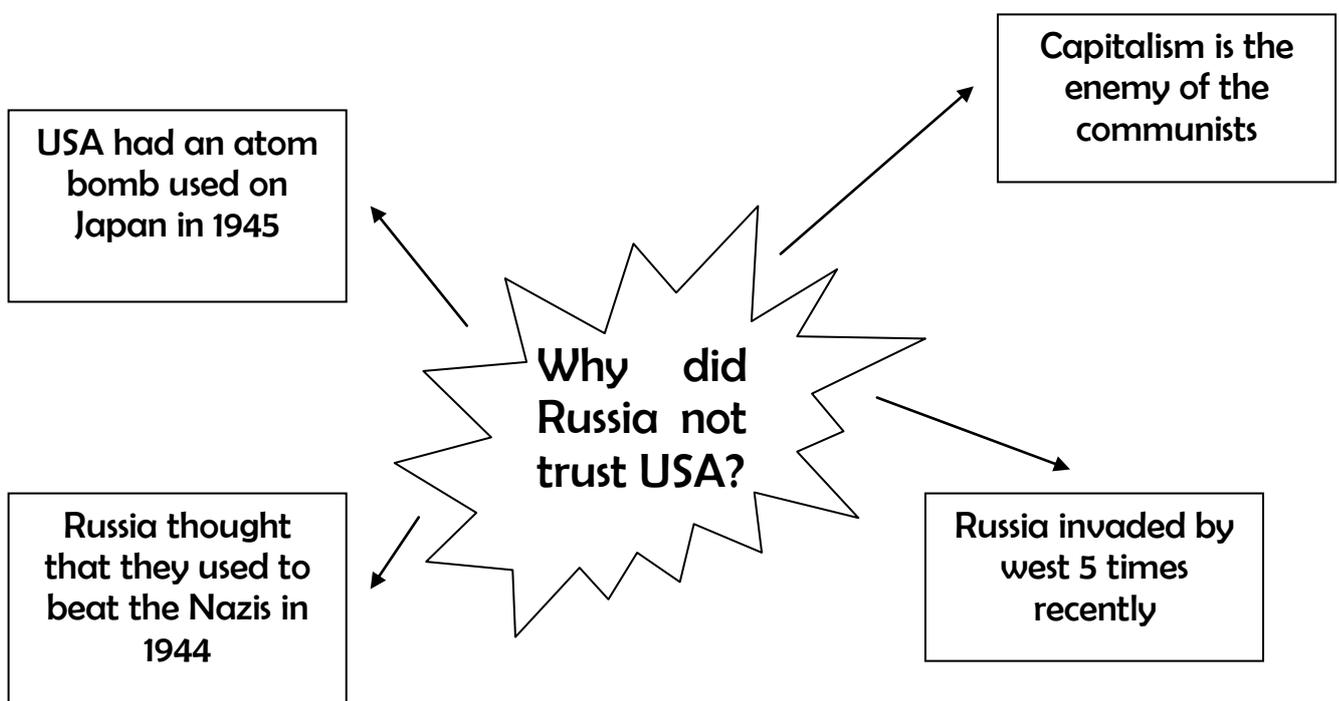
- One party government
- No free elections
- State owned industry and agriculture

