

ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR [BG INFO]

Impact of WWII (1945)	Differing Beliefs	
	USA	USSR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US emerged as a world superpower (strong military, weapons) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power of Britain 🇬🇧 diminshed Big 3 🇬🇧 🇺🇸 🇷🇺 split Germany into 3 and divide Berlin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and sustain social, economic, cultural conditions that ensure political and cultural conditions that ensure political self determination To create a world where individual rights are protected 	<p>Spread of socialism and create a world free of capitalist exploitation</p> <p>Create an ideal and utopian world where all people are equal, with all property and work shared equally among the people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overthrow of capitalist states
Elected by the people		Authoritarianism
One party state		
Capitalism Free market economy		<p>Communism</p> <p>Command economy</p>
<p>Having rights is more important than being equal - people can work their way up or down the social ladder</p> <p>Freedom of religion</p>		<p>Quality > freedom or individual rights</p> <p>Fixed role in society</p> <p>Religion was banned</p>
<p>Want to let them grow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wanted to champion capitalism (was this innate or as an opposition for communism) Truman doctrine, Marshall plan (economic): Prevent the spread of communism Policy of containment 		<p>Leverage the power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champion communism for a world revolution (where was this from) Come form
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing friction between 🇷🇺 -> disagreed about what to do with Poland 🇵🇱 and other Eastern European countries occupied by allies (Communism vs democracy) POWER VACUUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free elections were promised but never happened War devastated Europe w hunger and poverty US aided Europe to <u>prevent the spread of communism</u> -> had strong political support Soviets did not allow them to European were known as the iron curtain as they did not allow the US to give aid so they would stay communist 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Struggle for controlling places the Germans used to occupy escalating tensions between the two countries after WWII because they each believed that <u>their ideology was superior and should be adopted by other countries</u>. + economic benefits felt that the opposing ideology would threaten their way of life. Hence, they would try to get other countries to adopt their ideology and reject the opposing one.

Salami tactics: Tactic stalin used to remove political opponents by isolating and suppressing other parties in the coalition



REASONS FOR TENSIONS

Underlying

Ideological divide (root)

[MINDSET]

Fundamental ideological divide between the communist USSR and capitalist USA to interpret each other's actions through an ideological lens, fueling mutual suspicion and intensifying their struggle for dominance in Europe and Asia.

[DETAILS]

USA	USSR
Capitalist: Free market economy	Communist: Command economy
Political self-determination and valued the importance of individual rights	incite world revolution and destroy capitalism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create and sustain social, economic, cultural conditions that ensure political and cultural conditions that ensure political self determination - To create a world where individual rights are protected 	Spread of socialism and create a world free of capitalist exploitation Create an ideal and utopian world where all people are equal, with all property and work shared equally among the people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overthrow of capitalist states
Elected by the people	Authoritarianism
One party state	
Capitalism Free market economy	Communism Command economy

- The two systems seemed diametrically opposed and could not co-exist.
- These **fundamental incompatibilities** between the two ideologies manifested in a **struggle for survival**, where these **differences led them to view each other as serious threats to each other's security**.

[EXAMPLES]

- The USSR viewed US intervention in the **Russian Civil War** on the side of the anti-communist forces as a **direct show of hostility against the very existence of the**

Soviet Union, while the US viewed the communist aim of inciting world revolution to destroy capitalism as a direct challenge to its existence.

- They failed to understand each other's actions and intentions both during and aftermath of the war.
 - E.g. On Poland: Due to their belief in self-determination, the US pushed for the Poles to be allowed to hold free elections and choose their own government; but the Soviets perceived this as the US attempting to carve out a sphere of influence in the East. On the other hand, the USSR sought to keep Poland under Soviet influence for security reasons, as Poland had a history of conflict with the USSR and had also been the invasion route through which the USSR had been attacked previously. However, the US viewed this as the USSR forcefully imposing communism on Poland.

Soviet insecurity

(result of clashing ideologies)

[MINDSET]

- Led to the USSR to expand and consolidate its influence in Europe, raising tensions between the superpowers and leading to the demise of the wartime alliance, precipitating the outbreak of the Cold War

[HISTORY OF MISTRUST]

- **RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR:** BROSHEVIK'S REVOLUTION
- Mistrusted the Allies as they had been slow to respond to his overtures for an alliance against Hitler, which pushed him towards signing the Nazi- Soviet Pact with Nazi Germany. This alliance, in turn, led the Allies to severely mistrust Stalin.
- Furthermore, following the German invasion of the Soviet Union, Stalin had repeatedly urged the Western Allies to open a second front in France to relieve the pressure on the Red Army at the eastern front. However, the Western Allies delayed the opening of the second front until June 1944, which led Stalin to believe that it was a calculated move by the Western Allies to let Nazi Germany and the USSR destroy each other.
- In addition, Stalin saw Truman's failure to inform the USSR of the successful US detonation of the first atomic bomb as a deliberate attempt of the US to gain an upper hand over the USSR in the post-war negotiations that loomed on the horizon.
- This fuelled Stalin's insecurities in the post-war world, where he felt that the West was aggressively encroaching and endangering the USSR's security, leading to the clash at the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences, especially over the future of Eastern European nations. As the Soviets later directly violated terms of the conferences by imposing communist rule over their satellite states, this ended superpower cooperation and set the stage for heightened tensions with the US.

