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The Growth of US Isolationism 1919 - 1922

This is about how the USA wanted to stay isolated from what was happening in the rest of the world.

Why did the USA want to be isolated?

- o To avoid more deaths and spending after their involvement in World War One
- o To concentrate on building up their own economy.

How did they become isolated?

- o By not joining the League of Nations
- o By reducing immigration - the numbers of people allowed to immigrate to the USA.
- o By charging a high tax on any foreign goods being sold in the USA – this made USA's own goods sell better, because they were cheaper than foreign ones. (This was called the Fordney-McCumber Tariff.) This idea is called *protectionism*

The Causes of the Economic Boom in the 1920's

These are the reasons why the USA had so many businesses doing well and so much employment.

Initial Causes

- o Lots of raw materials
- o Repayments of loans made to other countries during the war
- o Protectionism – High tariffs on foreign imports to the USA
- o Mass production methods made lots of goods cheaply
- o Advertising
- o The opportunity to buy goods on credit (Hire Purchase or HP)
- o New inventions, like vacuum cleaners, cars and radios.

This led to...

- o Businesses were doing well and needed lots of workers
- o More customer spending, because people had jobs – this is called consumer confidence
- o Laissez faire, which was the government's policy of not telling businesses what to do or how much to pay workers.
- o Low taxes on businesses
- o Investment in business as many people bought shares

Year 10**The USA 1919-41****Paper Two****Causes of the End of the Boom / Start of the Depression**

In 1929, the Wall Street Crash marked the end of the Boom and the start of the Depression. This was when the value of shares dropped a huge amount over a few days, because of these problems:

- o Businesses **overproduced** goods – making more than they could sell. This happened, because:
 - o Not everyone could afford the goods – many were poor, especially farmers, black people and immigrants
 - o Those who had money had bought new goods earlier
- o USA's businesses could not sell many goods abroad
- o Wages did not increase much so people spent less money

This eventually led to...

- o Businesses lost profits, which led to..
- o Businesses sacked workers, which led to...
- o Less goods were sold, which led to...
- o More workers were sacked, and...
- o Share prices decreased, which led to....
- o People became desperate to sell shares, especially if they had bought them on credit and were going to lose money, so...
- o The rush to sell shares continued, businesses went bankrupt from lost investment and lost profits, and so...
- o The Wall Street Crash happened, leaving many businesses bankrupt and many people jobless.

Life in the 1920's

This decade was known as The Roaring 20's or the Jazz Age. Many social changes happened. The main features of life, which changed involved:

- o **Entertainment:** Jazz, Cinema, Sports, Radio
- o **Women:** Independence, attitudes, fashion, freedom
- o **Prohibition:** The banning of alcohol, after campaigns by women's and church groups after 1919, led to...
 - o The illegal making of alcohol (**moonshine**) by criminals called **bootleggers**
 - o Illegal drinking clubs called **Speakeasies**
 - o Organised crime run by **gangsters** (eg Al Capone) who controlled many police and judges and politicians

Year 10**The USA 1919-41****Paper Two**

The New Deal

This is the name given to the series of laws and actions introduced by President Roosevelt to try to end the Depression.

How did Roosevelt become President?

- o He defeated Herbert Hoover in the 1932 election.
- o Hoover was blamed for the Depression, because he was president when it started.
- o Hoover did very little to tackle problems of the depression. He was a Republican, and their policy was *Laissez Faire*, meaning not to interfere in business.
- o Roosevelt made promises to interfere in business – He promised lots of government action to help.

What did Roosevelt do?

- o In his first Hundred Days he used his Emergency Powers (usually only allowed in wartime) to pass many laws to tackle problems of Banks closing, factories closing, unemployment, homelessness and farming.
- o His laws set up agencies to help people – these were called the **Alphabet Agencies**. (e.g. the AAA, CCC, FERA, CWA, TVA.)

What Opposition did he face?

