



6

Edexcel - IGCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE



A World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943–72

6

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A World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943–72

Edexcel - IGCSE





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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons



WHAT questions cover the key events and themes.



WHO questions cover the key people involved.



WHEN questions cover the timings of key events.



WHERE questions cover the locations of key moments.



WHY questions cover the reasons behind key events.



HOW questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.



IMPORTANCE questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.



DECISIONS questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on page 18.

Page references

Tudor (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

A world divided: superpower relations, 1943-72 is the period study that investigates the origins of the Cold War, three of the key Cold War Crises and the attempts to ease the tensions of the Cold War. You will study the role key individuals played during the Cold War, as well as how the Cold War impacted specific countries. You will focus on crucial events during this period, and study the different political, economic and military changes that occurred.

Purpose

This study will help you to understand the complexities of the Cold War. You will investigate themes such as communism, capitalism, sphere of influence, satellite states, containment and the arms race. This course will enable you to develop the historical skills of identifying key features of a time period, and encourages you to analyse and compare sources and evaluate interpretations.

Topics

A world divided: superpower relations, 1943-72 is split into 5 enquiries:

- 🗒️ Enquiry 1 looks at the origins of the Cold War and why it occurred. You will investigate the long-term conflict between the superpowers. You will study the collapse of the Grand Alliance and its impact on Europe.
- 🗒️ Enquiry 2 looks at the early years of the Cold War conflict from 1945 to 1959. You will investigate how tension mounted over the future of Germany and how the divisions between the USSR and the USA deepened politically, economically and militarily.
- 🗒️ Enquiry 3 looks at the development of the Cold War in the 1950s. You will study the impact of the Korean War and the arms race on the relationship between the US and the USSR. You will investigate why the Hungarian Uprising occurred, the key events and its impact.
- 🗒️ Enquiry 4 looks at the three key Cold War crises. You will study the Berlin Crisis of 1958 to 1961, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Czechoslovakian Crisis of 1968. For each case study, you will investigate the causes, the main events and the consequences of the crisis on international relations.
- 🗒️ Enquiry 5 looks at the period of Détente. You will study how and why the superpowers moved towards easing of tension between 1963 and 1972. You will investigate key events such as the introduction of a hotline after the Cuban Missile Crisis, and SALT I. You will study the reasons for détente and how it had developed by 1972.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

- 👤 President Roosevelt.
- 👤 Prime Minister Churchill.
- 👤 Premier Stalin.
- 👤 President Truman.
- 👤 Premier Khrushchev.
- 👤 Premier Brezhnev.
- 👤 Fidel Castro.
- 👤 President John F Kennedy.

Key Events

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:

- 📅 The three wartime conferences.
- 📅 The Soviet takeover of eastern Europe.
- 📅 The Berlin Blockade and Airlift.
- 📅 The Arms Race.
- 📅 The Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 📅 The Prague Spring.
- 📅 Détente.

Assessment

A world divided: superpower relations, 1943-72 forms part of paper 1 where you have a total of 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete. You should spend 45 minutes on this section of the paper. There will be 1 exam question on A world divided:

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

superpower relations, 1943-72. The question will be broken down into 4 sections; a, b, c(i) and c(ii). You will answer a, b and either c(i) or c(ii).

- 👤 Question a is worth 6 marks. This question will require you to examine an extract and assesses your ability to analyse and evaluate a historical interpretation. You will need to identify the author's opinion or perspective by analysing the language the author uses and what they have chosen to comment on. You will explain how valid the overall impression is by using your own knowledge to evaluate that impression.
- 👤 Question b is worth 8 marks. This question will require you to explain two effects of an event on something else by using your contextual knowledge and looking at the consequences. You will need to identify two effects and then demonstrate how the event led to the effect you have identified.
- 👤 Question c(i) and c(ii) are worth 16 marks. This question will require you to construct an argument to support and challenge an interpretation stated in the question. You will be given two pieces of information to help jog your memory but you must use information of your own. You will have the opportunity to show your ability to explain and analyse historical events using 2nd order concepts such as causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity and difference.