[ACTIONS]

- As such, after the war, the USSR was determined to strengthen the territorial security of the USSR and began to establish a ring of satellite states in Eastern Europe that could serve as buffer zones in case of future attacks.
- Stalin saw this establishment of satellite states using salami tactics as a defensive measure to strengthen the security of the USSR and its sphere of influence.
- However, instead of seeing this as a defensive measure by the USSR, the US viewed this as aggression and expansionism, perceiving this as a Soviet plan to expand global communist influence. This raised tensions on both sides as they each sought to protect themselves from what they viewed as the other's "expansionism".

Containment policy

[MINDSET]

- A key post-war priority of the US was to ensure continued economic prosperity in order to maintain its position of global supremacy, leading it to actively promote free trade and open markets.

- As such, the US saw it as imperative to ensure the ability of Western Europe to export and serve as trading partners for the US. This served not just economic purposes but also functioned to keep communism at bay.

[EVENTS]

- This resulted in disagreements arising between the US and USSR at Yalta and Potsdam over post-war plans for Europe:
 - Germany: The Soviets sought to weaken Germany to punish it and prevent it from again posing a threat to the USSR; however, the US wanted to revive Germany's economy so as to help restart Europe's economic engine and allow for increased economic activity that the US itself would also benefit from.
- US plans for economic dominance culminated in the introduction of the Marshall Plan in 1948, which was ostensibly meant to provide economic aid to reconstruct Europe, but also served as a means by which the US sought to maintain Europe's economic strength and retain it as the primary export market.
- In response, the USSR denounced the Marshall Plan and pressured governments in Eastern Europe to reject it, later offering the Molotov Plan/COMECON to the satellite states. This thus created a clear division of Europe into two distinct spheres of influences.
- The implementation of the containment policy was perceived by the Soviets as a ploy to keep Europe under the subjugation of American imperialism.

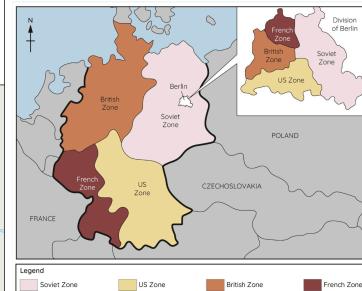
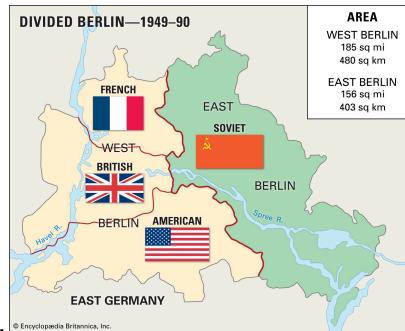
TIMELINE

Timeline	Factor	Event	Impact (long/short + what effects)
1918-1921		<p>Bolshevik Revolution</p> <p>Civil War in Russia in which the US interfered in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overthrew the monarchy and led to the rise of communism under Vladimir Lenin. - The 1st Communist country in the world. Communism was seen as a direct threat to the capitalist, democratic ideals of the United States. - In 1918, the US even participated in the Allied <u>intervention in the Russian Civil War</u>, supporting anti-Bolshevik forces in an <u>attempt to prevent the spread of communism</u> - War between communists and whites - US and British intervened hoping to prevent communist victory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red scare: in 1920s, US government arrested many people (immigrants from Russia) and accused them of being communist agents 	<u>Ideological divide</u> Alarmed the US as communism rejected capitalism and democracy, US feared <u>global communist expansion</u> and intensifying the struggle for dominance.
1916-1933	Non-recognition of the USSR	Following the revolution, the US did not officially recognize the Soviet Union as a legitimate state until 1933, during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR). The two nations had no formal diplomatic ties until that time, despite informal contacts.	<u>Soviet insecurity</u> Institutionalized US rejection of communist legitimacy and prolonged suspicion