- o Some people opposed him and accused him of using too much power, like a dictator.
- o Some people accused him of raising taxes to get money, which he was wasting by creating worthless jobs for people.
- o The Supreme Court tried to stop many of his laws being passed, but he threatened to appoint more judges to the court who were Democrats (from his party) so the Republican judges backed down.
- o However, most people supported him – he won 4 elections!

How Successful was the New Deal?

- o It created jobs, reducing unemployment from 14 million to 8 million, but this was still more than 2 million than it was before the Depression
- o It was the USA's decision to join World War Two in 1941, which ended the Depression by creating jobs in the armed services and factories making weapons and war goods.

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Germany after World War One

Germany lost World War One – the effects were devastating for the country

The Treaty of Versailles 1919

- o Germany was forced to sign this agreement after they lost the war
- o It was signed by members of a new government, who replaced the Kaiser (Emperor) – he had abdicated in 1918
- o The Treaty was harsh. It weakened Germany by:
 - o *Reducing the army to only 100,000 men*
 - o *Took away the airforce and reduced the navy*
 - o *Banned German troops from the Rhineland (the border with France)*
 - o *Took away 10% of Germany's territory in Europe and all of its colonies abroad*
 - o *Insisted that Germany was to blame for the war*
 - o *Made Germany pay compensation (reparations) to France and its Allies of £6.6 million.*
- o This severely damaged the economy of Germany
- o It made the new government unpopular – they became known as the November Criminals. The fact that they surrendered while still in enemy territory, made their decision unacceptable to many.
- o Germans felt bitter and angry and humiliated. Many wanted revenge.

The Weimar Republic

- o This was the new system of government in Germany
- o It was the first time democracy was used in Germany (the Kaiser had been a dictator.)
- o Under the Weimar Constitution (rules on how the country was to be run) there was a parliament (The Reichstag), a Chancellor (like our Prime Minister) and a President with emergency powers in a crisis.
- o One problem with the new system was that there were so many parties, that none could ever have a big enough majority in the Reichstag to form a strong government.

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Problems facing the Weimar Government 1919-23

The new government faced economic, social and political problems

- o There were attempts by political groups to overthrow the government. Each failed, but they demonstrated that the government was in an uneasy position:
 - o The Spartacist Rising 1919 by Communists
 - o The Kapp Putsch 1920 by right-wing opponents of democracy, including the Freikorps (ex-army)
 - o The Munich Putsch 1923 by Hitler and the Nazis
- o Germany could not afford the reparations payments, especially as they had lost industrial areas under the treaty.
- o There was much unemployment and poverty.
- o Prices went up dramatically – this was called hyper-inflation. The government printed more money, but this made the value of money decrease.
- o Germany stopped paying reparations, and so France invaded the industrial region of Germany, called the Ruhr, and took resources instead. German workers went on strike.
- o Germany had no friends or help from other countries.

Stresemann and Recovery

Gustav Stresemann was the Chancellor of Germany in 1923 and foreign minister after this, until his death in 1929. He is responsible for the recovery of Germany from the problems after the war.

- o He introduced a new currency called the Rentenmark
- o He called off the strike in the Ruhr
- o He got help to pay reparations - under the Dawes Plan and the Young Plan, the USA agreed to lend Germany money.
- o He persuaded the League of Nations to let Germany join.
- o Unemployment was reduced
- o Hyper-inflation ended
- o Germany had stronger links to other countries.
- o Under the Kellogg-Briand Pact and the Locarno treaty, Germany and its neighbouring countries promised not to go to war with each other
- o The German economy improved, with production increasing
- o The situation only started to become bad again as the Depression got nearer in 1929.

Year 10**Germany 1919-39****Paper Two****The Nazi Party in the 1920's**

Hitler's Nazi Party was a small group in the 1920's, gaining very few votes. However, they had very definite plans for how Germany should be run.

