



Knowledge Organiser Key topic 1: The origins of the Cold War, 1941-58



Cold War

1	The Cold War is the name given to the relationship that developed primarily between the USA and the USSR after the Second World War.
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Key Concepts

2	Capitalism An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state
3	Communism A political and economic system in which the major resources in a society are owned by the state and wealth is divided equally among citizens
4	Grand Alliance An alliance made during the Second World War between the USA (Roosevelt), the Soviet Union (Stalin) and Great Britain (Churchill)
5	Arms Race A competition between nations for superiority in the development and accumulation of weapons
6	Satellite State A country that is politically and economically dominated by another country

Key Events

7	1941 The formation of the Grand Alliance
8	1943 The Tehran Conference
9	1945 The Yalta and Potsdam Conferences. The USA explodes the first atomic bombs
10	1946 Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech. Long and Novikov telegrams
11	1947 Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan. Setting up of Cominform
12	1948 Beginning of Berlin Blockade
13	1949 Setting up of Comecon. End of Berlin Blockade. The formation of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic and the setting up of NATO
14	1955 Setting up of Warsaw Pact
15	1956 The Hungarian Uprising

Key Words

16	CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)	US office which coordinates and conducts espionage and intelligence activities
17	Comecon	Association of Soviet-oriented communist countries set up in 1949 to coordinate economic development
18	Cominform	Communist Information Bureau established in 1947 to exchange information among nine eastern European countries and coordinate their activities
19	Marshall Plan	A special system of loans from the USA to European countries implemented at the end of the Second World War which allowed for reconstruction and economic regeneration. General George Marshall was the senior US army officer who devised the plan
20	NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)	Created in 1949 following the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49, its 12 founding members included the USA and Canada, Britain and France. NATO exists to protect the freedom and security of its members using both political and military means.
21	Soviet bloc	Countries in eastern Europe controlled by the Soviet Union
22	Sphere of influence	Region of the world in which one state is dominant
23	Truman Doctrine	US President Truman's idea that it was the USA's duty to prevent the spread of communism to eastern Europe and the rest of the world. To do this, he was prepared to engage the USA in military enterprises all over the world
24	United Nations	International body set up in 1945 to promote peace and international cooperation and security
25	Warsaw Pact	A military treaty and association, formed in 1955, consisting of the Soviet Union and its European satellite states