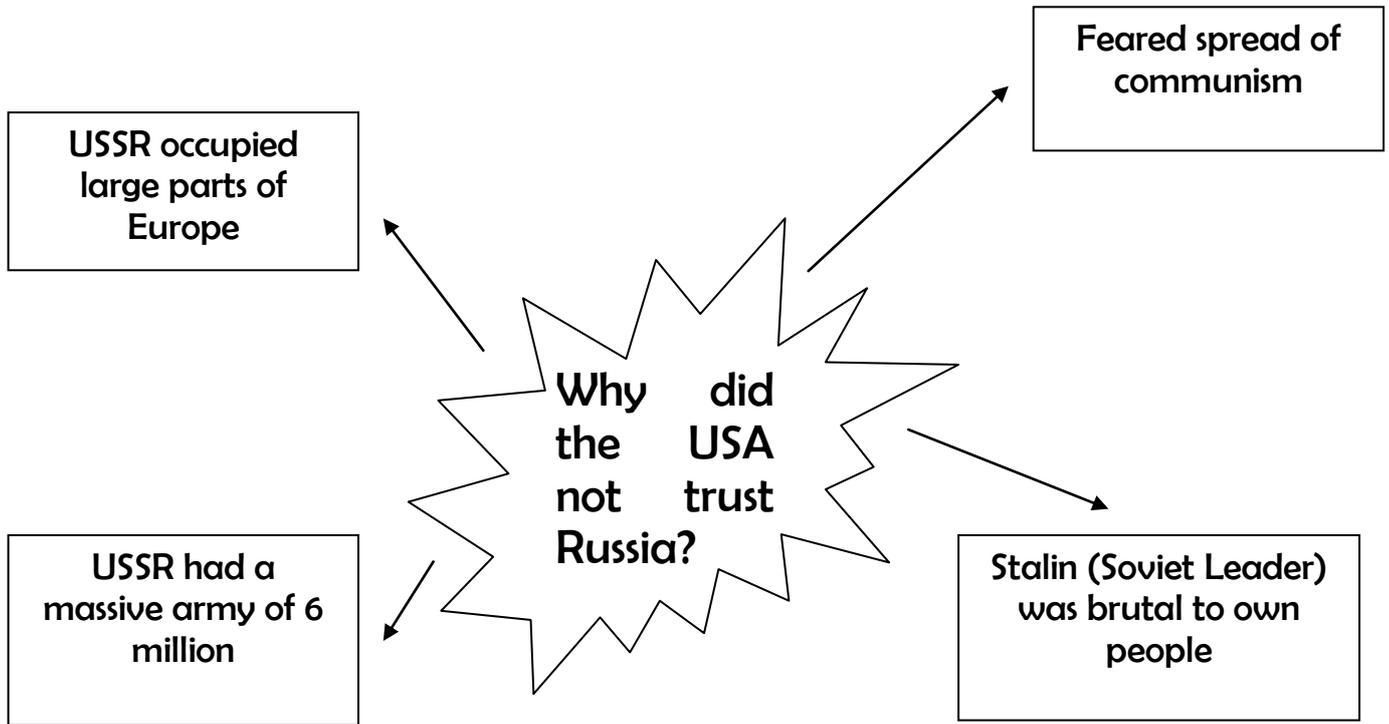
CAPITALISM (USA)

- Democracy
- Government elected by free elections
- Private ownership of industry and agriculture run for profit

⇒ Soviets thought the west wanted to destroy communism

⇒ West thought Soviets were trying to convert the world to communism





Yalta Jan 1945

Roosevelt (USA) Churchill (UK) Stalin (USSR)

- ⇒ Germany and Berlin split into four zones
- ⇒ Stalin to have influence in Eastern Europe

Potsdam July 1945

Truman (USA) Attlee (UK) Stalin (USSR)

- ⇒ Truman and Stalin = tensions
- ⇒ Ideas at Yalta confirmed

Key Terms

Iron curtain

Used by Churchill to describe division between the 2 sides (USSR including Eastern Europe Countries)

Truman Doctrine

Promise by USA to help any country threatened by communism by invasion or revolution

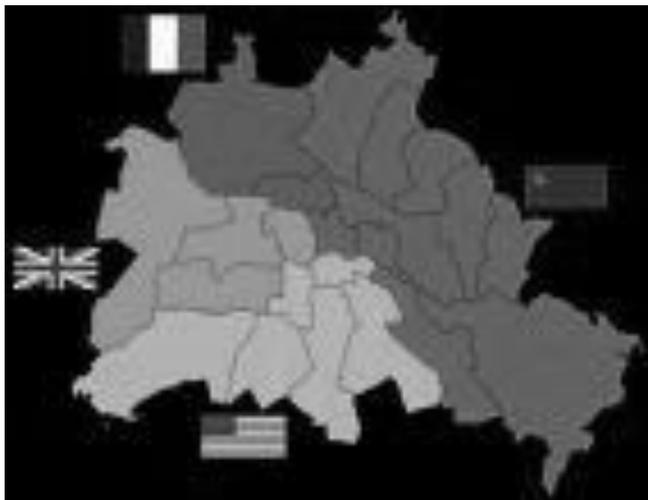
Marshall Aid/ Plan

Linked to Truman doctrine this is the money offered by America to Europe rebuild (\$15 billion)

Domino Theory

American idea that communism spread from one country to the next

Berlin Blockade



- Berlin divided into four zones
- Whole city in USSR zone
- USSR took money from its part of Berlin other 3 zones recovered through Marshall aid
- 3 zones joined together Stalin did not like this
- Stalin blocked all routes/supplies to Berlin

Western Options

1. Humiliating withdrawal from Berlin
2. Go to war
3. Airlift in supplies

The Berlin Airlift

1. West Berliners needed 4000 tons of supplies a day
2. began 26th June 1948
3. Soviets promised extra supplies if moved to East Berlin only 2% did
4. Stalin dared not shoot down planes – called of blockade in May 1949

Results

1. 79 pilots died in accidents
2. 3 German zones and West Berlin became West Germany
3. East zone and East Berlin became East Germany
4. West make West Berlin a showcase of Capitalism

NATO

1. 1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation formed
2. All members agreed to go to war if one attacked
3. Included: - USA, Canada Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Iceland, Luxembourg, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Greece, Turkey and West Germany.

