

## Cold War topic 2a knowledge organiser: Key question: How did tension increase over Berlin and Cuba?



### Lesson 1: How did the refugee crisis and ultimatum in Berlin cause relations to deteriorate?

Key words for this lesson:

Ultimatum: A demand with a threat that there will be consequences

Refugee: In this case, people moved from East to West Berlin

Significance: Did issues in Berlin or other issues cause the tensions?

**Refugee Problem 1958:** 3 million people, many skilled, moved from East Germany to West Germany via Berlin. Standards of living and freedom were better in the west.

**Khrushchev's Ultimatum:** USA had 6 months to withdraw troops and Berlin would be a free city or he would hand control of the routes to Berlin to East Germany. America would have to admit East Germany existed separate to West Germany if this happened. Khrushchev did it to stop 'brain drain' but the USA saw it as an attempt to spread Communism. Both had too many nuclear weapons so were not prepared to go to war so they had a series of summits between 1959-61.

### Lesson 2: What were the consequences of the Berlin Ultimatum?

Key words for this lesson:

Summit: A meeting

Neutral: A country not involved

U2: An American spy plane

Geneva: May 1959, discussed Berlin government but nothing definitely agreed except that Khrushchev would go to the USA. Camp David September 1959: Soviet Union agreed to withdraw Berlin Ultimatum.

Paris May 1960: USA U2 spy plane shot down so Khrushchev walked out. Vienna: June 1961. New American President Kennedy wanted to build up USA's military force, Khrushchev renewed the Berlin ultimatum to test the inexperienced Kennedy but Kennedy didn't back down. Germans still continued to leave through Berlin so Khrushchev built the Berlin Wall.



### Lesson 3: The building of the Berlin Wall and its impact.

Key words for this lesson:

Consequence: The result of something  
Kennedy was the new American President at this time. Khrushchev was still Soviet leader.

**Building the Berlin Wall:** In one day, 40,000 East Germans crossed to West Germany. Khrushchev needed to stop this. Barbed wire was put up between East and West Berlin then a concrete wall was built, eventually with traps and machine gun turrets. 130 estimated to have been killed trying to cross. Consequences: SU was seen to be locking people into Communist East Germany and no more refugees could cross. A united Germany was now unlikely. SU showed they would stand up to the USA and acted without consulting them but also still hadn't gained control of West Berlin. The wall was a symbol of the Cold War. Building the wall may have prevented a war.

### Lesson 4: What was the Cuban Revolution and why was it important?

Key words for this lesson:

Revolution means a big change. In today's lesson this meant Cuba became Communist.

The importance means we need to focus on the Soviet and American feelings about it.  
Sequence of events means you need to show how events lead to each other.

America had been heavily influential in Cuban businesses and phone networks, however Fidel Castro overthrew the regime that supported the USA and took all land that belonged to the USA.

Khrushchev agreed to provide aid to Cuba and buy sugar from them, which worried the USA that a pro-Communist regime was 145km away from the USA.

### Lesson 5: Why was the Bay of Pigs a disaster for the USA ?

Key words for this lesson:

Bay of Pigs: The Americans tried to launch an invasion at this part of Cuba  
Cuban Exiles: People who had been forced to flee Cuba to return to the USA  
CIA: Central Intelligence Agency (American foreign intelligence service.)

**Bay of Pigs** USA used the CIA to train 1,400 volunteers (so they could claim it wasn't the US government) to remove Castro. It failed as they had no military experience and Castro's government found out about the plan. USA was embarrassed and it showed the people of Cuba wanted Communism. Khrushchev started to send weapons to Cuba.

