

Facts about Nuclear Weapons

- Only used **once** in war
- Two nuclear bombs dropped on **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** during WWII
- Victims directly underneath explosions **vaporised** due to intense heat
- People's clothes 3km from centre of explosions caught fire
- Roof tiles melted
- **Wind speed** underneath explosions - 1 600 km/h
- Explosions released nuclear **radiation** which killed thousands
- Deaths from radiation occurred many years after the explosions
- Nuclear weapons have been **banned** since



Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt

Nuclear Age and the Cold War

Tension between Allies after end of WWII in Europe

What caused the tension between Russia, and the USA and Britain?

1 Yalta conference (February 1945) and division of Germany

- ➔ **Allied Powers** defeated Germany and Italy - war ended in Europe
- ➔ Allied Powers decided to divide Germany into four zones - a zone each for France, Britain, America and Russia
- ➔ June 1945 - **Berlin** took over government of Germany
- ➔ July 1945 - American, British, French troops moved into Berlin
- ➔ **Japan remain undefeated** at this stage

2 Potsdam Conference 17 July - 2 August 1945

- ➔ Held at **end of war** to discuss path forward
- ➔ Soviet Union, Britain, USA participated
- ➔ Tensions started between leaders of the **Allied Powers**.
- ➔ **Potsdam Declaration** broadcast to Japan to warn them about total destruction if they did not surrender.

3 Soviet Union

- ❖ Didn't withdraw from Eastern Europe
- ❖ Stalin's **KGB** informed him about atomic bomb

4 Britain

- ❖ Churchill's party were defeated
- ❖ **Clement Atlee** became president
- ❖ Atlee distrusted Stalin