Sample

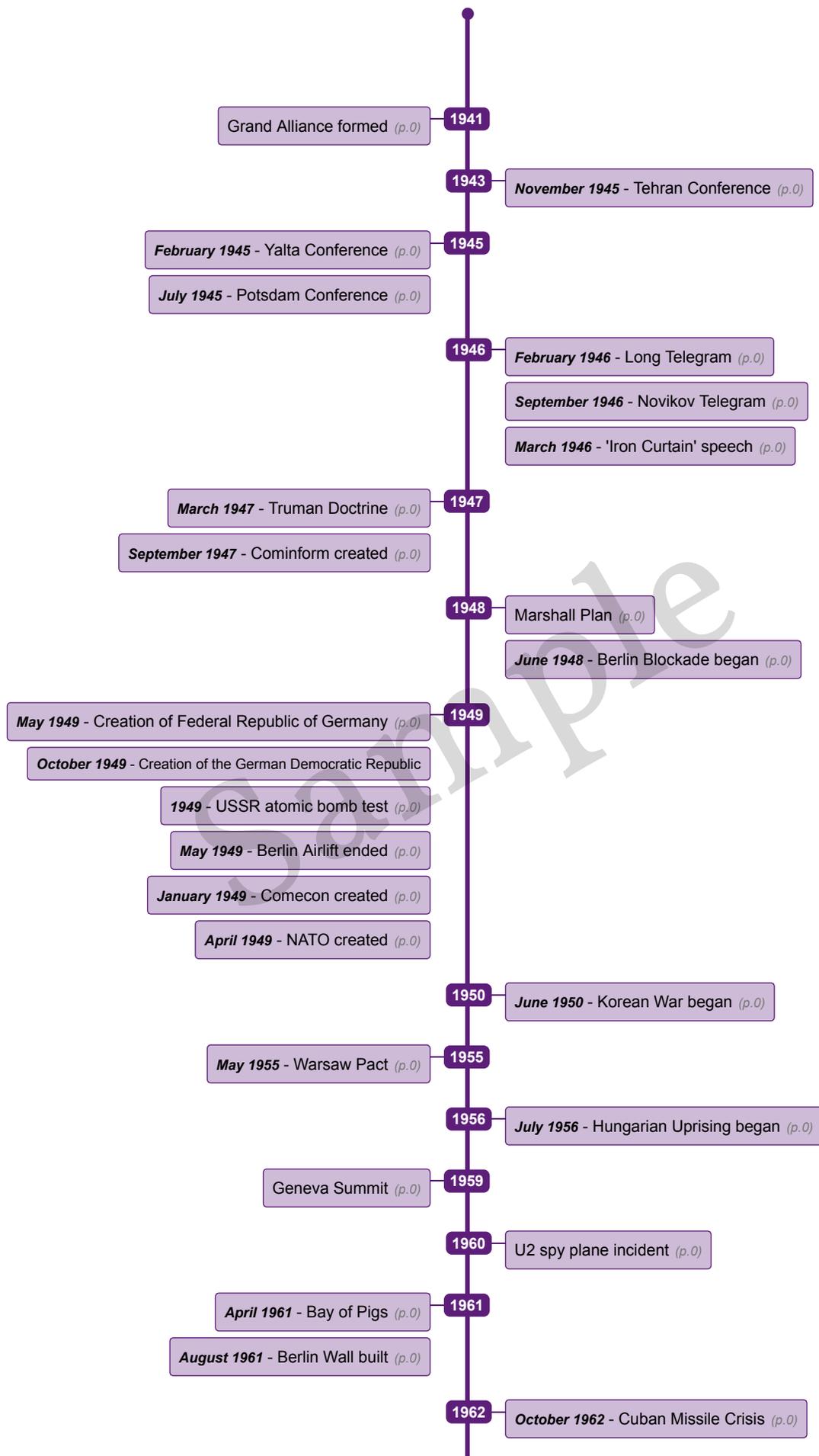


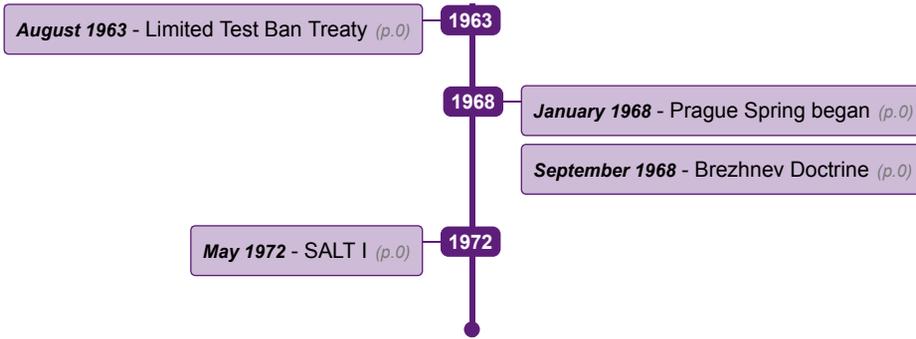
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A WORLD DIVIDED: SUPERPOWER RELATIONS, 1943-72

TIMELINE





Sample



COLD WAR INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION

'Let us not be deceived - we are today in the midst of a cold war. Our enemies are to be found abroad and at home. Let us never forget this: our unrest is the heart of their success. The peace of the world is the hope and the goal of our political system; it is the despair and defeat of those who stand against us.' - Bernard Baruch 1947



What was the Cold War?

The Cold War was a **state** of hostility that existed between the USSR and the USA in the second half of the 20th century.



What is the definition of a cold war?

A cold war is a conflict in which there is no direct fighting between the two sides. It is fought through **economic** and political actions.



When was the Cold War?

The Cold War lasted from 1945 to 1991.



Who was involved in the Cold War?

The Cold War was between the USA and its **allies**, and the Soviet Union, its **satellite states** and its allies.



What were the long-term causes of the Cold War?

There are 7 main reasons the Cold War happened:

- ✓ In October 1917, the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia. By 1921 they had created the first **communist state**. They were anti-capitalism and wanted to spread the communist **revolution** across the world.
- ✓ America and Britain did not trust the USSR as Russia had withdrawn from the First World War in 1917, despite being a member of the Triple Entente with Britain and France.
- ✓ The USSR did not trust the USA, France and Britain because they sent troops to fight against the Bolsheviks in the Russian Civil War (p.14).
- ✓ In the 1920s, the USA suffered from the First Red Scare and was hostile towards the USSR.