- o The German Workers' Party was started by Anton Drexler in 1920
- o Adolf Hitler joined and was soon leader
- o It was renamed the National Socialist German Workers' Party, or *Nazis* for short.
- o Hitler was responsible for its organisation, image (using the swastika symbol) and beliefs. Nazis believed that:
 - o Germans were *Aryans*, the Master Race, and were destined to rule over other inferior races
 - o Germans needed more "living space" (*lebensraum*)
 - o Jewish people were responsible for surrender in the war and other disasters in German history
 - o Democracy was weak – Germany needed a dictator to be a strong leader
- o When economic crisis struck in 1923, the Nazis tried to seize power in Munich:
 - o Hitler and the Nazis took over a Council meeting in a beer-hall in Munich at gun-point
 - o The police and army soon got hold of the situation and arrested Hitler and other Nazis
 - o Hitler was put on trial and sent to prison
 - o This was good, because he gained publicity
 - o In prison, he wrote his ideas in a book called *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)
 - o He realised that the Nazis would have to gain power by winning votes and then destroy democracy once in power
 - o However, the Nazis were too extreme for most Germans at the time – as the country recovered under Stresemann, few people felt the need to turn to an extreme group – so the Nazis won very few votes.

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Causes of the Nazi Rise to Power

After 1929, the Nazi Party began to attract more and more support, until they won more seats in the 1932 election than any other party.

The reasons for this were:

- o The **Depression** – this caused much unemployment and so many people felt desperate enough to turn to an extreme party like the Nazis
- o Some turned to the other extreme party – The Communists – but those with money and property (The Middle Class) feared Communism and saw the Nazis as the only people able to stand up to the Communists
- o The Weimar Republic governments were weak and unable to take actions to help solve the Depression. The moderate parties lost votes to extreme ones like the Nazis.
- o The Nazis used **propaganda** effectively, by:
 - o Making promises, which appealed to all groups in society –
 - Ending the Versailles Treaty by re-arming the country and taking back German land
 - Creating jobs through re-armament and conscription (enlisting people into the army)
 - Ending democracy, which had failed in Germany
 - Giving armaments contracts to big businesses
 - o Holding rallies (big meetings) with speeches, marching and impressive presentation, making the party look strong, disciplined and organised.
- o The Nazis used their private army (the SA or “brownshirts”) to intimidate opposition or cause violence that could be blamed on the Communists.
- o Hitler was a charismatic leader, whose personal abilities attracted support. He won millions of votes in the 1932 Presidential election, which was won by Hindenburg.

When it was clear that the Nazis had more seats in the Reichstag than the other parties (even though they had no majority), Hindenburg could no longer ignore Hitler and had to appoint him as Chancellor in January 1933.

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Hitler rises from Chancellor to Dictator 1933-4

As Chancellor, Hitler's power could still be outweighed by the rest of the other parties in the Reichstag and also by the President. So, he used various means to increase his power:

- o **Deals** were made with other parties (e.g the nationalists and Centre party) to give the Nazis more votes in the Reichstag.
- o The **Reichstag Fire** was blamed on the Communist Party – Hitler used this to stir up panic and persuade the President to give him emergency powers, which he used to ban the Communist Party and arrest its leaders.
- o The Nazis now had a majority in the Reichstag – they passed The **Enabling Act**, which gave them full powers.
- o The Nazis used these new powers to **ban all other parties**. Democracy was now destroyed
- o There was opposition within the Nazi Party from the SA, who wanted more power and more policies to take over businesses from the rich. Hitler killed the leaders of the SA during the **Night of the Long Knives**.
- o With the SA made powerless, the regular German army was now willing to swear an **oath of personal loyalty** to Hitler.
- o When President Hindenburg died in August 1934, Hitler combined the roles of Chancellor and President to make himself **Fuhrer** (leader) – a dictator with total power.

How did the Nazis Maintain power?

The Nazis used a mixture of fear and propaganda to ensure that people supported them after 1934.

