

Germany during the Cold War Era (1941-1963)



CHAPTER 1 – Beginnings of the Cold War (1941-1956):

- The Conferences at Teheran, Yalta & Potsdam, Truman Doctrine, Marshall Aid, The 1st Berlin Crisis – Blockade & Airlift, NATO v Warsaw Pact

CHAPTER 2 – The Cold War Crises (1960s):

- The 2nd Berlin Crisis – Refugees, Summits & Ultimatums, the U2 Spy Plane, The Building of the Wall, Checkpoint Charlie.

Chapter 1 – Beginnings of the Cold War

The Teheran Conference, 1943:

- 1943 was still during WW2, so USA and the USSR were allies.
- At the Teheran Conference, they mostly agreed. This showed their relationship was strong.
- The USA agreed to help attack the Nazis, with the D-Day attack.
- The USSR agreed to help the USA fight Japan.
- They agreed to create the United Nations to keep world peace after WW2.
- But, the USA and Britain were worried Stalin and the USSR would take over Poland.

Britain and the USA agreed to help the USSR by invading France and attacking the Nazis in May 1944.

Here the Grand Alliance appears to be working well as USA are agreeing to help the USSR.

However, Stalin was suspicious that USA were waiting until the Russians had almost beaten the Nazis before invading.

The USSR agreed to help the USA fight in Japan after the Nazis were beaten.

Here the Grand Alliance appears to be working well as the USSR are joining forces with the USA to win the war in Japan, after the USA had helped the USSR defeat the Nazis in Europe.

Britain had joined WW2 to protect Poland, but now Stalin wanted the USSR to keep Poland to make sure there was a country between Germany and Russia.

However, British Prime Minister Churchill was worried that Stalin was trying to takeover countries to add to his communist empire.

The USA and USSR (along with Britain) agreed that a UNITED NATIONS would be set up after WW2 had finished. This was key as it showed the allies working together to make sure there would not be a war in the future.

Teheran Conference: November-December 1943

Versailles.



Chapter 1 – Beginnings of the Cold War

The Yalta Conference, 1945:

- In the first few months of 1945, WW2 was still going on.
 - Therefore, at the Yalta Conference, the USA & USSR were still allies who mostly agreed.
 - The USSR still agreed to help the USA fight Japan and they still agreed to create the United Nations to keep world peace after WW2.
 - The superpowers also agreed to split Germany and Berlin into 4 after the war.
 - However, they began to disagree on Poland - Stalin wanted to control it, but the USA wanted free elections.
 - They also disagreed on reparations – Stalin wanted to take more money off Germany to pay for the cost of WW2.
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- The USSR agreed they would support the USA in the war against Japan once Nazi Germany had surrendered. The USSR agreed to send an army of soldiers, weapons and resources.
 - The superpowers agreed to divide Germany into four zones, one for each of the countries who had defeated Germany: USA, British, French and Russian (USSR).
 - Poland was between Germany and the USSR. Stalin wanted a 'friendly' Polish government so that his country would have some protection if Germany wanted to invade them ever again. The USA feared that the USSR would take over Poland and Stalin would keep it as part of his communist empire.
 - They agreed to divide Berlin, the capital of Nazi Germany into four zones in the same way.
 - All the victorious countries agreed to hunt down Nazi war criminals and put them on trial in an international court of justice.

- It was not clear how much Germany was to pay for losing the war. Stalin wanted a much more money than either Roosevelt or Churchill. A decision couldn't be made and the matter was delayed until they met again.
- The superpowers agreed to allow countries that had been freed from Nazi Germany would have free elections to choose the government they wanted.
- All nations were to join the new United Nations Organisation in order to keep world peace once the war ended.
- That eastern Europe would be a USSR 'sphere of influence', where the USSR would have more control.