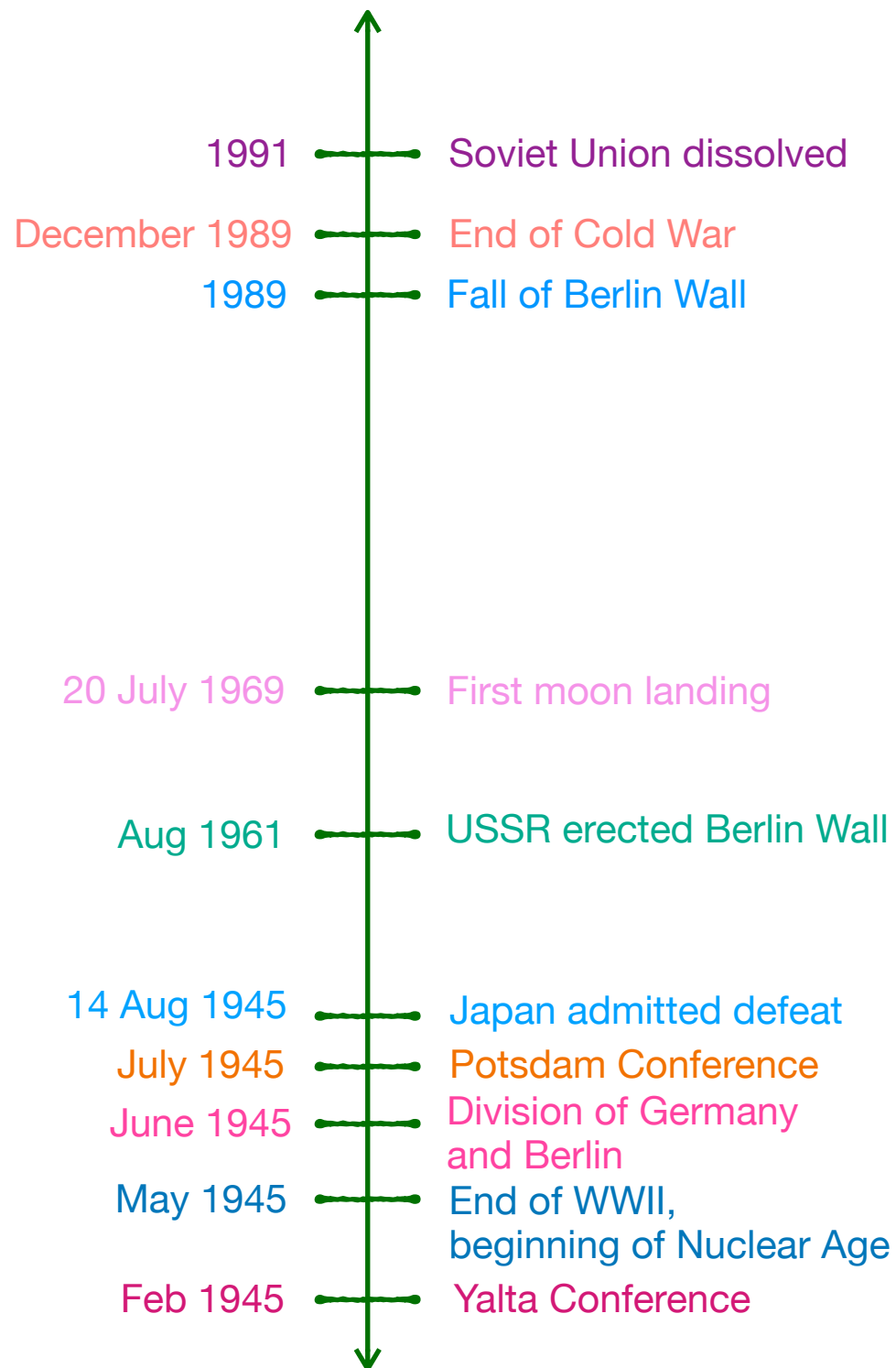
5 USA

- ❖ President **Roosevelt** died
- ❖ **Harry Truman** - new president
- ❖ Truman distrusted Stalin
- ❖ US tested atomic bomb (16 July 1945)
- ❖ Churchill and Truman agreed to use it on Japan

The **KGB** ("Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti", English "Committee for State Security") was the Russian secret police

Nuclear Age and the Cold War

Timeline of major events



	Communism	vs	Capitalism
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning point - Russian Revolution 1917 • Tsar Nicholas III overthrown - Communist government took over • USSR - Union of Soviet Socialist Republic formed • Lenin - leader of communist party (Bolsheviks) • Stalin replaced Lenin • Stalin - dictator • Russia - 15 Soviet Socialist Republics 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA is a capitalist country • Capital city Washington D.C. • Occupies most of North America • 50 states • Powerful after World War I • All countries allied to the USA are called "the West" • Includes other capitalist countries, and Britain • A part of Europe (the Eastern Bloc) ruled by Russia
Ideology	<p>Developed by Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky - highly sophisticated ideology</p> <p>Revolutionary movement promoting violent overthrow of Capitalism</p> <p>Government should rule in favour of rich and poor</p> <p>Communists believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few rich people should not control wealth of country • Government for all • Economic equality • No person should own private property or make profit • State should own all sources of wealth • No democracy 		<p>Harry Truman - opposed to Soviet Union expansion into Europe</p> <p>Resisted communism</p> <p>Capitalists believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issue with some being very rich and others very poor • Profit motivates people to work harder • Individuals should own private property • Government does not control economy • Rights of very rich are protected while poor gets poorer • Most Capitalist governments are democratic, some fascist

Nuclear Age and the Cold War

Albert Einstein

- ▶ **Jewish** scientist
- ▶ Grew up in Germany
- ▶ 1921 - **Nobel Prize in Physics**
- ▶ Encouraged USA to invent **atomic bomb** to stop Nazi ideology to spread
- ▶ **Scientific theories** of Einstein were used to develop nuclear bomb

Manhattan Project (1939)

- ▶ Top secret research project
- ▶ Researched atomic bomb
- ▶ Bomb code name "**The Gadget**"
- ▶ **16 July 1945** tested in desert near Los Alamos, New Mexico
- ▶ Heat turned sand into glass
- ▶ Project manager - **Robert Oppenheimer** - realised how deadly it was

Beginning of Nuclear Age

- ▶ May 1945 Germany defeated
- ▶ Atomic bomb dropped on **Hiroshima** (6 August) and **Nagasaki** (9 August)
- ▶ +/- 90 000 people died instantly in Hiroshima and 60 000 in Nagasaki
- ▶ **14 August** - Japan admitted defeat - **War was over**
- ▶ **Start of Nuclear Age or Atomic Age**
- ▶ Changed wars forever

End of World War II

Why did America drop the Atomic Bombs?