- o The SS were Hitler's private army, loyal to him. They were known as the Blackshirts
- o The Gestapo was the secret police force – part of the SS
- o Concentration Camps were set up as prisons for all opponents of the Nazi government.
- o People were encouraged to inform on each other
- o People were encouraged to be loyal to Hitler
- o Joseph Goebbals organised propaganda and censorship so that no criticism of the Nazis was allowed – only praise.
- o The government controlled the media, education and trade unions giving them **Totalitarian** control

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Life in Nazi Germany

- o **Education / Youth Movements:**
 - o Children were brainwashed with Nazi ideas in schools
 - o Youth Organisations (like the Hitler Youth) were set up
 - o Boys were trained to be future soldiers
 - o Girls were prepared for life as mothers and wives
- o **Persecution of non-Aryan groups**
 - o Jewish people were persecuted increasingly. At first, through economic boycotts, discrimination, segregation and then the loss of their citizenship and rights. Synagogues and businesses were attacked on **Kristallnacht**. They were then forced out of their jobs and homes and made to live in ghettos, before being sent to labour / concentration camps. Later they were to be exterminated during the Holocaust.
 - o Other groups were also persecuted, such as gypsies, homosexuals, disabled and elderly people.
- o **The Economy:**
 - o Unemployment was reduced from 6 million to under one million, because:
 - Men were conscripted into the army
 - Factories opened to make new weapons
 - Jobs were created building motorways (autobahns), hospitals, schools, etc..
 - Women were encouraged out of their jobs to be replaced by men, and did not count as unemployed
 - Jewish people, who also lost their jobs, did not count on the unemployment figures.
 - o Germany wanted to be self-sufficient (**autarky**) and not rely on imports from other countries. They had to make synthetic materials as a result, but never became totally self-sufficient.
 - o Rewards were given to workers who made the best efforts, but all workers' unions were run by the Nazis.
- o **Opposition:**
 - o Some small groups of young people did dare to oppose the Nazis, such as the Swing Movement (who listened to banned jazz music) and the Edelweiss Pirates.

Year 11

Britain in World War Two

Paper One

Main Events in World War Two

(a) The Start of the War

- September 1939 – Germany invaded Poland. Britain declared war on Germany.
- September 1939 to April 1940 – The **Phoney War**. Britain was at war with Germany, but they did not fight each other yet.
- April-May 1940 – Germany invaded most of Northern Europe with a Blitzkrieg attack.
- **Blitzkrieg** means *Lightning Attack*. Germany used planes and tanks in a quick, double attack.
- May-June 1940 – British and French troops had to escape from the German attack. They were pushed back to the port of **Dunkirk**. From here they were rescued by British boats in **Operation Dynamo**.

(b) The Rest of the War

- September 1940 – **The Battle of Britain**. German planes attacked British planes in the skies above South West England. Britain eventually won and stopped Germany taking over.
- **The Battle of the Atlantic** continued from 1940 to the end of the war in 1945. German submarines (U-boats) and battleships tried to sink ships bringing supplies to Britain from the USA. Britain and later the USA fought Germany here and eventually won.
- **Bombing of cities** happened from 1940 to the end of the war. Both Britain and Germany dropped bombs on each other's cities in order to force surrender.
- **D-Day** (also known as **Operation Overlord**) happened in June 1944. British, American and Canadian troops landed in Northern France (Normandy). They pushed the Germans back. The USSR could now push the Germans back from the East of Europe. D-Day led to the end of the war.
- **May 1945** – Germany was defeated, as Allied troops (British, American, French and Russian) met in Berlin.