- ✓ The USSR was angry it was not recognised as a country by the USA until 1933.
- ✓ The relationship between the USSR and the West deteriorated before the Second World War. The Soviet Union was angry at not being invited to the Munich Conference in 1938.
- ✓ When the USSR signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact in 1939, Britain and France were horrified.



How was the Cold War fought?

The Cold War was fought in 7 key ways:

- ✓ **Propaganda.**
- ✓ Spying or espionage, such as using spy planes to take photographs.
- ✓ An arms race to have the most developed weapons, particularly nuclear missiles.
- ✓ A space race competing for success in space, such as being the first nation to put a man on the moon.
- ✓ Financial aid or loans to other countries to gain their support.
- ✓ **Proxy wars**, where the USA and the USSR became involved in conflicts in other countries. An example is the Korean War (p.0) of 1950-53.
- ✓ Threats made by either side.



What created tension between the Soviet Union and the USA at the beginning of the Cold War?

The ideological differences between the superpowers created tension between them. The Soviet Union supported **communism**, whereas the USA and Britain were capitalist countries.



What were the different ideologies in the Cold War?

The Cold War was a result of ideological differences between the two sides:

- ✓ The USSR was **communist**. **Communism** is a system where there is no private ownership of land, property or business. The aim is to achieve **economic** equality for the benefit of the people through central control of the **state economy**.
- ✓ The USA was capitalist. **Capitalism** is a system where individuals are free to own land, property and businesses to create wealth and accept there will be **economic** inequality as a result.