Einstein was deeply disturbed by the destruction caused by the atomic bombs and tried to persuade leaders to stop producing nuclear weapons.

Robert Oppenheimer said after the attacks on Japan: "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds." (A quote from the Hindu scripture.)

To avoid further casualties

- ▶ **Massive casualties** on both sides
- ▶ Japan was fighting a war against **China** as well
- ▶ Estimated **250 000 deaths** (mostly Asian) per day if war continued

To frighten Stalin and USSR

- ▶ USA saw bomb as a way to **reign in Stalin**
- ▶ A way to **intimidate** Soviet Union
- ▶ USA wanted to show **military superiority**
- ▶ USA wanted to **stop Stalin** invading Japan and "sharing" victory with him

To force Japan to surrender

- ▶ With **destruction** of bomb, USA wanted to **create fear** and force Japan to **surrender**
- ▶ Atomic bomb used as a **psychological weapon**

When trying to judge if something was justified (there are good enough reasons for it), you have to consider both sides of the story. An example is given:



Was it justified?



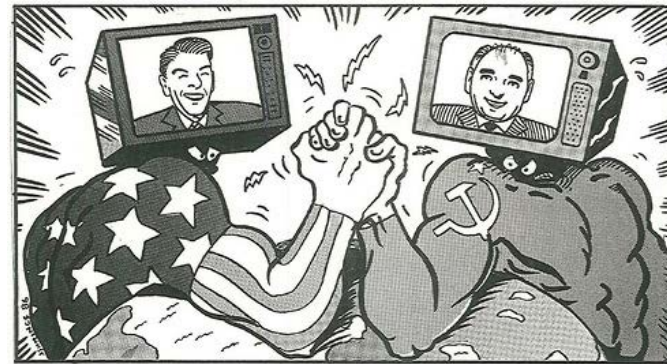
The destruction of World War II continued in Japan. Thousands of soldiers and civilians died daily. Japanese fighters were cruel and Japan was not prepared to surrender. There would've been no end to the war.

The destruction and death, caused immediately and for years after the bombs were dropped, was far worse than anyone expected. It can be compared to Hitler's annihilation of the Jews. Innocent civilians were killed in the worst possible way.

Nuclear Age and the Cold War

Who were the Superpowers?

- America and Russia
- Part of **Allied powers** in war against the **Axis powers** during World War II
- Only worked together as a result of shared **enemies**: Italy, Germany and Japan
- After World War II - relationship between USA and Russia soured
- **Capitalism vs Communism**



vs



Why was it called the Cold War?

- After atomic bombs were used, both sides knew a war with **nuclear weapons** would be out of the question
- A “**hot war**” - one where nuclear weapons would be used, would be too dangerous and destructive
- **Cold War** - not fought on battlefield
- Fought on **political, economic** and **propaganda** fronts
- Very few battles fought with weapons



Division of Germany and Berlin 1946

- Western Allies (USA, Britain, France) occupied Western Germany, with capital city Bonn
- Western Germany united zones politically
- Soviet Union occupied Eastern Germany, with capital city Berlin
- Soviet Union imposed communist rule on Eastern Germany
- 1946 - 1961 over 3 million people emigrated to Western Germany from Eastern Germany
- Damaged Eastern Germany's economy, losing skills and intelligence
- Capital city Berlin in east divided into Allied West Berlin and Soviet East Berlin

People living in East Berlin went across to West Berlin regularly:

+/- 8 million theatre and movie tickets were sold each year to East Berliners

+/- 60 000 people from the East worked in West Berlin in factories and workshops

+/- 200 000 Germans from East Berlin visited West Berlin every day

For 13 years - people could move freely between parts of the city

Nuclear Age and the Cold War

Arms Race

- * **Nuclear arms race** - competition between USA and USSR
- * **MAD** policy (Mutual Assured Destruction) - if one side attacked with nuclear weapons, other side would retaliate
- * **Superpowers** fought for control of Cuba
- * War nearly became a “**hot war**” - because of Cuba
- * **Cuba** - capitalist, oppressive, corrupt government - close economic ties with America
- * **1959** - **Batista** government overthrown by **Fidel Castro** and **Che Guevara (Cuban Revolution)**
- * Castro implemented **socialist reform**:
 - **land distribution** from rich to poor,
 - **nationalisation** of American-owned businesses

Bay of Pigs Invasion

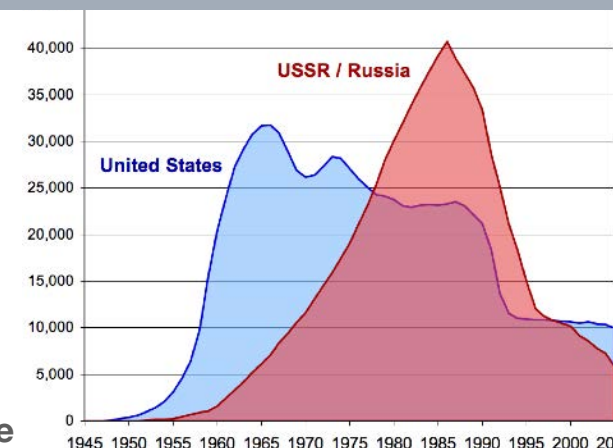
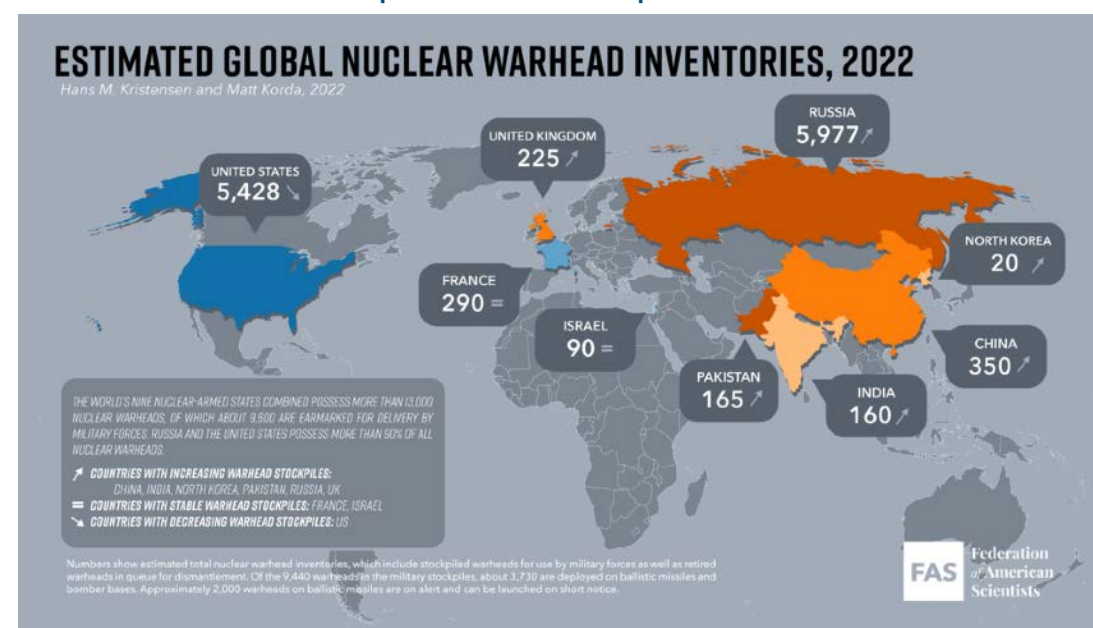
- * America decided to invade Cuba - **overthrow** Castro's government
- * Cuban **exiles** trained by US army invaded at Bay of Pigs
- * Quickly **defeated** - America humiliated
- * Castro asked Russian leader **Khrushchev** for help
- * **Dangerous** for America

Cuban Missile Crisis

- * Castro feared another attack - Russia promised **military assistance**
- * 1962 - Russia built **missile installations** in Cuba - America found out
- * John F Kennedy - president of America **demanded removal** of bases
- * **Negotiated** with Russia - promised not to attack Cuba again.

