Paper 2: Superpower Relations & the Cold War, 1941-1991

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| **Periods of History** |
| **Origins of the Cold War** | **Cold War Crises** | **End of the Cold War** |

**Chronology:**

Paper 2 has two parts. The Cold War and the Early Reign of Elizabeth I. This part covers the relationship between the USA and the USSR from 1941, before the end of World War II, to the break-up of the USSR in 1991. The Cold War is split into three sections, as shown on the timeline above, starting with the Origins (beginning) of the Cold War, followed by the Cold War Crises (times of immense danger), and finally the End of the Cold War. Our course mainly focuses on the Cold War in Europe and does not cover Vietnam, Korea, or China.

**What was the Cold War? (Context)**

The Cold War was the competition for influence and power between the USA and the USSR that took place between 1941 & 1991. Having been allies during World War II in the fight against Nazi Germany, the fundamental differences between the USA’s capitalist ideology and the USSR’s communist ideology led to the two emerging from World War II as bitter rivals. The term ‘Cold War’ refers the fact that the USA and USSR never actually fought each other, but instead used other countries and threats to try to and increase their own power at the expense of the other Superpower.

In many ways the Cold War was like a giant game of chess.

 **Key terms:**

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| Term | Meaning: |
| USA | United States of America  |
| USSR | Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, a.k.a Soviet Union  |
| Superpowers | The most powerful and influential nations (USA & USSR) |
| Ideology | A set of beliefs/principles about how countries or the world should be run |
| Capitalism | The belief that the state should not interfere with the economy and that peoples’ individual rights should be protected, including private ownership of property and businesses.  |
| Communism | The belief that society should be based on ‘fairness’ and ‘equality’, with the state owning everything and distributing it to the people. Emphasis is placed on the proletariat (working class) gaining power and the destruction of the middle and upper classes.  |
| Democracy | The belief that power should be held by the people, who can chose who and how the country is ruled, usually in the form of free elections. |
| Grand Alliance | The war time alliance of the USSR, USA & Great Britain |
| ‘Big Three’ | The leaders of the Grand Alliance during World War II, Joseph Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt & Winston Churchill. |
| Satellite State | A country under heavy political, military and/or economic influence from a more powerful country (E.g. Poland was a satellite states of the USSR) |
| Eastern Block/Bloc | Refers to the collection of Eastern European countries under the control of the USSR. A.k.a. Soviet Bloc/Communist Bloc. Includes all the countries in the USSR’s ‘Buffer Zone’’ |

2.1 Origins of the Cold War

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| **Periods of History** |
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1. When did the Grand Alliance lose its shine?

The USSR, USA & Great Britain were allies during World War II in the fight to defeat Nazi Germany and later imperial Japan, however, by 1948 they were on opposing sides of the first crisis of the Cold War. What had happened to their alliance? Why had it fallen apart? And at what point did negotiation and co-operation turn to suspicion and distrust between the two Superpowers?

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| **Event** | **Details** | **Consequences** |
| **Tehran Conference, Nov 1943** | * Talks focussed on plans to defeat the Nazis (including the opening of a second front)
* Started to discuss what would happen to Europe after World War II (USSR to have a ‘sphere of influence’ in Eastern Europe)
* Political differences were still put aside whilst the Nazis were still a threat.
 | · Neither side appeared strong or weak · International Relations continued to be good between the USA and USSR as they co-operated to defeat the Nazis · USSR wanted to punish Germany, 'Big Three' wanted to rebuild Germany  |
| **Yalta Conference, Feb 1945** | * Talks agreed that Germany would be divided at the end of the war.
* USSR, USA, Britain and France agreed that free elections would be held in Europe.
* The USSR and USA had different ideas about how Germany should be treated after World War II.
 | · USSR appeared to have given in to US demands for free elections. · Some agreements were reached but tension increased as it was clear the USA and USSR wanted different things for post war Europe · Germany was to be divided into four zones of occupation, run by the 'Big Three' and France.  |
| **Potsdam Conference, July 1945** | * The exact division of Germany and Berlin was agreed. Both would be split into four, with USA, Great Britain and France occupying the West. USSR would occupy the East.
* President Roosevelt had died and been replaced by Truman, who took a tougher stance against the USSR. Winston Churchill had been replaced by clement Atlee.
* Between the Yalta Conference and this conference, Stalin had installed a communist government in Poland and arrested democratic leaders.
 | · Both super powers had demonstrated their strength. The USSR had gone against the decision made at Yalta but the USA now had the atomic bomb. · International Relations deteriorated -Though some agreements were reached, it was clear that with the defeat of the Nazis, there was little keeping the USA and USSR as allies · The exact division of Germany and Berlin into four zones of occupation was agreed. Poland's borders were agreed.  |
| **Long Telegram, Feb 1946** | * Was sent from George Kennan, the US ambassador in Moscow to President Truman
* It said that Stalin had given a speech saying that Capitalism needs to be destroyed.
* It said the USSR was building its own military.
 | · USSR appeared strong as the telegram claimed they were building an army and ready to destroy capitalism · International Relations deteriorated further as the USA know saw the USSR as an enemy, rather than an ally. · The USA stopped looking to negotiate with the USSR  |
| **Novikov Telegram, Sep 1946** | * Was sent from Russian Ambassador, Nikolai Novikov, in Washington to Stalin in the Kremlin
* It said that the USA wanted ‘world supremacy’
* It said that the USA was trying to limit the influence of the USSR in Europe.
 | · USA appeared strong as the telegram said that they were influencing Europe. · International Relations deteriorated - the USSR believed the USA was actively working against them· The USSR stopped looking to negotiate with the USA  |

