

## Essential Questions and Answers... Cold War Crises and the end of the Cold War, 1958-1991

QUESTION	ANSWER
1. What was the <b>Berlin Ultimatum</b> of 1958?	Khrushchev's demands to the Western allies (USA, France, GB) to leave West Berlin.
2. What did the Berlin Ultimatum say?	That the Western allies had 6 months to leave West Berlin and that it should be a free city (with its own independent government).
3. What was discussed at the <b>Geneva summit meeting</b> in May 1959?	How Berlin should be run. No agreement was reached.
4. Who met at Camp David (in the USA) in September 1959?	Khrushchev and Eisenhower. They could not agree on a way forward for Berlin but the USSR did withdraw the Berlin Ultimatum.
5. What was a <b>U2</b> ?	An American spy plane. It could fly at 70,000 feet and take photographs of Soviet bomber plane bases and missile sites.
6. When was Gary Power's spy plane shot down by the USSR?	1 May 1960. It was shot down by a SAM (surface to air missile).
7. Who was the leader of the USSR at this time?	Nikita Khrushchev.
8. What did Khrushchev do about the U2?	He said the USSR had shot down a plane (but did not say it was a spy plane).
9. How did the American president, Eisenhower, respond?	He said it was a weather plane.
10. What did Khrushchev do next?	He showed the photos Gary Powers had taken, proving it was a spy plane and that Eisenhower was lying.
11. How did the U2 crisis make the Cold War worse?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khrushchev walked out of the <b>Paris Peace Summit</b> meeting because Eisenhower refused to apologise for spying on the USSR. This meant that plans to discuss reunifying Germany and reducing weapons did not happen. This helped cause the Berlin Wall to be built.</li> <li>• The USA was made to look bad because they were spying on the USSR and lying about it.</li> </ul>
12. What happened at the <b>Vienna summit meeting</b> in June 1961?	Kennedy (the new US president) met Khrushchev. Khrushchev renewed the Berlin Ultimatum, demanding western forces leave West Berlin. Kennedy refused. Relations between the 2 leaders were strained.
13. Why did the East German government build the <b>Berlin Wall</b> ?	They wanted to stop people leaving communist East Germany. About 4 million East Germans had defected to the West by 1961 (left the communist East) because living conditions were poor in the East and people in the West had more freedoms and a good standard of living. Many of the defectors were skilled workers.
14. When did they build the Berlin Wall?	They put up a barbed wire divide between East and West Berlin on 13 August 1961. They then build a 45 km concrete wall around West Berlin, with watchtowers, guards and guard dogs. All movement between East and West Berlin was stopped.
15. What effect did it have on the people of Berlin?	Families were split up. Those caught trying to cross the wall were shot e.g. Peter Fechter. 41 people were shot in the first year. It reduced defections enormously.
16. What effect did it have on the Cold War?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It created tension. On 27 October 1961 there was a stand-off between Soviet and US tanks at Checkpoint Charlie which lasted 18 hours. If one side had fired, it could have turned into a crisis or even war.</li> <li>• After this, tensions decreased between the USA and USSR.</li> <li>• The USA used it for propaganda: they said that it proved that communism was a bad system if the government had to build a wall to stop people escaping. The new American president, Kennedy, visited West Berlin in 1963. He said Berlin was a symbol of the struggle between freedom and communism.</li> <li>• The Communist said the wall was an 'anti-fascist protection barrier' to stop Western spies getting in. The wall remained in place until 1989.</li> </ul>