Yalta Conference: Febraury 1945



Stalin (USSR)

Roosevelt (USA)

Churchill(Britain)

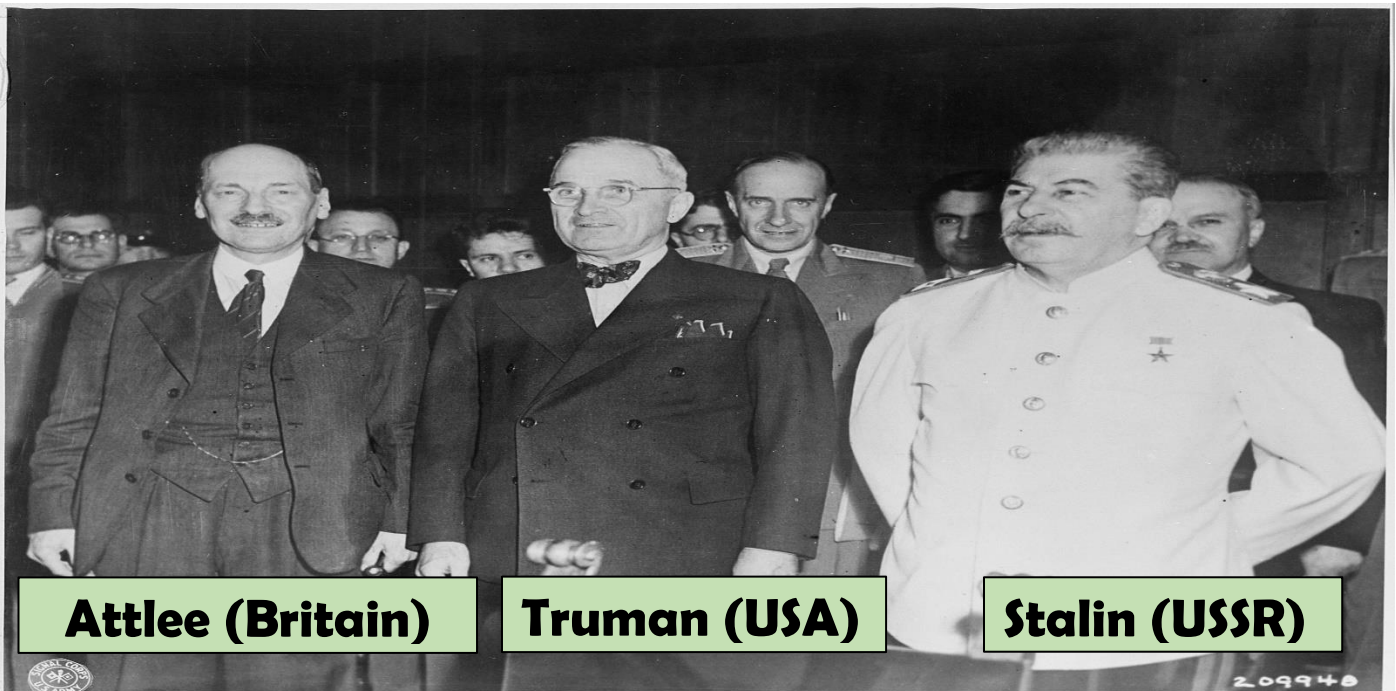
Chapter 1 – Beginnings of the Cold War

The Potsdam Conference, later in 1945:

- In April 1945, Hitler killed himself. By May 1945, the war in Europe was over and Germany surrendered.
 - The USA and USSR had no “common enemy”, Nazi Germany had gone.
 - Also, the leaders changed – Truman replaced Roosevelt and described Stalin as “like Hitler”.
 - This meant that relations became more tense at the Potsdam Conference.
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- At the conference, the leaders agreed to **divide Germany and Berlin** as agreed. Each of the four zones of Germany and four sectors of Berlin was occupied and controlled by one of the victors of WW2 – USA, Russia, Britain and France.
 - It was decided that Germany would be **demilitarised (get rid of the army)** & that there would be **elections & freedom of speech.**
 - It was decided that Germany would have to **pay reparations** (compensation) to the Allies for their loss during the war. **Most money would go to the USSR.**
 - However, the Allies **argued over how much they should pay.** Stalin wanted a massive amount, but Truman refused as he did not want Germany to be punished in the way as WW1.
 - The **Nazi Party was banned.** Nazis were removed from important positions and were put on trial for war crimes.
 - Truman wanted **free elections in the countries of Eastern Europe (like Poland).** However the USSR did not want to give up the countries he now controlled.

- **Stalin set up a communist government in Poland**, ignoring the agreements made at Yalta. Stalin insisted that his control of Eastern Europe was only to defend possible future attacks. Britain and the USA were worried and angered by this decision.
- USA and Soviet Union disagreed about the use of weapons. Stalin's 'Red Army' was the biggest in the world yet he still refused to cut it down after the war and instead further increased it in size. This angered the USA. In response, at the conference, Truman informed Stalin that he had just successfully tested an atomic bomb for the first time. Stalin was furious.

