

Cold War topic 1a knowledge organiser: Key question: Why was there tension at the start of the Cold War?

Lesson 1: What were the different beliefs during the Cold War?

Key words for this lesson:

Grand Alliance: Soviet Union, GB and USA vs Nazi Germany
Soviet Union: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and other smaller countries. Moscow was the Soviet Union's capital.

Cold war: Tension between the USA and Soviet Union that could have resulted in nuclear war

America and Britain are capitalist countries. After WW2 the Soviet Union was Communist. These were two different ideologies. The Communist Soviet Union was a classless dictatorship. The western powers were democracies. Stalin (the Soviet leader) was convinced the west wanted to destroy Communism. Churchill (British PM) and Roosevelt (USA President) thought Stalin would try and spread Communism.

Lesson 2: The Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam meetings

Key words for this lesson:

Tehran: A meeting in 1943

The Grand Alliance agreed they would bring about the unconditional surrender of Germany and the Soviet Union would join the USA's war against Japan. Poland would lose some land to the Soviet Union but gain some land from Germany.

Yalta: A meeting in 1945 before the Nazis were defeated
Germany to be split into 4 zones and pay 20 billion dollars reparations.

Potsdam: A meeting in 1945 after the Nazis were defeated.
America had tested the first atomic bomb the day before this conference began. Truman replaced Roosevelt and Atlee replaced Churchill. United Nations set up.

Lesson 3: What were the consequences and what was the importance of the Grand Alliance conferences?

Key words for this lesson:

Importance means what impact does it have for a country, relations or the Cold War

Consequences happen as a result of something and can be good or bad.

Deteriorate means get worse

Tension means that the sides were suspicious of each other

At Tehran the Grand Alliance seemed quite strong as they agreed to fight together against Japan and Germany and considered early discussions for a peacekeeping organisation. Yalta saw some disagreements as Churchill wanted the London Poles in power in Poland but Stalin expected free elections to bring about a Communist government. At Potsdam, the appointment of Truman saw the Grand Alliance deteriorate as he was openly anti-Communist

Lesson 4: How did the wartime alliance break down?

Key words for this lesson:

Iron Curtain Speech: Churchill made a speech in America explaining the threat of Communism.

Telegram: A message sent (In this case between the US and SU.)

Atomic Bomb: Caused the same destruction as 12,000 tonnes of TNT.

America's use of the atomic bomb against Japan worried the Soviet Union and made Truman more confident. This started a nuclear arms race as the Soviet Union wanted to develop their own bomb.

An American diplomat called George Keenan lived in the Soviet Union. He wrote a telegram to America warning them that Stalin wanted to destroy capitalism. Nikolai Novikov was a Soviet diplomat living in America. He wrote to the Soviet Union to warn them that the USA wanted to dominate the world with their army.

When Communist governments were set up in Hungary, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria, Churchill made a speech in the USA, which said the Soviet Union was a threat to peace.

Lesson 5: How did Stalin extend his control over Eastern Europe?

Key words for this lesson:

Satellite states/ buffer zone

Coup: Seizing control suddenly/ often using violence

Intimidation: Threatening

In 1944 the Soviet Union invaded Poland after the Warsaw Uprising had been defeated by the Nazis. The Soviet Union defeated the Nazis and in 1947 Poland became a Communist country. In Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria there were 'free' elections. In reality the voters were intimidated and these countries became Communist. A coup in Czechoslovakia saw the leader Benes removed and replaced with a Communist government.