Space Race

- * **Rockets** developed by **military scientists** in USSR and USA
- * Rockets used to **carry nuclear bombs** over long distances
- * **Russia** took the lead
- * Cold War also **fought in space**
- * **1957** - Russia put **first satellite in space** - sent a **dog** (Laika) into space
- * “**Space Race**” started as Americans felt inferior
- * **1961** - Russia safely sent **first person into space** - Yuri Gagarin
- * **Race to the Moon** started - President Kennedy's dream to put a man on the Moon before Russia
- * **20 July 1969** - America safely sent three astronauts to the moon, Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins
- * Americans “**won**” space race - important event for humankind



Nuclear Age and the Cold War

Why was the wall built?

- ▶ **August 1961** - USSR ordered a wall to be built to block off East Berlin from West Berlin
- ▶ The main purpose of the wall was to stop skilled, intelligent East Berliners from going to West Berlin as it affected East Berlin's economy negatively
- ▶ Called the "Anti-Fascist Protective Wall" by Soviets

How did the wall look?

- ▶ Made from barbed wire and stone blocks
- ▶ Later replaced with a solid concrete wall
- ▶ Guarded by border guards who were ordered to "shoot to kill" if anyone try to climb over the wall



When and why did the Wall come down?

- ▶ **Demolition** began **13 June 1990**
- ▶ Completely demolished by **1992**
- ▶ **Mikhail Gorbachev** became new leader of **USSR in 1985** - pressure from American president **Ronald Reagan** to tear down the wall
- ▶ Gorbachev wanted to rescue **Russian economy**
- ▶ Russians were given **new freedoms**, e.g. freedom of speech
- ▶ This led to **mass demonstrations against communism** in Eastern Europe
- ▶ Existing **government** in East Berlin was overthrown
- ▶ New government **lifted travel restrictions** for East Berliners - immediately
- ▶ **Crowds stormed the wall** and started breaking it down, guards could not stop them

The Berlin Wall and End of the Cold War

When and why did the Cold War end?

- ▶ **December 1989** (four decades later) Gorbachev and President George H.W. Bush declared the **Cold War over**
- ▶ Gorbachev could not save the communist system, **Soviet Union** and communist government **dissolved**
- ▶ Communist regimes in Eastern Europe **collapsed** making way for **democratic governments**
- ▶ **NATO** - East and West Germany united

How did it affect the people in East Berlin?

- ▶ **Families** were **split** with loved ones either side of the wall
- ▶ Many people **lost the jobs** they had in West Berlin
- ▶ Many people who tried to escape **died**

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)
Establish in 1949 by the North Atlantic Treaty as a measure of military support to protect countries from the Soviet Union armies stationed in Central and Eastern Europe.
NATO has 30 member countries (2020).

Political Ideologies

	Communism	Fascism	Socialism	Capitalism
Main focus	Seen as a more advanced form of socialism. A classless system where major means of production are owned and controlled by the public.	Extreme militaristic nationalism, do not believe in democracy, believe in the rule of the elite, usually led by a dictator.	Individuals do not work or live in isolation, but in a community. Everyone contributes and everyone shares.	Free-market economy, most means of production privately owned. The market dictates pricing of goods and individual wealth.
Values	“From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.” (ideology of Karl Marx)	The needs of the nation always above individual needs and interests	Cooperation and equality before the law	Private property, profit motive, market competition
Examples	China North Korea Laos Vietnam Cuba	20th century Germany and Italy	Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland are seen as modern socialist countries (classified as democratic socialists)	United Kingdom United States of America Austria Czech Republic South Korea (and many more)