Potsdam Conference: July-August 1945



Attlee (Britain)

Truman (USA)

Stalin (USSR)

Chapter 1 – Beginnings of the Cold War

The Truman Doctrine, 1947

- The USSR had turned a lot of satellite states communist.
- Now, the communists were fighting to take control in Greece and Turkey.
- President Truman knew he had to find a way to stop the spread of communism, otherwise the USSR would take over the whole of Europe.
- The Truman Doctrine “guaranteed” freedom to all the countries of Europe.
- This meant he committed to stopping communism spreading any further – this was called “containment”.

Why was The Truman Doctrine introduced?

- Its real purpose was to defend European countries against Communist takeover.
- Truman believed that the USSR wanted to spread Communism further.
- USA had a lot more money than the USSR, and Truman wanted to take advantage of this.
- In Greece, the government was fighting against the Communists for control of the country. The USA sent aid to help the Greek government. This was the first time the USA had directly got involved in a European country since the end of WW2, with the aim of stopping communism spreading.

What were the consequences of The Truman Doctrine?

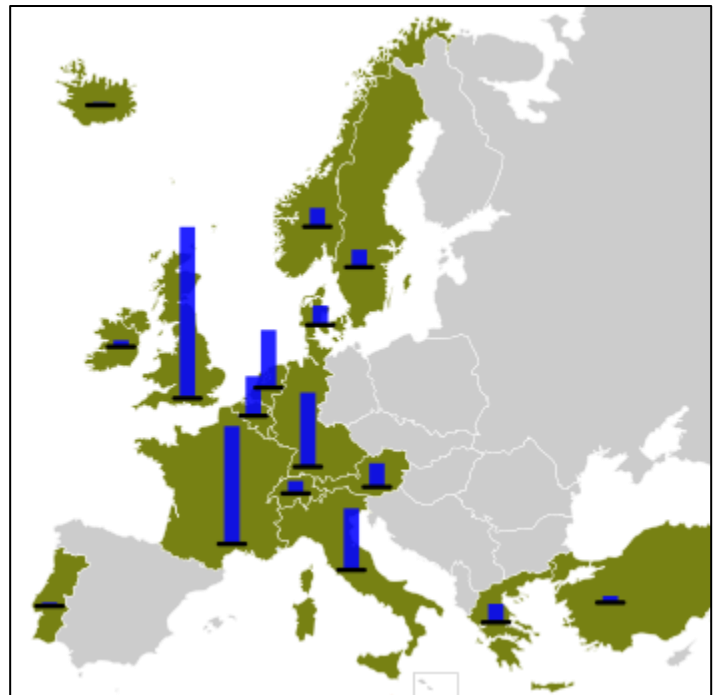
- The Greek government, with USA help, were able to defeat the Communists.
- The USA gave money to many countries in Europe. This money was called “Marshall Aid”. However, it wasn’t just charity – those countries had to spend the money on goods from the USA! The USA had stopped the spread of communism AND made alliances with European countries.
- The USA was now committed to a policy of ‘containment’ – *not attacking* Communist countries but preventing it from spreading to any more countries.
- The rivalry between the USA and the USSR increased. Countries had either become communist and part of the USSR, or taken money from the USA and formed an alliance.



Chapter 1 – Beginnings of the Cold War

The Marshall Plan, 1947

- The Truman Doctrine committed the USA to stopping communism spreading any further – this was called “containment”.
 - Truman could not send soldiers, or war would break out between the superpowers.
 - So the USA used their best weapon – money.
 - The USA gave \$13 billion to countries in Europe to stop them from turning communist.
 - However, these countries were locked in an alliance with the USA because they HAD to spend this money on US goods.
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- Truman didn't want to send actual soldiers to Europe to fight against Communism. He also did not want the poor European countries to fall to Communism as he knew they were the most vulnerable.
 - The Marshall Plan was given to all war-torn countries. This meant helping to re-equip their factories and to revive agriculture and trade. The US offered money, equipment and goods to countries, BUT these countries had to spend the money on US industries and to buy US goods.
 - Due to the Marshall Plan, Europe's economy began to recover from World War Two. However these countries were now dependent on the US for help. The USA gave \$13bn US aid to Europe.
 - The east/west divide in Europe was now clear as Stalin would not allow Eastern European countries to accept Marshall Aid.