1. “Grand Alliance to Greatest of Enemies”, why did tension grow between the USA and the USSR?

The Cold War emerged from the collapse of the ‘Grand Alliance’, but rather than just no longer agreeing with each other, the USA and the USSR’s relationship deteriorated to the point that they saw each other as their greatest enemies. How did their relationship become so negative? What did each of the Superpowers do that the other Superpower saw as threatening and aggressive? Why did tension between them grow?

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| **Event** | **Details** | **Consequences** |
| **Truman Doctrine, March 1947** | * USA announced its policy of **Containment** by saying it would support any nation threatened by communist takeover.
* It said the USA would provide political, military and financial support
* It was made in reaction to the threat of Turkey and Greece falling to communism
 | · USA appeared strong as they stated they would actively 'contain' communism · International Relations deteriorated as the USSR saw this as a direct challenge to their influence in Europe · Greece and Turkey remained free from communism with American Support   |
| **Cominform (Communist Information Bureau), Sep 1947** | * Stalin said it was designed to help communist countries share information and ideas.
* Actually was used a way for Stalin to control other communist countries.
* Short for Communist Information Bureau
 | · USSR seemed strong - took control of the governments of Eastern European countries · International Relations deteriorated- as Europe was divided further · Eastern European countries came under greater Soviet Control   |
| **Marshall Plan, 1948** | * Promised $17billion of aid to European countries to help rebuild their economies.
* Was introduced to stop countries weakened by war falling to communism
* Was rejected by the USSR and its satellite states because Stalin saw it as the USA trying to increase its influence in Europe
 | · USA appeared strong as they had huge economic resources at their disposal · International Relations deteriorated between USA and USSR - USSR saw this as an attempt of the USA to build an 'economic empire' · Western European countries economies improved by up to 25%   |
| **Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance), 1949** | * It was created to counter the Marshall Plan and support the economies of the USSRs satellite states.
* The USSR actually used it to control the economies of their satellite states, taking goods and food produced in each country and then distributing them back out
* Short for ‘Council of Mutual Economic Assistance’
 | · USSR appeared weak, were reacting to USA's Marshall plan and could not give countries as much financial aid. · International Relations deteriorated - Comecon and the Marshall Plan created an economic division in Europe · Eastern European countries became more reliant on the USSR   |
| **Berlin Crisis (Blockade), August 1948-May 1949** | * Caused by the USA, Great Britain and France joining their zones of Germany and Berlin together (Trizonia)
* They then introduced a new currency. Stalin saw this as a threat to communism and an attempt to make it look weak.
* ·Stalin ordered all roads and railways to Berlin to be cut off, trying to force the Western Powers out of Berlin.
 | · USSR looked weak - Trizonia appeared to have a strong economy compared to the USSR’s zone · International Relations deteriorate- Stalin thought that the USA was deliberately trying to make the USSR look weak · Life in the Western occupied zones improved dramatically compared to life in the USSR’s zone in the East.   |
| **Berlin Crisis (Airlift- Operational Vittles) August 1948- May 1949** | * The USA and Great Britain responded to Stalin's blockade with the Berlin Airlift.
* They flew over 8000 tons of supplies a day into West Berlin via Templehof Airport.
