

History, The Cold War: Superpower relations between
1941-1991

Lesson 7 of 30

Worksheet

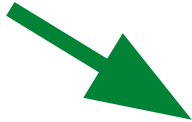
**How far did early tension begin to show
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How far did **early tension** begin to show in the breakdown of the Grand Alliance?

Ideological differences

- Not natural allies
- Both want their ideology to dominate post-war Europe



Wartime conferences

- Atomic bomb
- Change of leadership
- Future of Eastern Europe



War of words

- Suspicion and distrust
- Expansionism
- Containment



Early tension developed



Differing political ideologies

The Soviet Union and the United States were **run in very different ways**. The Soviet Union was Communist and the United States was Capitalist. The **major differences between these two political ideologies are outlined on the next slide**. The key thing is that **Capitalism** says that everyone should be free to make their own money and own property, businesses, and make money. In **Communism**, all property belongs to the state (the government) including homes and businesses so that everyone in society has a fair share. In the Soviet Union, there was also only one political party, the Communist party, and people had very few rights. The **Soviet Union was a dictatorship**, whereas the **United States was a democracy**. Both countries want their ideology to spread around the world. Capitalists want lots of countries to trade with and make money. Communists want all the workers of the world to unite. This can cause tension between them.



	Capitalism	Communism
Voting	There are several political parties and different sections of society to elect those parties through democratic elections to represent their wishes..	Communist governments came about not through an election. There is a one party state where one political party rules the country without open and free elections. The most powerful people in society decide who should lead the country, not the majority.
Society	There are extremes of poverty and wealth. You can work your way to wealth but some people are born into wealth.	In theory everybody is equal and given an equal share. There are no social classes.
Industry/ Business	People can buy their own land and business and gather as much wealth as possible.	The government owns all of the businesses and their work contributes to the government's efforts. They take the profits from these businesses. The Communist government can make people do work in locations and jobs that they want their workers to do.
Rights	Individual rights are set out by governments, therefore by the chosen elected power. You may disagree with policies if you voted for a different party. This would mean that your rights and wishes may not be well represented.	Human rights are limited; travel is limited. If people disagreed with government the Communist regime could, and at times did, physically force people to accept their rules.
Media/ Press	Freedom of speech and freedom of the press would theoretically be in place.	Censorship and state-controlled media are in place. The government control what you read and watch.



Wartime conferences 1943-45

The wartime conferences showed how the **unnatural alliance** of the US, Soviet Union, and Britain could not survive forever.

As the leaders discussed the post-war world, their different aims and ideologies gradually led to disagreement which meant that the **Grand Alliance began to breakdown** as tension developed and their relationship worsened.

Tehran, November 1943

Yalta, February 1945

Potsdam, July-August 1945



Tehran, November 1943 DISAGREEMENTS

Churchill was unhappy that the 'second front' was to be opened in the West, rather than in the Balkans (an area in South East Europe).

There was **some tension between Roosevelt and Churchill** as Roosevelt sided with Stalin over the 'second front' being in Western Europe.

Roosevelt was also suspicious of Britain's **colonialism**. Tensions between Roosevelt and Churchill hinted at the fact that, after the war, the two great superpowers would be the USSR and USA.

SUMMARY: suspicion, but no clear disagreements



Yalta, February 1945 DISAGREEMENTS

POLAND: no one was really happy about Poland. Although **Stalin** was pleased that he would regain land as the Polish borders were reset to their 1921 position, he wanted **Poland to become Communist**. The **USA and UK wanted a free and democratic Poland** and supported the **government-in-exile** in London.

Poland would continue to be a problem in future meetings.

SUMMARY: disagreement over the future of Poland



Potsdam, July-August 1945 DISAGREEMENTS

REPARATIONS: Stalin wanted to go further than the agreement and take \$10 billion, but Truman refused as he did not want to destroy Germany.

EASTERN EUROPE: Truman and Stalin also clashed over what should happen to the countries in which the USSR had defeated Germany. **Truman felt that they should rule themselves**, rather than be controlled by the USSR. Stalin disagreed and had troops in Eastern Europe to enforce his influence in the region.