1930	POA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scared USSR wanna spread comm by force, hoped germany would be a barrier - USSR saw this as them allowing hitler to expand into eastern europe (them) - The British hoped that Hitler's Germany would oppose communism. To the USSR, appeasement threatened its security as it seemed to imply that Hitler was allowed to take over Eastern Europe. <p>Catalyst: Aggravated Soviet insecurity</p>	USSR felt abandoned, suspecting the West wanted it to face Nazi aggression alone and be				
Aug 1939		<p>Non-aggression pact, even though USSR was in cahoots with the allies to form an alliance against hitler</p> <p>Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (Nazi-Soviet Pack)</p> <p>1. US Opposition to the Soviet Regime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US and other Western nations actively oppose the Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War (1917-1922), providing support to the anti-communist White Army. This intervention left a lasting impression of Western hostility on Soviet leaders. • The US did not officially recognize the Soviet Union until 1933, further straining relations. • shocked Western nations, including the US. • While the Soviets viewed it as a temporary measure to delay conflict, the pact reinforced Western perceptions of the USSR as untrustworthy and expansionist. 	<p>Confirming fears of Soviet opportunism and seen as expansionist</p> <p>Accelerating: reinforced US perception of USSR as untrustworthy</p>				
Nov 1943		Tehran Conference → Stalin demands second front, mistrust grows.					
1944		<p>Morgenthau plan</p> <p>Breaking up germany and dismantling its industries so it will never be strong enough to wage a war</p>					
Feb 1945		Yalta Conference → Axis nearly dead	<p>Exacerbated mistrust as Stalin did not honor agreements, confirmed Soviet expansionism to the US</p> <p>Accelerating: agreements revealed irreconcilable aims</p>				
May 1945		Germany surrenders					
July 1945		<p>Potsdam Conference</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Disagreement over Germany</td> <td>Disagreement over Eastern Europe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Stalin wanted to cripple germany, wanted</td> <td>- Eastern europe would be a soviet sphere of</td> </tr> </table>	Disagreement over Germany	Disagreement over Eastern Europe	- Stalin wanted to cripple germany, wanted	- Eastern europe would be a soviet sphere of	<p>Increase mutual suspicion:</p> <p>Stalin: truman wants to protect germany</p> <p>Truman: stalin</p>
Disagreement over Germany	Disagreement over Eastern Europe						
- Stalin wanted to cripple germany, wanted	- Eastern europe would be a soviet sphere of						

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - compensation - Truman did not want to repeat treaty or versailles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - influence - Suspected stalin wanted to control all of europe 	wants the entirely of europe			
Aug 1945		US drops atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki		<p>Heightened society insecurity</p> <p>An attempt to intimidate stalin?</p>			
March 1946	Turning Point	Churchill's Iron Curtain speech		<p>Alarmed many Americans and got Truman the support and attention to be more involved in international affairs (provocation?)</p>			
March 1947	Turning Point	<p>Truman Doctrine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toughline against Stalin - Containment policy: an attempt to stop the spread of communism - Exaggerated the scale of threat in Greece and Turkey to gain support to intervene 		<p>Shows that the US would actively resist the spread of communism</p>			
June 1947		<p>Marshall Plan announced (implemented in 1948 → 13b\$ to help non-communist capitalist countries)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feel good about capitalism to not be attracted to communism <p>Cominform: cutting off trade to other countries, only trading within each other</p> <p>Comecon: response to the marshall plan, but force to favor the USSR</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Comecon</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Cominform</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unite the communist states in europe ○ Rejecting financial support from marshall plan, cutting off trade with countries not in Cominform </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response to the Marshall plan ○ Trade with mostly others rather than the west ○ Favored the USSR more than the rest </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Comecon	Cominform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unite the communist states in europe ○ Rejecting financial support from marshall plan, cutting off trade with countries not in Cominform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response to the Marshall plan ○ Trade with mostly others rather than the west ○ Favored the USSR more than the rest 	<p>Provocation?</p> <p>Angered Stalin as US was just being selfish (they didn't need the buffer zone unlike him)</p>
Comecon	Cominform						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unite the communist states in europe ○ Rejecting financial support from marshall plan, cutting off trade with countries not in Cominform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response to the Marshall plan ○ Trade with mostly others rather than the west ○ Favored the USSR more than the rest 						
Early 1948		Formation of the Trizone		Rebuilding his old enemy?			
June 1948 - May 1949		<p>Berlin Blockade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made it clear that Europe was now bipolar <p>Berlin Blockade: USSR cut the rail and road links from allied zones to west Berlin so if allies were in Berlin = people suffer</p> <p>Allied response: Berlin Airlift US supplied West Berlin with coal, food and medicine by air</p>		(precipitating) 1st direct military confrontation			

Made the divide between Eastern Europe and the USSR VERY CLEAR.



- Was done as the United States, France and Britain combined their zones into a single economic unit known as the Trizone. A new currency was also introduced. To Stalin, this action seemed like the United States was rebuilding his old enemy. He could not stop the Allies, but he thought he could make a point by forcing them out of Berlin.

1949		NATO (north atlantic treaty organisation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allies agreed to go to war with one another Stalin condemned 	Threat
May 1949	Berlin Blockade ends	Eventually gave up due to the Berlin Airlift	
May 1949	West Germany is established	Truman announced that the British, French and US zones were to be united to create the Federal Republic of Germany	Institutionalized westernbloc to alienate USSR, divided europe into rival states
Sep 1949	USSR announces the development of its own atomic bomb		Ended US monopoly, intensified arms race Heightened global stakes
Oct 1949	East Germany is established	The Berlin wall was created to divide the east and the west - the east had a low standard of living compared to the west	
1955	Warsaw Pact		Institutionalized soviet bloc militarily, direct response to NATO,

West Germany was invited to join NATO along with its rearming

-> Established the pact with all communist states of Eastern Europe joined: if 1 state was threatened they would help to defend it

- Basically allowed USSR of all its satellite states (state dependent/strongly influenced by another country)