Warsaw Pact

1. Signed by Soviets and East Europeans as a response to NATO
2. Also a response to West Germany entering NATO

China becomes Communist 1949

- In May 1949 the communist forces under Mao Zedong took complete control of China
- In February 1950 the Soviet Union and communist China agreed the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance
- In America the fear of Communism expansion reached fever pitch. America's policy of trying to stop the spread of communism had failed in Asia.

The Korean War

Part One

- At the end of WW2 Korean split up
North backed by USSR/South backed by USA
- June 1950 North invaded South and overran much of the country
- Kim Il Sung (leader of North) helped by Soviet and Chinese supplies.

Part Two

- USA sent army to help South Korea at Pusan led by General MacArthur
- North Koreans attacked and USA/UN troops pushed through towards China

Part Three

- MacArthur got carried away wanted to attack China and was sacked by President Truman
- Americans went back to South Korea and ceasefire agreed in 1953

Vietnam

- At the end of the second World War, Vietnam was ruled by the French, but the communist Vietcong were fighting a civil war against the French. The USA was providing financial aid to the French
- By the 1960s the Vietnam war had developed. North Vietnam was supported by communist China and the USSR and South Vietnam was supported by the USA
- The war had a huge effect on USA-USSR relations during the Cold War

A Thaw in the Cold War

- ⇒ Stalin died in 1953 and was replaced by Khrushchev
- ⇒ Khrushchev denounced cruel regime of Stalin
 - Destalinisation

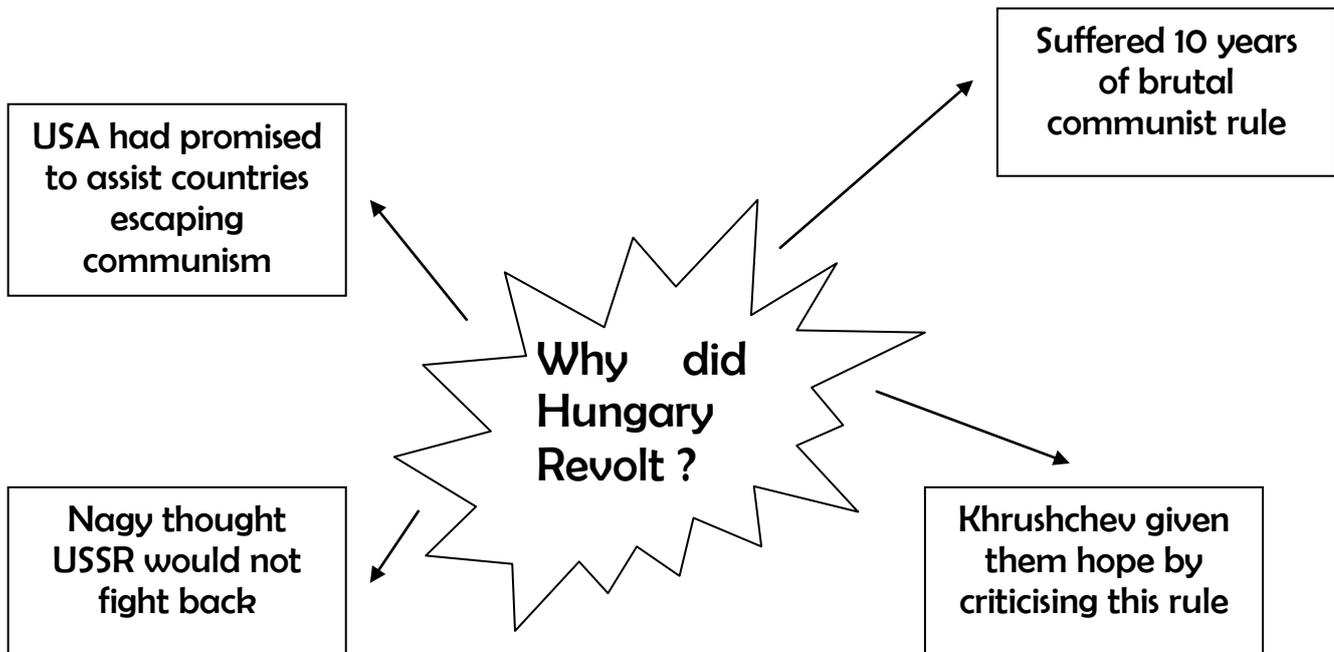
Wanted co-existence with the West not confrontation