Year 11

Britain in World War Two

Paper One

Life In Britain during World War Two

- o **Evacuation** – When children from cities were taken away from their families to live with strangers in the countryside. This was done for safety reasons, because cities were being bombed. Children had mixed experiences of evacuation.
- o **The Blitz** – German planes dropped bombs on British cities. They expected to kill civilians. Some bombs were filled with gas. They hoped to lower British *morale* and force them to surrender.
- o **Morale** – This means “spirit” or determination. It means how people felt about a situation. The *Blitz Spirit* refers to how morale stayed high despite the bombings. But in reality, not everyone coped with it.
- o **Protection from the Blitz** – People took the following measures to protect themselves from the bombings: *Anderson or Morrison shelters, Sandbags, Taped-up windows, Black-out curtains, Air-raid sirens, Air-raid wardens*
- o **War-time jobs** – People were encouraged or even sent into certain places to work for the good of the *war-effort*:
 - o **Conscription** – most men had to join the armed services
 - o Women replaced them and did many men’s jobs – e.g. in factories
 - o Munitions factories made weapons
 - o The Land Army – women went to work as farm labourers
 - o Doctors, coal miners and Firemen did not have to join the army – they were needed to help the injured, deal with the bombings and get coal for energy.
- o **Censorship** – The government controlled what information the public was allowed to see. Newspapers had to print what the government told them. It was important for morale that people did not know the whole truth.
- o **Propaganda** – The government tried to keep morale high with posters and speeches and good news from the war round the world. They also used the media to instruct people about the following:
 - o Not to talk in public about their jobs in the war, in case spies heard
 - o How to keep healthy and fit
 - o How they should grow their own food as not much food was getting through from abroad (*The Dig for Victory Campaign*)
- o **Rationing** – There was limited food, because Germany was stopping supplies getting to Britain; so food was rationed.
 - o People had Ration Books. They had a certain number of vouchers to use in exchange for basic food like flour, eggs, meat and milk
 - o Vouchers from Ration Books replaced money
 - o An illegal “Black Market” trade in food and other products difficult to buy went on.

Introduction

- o Countries involved – the world’s two **Superpowers**:
 - i. The United States of America (USA) or “America”
 - ii. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) or “Russia”
- o The Cold War was the name given to the period of time between 1945 and 1989, when the USA and USSR were rivals for power and hated each other.
- o They never declared war on each other, but were often drawn into smaller conflicts around the world.
- o The rivalry between the two countries took the form of:
 - i. **A propaganda war**, where they tried to criticise each other and boast of their own superiority
 - ii. **An arms race**, where each side tried to become more powerful in terms of nuclear weapons and military strength
 - iii. **A space race**, where each side tried to gain prestige by being the first to achieve success in space travel and exploration
 - iv. **An ideological war** – meaning, they had their own systems of government and organising society, and they feared / hated the ideas of the other
 - v. **An economic war** – where they both sought to increase their influence around the world in order to make money.

The Situation in 1945

USSR and USA were allies in World War Two against Hitler, despite being suspicious of each other.



Communism and Capitalism

The main difference between USA and USSR was their systems of organising society and government. These ideas were totally opposite to each other. Each country had a firm belief that their system was best and that the other was wrong. Each feared the other side was trying to spread its ideas around the world, which would have won them more allies and more influence and power.

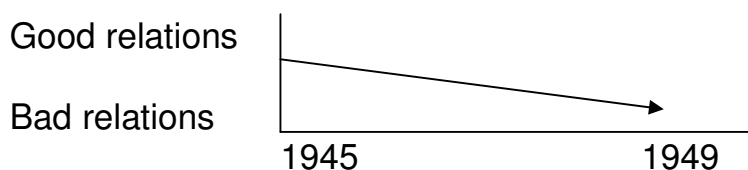
- o **The USA was Capitalist**, which meant:
 - o Freedom of speech and other freedoms
 - o Individual rights
 - o Democracy (voting for the government)
 - o Opportunities to make money
 - o Individuals owned businesses

- o **The USSR was Communist**, which meant:
 - o Restricted freedom
 - o No individual rights, but a duty to the state instead
 - o No democracy – only one party
 - o The principle of equality meaning no one should be richer than others (so private property)
 - o The government owned all businesses

Year 11**The Cold War** (International Relations 1945-91)**Paper One****Causes of the Cold War**

The Cold War is said to have began as World War Two ended. A series of events increased the tension between the USA and USSR, including...

