



## Highsted Knowledge Organiser

### Subject HPL Year 9

#### Terms 4 & 5: The Cold War

##### What I need to know

The Cold War – what was the Cold War? Key events including the Korean and Vietnam war, The Bay of Pigs and The Cuban Missile Crisis. Why did the Cold War end? The fall of the Berlin Wall and the break down of the Soviet Union

##### Key Vocabulary

**Communism:** political ideology where everyone is equal and all property/wealth is shared equally.

**Capitalism:** an economic and political system based on the idea of private ownership. People are motivated to work hard to profit themselves and their families.

##### Student reference point

- The United Nations was originally founded in 1945 by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. There are now 193 member states.
- After the end of WW2 relationships between the Communist Soviet Union and the Capitalist West began to break down.
- **Stalin, (leader of the USSR)**, quickly started turning Eastern Europe into a **buffer zone** between the Soviet Union and Western Europe. Stalin feared that Eastern Europe could be the doorway for an attack on the Soviet Union by the West. Winston **Churchill** referred to the border between East and Western Europe as an **Iron Curtain**.
- The USA and Britain felt threatened by the USSR as they believed that it wanted to take over the whole of Europe and make it communist.
- The USA set up **the Marshall plan** sending millions of dollars to help western European countries such as Germany to rebuild, modernise and become prosperous again after WW2. They hoped that this would stop them from becoming Communist.
- They also set up the North American Treaty Organisation (**NATO**) to counter the threat of the Communist USSR
- The USA and USSR both built and developed nuclear weapons to threaten each other. This also led to the space race as each nation tried to show that they had better technology.
- A Cold War developed which involved nations threatening, spying and deploying negative propaganda against each other. Both sides sent troops to fight in outbreaks of tension around the world.
- In October 1962 the tension reached crisis point and many historians suggest that the events of the **Cuban Missiles Crisis** were the closest that the USA and USSR came to triggering a nuclear war.

##### Challenge question

Does the existence of nuclear weapons make the world safer or more dangerous?

How has the Cold War impacted current affairs?

##### Suggested reading

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z2x6fg8>

1984, George Orwell



## Highsted Knowledge Organiser

### Subject HPL Terms 5/6

#### Year 9: The Cold War Case Studies – Cuban Missile Crisis and the Berlin Wall

##### What I need to know

What were the causes, events and consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis, (1962)?

What was the Berlin Wall? Why was both the building and destruction of the Berlin Wall significant in understanding recent European History?

**The Cuban Missile Crisis:** In the late 1950s the Americans were concerned that Cuba had been taken over by a Communist government led by Castro. They were worried that Communism was spreading to the Americas. Tension increased as in October 1962, an American spy plane flying over Cuba took pictures that showed the construction of Soviet missile launch sites. Cuba was only 90 miles from the coast of Florida meaning that the USA, including many of its biggest cities like Washington DC and New York, would be well within range of these missiles. Then news emerged that 20 Soviet ships carrying nuclear missiles were on their way to Cuba. The American President, John F Kennedy, announced on national television that the US would put a blockade around Cuba. If Soviet ships crossed the blockade this would lead to war. After several tense days of negotiation Nikita Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Union, ordered his ships to turn around. It was announced later that Kennedy had also agreed to remove nuclear weapons from Turkey which threatened the Soviet Union. The Crisis had been averted.

There were a number of significant consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis. In order to ensure easier communication between Washington DC and Moscow in the event of future conflict, a hotline was installed giving a direct phone link between the White House and the Kremlin.

Both the USA and the USSR realised they had been on the brink of nuclear war and entered into talks. These talks eventually led to the 1963 Test Ban Treaty which began the process of ending the testing of nuclear weapons. In the long term, the crisis may have created a willingness on both sides to enter into the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) later in the 1960s. At SALT1 an agreement was reached not to build any more Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs).

**The Berlin Wall:** On 13 August 1961, the Soviet authorities in East Germany sealed off East Berlin – their zone of occupation - by constructing a huge barbed wire barrier. This was soon replaced by a concrete wall, complete with lookout towers and armed guards who had orders to shoot anyone trying to cross into the Western sector. This wall physically and symbolically divided the Communist Eastern Europe and the Capitalist Western Europe. Many people tried to cross the wall into the West: 5000 successfully escaped, but 200 people were killed in the attempt. By 1989 many people in the East were challenging Communism and Soviet domination. The new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev wanted the Soviet Union and other Communist nations to become more open and free.

In November 1989 thousands of east Germans began to dismantle the Berlin Wall. Border guards joined the protest. East Germans and West Germans reunited as their country was reunited.

The Soviet Union disintegrated into 15 separate republics with non-communist governments.

The Cold War was over.

- Challenge question: How does understanding of events in the Cold War link to better understanding of current affairs?

- Suggested reading: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8fwhv4/revision/1>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvt42p3/revision/5>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvt42p3/revision/3>