

I should already know:

How to make inferences from a source

What it was like to live under authoritarian regimes, such as Nazi Germany

I will learn:

- How WW2 was won
- Why the Allies of WW2 quickly became bitter rivals.
- How War lead to Cold War
- How nuclear weapons changed the way countries perceived and waged war.
- How the superpowers of the USA and Soviet Union competed for control of countries on several continents.
- The 'hot points' of the Cold War; how close did ever come to the end of the world?

This will help in the future:

GCSE unit on 'Superpower relations and the Cold War'

Key Words

Allies	America, Russia and Britain were friends in WW2
Atomic bomb	A very powerful type of explosive weapon, deployed in 1945 against Japan, ending WW2
Capitalism	An economic system where the government has no (or little) control over the economy. Private business is encouraged.
Communism	A system where the government has complete, central control of the economy. There is no (or very little) private property or business.
Détente	An easing of hostility between enemies. This meant accepting the Cold War status quo in the 1970s
Doomsday clock	A symbol scientists use to show how close mankind is to its own self-destruction. It has been used since 1947
Hydrogen bomb	An extremely powerful type of nuclear weapon. Capable of wiping out an entire city and its surrounding areas for around 50 miles.
MAD (mutually assured destruction)	The belief that, because America and the Soviet Union could wipe each other out, neither side would actually use their nuclear weapons.
Napalm	A very flammable jelly-like substance, made infamous in the American war against Vietnam
Non-alignment	When a country deliberately didn't side with America or the Soviet Union





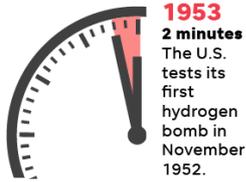
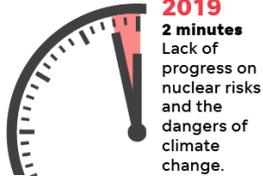
America and Britain wanted to hold elections in East Europe after WW2. These disagreements would see Germany split into 2 countries

Russia had been Communist since 1917 and became the Soviet Union in 1922. After WW2, the Soviet Union had control over East Europe. It made sure that these countries put their own communist leaders in charge

Summarise your learning

The post-war world	Former allies became bitter enemies once their common enemy (Nazi Germany) was defeated. Capitalist Britain and America wanted to hold elections in East Europe. The Soviet Union wanted to protect its borders and hold onto its territorial gains in East Europe.
The Nuclear age	The threat of nuclear annihilation lasted through the entire Cold War. Governments worried that their enemies might attack first; the people worried that their governments would attack first.
What is a 'Cold War'?	Because America and the Soviet Union were so powerful, they both understood that a direct World War Three would be too destructive. They instead fought for influence across other countries, such as Cuba, Vietnam and Afghanistan.
A culture war	The Soviet Union believed that humanity was destined to become communist. America believed that it could show that capitalism was the best way to organize society, by making itself and its friends more wealthy. However, as both sides feared the other, they tried to speed up these destinies.
A long game	As the aftermath of WW2 made America and the Soviet Union the 2 superpowers on the planet, grand plans emerged on both sides for how to wage a war without fighting each other. This would involve years, if not decades, waiting for smaller countries to swap sides, their rival to make mistakes, and using spies to uncover the other's secrets.

Doomsday clock extremes



Key dates

December 1922	Creation of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). Russia had been communist since 1917
7 th May 1945	Surrender of Germany and Japan respectively
2 nd September	
June 1948-May1949	Stalin blockades West Berlin from the Western sectors of Germany
August 29 th , 1949	First Soviet test of atomic bomb
4 th October, 1957	First satellite into space, Sputnik, launched by the Soviet Union
13 th August, 1961	The Berlin Wall is erected around West Berlin
16 th -28 th October, 1962	Cuban missile crisis.
1961-1975	Vietnam war. America supported south Vietnam against the communist north.
25 th December, 1979	Soviet Union invades Afghanistan
9 th November, 1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall

Key people

Joseph Stalin	Leader of the USSR (Soviet Union) from 1924 until his death in 1953. He ruled the USSR as brutally as Hitler ruled Germany, being responsible for millions of his people's deaths.
Winston Churchill	Prime Minister of Britain after WW2. In WW2, he made an agreement with Stalin on dividing influence in Europe. On 5 th March, 1946, he gave his famous 'Iron Curtain' speech, describing the USSR's dominance of half a continent.
Harry S Truman	President of the USA from 1945 to 1953. The 'Truman Doctrine' involved containing communism from spreading and keeping American allies' economies strong.
Nikita Khrushchev	Leader of the USSR from 1953 until his removal by the communist party in 1964. He oversaw the creation of the Berlin Wall (1961) and Cuban Missile Crisis with Kennedy (1962)
John F Kennedy.	President of the USA from 1961 until his assassination on November 22, 1963. He Tried to stop communism spreading to American neighbor Cuba and worked with Khrushchev to dissolve the nuclear crisis of 1962. He began American military assistance to South Vietnam.
Richard Nixon	President of the USA from 1969 until his resignation followed corruption charges in 1974. He was elected on the promise to pull America out of the Vietnam war. He constructed détente with the USSR, which involved accepting them as equal rivals
Gamal Abdel Nasser	Leader of Egypt from 1956 until 1970. He was the best example of using 'non-alignment' to play the superpowers against each other, proving that smaller countries could influence the Cold War.
Ronald Reagan	President of the USA from 1981 to 1989. Starting off by increasing nuclear tensions in a 'second Cold War', Reagan then worked with Gorbachev to make peace between the superpowers.
Mikhail Gorbachev	Final leader of the Soviet Union until it ended in 1991. He aimed to reform communism and move away from its use of control and introduce more freedoms. However, these freedoms and the hatred people had for communism's past led to the end of the USSR.



Knowledge Organiser Focus:

The Cold War

Allies	
Atomic bomb	
Capitalism	
Communism	
Détente	
Doomsday clock	
Hydrogen bomb	
MAD	
Napalm	
Non-alignment	

Key dates	
December 1922	
7 th May 1945 2 nd September	
June 1948-May1949	
August 29 th , 1949	
4 th October, 1957	
13 th August, 1961	
16 th -28 th October, 1962	
1961-1975	
25 th December, 1979	
9 th November, 1989	

Key people

Joseph Stalin	
Winston Churchill	
Harry S Truman	
Nikita Khrushchev	
John F Kennedy.	
Richard Nixon	
Gamal Abdel Nasser	
Ronald Reagan	
Mikhail Gorbachev	