* Pilots dropped candy for the children.
 | · USSR looked weak - the blockade had failed and the USA had shown they had huge economic resources · International Relations deteriorate- The USA had humiliated the USSR · Germany was officially divided in two after the crisis and airlift. West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) and East Germany (German Democratic Republic)  |
| **NATO, 1949** | * NATO stood for the ‘North Atlantic Treaty Alliance’
* It was a military alliance between Western Countries including the USA, Britain and France.
* All NATO countries agreed that if one member was attacked, they would all respond together.
 | · USA appeared strong as they had secured the military support and alliances of other western countries · International Relations deteriorated - USSR saw this move as aggressive rather than defensive and formed their own Warsaw Pact · Western European countries were drawn closer to the USA  |
| **Warsaw Pact, 1955** | * The Warsaw Pact was the communist version of NATO
* The Warsaw Pact was made up of the USSR and it’s satellite states (except from Yugoslavia)
* Its aim was to strengthen the defensive capability of Eastern Europe and strengthen relations between communist countries.
 | · USSR seemed weak - although the Warsaw Pact was a military alliance, it was in response to the USA forming NATO. · International Relations deteriorated - The creation of rival military alliances increased tension· Eastern European Countries were drawn even closer the USSR .  |
| **Arms Race, 1945-1960** | * The USA dropped two atom bombs on Japan in August 1945, one on the city of Nagasaki, one on the city of Hiroshima. USSR successfully tested its 1st Atom bomb in 1949.
* The arms race had begun, with the USA and USSR competing to build more and more powerful weapons
* the USA had developed their hydrogen bomb in 1952. The USSR successfully tested it’s 1st Hydrogen bomb in 1953.
* Both tested intercontinental ballistic missiles in 1957.
 | · USA appeared strong at first, as they had the advantage. However the USSR were quick to catch up. · International Relations deteriorated- new weapons led to an increase in tension and threat of nuclear war. · Money spent on the arms race reduced spending of living conditions and other areas of the economy  |
| **Hungarian Uprising, 1956** | * People in Hungary hated the brutal communist regime run by Matyas Rakosi. They wanted more freedom, rights, and a better standard of living.
* The people rebelled in October 1956 and Imre Nagy took over. He introduced reforms including free elections and announced that Hungary would leave the Warsaw Pact.
* Khrushchev, the leader of the Soviet Union, sent soviet tanks to invade Hungary in November 1956. Thousands of Hungarians were killed or wounded and Nagy was arrested and hanged.
 | · USSR looked strong- people in Hungary had expected the USA to help them, but the USA did not act. They just condemned the USSRs actions. · International Relations deteriorated - The USA wanted countries to be democratic, the USSR quashed any hope of this in Hungary · Hungary was returned to strict communist control and all freedoms were lost   |

* 1. Crises of the Cold War

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1. “On the brink”, why did the Cold War almost turn hot between 1958 and 1968?

Between 1958 and 1968 there were three major crises that brought the USA and USSR close to brink of nuclear war. Berlin once again proved to be a flashpoint between the East and West, and the fall of Cuba, just off the coast of the USA, to communism led the USA fearing for its security. Finally, the USSR once again brutally crushed a satellite state’s bid for more freedom, and Brezhnev ensured that no other countries would dare follow in Czechoslovakia’s footsteps.