This bar chart shows how much money was given to countries in Europe near to the Iron Curtain

Chapter 1 – Beginnings of the Cold War

The Berlin Blockade & Airlift, 1948-49

- West Berlin was capitalist. However, it was behind the Iron Curtain.
- Stalin and the USSR wanted the USA, Britain & France to leave West Berlin.
- He decided to “starve them out”, by blocking off all road, rail and canal links into West Berlin.
- But the USA, Britain and France flew in supplies to keep the people in West Berlin alive.
- The USA were seen as heroes and Stalin backed down.

Causes of the Berlin Blockade:

- Britain, France and the USA had merged their zones together. It was called “Trizonia”. Stalin felt the Western allies were joining together to become stronger in Germany and especially Berlin.

- Britain, France and the USA had then introduced a new currency called the ‘Deutschmark’ in their zones, but didn’t tell Stalin.

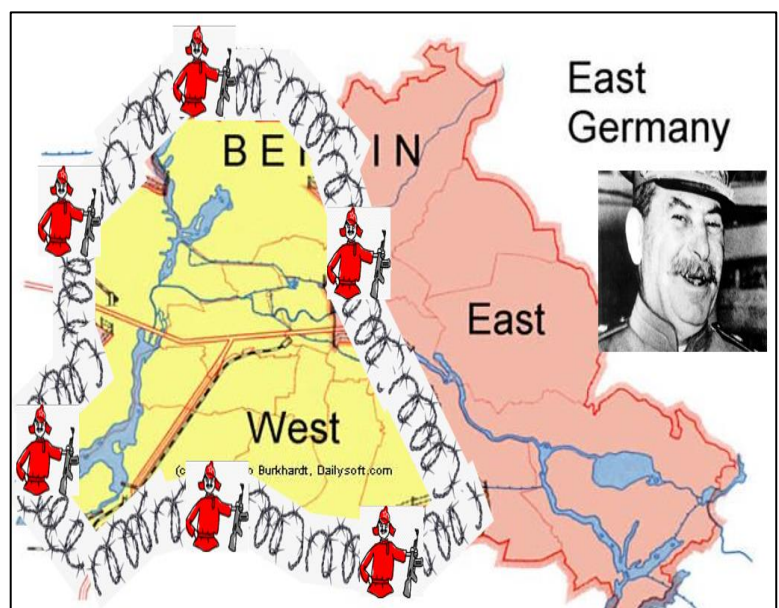


- There was a crisis in the USSR as many people wanted to leave the Soviet Zone in Berlin and move to Trizonia because the capitalist countries offered a better quality of life and more freedoms.

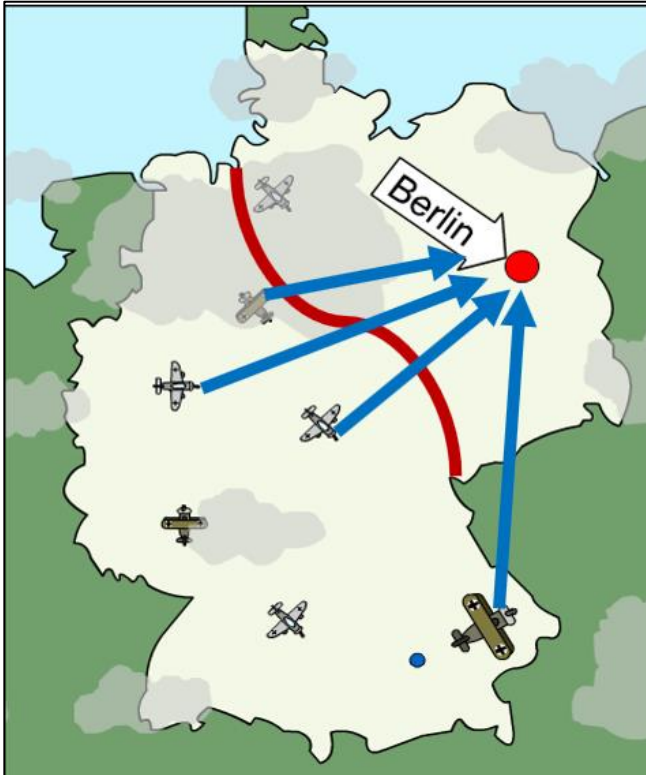
- Stalin was embarrassed by West Berlin, a capitalist area behind the Iron Curtain.

What happened?