17. When was the <b>Cuban Missile Crisis</b> ?	October 1962.
18. What caused the crisis?	In 1958, Fidel Castro took over Cuba after a revolution. He was communist. This scared the USA because Cuba was close to the USA. The USA tried to replace him in 1961 with the previous leader, Batista, who was friendly with the USA. (Called the 'Bay of Pigs' invasion.) This scared Castro who turned to the USSR for help. The USSR provided Cuba with weapons and in 1962 American spy planes photographed Soviet missiles on Cuba. These had a range of 2500 miles and could destroy most American cities. More Soviet ships were on their way to Cuba.
19. What did America do to stop the Soviet ships?	On 20 October they put a naval blockade around Cuba to stop missiles reaching Cuba. At first, Khrushchev said he would force his way through the blockade and that he would use nuclear weapons in the event of a war. Both countries were on high alert.
20. What did the USSR do next?	Khrushchev ordered the ships to turn back. He then sent 2 letters to Kennedy. In letter 1, he said he'd take missiles off Cuba if the USA called off the blockade. In letter 2, he said he'd take the missiles off Cuba if the USA took their missiles off Turkey. Kennedy ignored the 2 <sup>nd</sup> letter and responded to the 1 <sup>st</sup> ; the crisis was over. (Kennedy secretly agreed to take missiles off Turkey.)
21. What were the results of the Cuban Missile Crisis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both countries realised how close they had come to nuclear war so they took steps to improve relations.</li> <li>• A telephone hotline was set up between America and the USSR so they could discuss problems quickly in future.</li> <li>• In 1963, the Test Ban Treaty was signed. This banned the testing of nuclear weapons in the air and under water. This was a step towards reducing arms.</li> </ul>
22. Why did both countries claim they had 'won' the crisis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khrushchev said he was the peacemaker as he had turned the ships around and tried to resolve the crisis. He was criticised for backing down. He did get the USA to take missiles off Turkey (but this was done secretly).</li> <li>• Kennedy became a hero for being 'tough' with the USSR. He had stopped the USSR putting missiles on Cuba and protected the USA. (He did, however, take missiles off Turkey but this was done in secret.)</li> </ul>
23. What other treaties were signed in the 1960s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1968-the Outer Space Treaty. They promised to use outer space for peaceful purposes and not for nuclear weapons.</li> <li>• 1968-Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. The aim was to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. Countries who signed it agreed not to develop nuclear weapons, limiting nuclear weapons to only those countries who had already developed them.</li> </ul>
24. What was life like in <b>Czechoslovakia</b> before 1968?	It was communist and had been under the influence of the USSR since 1948. People had few freedoms.
25. Who became the leader of Czechoslovakia in 1968?	Alexander Dubcek.
26. What changes did he make in Czechoslovakia?	He introduced new laws (reforms). For example, censorship of the press was ended; other political parties were allowed; he wanted to encourage trade with the West (capitalist countries). He promised he would not leave the Warsaw Pact (as Hungary had tried to do in 1956.)
27. What was the name given to Dubcek's reforms?	<b>The Prague Spring.</b>
28. How did the USSR respond?	In August 1968, 500,000 Warsaw Pact troops entered Czechoslovakia to stop the changes. Most protests by the Czech people was passive but Jan Palach (a student) set himself alight in protest. The Prague Spring reforms were removed and Husak replaced Dubcek as the leader of Czechoslovakia.
29. What was the <b>Brezhnev Doctrine</b> ?	The plans of the USSR, named after the leader, Brezhnev. Brezhnev said that force would be used wherever necessary to keep communist countries under control.

30. Did the West get involved?	No. The USA criticised the USSR but did not want to start a war by interfering in a communist country that was under the influence of the USSR.
31. What were the consequences of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary worsening of relations between the West and the USSR.</li> <li>• Some communist countries criticised the USSR for attacking another communist country. E.g. China, who were worried the USSR might do the same to them one day.</li> </ul>
32. What was <b>Détente</b> ?	A period of improved relations between the USA and the USSR in the 1970s.
33. Why did the USA and the USSR need to get on better?	Both sides had realised how close they had come to war over Cuba. They also needed to cut back on the amount of money they spent on weapons. For example, the USA was fighting in the Vietnam War which cost \$66 million a day in 1968.
34. What was <b>SALT I</b> ?	An agreement signed in 1972. It limited the number of ICBMs (Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles) each side could have. They also agreed they could spy on each other to make sure they stuck to their agreement.
35. What was the <b>Helsinki Agreement</b> ?	An agreement signed by 35 countries, including the USA and the USSR, in 1975. They agreed to improve human rights e.g. freedom of speech and religion. The USSR bought grain from the USA and the West bought oil from the USSR. They recognised the frontiers in Europe (this meant they would not try to change them) and the USSR accepted the existence of West Berlin.
36. What other events showed the USA and the USSR were getting on better?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The US president, Nixon visited the USSR and China.</li> <li>• The US table tennis team played tournaments in China.</li> <li>• US and Soviet cosmonauts docked their spacecraft together in orbit.</li> </ul>
37. What caused Détente to end in the late 1970s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The USA was frustrated that human rights had not improved in communist countries.</li> <li>• The USSR invaded Afghanistan in 1979.</li> </ul>
38. Why did the USSR invade <b>Afghanistan</b> in December 1979?	They were worried that Muslim groups were taking control (as they had in close-by Iran) and this could spread to Muslim areas of the USSR. They also wanted to use Afghanistan as a route to the oil fields of the Middle East.
39. What happened during the war in Afghanistan?	The USSR fought Mujahideen rebels who used guerrilla tactics. The Mujahideen was supplied by the USA, China and a rich Saudi called Osama Bin Laden. It was an unwinnable war for the USSR: they lost 20,000 soldiers and cost them a lot of money.
40. How did the USA react to the invasion of Afghanistan by the USSR?	Angrily. President Carter said the USSR was threatening world peace and the USA boycotted the Moscow Olympics of 1980. This angered the USSR who then boycotted the Los Angeles Games in 1984. The 'Carter Doctrine' also stated the USA would promise military aid to all countries bordering Afghanistan. The USA refused to sign the SALT II agreement and they stopped selling grain to the USSR. This ended Détente.
41. What was the ' <b>Second Cold War</b> '?	The nickname given to a period of tense relations between the USA and the USSR, largely caused by the new President of the USA, Ronald Reagan.
42. What were Reagan's policies?	<p>He took a tough approach to the USSR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1983 he called the USSR an 'evil empire' and said the USA was the forces of 'good'.</li> <li>• He increased spending on weapons. New weapons, like Trident submarines and Stealth bombers, were made.</li> <li>• He announced the 'Reagan Doctrine'. This said the USA would support anti-communist rebel groups trying to overthrow communist governments.</li> </ul>
43. What was the <b>Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI)</b> ?	Another of Reagan's policies (nicknamed 'Star Wars'). The USA would put satellites in space with powerful lasers. These could shoot down Soviet missiles to stop them reaching the USA.
44. Why was SDI a turning point in the arms race and the Cold War?	The USSR was shocked. Their missiles would now be no use but they did not have the computer technology or the money to build their own SDI system. This influenced Gorbachev's 'new thinking'.