- o Meetings at **Potsdam and Yalta** 1945, where they disagreed over how to punish Germany, new borders in Europe and the new governments of Eastern European countries, who had been ruled over by Nazi Germany during the war.
- o The **Communist takeover of Eastern Europe** – aided by the USSR's Red Army, Communist parties gained power in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania.
- o The new Communist governments of Eastern Europe were loyal to the USSR and directed by its leader **Stalin**. The division between these countries and Western Europe, which was capitalist and allied with the USA, was called the **Iron Curtain**.
- o The USA promised aid (money and resources) to weak European countries, to help them resist a Communist takeover. This plan was called **The Truman Doctrine** in 1947 named after USA's president. The aid was organised under the **Marshall Plan**. It was based on a policy called **containment**, meaning to stop Communism spreading.
- o The **Berlin Blockade** 1948-9- Germany was split into 4 zones after the war. The USA, USSR, France and UK all controlled one zone and took responsibility for aiding the people in that area. The capital city of Berlin was in USSR's zone, but still split between the 4 countries. The USSR stopped the other 3 travelling through their zone to get to Berlin, because they feared they were going to join together and set up a Capitalist government in western Germany. The USA, France and UK had to fly over USSR-controlled territory to reach Berlin. Eventually, Germany was divided into East and West with different governments.
- o The USA formed a military alliance called **NATO** in 1949.



The Cold War 1950-60

Korean War 1950-3:

- North Korea was Communist and invaded South Korea, which was Capitalist
- The USA led a United Nations force in pushing the Communists out of South Korea
- The USA believed in the **Domino Theory** –if one country “falls” to Communism then those next to it will follow.
- The leader of these forces (General MacArthur) went further and invaded North Korea – this brought China (who were also Communist) into the war
- The war ended when Stalin died and Truman was replaced as USA’s President by Eisenhower.

Khrushchev and Destalinisation:

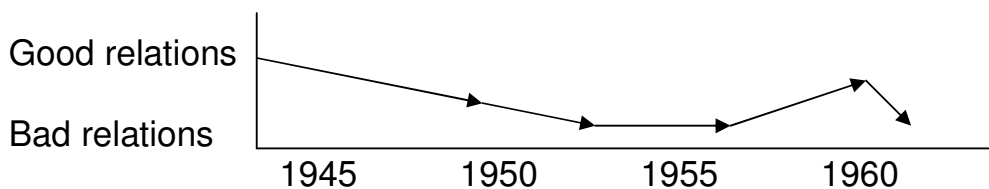
- Nikita Khrushchev replaced Stalin as leader of the USSR.
- He wanted *peaceful co-existence* with USA
- 1955 – Communist Alliance set up - the **Warsaw Pact**

Hungarian Rising 1956:

- People in Communist Hungary were encouraged by Khrushchev’s apparent “softer” approach compared to Stalin.
- They tried to win more independence from the USSR and more freedom
- Khrushchev sent USSR tanks and troops in to end this “rising” in Hungary.

The U2 Crisis 1960:

- By the end of the 1950’s, Khrushchev and US President Eisenhower were ready to discuss an end to the Cold War and nuclear arms race
- However, a U2 spy plane from the USA was shot down over the USSR. Khrushchev ended the talks, complaining that he could not trust the USA.
- Both sides spied on each other during the Cold War – but this incident was publicised, so the USSR had to make a public stand against the USA.



The Cold War during Kennedy’s Presidency (1961-3)

The Berlin Wall:

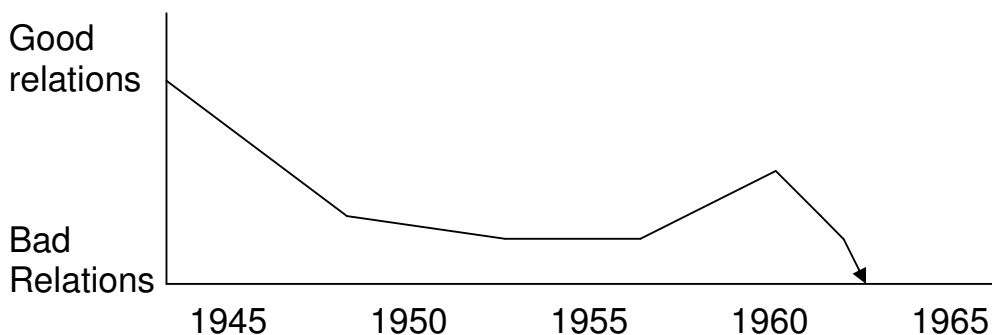
- In 1961, the Communist government of East Germany erected a wall to divide Berlin.
- They did this to stop people from Communist East Berlin escaping into Capitalist West Berlin.
- The wall became a physical symbol of the divide between the “free, capitalist world” and the “Communist Bloc.”
- Kennedy objected to it, but could not act.

