

Superpower Relations 1945-1962: Timeline

1941

•**The United Nations** - Was the name of a wartime alliance between the UK, USA, USSR and other nations. The alliance was a marriage of convenience between **communists** and **capitalists** united only in their opposition to Hitler.

1942

1943

•**The Tehran Conference** - (28th Nov - 1st Dec) - the leaders of the 'united nations' met to agree upon strategy for the next stage of the war and to discuss the reconstruction of Europe. Agreed to divide Europe into competing '**spheres of influence**'. [will not be in exam]

1944

1945

•**The Yalta Conference** - (4-11th Feb) - Japan, Democracy, UN, Poland, Eastern Europe.
•**The Potsdam Conference** - (17th Jul - 2nd Aug) - Reparations, Poland & Atomic Bomb.
•**USA Drops Atomic Bomb** - (6th Aug) - USA drops Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

1946

•**The Long Telegram** - (22nd Feb) - Communism & Capitalism could no co-exist.
•**Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' Speech** (5th March) - USA & UK should ally against the USSR.
•**Novikov's Telegram** - (27th Sep) - USA wanted to dominate the world, building military.

1947

•**'Truman Doctrine' Speech** - (12th Mar) - Communism needed to be 'contained' by USA.
•**The Marshall Plan** - (5th June) - Committed \$13 billion USD to rebuild Europe.
•**COMINFORM** - (Sep) - Created to co-ordinate Communist parties under direction of USSR.

1948

•**Berlin Blockade** - (24th Jun-12th May 1949) - Stalin surrounded West Berlin with a military blockade. Truman responds with Berlin Airlift. Blockade fails.

1949

•**COMECON** - (Jan) - Stalin's answer to Marshall Plan. Provided aid to Eastern Europe.
•**NATO Established** - (Apr) - Collective security alliance between USA & Western Europe.
•**West Germany Created** - (23rd May) - Trizonia becomes the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).
•**USSR Develops Atomic Bomb** - (29th Aug) - First Soviet atomic test code-named First Lightning

1950

- **Korean War** - (25th Jun-27th Jul 1953) - *North Korea invades South Korea with 90,000 troops.*

1951

1952

1953

- **Eisenhower becomes US President** - (20th Jan)
- **Stalin dies** - (5th March) - *Nikita Khrushchev becomes new leader of USSR.*

1954

1955

- **West Germany joins NATO** - (9th May) - *FDR joins NATO, angering the USSR.*
- **Warsaw Pact** - (14th May) - *USSR established a military alliance based on collective security.*

1956

- **Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech'** - (25th Feb) - *Promises an end to Stalinism and a new policy of 'peaceful co-existence' with the Capitalist West.*
- **Hungarian Revolution** - (23rd Oct-10th Nov) - *Imre Nagy's liberal reforms ended by Khrushchev who sends in 200,000 Soviet troops to end the revolution. Nagy is arrested and executed.*

1957

- **Sputnik 1 launched** - (4th Oct) - *The USSR launches the world's first man-made satellite, triggering fears of Soviet missile superiority which led to the Space Race.*

1958

- **Berlin Ultimatum** - (Nov) - *Khrushchev issued an ultimatum giving Western powers six months to agree to withdraw from Berlin and make it a free, demilitarized city. Khrushchev was concerned by the level of emigration from East to West Berlin. The ultimatum sparked a three year crisis over the future of Berlin that culminated in 1961 with the building of the Berlin Wall.*

1959

- **Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference** - (May) - *Khrushchev and Eisenhower unable to agree a solution to Berlin issues but Khrushchev agrees to travel to US for further talks.*
- **Camp David Summit** - (25th Sep) - *Khrushchev and Eisenhower fail to agree a future for Berlin but further talks are scheduled for May 1960.*

1960

- **U2 Incident** - (1st May) - *US U-2 Spy Plane shot down over Soviet Union. US was forced to admit plane's role when the USSR produced the pilot, Gary Powers.*
- **Failure of the Paris Summit** - (16th May) - *Khrushchev lashes out at the US and President Eisenhower for spying on the USSR. He demanded that Eisenhower punish the leaders of the U2 programme and walked out of the conference when Eisenhower refused.*

1961

- **Bay of Pigs Invasion** - (17th Apr) - *Unsuccessful invasion of Cuba undertaken by a US-trained force designed to overthrow the leftist-government who had been developing links with the USSR.*
- **Vienna Summit** - (4th June) - *Talks over Berlin fail again. Khrushchev challenges new US President Kennedy to withdraw all troops from Berlin within six months or to declare war. Kennedy responds by activating 150,000 reservists and committing the US government to an additional \$3.2 billion of defence spending.*
- **Berlin Wall Constructed** - (13th Aug) - *On the morning of the 13th, Berliners awoke to find that a barbed wire fence around the whole of West Berlin had been erected. It was soon replaced by cement walls.*

1962

- **Cuban Missile Crisis** - (16th-28th Oct) - *For thirteen days nuclear war seemed inevitable. It was secretly agreed that the USSR would withdraw its missiles from Cuba if the USA removed its missiles from Turkey. As a result of the crisis, a hotline between Moscow and Washington was created in June 1963 and the Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT) was signed in August 1963.*