

# Knowledge Organiser: Unit 2, Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941 - 91.

## Part 1: The origins, 1941 - 1958.

### Summary.

During the Second World War, the USA and USSR fought together with Britain and France against Nazi Germany. However, by the time the war was over the divide between east and west had already begun. This was primarily due to their opposing ideologies which saw Europe split into communist east and capitalist west. As a result, the two sides did not trust each other. Instead they spied on each other and competed against each other in what became known as the 'cold war'.

### Key events.

1	<b>1941</b> – Grand Alliance formed following German invasion of USSR
2	<b>1943</b> – Tehran Conference
3	<b>1945</b> – Yalta Conference (Feb); Potsdam Conference (June); Atomic Bomb dropped resulting in VJ day (August).
4	<b>1946</b> – Kennan's Long Telegram (Feb) and Churchill's 'Iron Curtain Speech (March); Novikov Telegram (September)
5	<b>1947</b> – Poland becomes Communist 'Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid Plan announced (March)
6	<b>1948</b> – Czechoslovakia becomes Communist Berlin Blockade began in June.
7	<b>1949</b> – NATO is formed (April); Hungary becomes Communist (May). Creation of the FDR in September and the GDR in October.
8	<b>1955</b> – Warsaw Pact
9	<b>1956</b> – Hungarian Uprising
10	<b>1957</b> – USA develops the ICBM in June; USSR develops one by August.

### Key terms.

<b>Cold War</b> - Conflict between countries which does not result in direct military fighting. Instead they threaten each other through propaganda and competition.
<b>Grand Alliance</b> – The alliance of the USA, UK and USSR against Nazi Germany in World War Two. All agreed to fight together collectively to defeat Nazism.
<b>Domino Effect</b> – The American theory that a communist takeover in one country would lead to communist take overs in neighbouring countries. This theory was promoted under the Eisenhower Presidency.
<b>Superpower</b> – A country that is usually strong and has influence over other countries.

### Key words

Alliance	When two or more countries agree to work together
Arms Race	When countries compete against each other for more powerful weapons.
Buffer Zone	Eastern European countries seen as a barrier to the west.
Capitalism	Belief people should be free to own their own property and make money. The USA and Britain.
Containment	US policy of stopping communism spreading.
Conventional	Any military weapons that are not nuclear or chemical
Communism	Belief all property and wealth should be owned by the state to ensure everyone has a fair share. The USSR.
Democracy	Political system with free elections to choose leaders.
De-Stalinisation	Criticism of Stalin's leadership by Khrushchev.
Deterrent	Something that stops a country attacking another
Dictatorship	Total rule and control over a country, usually using force.
ICBM	Inter-continental Ballistic Missiles.
Ideology	A set of shared beliefs on how a country should be run.
Imperialism	Belief a country has the right to control other countries
Isolationism	Staying apart, not getting involved in other countries affairs
Iron Curtain	Churchill's reference to the post war divide across Europe.
MAD	Mutual Assured Destruction
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation – western military alliance
Satellite States	Countries that came under the control of the USSR.
United Nations	International Peace Keeping Organisation set up in 1945,
Warsaw Pact	Soviet Union's Eastern bloc military alliance.

### Key people.

Stalin	Soviet General Secretary 1924 - 1953
Roosevelt	American President 1933 - 1945
Churchill	British Prime Minister 1940 - 1945
Truman	American President 1945 - 1953
Eisenhower	American President 1953 - 1961
Khrushchev	Soviet General Secretary 1955 - 1964

**Concept: Cause and Consequence**