- ⇒ Encouraged communist satellite states of Eastern Europe to expect change

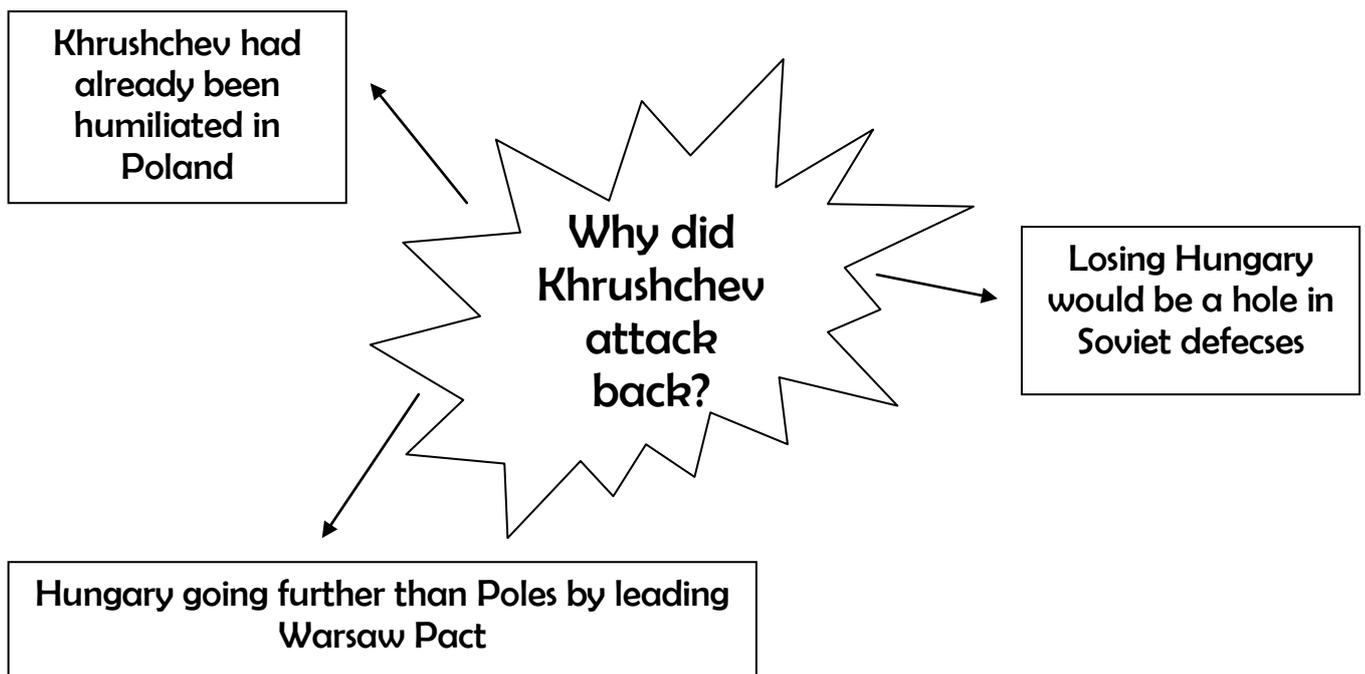
⇒ However Khrushchev could not afford to allow compromise – revolts put down especially in Hungary in 1958

Hungarian Uprising

Nagy = Hungarian Leader



Hungarian Uprising



Results

- Revolt crushed due to
- Size of USSR army
 - Warsaw Pact countries helped USSR
 - West refused help (afraid of war)
 - West distracted by Suez Canal crisis