In June 1948 Stalin cut off all road, rail and canal links to West Berlin - the Berlin Blockade. The city only had 6 weeks supplies of food and fuel. Stalin aimed to “starve out” the 2 million inhabitants in West Berlin. He believed that Truman and the USA would give up and leave West Berlin.



The Airlift



The Allied powers, mainly Britain & USA flew food and other supplies into West Berlin – without these they would certainly have died.

- 275,000 flights carried 1.5 million tonnes of supplies.
- At its peak, a plane landed every 90 seconds!
- The airlift cost over \$100 million.
- 79 servicemen lost their lives during this time.

Consequences of the Berlin Blockade & Airlift:

- The USA and capitalist countries seemed like the heroes, who would go to great lengths to support their people and block the threat of Stalin by flying supplies into West Berlin. Stalin and the USSR were seen as aggressively trying to "starve out" the people of West Berlin. Stalin and the USSR had to back down.
- Germany, and its capital of Berlin, was now officially divided in two. On the one side of the Iron Curtain was capitalist West Germany. West Germany was allies with the USA, Britain and France. On the other side of the Iron Curtian was the communist East Germany which would belong to the USSR.
- As Stalin and the USSR had aggressively blockaded West Berlin, the USA, Britain, France and other capitalist countries created an armed group called NATO in 1949. If any country in this group was threatened again, all the countries would join together to support. The USSR created the communist armed group in 1955 and called it the Warsaw Pact.

Chapter 1 – Beginnings of the Cold War

NATO (1949) vs the Warsaw Pact (1955)

- The USA and other capitalist countries were concerned that the USSR had blockade West Berlin and tried to “starve them out”.
- Therefore, they created an “armed group” – this group was called NATO.
- If the USSR (or anyone else) threatened a country who was in NATO, then all the members of NATO would join together in support to fight off the threat.
- The USSR responded by creating its own “armed group” called the Warsaw Pact.

NATO

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was formed in 1949 by the Western powers, with the USA as its leader. This was during the period of the Berlin Blockade, and was partly in response to Stalin's aggression. The original twelve members of NATO in 1949 were the USA, the UK, Canada, France, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg. NATO was a military alliance that committed all members to the defence of all the others.

But NATO was more than a promise of American help in an emergency. The alliance was to be supported by large numbers of soldiers on the ground. In particular, there were a large number of troops in West Germany. By 1953, 5 divisions of US soldiers were permanently based there, close to the Iron Curtain.

Stalin, unsurprisingly, saw NATO as a threat to the USSR and Eastern Europe.

Warsaw Pact

The Warsaw Pact was set up in 1955. The Warsaw Pact was a military alliance of the USSR and its satellite states. It was intended as a counter-force to NATO.

The Warsaw Pact, like NATO, stated that if one nation was attacked, the others would come to its support.

Consequences of the setting up of NATO & Warsaw Pact?

- Stalin believed the armed group of NATO was a major threat, increasing tensions.
- The “Arms Race” deepened - the superpowers fighting to have the strongest military.
- Europe and the world was divided even more - now between two major military groups.



QUIZ - The beginning of the Cold War 1941-1956

The Conferences

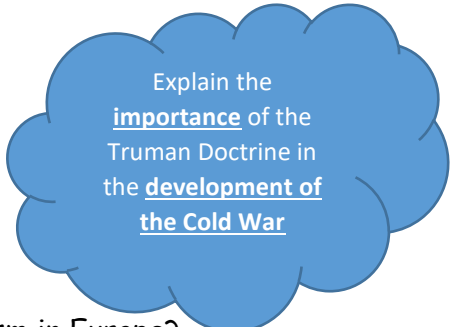
1. When was the Teheran Conference? What was agreed there?
2. When was the Yalta Conference? Name one thing that was agreed there.
3. Name one thing the superpowers disagreed about at the Yalta conference.
4. When was the Potsdam Conference? Name one thing that was agreed there.
5. What was the big change between the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences that made relations worse?
6. What were the jobs of the men involved in the Telegrams?



Write an analytical narrative of the Conferences

Soviet Expansion in Europe & the USA's response.

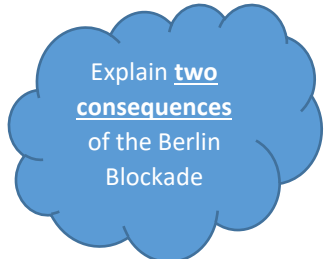
7. What was the Truman Doctrine? A promise to.....
8. What was the key term for what Truman planned to do to communism in Europe?
9. What was the name of the money given by the USA to the countries of Europe to stop the spread of communism?
10. What did the countries who received the \$13 billion of US money have to do?
11. What was the name of the USSR's 2 policies which were consequences of the "Truman Doctrine"?