Why were the USA and the USSR considered superpowers during the Cold War?

The USSR and the USA were considered to be superpowers because they possessed 3 key things:

- ✓ Massive military might, including nuclear weapons.
- ✓ **Economic** might.
- ✓ The ability to dominate other countries.



Why was Stalin distrustful of Truman at the beginning at the Cold War?

Joseph Stalin was distrustful of Harry S Truman for 3 key reasons:

- ✓ Truman was anti-communist.
- ✓ He tried to control the Potsdam meeting.
- ✓ He successfully tested the atomic bomb (p.0) without consulting Stalin and used it in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings in the days after Potsdam.



Why did Britain ally closely with the USA at the beginning at the Cold War?

Britain was concerned about **communism** spreading. The nation's **economy** was severely impacted after the Second World War so it couldn't act against the Soviet Union alone.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a lot of debate about when the Cold War really began, since it was never openly declared.

Some suggest it started with the American bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, while others claim it goes right back to the Russian Revolution in 1917.



RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

'I suddenly realised that the devout Russian people no longer needed priests to pray them into heaven. On earth they were building a kingdom more bright than any heaven had to offer, and for which it was a glory to die' - John Reed, '10 Days that Shook the World'



What was the Russian Revolution?

In 1917 the Bolshevik Party overthrew the Russian government and created the world's first **communist state**. Russia withdrew from the First World War and was plunged into civil war.



What was the impact of the Russian revolution on the Cold War?

The roots of the Cold War (p.12) can be traced back to the Russian Revolution. It led to tension and distrust between the USSR and the USA which was brought to a head with the defeat of Hitler in 1945.



DID YOU KNOW?

There were two revolutions in Russia in 1917.

The one in February abolished the monarchy while the second, in October, brought the Bolsheviks to power on their slogan of 'Peace, Bread and Land'.



RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

'Every person present here knows that perhaps this very evening they will be fighting in front of their own house, that they will perhaps be killed, that if they are taken alive they will be hanged, or shot, or tortured, that the city has only enough bread for twenty four hours, that the greatest powers in the world, the Entente, America, are relentlessly seeking their death and that of all their comrades.' - Victor Serge



What was the Russian Civil War?

A civil war was triggered by opposition to the Bolsheviks from various groups, including **monarchists** who wanted the **tsar** back in power, anti-communists, groups angered by Brest-Litovsk and different nationalities who wanted their **independence**.



When was the Russian Civil War?

The Russian Civil War took place from 1918 to 1921.



Who fought in the Russian Civil War?

The Russian Civil War was fought between **communist** (Red) and anti-communist (White) forces. In addition, a number of countries, including Britain and the USA, sent troops to support the Whites. The Reds won.



What were the different armies involved in the Russian Civil War?

There were 3 main groups involved:

- ✓ The Red Army, who were the Bolsheviks or **communists**.
- ✓ The White Army, made up of **nationalists** and **monarchists**.
- ✓ The Green Army was formed by the **peasants**.



What were the causes of the Russian Civil War?

There were 5 key reasons why the Russian Civil War happened:

- ✓ The Russian Empire had collapsed because many nationalities wanted **independence** and the Bolshevik Decree on Nationalities allowed this. People who were pro-Empire wanted to re-conquer these areas.
- ✓ Political opposition had grown towards the Bolsheviks from the Social Revolutionaries, the Mensheviks, the Constituent Assembly, and the anti-Bolshevik **alliance** to form the Whites. People objected to the fact the Bolsheviks had seized power undemocratically.
- ✓ The Allies were opposed to the Bolsheviks pulling out of the First World War and the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. They hoped that by supporting the Whites, the Bolsheviks would be defeated and Russia would re-enter the war.
- ✓ Law and order had broken down.
- ✓ Food requisitioning by the Bolsheviks angered the **peasants** and so they formed the Green Army to defend their homes.