45. What problems were there in the USSR when Mikhail Gorbachev became leader in 1985?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The USSR was poor. There was little industrial growth and standards of living were low.</li> <li>• There was unrest in communist countries that was only kept in check by the secret police. In Poland the trade union 'Solidarity' was a threat to the communists and was banned.</li> </ul>
46. What was Gorbachev's 'new thinking'?	<p>The new leader of the USSR knew that there were many problems in the USSR and things had to change. He decided to reform communism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glasnost: there should be more openness (e.g. freedom of speech).</li> <li>• Perestroika: the USSR should make their economy better by allowing parts of capitalism.</li> <li>• He dropped the Brezhnev Doctrine: the USSR would not get involved in other communist countries. He said Warsaw Pact countries could make changes without interference from the USSR. This was nicknamed the 'Sinatra Doctrine'.</li> <li>• Reduced spending on weapons and defence.</li> </ul>
47. How did the USA respond to Gorbachev's 'new thinking'?	It improved relations between the USA and USSR. Reagan saw an opportunity to end the Cold War.
48. What happened at the summit meetings of the 1980s?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reykjavik 1986: Gorbachev suggested phasing out nuclear weapons if the USA gave up the SDI. Reagan refused.</li> <li>2. Washington 1987: they signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty (INF). Both countries would get rid of all mid-range land-based missiles.</li> <li>3. Malta 1989: Gorbachev met George Bush, the new US president. No agreements were signed but it marked the end of the Cold War. Gorbachev said, "I will never start a hot war against the USA". Bush said, "We can realise a lasting peace".</li> </ol>
49. What effect did Gorbachev giving up the Brezhnev Doctrine have on communist countries in Eastern Europe?	They were free to choose how they would be run without the USSR interfering, as it had in Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968). This led to the collapse of communist rule in all Eastern European countries between 1989-1990. For example, in November 1989, the 'Velvet Revolution' in Czechoslovakia, overthrew the communist government and elected the anti-communist, Vaclav Havel, as president. This also led to the end of the Warsaw Pact in 1991.
50. What happened in East Germany in 1989?	Many East Germans wanted more freedoms. In October 1989, Gorbachev said he would not help the East German government stop public demonstrations. On 1 November, 1 million East Germans demonstrated, demanding democracy and free elections. The government announced the border crossing to West Germany would be opened. Thousands of East Berliners forced their way through the crossing. People on both sides starting pulling down the Berlin Wall. East and West Germany were formally reunited in 1990.
51. What happened to the Warsaw Pact?	The Warsaw Pact was formally ended in July 1991. This meant Eastern European countries no longer had to do what the USSR said. Every single member of the Warsaw Pact abandoned communism.
52. How did the USSR fall apart?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gorbachev was not popular in the USSR with hard-line communists who thought he had made weakened communism. 8 government officials staged a coup (took over) in August 1991, but it did not last long.</li> <li>• Countries in the USSR wanted independence. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania declared themselves independent in 1990. This encouraged other countries to do the same. The USSR was falling apart. Gorbachev officially announced the <b>dissolution of the Soviet Union</b> in December 1991 and resigned.</li> </ul>