SUMMARY: disagreement over the government of Eastern Europe



The arms race

The dropping of the atomic bomb developed tension between the US and Soviet Union and led to the arms race. Truman deliberately **timed the testing of the bomb to the first day of the Potsdam conference** to give him an advantage over Stalin in negotiations. The **dropping of the atomic bomb** on Hiroshima and Nagasaki not only ended WW2, it **started the Cold War**. Although the US had told the USSR they had created a new bomb, they didn't tell them they planned to drop one on Japan. Japan surrendered very quickly after the atomic bombs were dropped which showed how powerful the new weapons were; they could, literally, end a war. The knowledge of the destructive power of nuclear weapons meant that **countries were reluctant to go to war in case nuclear weapons were used**. However, they still competed to create more powerful and effective nuclear weapons. The atomic bomb made war more likely, but also more dangerous.



Stalin was determined to show he would **not be intimidated** and to develop atomic weapons as quickly as possible. He also became keener than ever to create a **'buffer zone'** in Eastern Europe. During WW2, 20 million Russians died, so Stalin wanted friendly states around the USSR to **make sure that they could never be invaded** again. He also wanted to protect the USSR against nuclear attack. Truman wanted to stop the spread of Communism which created tension with Stalin who was trying to expand and secure his influence and control in Eastern Europe.

America's nuclear military advantage added to the suspicion and mistrust that the USSR felt for the USA, **damaging US-Soviet relations.**



The war of words

Event	People involved	Key message
Long Telegram <i>February 1946</i>	George Kennan, Truman	<i>Stalin wants to destroy Capitalism. We must be aggressive.</i>
'Iron Curtain' speech	Churchill, Truman, Stalin*	<i>Stalin has created a division in Europe and countries behind the Iron Curtain are controlled by Moscow</i>
Novikov Telegram <i>September 1946</i>	Nikolai Novikov, Stalin	<i>The US wants to use its military to destroy the USSR. We must protect ourselves.</i>

*He responds to the 'Iron Curtain' speech calling Churchill a warmonger



Telegrams - ANALYSIS

The telegrams showed how much relations between the former allies had broken down. Both sides were **suspicious** of each other's thinking and actions and **did not trust each other**. Each believed that the other wanted to destroy them and their ideology. In response to the US belief that the USSR would attempt to spread communism where possible, the USA would commit to a policy of '**containment**'. This **developed tension** between the two sides and firmly **established the ideological divide** between the West, dominated by the US, through their influence in Western Europe, and the East, dominated by the Soviet Union through their influence in Eastern Europe. The attitudes expressed in the telegrams meant that the US and Soviets now had opposing **foreign policies** that could potentially bring them into conflict.



HOW DID THE WORLD REACT TO THE 'IRON CURTAIN' SPEECH?

The speech was very **controversial**. The speech was condemned by the Soviets, and Stalin even wrote a response to Churchill's comments, calling it **warmongering**, which means to **encourage and support war**. Truman and others in the US supported the speech (Truman called it 'admirable') as they had already decided, based on the Long Telegram they received in February, that the Soviet Union was determined to expand and that only a tough attitude would stop them. **Churchill's speech is significant** because, in explicitly **expressing the idea that Europe was divided along ideological lines**, and that it was Stalin's actions that did this, he was **publicly announcing the start of the Cold War** which had not happened before.



CONSEQUENCES OF SOVIET EXPANSION IN EASTERN EUROPE

We need to look at the reactions of, and consequences for, both sides on the ideological divide. From the Western point of view, Soviet expansion made **Truman even more determined to contain Communism** behind the 'Iron Curtain' and led him to declare this publicly and to actively work to stop other European countries turning to Communism. For the **Soviets**, it gave them the **buffer zone they wanted** and lots of countries with which they could **trade. It made them more powerful** and strengthened Communism. Therefore, the Soviet expansion into Eastern Europe, through the creation of **satellite states developed tension between the Soviets and the West**, worsening their relationship.



Concluding our enquiry

1. How did early tension **develop** between the Soviet Union and the United States between 1943- 1948?

Between 1943 and 1948 tension developed between the Soviet Union and the United States because... This led to...which meant that...

2. When were early tensions between the Allies **at their worst**?

Between 1943 and 1948, the Cold War was most intense in/when....This is because...