Explain the importance of the Truman Doctrine in the development of the Cold War

Berlin Crisis 1948-49

12. Identify 2 causes of the Berlin Crisis in 1948.
13. What did Stalin try to do to West Berlin?
14. How did the West respond to the Berlin Crisis?
15. At its peak, how often did a plane land in West Berlin?



Explain two consequences of the Berlin Blockade





16. What two countries were created after the Berlin crisis 1948-49?

17. What two "armed gangs" were created after the Berlin crisis 1948-49?

Chapter 2 – The Cold War Crises

The building of the Berlin Wall, 1961:

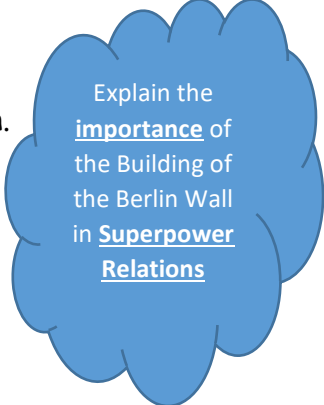
- Berlin had caused tension between the superpowers since WW2. This carried on after the Berlin Blockade/Airlift of 1948/49.
- Khrushchev wanted the USA to leave capitalist West Berlin, just like Stalin had. He was worried about the amount of refugees leaving from the USSR for more freedom and a better life.
- Relations became even worse when the USSR shot down an American U2-spy plane.
- Khrushchev built a wall around West Berlin, meaning nobody from the USSR could leave.

November 1958	First Ultimatum: Khrushchev declared that the whole of the city of Berlin officially “belonged” to East Germany and gave American troops six months to get out of Berlin.
May 1959	Summit 1 in Geneva - Khrushchev admitted that USA had the right to access WEST Berlin and backed down. The Superpowers (USA and USSR) agreed to meet again.
September 1959	Summit 2: Camp David (USA) - Khrushchev’s first visit to the USA. It seemed to be successful and a further meeting was agreed for May 1960. 
5 th May 1960	 9 days before the summit conference was due to open the USSR shot down an American U-2 spy plane!
14 th May 1960	Summit 3: Paris – this summit was very tense because of the U-2 spy plane. Khrushchev demanded that all US flights stop and that the USA give an apology for spying. President Eisenhower refused to apologise and Khrushchev walked out of the conference in protest!
January 1961	The number of refugees leaving East Berlin for the west increased to more than 20,000 a month. People were desperate to go from East to West. Khrushchev arranged another summit conference with the new president of the USA (Kennedy) hoping that he would be able to bully him into leaving Berlin.
June 1961	Summit 4: Vienna – an angry Khrushchev again issued the six month ultimatum for the USA to get out of Berlin. Kennedy refused to withdraw and increased US military spending by \$3.2 billion. He also decided to spend an extra \$207 million on building nuclear shelters.
July 1961	In response, Khrushchev announced that the Soviet military budget would be increased by more than 30%. However, Khrushchev knew that the USA was stronger and would win a nuclear war.
12 th /13 th August 1961	 Overnight, Khrushchev closed the border between East and West Berlin and East German police placed barbed wire along the 50km line dividing the two sections. As the day progressed, construction of a 50km wall got under way to stop people leaving the USSR and escaping to the free, capitalist West.
27 th October 1961	Standoff at Checkpoint Charlie (a crossing point between East and West). Soviet tanks pulled up to Checkpoint Charlie and refused to allow the USA any further access to the East. US and Soviet tanks faced each other all day in an extremely tense stand-off until after 18 hours, one by one, five metres at a time, the tanks pulled back. 

QUIZ - The Cold War Crises in the 1960s

Berlin Crisis, 1959-61

1. What was shot down during the summits between the superpowers?
2. What is the key term for the people fleeing East Berlin for West Berlin?
3. Give 2 reasons why people were desperate to leave East Berlin for West Berlin.
4. What year was the Berlin Wall built?
5. Who was in charge of the USSR when the Berlin Wall was built?
6. After tensions had built up during the summits, what happened at Checkpoint Charlie?



Explain the importance of the Building of the Berlin Wall in Superpower Relations