What were the consequences of the Russian Civil War on international relations?

The Russian Civil War had 3 main consequences for **international relations**:

- ✔ It increased the Soviet Union's suspicion that the capitalist West would always seek to overthrow **communism**.
- ✔ In order to protect the USSR from future **foreign** interference, Lenin, the leader of the USSR, pursued a policy of worldwide **communist revolution**.
- ✔ This in turn caused a 'Red Scare' in 1920s America as many feared the worldwide spread of **communism**.



Who fought against the Bolsheviks in the Russian Civil War?

There were 3 main groups that opposed the Bolsheviks:

- ✔ The Whites consisted of lots of different groups such as Socialist Revolutionaries, tsarists/monarchists, Liberals, ultra-conservatives, and army officers against the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.
- ✔ The Greens consisted of **peasants** and deserters from other armies.
- ✔ Foreign countries also intervened in the civil war against the Bolsheviks. Britain, Japan and USA all interfered.



What were the key events of the Russian Civil war?

There were 9 key events during the Russian Civil War:

- ✔ Trotsky became the Commissar for War for the Bolsheviks and took charge of the Red Army on 13th March, 1918.
- ✔ In May 1918, the Czech Legion **rebelled** against the Red Army. They were leaving Russia when Trotsky demanded their weapons. They responded by **allying** with the Socialist Revolutionaries and taking over parts of the Trans-Siberian Railway.
- ✔ On 17th July, 1918, Tsar Nicholas II and his family were executed in Yekaterinburg to **prevent** the Whites and the Czech Legion from rescuing them and using them as a rallying point in the Civil War.
- ✔ In August 1918, Trotsky increased the harsh discipline in the Red Army so that one in every ten soldiers was shot if he retreated.
- ✔ The Bolsheviks suffered a major set-back during the Eastern Front Offensive led by one of the White's leaders, Admiral Kolchak. He attacked in June 1918. However, the Red Army managed to force the Whites to retreat by June 1919.
- ✔ By October 1919, the Red Army had managed to stop General Yudenich's advance on Petrograd and General Denikin's advance on Moscow.
- ✔ Between April and October 1920, the Bolsheviks were also at war with Poland until they signed the Treaty of Riga in October.
- ✔ The Whites were finally defeated at the Battle of Perekop between 7th and 15th November, 1920.
- ✔ In 1921, the Green Army, led by General Makhno, was finally defeated in the Ukraine and by General Antonov in Tambov where about 50,000 **peasants** had led an uprising against the Bolsheviks.



Why did the Bolsheviks win the Russian Civil War?

There are 6 main reasons why the Bolsheviks won:

- ✔ The Bolsheviks had control of the **industrial** heartlands and transport links, which gave them a great advantage over their enemies. They had control over factories which made munitions.
- ✔ The Bolsheviks had a strong, well-organised **propaganda** machine and used art, posters and entertainment to spread their message.
- ✔ They introduced **conscription** into the Red Army so they had five million soldiers by 1921.
- ✔ As commissar for war, Trotsky introduced harsh **military** discipline, recruited tsarist officers for their experience and used the agitprop trains to spread **propaganda**. He turned the Red Army into an effective force and his harsh discipline ensured loyalty to the Reds.
- ✔ The Red Terror undermined opposition to the Bolsheviks as the Cheka, or secret police, executed 50,000 of their enemies in 1918 including the **tsar** and his family.



- ✔ Lenin's **economic** policy of War Communism took control of food **production** and manufacturing, which ensured the army was supplied.



Why did the Whites lose the Russian Civil War?

There were 6 key reasons why the Whites lost the civil war:

- ✔ They were reliant on foreign assistance for supplies and money, so the Whites were portrayed as the invading army.
- ✔ There was a severe lack of planning because they did not have one single leader as it was not a unified group.
- ✔ There were problems with communication, geographical distances and rivalry between the leaders.
- ✔ They were not united by a single goal as some wanted a return to tsarism, others favoured a military **dictatorship** and others preferred the Constituent Assembly.
- ✔ The Whites did not control the major areas of **industry**, **population** or transport links because they tended to be on the outer edges of Russia.
- ✔ As a result their army was smaller and not as well supplied.