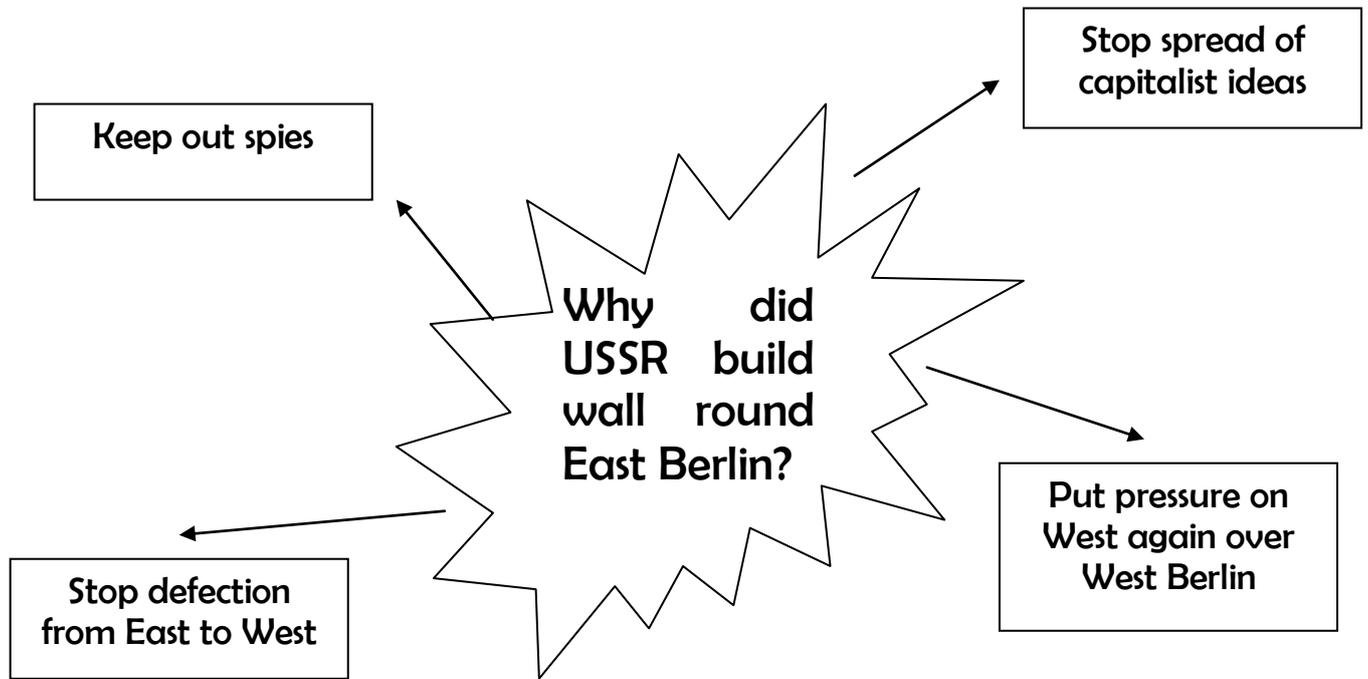
The Arms Race

- After WW2 only USA had nuclear weapons
- By 1949 USSR had developed their own nuclear weapons
- Tried to out do each other by building better weapons
- In 1957 USSR developed technology to fire from space, USA responded
- In 1960 USA developed technology to fire from submarines, USSR responded
- Both sides put ICBM sites (Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles) close to enemy pointing at each other

Deterrent

The plan was they would never use them as they realised how much damage they could do.

MAD – Mutually Assured Destruction



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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. USSR remove missiles from Cuba2. USSR did not get through American Naval blockade3. He gained popularity for making Khrushchev back down	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. USSR gained a communist ally close to USA2. Naval blockade was over3. USA promised not to invade Cuba

Prague Spring

What happened?

- Czechs wanted reform under Dubcek
- Socialism with a human face
- Not to leave Warsaw pact but end censorship, have free elections, media, travel competition
- Soviets invites in by hardline Czechs
- Met passive resistance
- Brezhnev doctrine

Why?

- Loss of political and economic independence
- Remembered pre war democracy
- Resented that they produced few consumer goods and profits went to USSR

Results

- Creation of Brezhnev doctrine
- West weak, not prepared to intervene with USSR despite welcoming Dubcek's changes
- Suggests USSR would not allow political reform or opposition

Détente

During the 1970's the USA and the Soviet Union came to accept each other's areas of influence in the world, and both wanted to improve international relations.

USSR	USA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brezhnev wanted to persuade USA to accept Soviet control of Eastern Europe• USSR had caught upto USA in arms race spending, made sense to stop spending!• Needed to trade with West• USSR needed better relations with the USA as it had argues with China	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stagflation – rising inflation and economic stagnation largely due to spending in Vietnam• Peace campaign had grown since Vietnam and confidence in war had gone

SALT 1, 1972

Strategic arms limitations talks

Limited the number of ICBMs and ABMs

Both sides were allowed to use satellites to spy on each other

Did not achieve much but seen as a huge step forward at the time