The Bay of Pigs 1962:

- Cuba is an island in the Caribbean, close to the USA.
- It had close links to the USA through trade and American ownership of businesses on the island.
- The capitalist dictator Baptista was overthrown in 1959 by the Communist Fidel Castro.
- Many Cubans left the island as they disagreed with Communism.
- The USA secretly helped these Cuban “exiles” to invade their home country in an attempt to overthrow Castro. They landed at the Bay of Pigs and were defeated.
- The Bay of Pigs failure was embarrassing for Kennedy.

The Cuban Missile Crisis 1963:

- This event almost started a nuclear war!
- Castro had nationalised all businesses (took them over for the state), which left many Americans angry. So the USA stopped buying Cuban sugar.
- Castro turned to the USSR for help.
- In return for trading with Cuba, the USSR was able to set up nuclear weapons bases on the island.
- The USA felt threatened – Kennedy demanded that the bases should be removed.
- The leader of the USSR, Khrushchev, demanded that the USA move their missiles away from the USSR’s border (with Turkey) first.
- After a tense few days, Khrushchev backed down.



Year 11**The Cold War** (International Relations 1945-91)**Paper One****The Vietnam War: 1963-73**

- There was a Civil War in South Vietnam. Communist peasant troops called the *National Liberation Front* (or **Vietcong**) were trying to overthrow the unpopular capitalist dictator Diem.
- North Vietnam was already communist and ruled by Ho Chi Minh. The North helped the Vietcong.
- The USA wanted to stop Communism spreading and so sent advisers and then troops to help Diem after 1963.
- From 1964 onwards, under the orders of its new President – Johnson – the USA sent more and more troops to fight in Vietnam.
- The war was difficult for the USA to win, because:
 - Vietnam was jungle – The Vietcong knew the area better than American troops;
 - Vietcong troops used *guerrilla* tactics – ambush and retreat. They were helped by many ordinary villagers.
 - American troops were usually very young and failed to cope with this type of warfare. Many used drugs and became psychologically damaged by the war.
- The war caused great destruction:
 - The USA dropped more bombs on Vietnam than all the bombs used in World War Two.
 - The USA used chemical weapons to poison crops and water. They used weapons designed to mangle rather than kill, such as *napalm*.
 - American soldiers were often unable to distinguish the enemy from ordinary peasants and killed many civilians.
- The USA withdrew from the war in 1973, because:
 - The American public became increasingly critical of the war and protests were huge – people had seen images of war on TV and were appalled by the horror of it.
 - The USA was losing the war.
 - The war was costing a lot of money.
 - The USA was attempting to improve its relations with the USSR in the early 1970's.
- The consequence of the USA's withdrawal was that South Vietnam was taken over by Communists and neighbouring countries – Laos and Cambodia – followed.