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| **Event** | **Details** | **Consequences** |
| **Paris Summit, 1960** |  The Paris Summit of 1960 was supposed to help solve the problem of Berlin. Just days before the summit, the USSR shot down an American U2 spy-plane over Soviet Territory  President Eisenhower denied it was a spy plane. The USSR then brought out the pilot and the wreckage to prove it was a spy plane.  The summit ended in disaster as Khrushchev walked out when Eisenhower refused to apologise. The problem of Berlin was not solved.  |  USA looked weak - they thought their spy planes could not be shot down and had clearly lied.  International Relations deteriorated- the talks ended and the USSR were outraged at the USA.   |
| **Berlin Crisis (Refugee), 1958-1961** |  **Refugee Crisis** -Due to the poor living standards, many East Germans were leaving East Germany to live in West Germany.. (By 1961 3 million East Germans had left)  **Brain Drain**.—East Germany economy damaged even further as most of the skilled workers were leaving. By 1961 2000 workers a day were leaving East Germany.  Berlin was the place where people crossed from East to West Germany. In 1958 Khruschev issued an ultimatum to the West, saying they had to leave West Berlin or else…  |  USSR appeared weak - millions of people were leaving communism for capitalism due to the better standard of living  International relations deteriorated- negotiations fell apart and the crisis led to Khrushchev’s ultimatum, causing tension between the USA and USSR  East Germany’s economy suffered further as skilled workers left.   |
| **Berlin Wall begins being built, 13th August 1961** |  The West did not give in to Khrushchev's ultimatum and refused to leave.  To stop the Refugee Crisis, Khrushchev ordered a wall to be built around West-Berlin. Preventing people from crossing the border.  13th August 1961, a 27 mile fence of barbed wire was put around West-Berlin. This was fortified with guard towers and concrete walls.   |  Both countries seemed strong and weak . USA - did not stop the wall but did not back down. USSR had taken decisive action but had to build a physical barrier to stop people leaving Communism  International Relations improved and deteriorated. On the one hand, the wall solved the Berlin Crisis and removed the need for war, on the other it demonstrated the inability of the USA and USSR to negotiate.  Families were split on either side of the wall for 30 years. Around 200 East Germans were shoot trying to cross the wall.  |
| **Cuban Revolution, 1959** |  Since 1952 Cuba had been ruled by Batista, ruthless dictator, the USA were happy because he allowed American businesses to make huge profits in Cuba.  Many Cubans hated Batista and the fact that America was getting rich at the expense of poor Cubans. In 1956, Fidel Castro led an uprising against the pro-American Batista and by 1959 had overthrown him  America was worried it would lose power and influence in Cuba, so threatened to stop buying Cuban Sugar if Castro didn’t work with them. The USSR, however, stepped in and said they would buy Cuba’s sugar.  |  USA seemed weak - had lost its puppet Leader in Cuba and the threats to Castro they made were ignored  International Relations deteriorated - USA hated the spreading of communist influence so close to their borders  Cuba- Many people fled Castro and his socialists, moving to America. Other people welcomed Cuban independence from American influence   |
| **Bay of Pigs, April 1961** |  The threat of a communist country so close to America was too much for President Kennedy  The USA planned an invasion of Cuba using Cuban Exiles (Cubans who had fled to America when Castro took power) to restore a pro-American ruler.  Around 1200 Cuban Exiles landed in the Bay of Pigs in April 1961. However, Castro was waiting for them. They were quickly defeated and Castro knew America was behind the Invasion  |  USA seemed weak - their attempt to help overthrown Castro had failed miserably  International Relations deteriorated- Cuba moved closer to the USSR and the USSR saw the bay of pigs as an aggressive attack on communism  Cuba- grew closer to the USSR and was promised weapons to protect itself. (Leads to the Cuban Missile Crisis)  |
| **Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962** |  1961 Cuba asks the USSR weapons to defend themselves against America October 1962—A US U2 spy plane spotted missile bases being built on Cuba—only 80 miles away from US mainland. President Kennedy demanded that the USSR dismantle the bases and stop the ships carrying the missiles to Cuba. |  USSR seemed strong -was about to have nuclear weapons capable of quickly reaching and hitting all of America  International relations deteriorated to their lowest point of the cold war - came very close to nuclear destruction during the 13 days crisis.  Cuba found itself at the centre of attention as the crisis unfolded. Its future hung in the balance as the USA and USSR squared up.  |
| **13 days (Cuban Missile Crisis), October 1962** |  October 14—missile bases spotted on Cuba October 22—President Kennedy orders a naval blockade to stop missiles reaching Cuba. October 23—Khrushchev writes a letter telling JFK his ships will continue through the blockade October 26/27—Khrushchev says he will dismantle sites if US promise not to invade Cuba and, secretly, remove their missiles from Turkey October 28—JFK announces crisis over. |  USSR seemed weak - it seemed that Khrushchev had backed down and given in the to the USA  International Relations improved- the two superpowers put methods in place to help reduce tension quickly, including the telephone ‘hot-line’ installed in 1963 between Washington and Moscow  Cuba remained communist as the USA promised not invade as part of the deal for the USSR to remove weapons.   |
| **Prague Spring (Czechoslovakian Uprising), Jan – Aug 1968** |  Students and writers protested in Czechoslovakia because they wanted more freedoms , including freedom of speech and movement Jan 1968– Alexander Dubcek became leader of Czechoslovakia and introduced reforms, including freedom of speech and travel to the West. These freedoms lasted four months. August 1968—500,000 soviet troops invaded and crushed the Prague Spring.  |  USA seemed weak- they criticised the Soviet Invasion but did not actually do anything.  International Relations deteriorated - the USA saw the Soviet’s actions as aggressive crushing of capitalism, whereas the USSR saw it as defending communism. Czechoslovakia was returned to hard-line communist rule. All freedoms were lost.   |
| **Brezhnev Doctrine, August 1968** |  The leader of the Soviet Union, Brezhnev, announced his doctrine after the invasion of Czechoslovakia It stated the USSR would use force to stop any country leaving the Warsaw Pact, or communism. Brezhnev justified this by saying the use of force was to protect communism.  |  USSR seemed strong - the satellite states knew they could no try and leave the Warsaw Pact. USA seemed weak, did nothing to aid the people of Czechoslovakia. International Relations deteriorated - The USA believed countries should be free  Czechoslovakia was returned to hard-line communist rule. All freedoms were lost.  |