What were the consequences of the Russian Civil War?

There were 5 main consequences of the civil war.

- ✔ The Bolsheviks **consolidated** their control over the country, economically with the policy of War Communism and politically as they destroyed their opposition using the Red Terror and by winning the civil war.
- ✔ The policy of War Communism left the country economically ruined as food **production** and manufacturing collapsed.
- ✔ There was unrest with **strikes** and several different **peasant** uprisings, including the Tambov Uprising from 1920 to 1921, and the Kronstadt Uprising in 1921.
- ✔ Around eight million people died.
- ✔ The leaders of the Bolshevik Party centralised control over their party as well as the country. All decisions were made by seven to nine key members of the Politburo and orders were passed down to the rank and file.



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Sample

GLOSSARY

A

Aggression - angry, hostile or violent behaviour displayed without provocation.

Agricultural - relating to agriculture.

Alliance - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.

Allies - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

Ambassador - someone, often a diplomat, who represents their state, country or organisation in a different setting or place.

Armistice - an agreement between two or more opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.

Artillery - large guns used in warfare.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

B

Blockade - a way of blocking or sealing an area to prevent goods, supplies or people from entering or leaving. It often refers to blocking transport routes.

Boycott - a way of protesting or bringing about change by refusing to buy something or use services.

Brinkmanship - pushing a disagreement to its limits in the hope the other side backs down, especially pertaining to war.

Buffer - a protective barrier.

Buffer zone - a neutral area of land to separate hostile forces or nations and provide protection. In the Cold War, Eastern Europe was the buffer zone between Western Europe and the USSR.

C

Cabinet - politically, the group of senior ministers responsible for controlling government policy.

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Capitalism - the idea of goods and services being exchanged for money, private ownership of property and businesses, and acceptance of a hierarchical society.

Censorship - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or unacceptable is suppressed.

Chancellor - a senior state official who, in some countries, is the head of the government and responsible for the day-to-day running of the nation.

Civil rights - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.

Civilian - a non-military person.

Claim - someone's assertion of their right to something - for

example, a claim to the throne.

Coalition government - a government formed by more than one political party.

Coalition, Coalitions - a temporary alliance, such as when a group of countries fights together.

Coexistence - living or existing together at the same time or in the same place.

Collective security - a policy adopted by the League of Nations, with the idea members should feel safe from attack as all nations agreed to defend each other.

Colonialism - when a country seeks to bring other territories under its control, often with the aim of dominating its economy. Religion and cultural practices may also be imposed.

Communism - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.

Communist - a believer in communism.

Conference - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.

Conscription - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

Conservative - someone who dislikes change and prefers traditional values. It can also refer to a member of the Conservative Party.

Consolidate - to strengthen a position, often politically, by bringing several things together into a more effective whole.

Constitution - rules, laws or principles that set out how a country is governed.

Containment - meaning to keep something under control or within limits, it often refers to the American idea of stopping the spread of communism.

Cooperate, Cooperation - to work together to achieve a common aim. Frequently used in relation to politics, economics or law.

Council - an advisory or administrative body set up to manage the affairs of a place or organisation. The Council of the League of Nations contained the organisation's most powerful members.

Counter-attack - an attack made in response to one by an opponent.

Currency - an umbrella term for any form of legal tender, but most commonly referring to money.

D

Deadlock - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Defect - the act of defection; to leave your country or cause for another.

Demilitarised - to remove all military forces from an area and forbid them to be stationed there.

Democracy - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

Democratic - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

Deploy - to move military troops or equipment into position or a place so they are ready for action.

Deport - to expel someone from a country and, usually, return them to their homeland.

Desegregation - a policy of removing racial segregation (separation).

Deterrent - something that discourages an action or behaviour.