The Cold War 1968-78: Détente

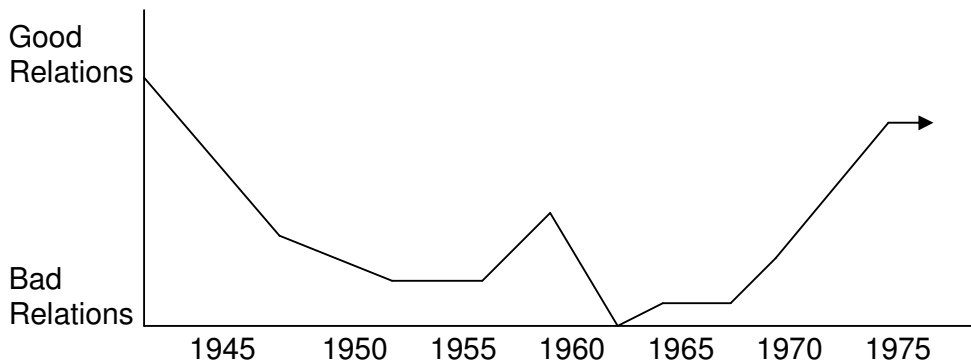
Czechoslovakia 1968 – The Prague Spring

- Czechoslovakia was Communist and a member of the Warsaw Pact. Its government took its orders from the USSR
- However, in a similar episode to the Hungarian Rising of 1956, Czechoslovakia tried to bring in reforms in 1968 to give people more rights.
- These new ideas – “springing” from the minds of the people – were encouraged by the Czech leader Alexander Dubcek, who was a moderate (mild / not strict) Communist.
- With the right to voice their opinions, people now started to protest.
- The leader of the USSR, Brezhnev, sent tanks in to stop the protests and replaced Dubcek with a more loyal and extreme Communist.
- Brezhnev then introduced the Brezhnev Doctrine, which stated that if the government of any Communist country was under threat, then other members of the Warsaw Pact would take action to help.

Détente 1968-78

This word literally means a loosening of tension – It describes a period of more relaxed relations between the USA and USSR. The leaders at this time were Brezhnev for the USSR and Nixon, then Ford, then Carter in the USA.

- The main cause for Détente was the huge cost of the nuclear arms race – this was damaging the economy of both countries.
- The SALT treaty was signed in 1972 to limit the building of new weapons. (meaning Strategic Arms limitation talks)
- The Helsinki Treaty was signed in 1975 to agree to respect Human Rights. USA recognised the USSR’s influence in Eastern Europe.
- There were sporting and space links between the two countries.
- SALT II negotiations began in the late 1970’s.



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The Cold War in the 1980's

The Afghanistan War: 1979-89

- Causes:
- The USSR wanted influence in Afghanistan, because of its oil
- The Communist leader of Afghanistan, Hafizullah Amin, was not friendly with the USSR
- Muslims in Afghanistan wanted to overthrow Amin and set up an Islamic State – they were called the **Mujaheddin**
- 30 million Muslims in the USSR (many on the border with Afghanistan) might be encouraged to break away from the USSR.
- Events: The USSR invaded Afghanistan.
- Consequences:
- President Amin was killed and replaced with Babrak Karmal, who was friendly with the USSR and also Communist
- The USA accused the USSR of having no right to invade and risking world peace
- The USA pulled out of the 1980 Moscow Olympics
- The USA refused to sign SALT II – This event ended Détente

Star Wars – SDI: USA's Strategic Defence Initiative 1983:

- The USA was close to developing a method of detecting and destroying nuclear missiles from space
- This would mean that if the USSR attacked the USA, their missiles could be stopped
- This now meant that the USA was well ahead in the Arms Race.

Solidarity in Poland

- This event showed the potential of *people power* against Communism.
- People in Poland were angry that the Communist government was raising food prices and lowering wages to help the country get out of debt.
- People began to join a Trade Union called Solidarity led by Lech Walesa. It was supported by the Church and had 9 million workers as members. It was against the Communist government.
- It forced the leader of the government to resign.
- It was the most powerful non-communist organisation to exist in a Communist country.
- The new leader of Poland, however, was a strict Communist called Jaruzelski. With the backing of the USSR's leader Brezhnev, he arrested the leaders of Solidarity.
- People were too scared to stand up the government, because they knew that the USSR would send tanks and troops in (like they had done in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.)
- What was important though, was that this showed that the Communist governments of Eastern European countries depended on the USSR to stay in power – and that the people could get together to oppose them.

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The End of the Cold War 1989/91