* 1. End of the Cold War

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1. “Greatest enemies to relaxed relations”, how accurate is this description of detente?

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| **Event** | **Details** | **Consequences** |
| **Détente, 1970-1979**   |  Détente means ‘relaxation of tension’  It describes the period of time when the USA and USSR were communicating and co-operating with each other and included SALT I, the Helsinki Accords, and SALT II This period of co-operation was symbolised through the joint US-USSR space mission, Apollo-Soyuz, that took place in 1975  |  USA and USSR agreed to limit weapons, stopping either from having a weapons advantage. So neither looked strong compared to the other.  International Relations improved as the agreements and treaties signed during détente showed that both superpowers were willing to compromise and negotiate* Tensions in Europe decreased, as the threat of nuclear war was reduced.

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| **SALT I** , **1972**  |  Stood for the 'Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty' and was an agreement between the USA and USSR to place a limit the number of nuclear weapons each could build.  Limited the number of ABMs (Anit-Ballistic Missiles) each super power could stock pile  Placed temporary limits on the number of ICBMs (inter-continental ballistic missiles) each super-power could have. (1054 for USA, 16818 for USSR)  |  USA and USSR appeared equals - both agreed to limit weapons, reducing the chance of one power having an advantage over the other International Relations improved - the agreements at SALT I demonstrated co-operation between the two supers and slowed down the arms race  Both the USA and USSR could reduce spending on weapons, meaning more money could be used to improve living standards.   |
| **Helsinki Accords, 1975** |  Agreement made between the USA, the USSR and many other countries (33 in total)Agreements can be remembered by RICE: Rights: Countries agreed to uphold human rights (freedom of speech, movement and travel) * International-Co-operation: agreed to trade and share technology as well as joint space mission (Apollo-Soyuz)

 Europe: Countries agreed not to use force to achieve their goals as well as recognising existing borders.   |  USA and USSR appeared equals -both countries made compromises to pass the agreements  International Relations improved- the agreements mostly demonstrated a high-point of cooperation (however, the USSR did not stick to all the agreements)  Rights in satellite states did not actually improve because the USSR did not stick to its agreement on human rights   |
| **SALT II, 1979** |  This treaty banned the USA and USSR from launching new missile programmes  The treaty was never ratified (approved) by the US Senate.  The Treaty was abandoned when the Soviets Invaded Afghanistan  | * USA and USSR continued to appear as equals, with the treaty stopping the development of new weapons.
* International Relations improved – agreements demonstrated co-operation
* The treaty never actually had an impact as it was never ratified and the Soviet Invasion led to the SALT II being scrapped.
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| **Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan,****Dec 1979**  |  The USSR was worried about the spread of fundamentalist Islam along its southern border.  A civil war broke out in Afghanistan and Islamic rebels tried to over-through the Pro-communist government  The USSR used this as an excuse to invade as they were already worried that the leader, Amin, was secretly working with the USA  |  USSR appeared weak - 15,000 troops were killed in the war. Despite being technologically superior the USSR could not win the war, which was humiliating,  International Relations deteriorated - USA saw the invasion as the USSR breaking detente, ending negotiations and cooperation between the super powers.  USSR—spending on the war in Afghanistan led to a fall in living standards. AFGHANISTAN - war lasted 10 years, thousands were killed.   |
| **Carter Doctrine, 1980** |  The USA saw the Soviet invasion as an attempt to increase their influence in the Persian Gulf, where the USA had oil interests.  President Carter said that the USA would use military force to stop the spread of communism in the Persian gulf  The USA then boycotted the Moscow Olympics along with 65 other countries   |  USA appeared strong- took an aggressive stance in response to the USSR’s use of military force.  International Relations deteriorated - The invasion started the ‘**Second Cold War’**. USA saw the invasion as breaking détente and the USSR was outraged that the USA had boycotted their Olympics.  President Carter stopped the SALT 2 treaty and called for an increase in the defence budget (spending on weapons)   |