Dictator - a ruler with absolute power over a country, often acquired by force.

Dictatorship - a form of government where an individual or small group has total power, ruling without tolerance for other views or opposition.

Disarmament - the reduction or removal of weaponry.

Dispute - a disagreement or argument; often used to describe conflict between different countries.

Dissent, Dissenting - to hold or express views against an idea or policy, often in politics.

Doctrine - a stated principle of government policy; can also refer to a set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party or other group.

Dollar imperialism - a phrase used by the Soviet Union's Foreign Minister, Molotov, in accusing the USA of using its economic strength to take over Europe through the Marshall Plan.

Détente - the easing of tension, especially between two countries.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Embassy - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

Empire - a group of states or countries ruled over and controlled by a single monarch.

Exile - to be banned from one's original country, usually as a punishment or for political reasons.

F

Fascist - one who believes in fascism.

Federal - in US politics this means 'national', referring to the whole country rather than any individual state.

Foreign policy - a government's strategy for dealing with other

nations.

Free elections - elections in which voters are free to vote without interference.

Front - in war, the area where fighting is taking place.

Frontier - a line or border between two areas.

H

Hard line - strict and uncompromising.

I

Ideology - a set of ideas and ideals, particularly around political ideas or economic policy, often shared by a group of people.

Import - to bring goods or services into a different country to sell.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

Intercontinental ballistic missile - a guided ballistic missile with a minimum range of 5,500km or 3,400 miles.

International relations - the relationships between different countries.

Iron Curtain - a phrase used by Winston Churchill to describe the non-physical divide created by Stalin between Eastern Europe and the West.

L

Legitimacy, Legitimate - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

Liberal - politically, someone who believes in allowing personal freedom without too much control by the government or state.

M

Merchant ships - unarmed ships used for carrying supplies and goods.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Monarchists - people in favour of living in a country governed by a monarchy.

N

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

O

Offensive - another way of saying an attack or campaign.

P

Parliament - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

Peasant - a poor farmer.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

Predecessor - the person who came before; the previous person to fill a role or position.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Production - a term used to describe how much of something is made, for example saying a factory has a high production rate.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

Prosecute - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

Proxy war - a conflict between two sides acting on behalf of other parties who are not directly involved, but who have usually supplied equipment, arms and/or money.

Q

Quarantine - a period of isolation where a person or animal who has or may have a communicable disease is kept away from others.

R

Rebellion - armed resistance against a government or leader, or resistance to other authority or control.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reform, Reforming - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

Refugee, Refugees - a person who has been forced to leave where they live due to war, disaster or persecution.

Reparations - payments made by the defeated countries in a war to the victors to help pay for the cost of and damage from the fighting.

Repressive - a harsh or authoritarian action; usually used to describe governmental abuse of power.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Rig, Rigged - politically, to interfere in or fix an election to determine the winner.

Riots - violent disturbances involving a crowd of people.

S

Sanctions - actions taken against states who break international laws, such as a refusal to trade with them or supply necessary commodities.

Satellite state - a country under the control of another, such as countries under USSR control during the Cold War.

Sino - is a reference to China or something relating to China. It is a prefix which is used instead of China.

Socialism - a political and economic system where most resources, such as factories and businesses, are owned by the state or workers with the aim of achieving greater equality between rich and poor.

Soviet - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

Sphere of influence - an area or country under the influence of another country.

Stalemate - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Standard of living - level of wealth and goods available to an individual or group.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Strike - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

Summit - a formal meeting between two or more heads of government.

Superior - better or higher in rank, status or quality.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Terrain - a stretch of land and usually used to refer to its physical features, eg mountainous, jungle etc.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

Thaw - the period of time where the relationship between the USSR and the USA improved.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

Tsar - the Russian word for emperor; can also be spelled 'czar'.

U

Ultimatum - a final demand, with the threat of consequences if it is not met.

V

Veto - the right to reject a decision or proposal.

W

Western powers - a group term used to describe developed capitalist nations, such as Britain and the USA.

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