1. Who brought about the end of the Cold War?

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| **Event** | **Details** | **Consequences** |
| **President Ronald Reagan, 1981** |  President Reagan was a hard-line anti-communist  In a speech, President Reagan called the USSR and 'Evil Empire' and said the Cold War was a fight between good and evil  Reagan massively increased spending on defence (weapons)by 13%.   |  USA appeared strong - Reagan pumped money in the USA’s weapons program and the USSR could not keep up  international Relations deteriorated - Reagan calling the USSR an ‘evil empire’ increased hostility between the two super powers  Massive increase in weapon spending meant that less money could be spent at home, helping Americans improve their own lives   |
| **Strategic Defence** **Initiative (SDI), 1983** |  Stood for 'Strategic Defence Initiative' but was nick named 'Star War's  Was a program to develop weapons in space that would have been able to shot down the USSR's nuclear weapons  SDI never actually worked, but the USSR believed it did.   |  USA seemed strong - USSR could not compete with this new technology and it meant their nuclear weapons would be useless  International Relations deteriorated. The USA saw SDI as a defensive measure, but the USSR saw it as an aggressive action to make them look weak.  Protests were held in Europe as people feared a return to the arms race and an increased chance of mutual destruction   |
| **Gorbachev’s ‘new thinking’, 1985** |  Gorbachev wanted to improve the lives of people living under communism. He also abolished (removed) the Brezhnev Doctrine.  Introduced 'Perestroika' to improve the economy. It involved more capitalist style trade and business ownership  Introduced 'Glasnost', giving people in the USSR more freedoms, including freedom of speech and some elections   |  USSR seemed weak - satellite states saw the removal of the Brezhnev doctrine as a chance to gain freedom.  International relations improved as USSR opened up trade with capitalist countries and people in the USSR were given more freedoms People in the USSR gained new freedoms, such as the right to free speech, and the economy started to improve   |
| **Collapse of Berlin Wall,****Nov 1989**  |  May 1989 - Hungary opened its borders to non-communist Austria. Thousands of East Germans used this route to escape communism  October 1989 - Mass protests in East Germany against the communist regime. The East German government agreed to open the border  Nov 1989- Confusion over when the border would open led to people demanding to cross. Border guards gave in and the floodgates opened. People started flooding into West Berlin and began tearing down the Berlin Wall.   |  Communism seemed weak - could not control the situation in East Germany  International relations Improved - collapse of the wall paved the way for the eventual reunification of Germany in Oct 1990. Symbol of division removed  Families and love ones were reunited for the first time in almost 30 years   |
| **Collapse of Soviet Union**, **1991** |  Satellite states started declaring independence (Lithuania -March 1990)  Without the Brezhnev Doctrine in place, satellite states were not worried about being invaded and all declared independence, getting rid of their communist governments.  Hard-line communists tried to remove Gorbachev in a coup. It failed due to support for Gorbachev by the Russian people. However, more Socialist states used the coup to declare independence and Gorbachev then resigned and the USSR dissolved.   |  USSR seemed weak - as soon as countries could they held elections and got rid of communist government. USA ‘won’ the cold war.  International Relations between Superpowers ended as the USSR ceased to exist.  Freedoms for people in most former satellite states increased and capitalism was adopted in most, including Russia   |