

# iGCSE History – Quick View: The Origins of the Cold War

Summary		Stages		Topic and key questions:	
The USA, GB and the USSR were allies during WWII and formed the 'Grand Alliance' to defeat Germany and Fascism. After the war they became 'rivals' as the USSR sought to secure communist governments in Europe and the USA tried to resist this. This became known as 'The Cold War'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long Term problems (Pre WWII)</li> <li>Differences in Ideology (Capitalism vs Communism)</li> <li>Key events</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why did a Cold War begin after WWII?</li> <li>Was the Grand Alliance just 'a marriage of convenience'?</li> <li>Who / What was responsible for starting this war?</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Events</b>				<b>Key vocabulary continued</b>	
1917	The Russian Revolution establishes a Communist regime in Russia	<b>1948 Feb</b>	Communists take control of Czechoslovakia – Jan Masaryk pro western politician is murdered.	<b>Iron Curtain</b>	'nickname' given the division of Europe into east and West (East was communist, West was democratic / capitalist)
1930s	Hitler & Germany embarks on an expansionist foreign policy leading to War in 1939 (September)	June	Stalin blockades Berlin – Allies respond with an Airlift (First major post war clash)	<b>Liberation</b>	When a country is 'freed' from occupation by another country
1941	German invades Russia – The Grand Alliance is formed between the USA, GB & the USSR	<b>1949 April</b>	NATO created (Western military alliance) – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation	<b>One Party State</b>	Where only one party is allowed to exist – the opposite of a democracy which is 'multi-party'.
1943	Tehran Conference – the GA agree to open a 'second front'	May	Stalin calls off blockade of Berlin	<b>Red Army</b>	The Army of the Soviet Union (USSR)
1944 June	<b>D-Day Landings:</b> The Opening of the Second Front	Aug	USSR explode an atomic bomb (First Lightening) Represents the start of an Arms Race	<b>Satellite State</b>	When one country is under the political, social and economic control of another country
1945 Feb	<b>YALTA</b> Conference: War in Europe almost over. They agree to divide Germany & hold free elections	Oct	Germany into GDR & FDR: German Democratic Republic (East) & federal Republic of Germany (West)	<b>Sphere of Influence</b>	When one country seeks to control the countries on its borders politically and economically. (Like satellite states)
April	President Roosevelt dies – replaced by Truman who was vice President. (Hitler commits suicide)	<b>Key vocabulary</b>		<b>Superpower</b>	Describes a country with great military, economic and political influence. E.g USA and USSR after WWII
May 8	VE Day – Victory in Europe.	<b>Arms Race</b>	Countries compete to make more weapons	<b>Key People</b>	
July / Aug	<b>Potsdam</b> Conference: Berlin. USSR agrees to enter war against Japan. Truman takes a hard-line.	<b>Blockade</b>	Stopping goods / people from entering or leaving	<b>Attlee</b>	Clement – Labour Party. Won election after WWII in GB to replace Churchill (at Potsdam)
Aug 6 & 9	Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki. <b>Key debate</b> – military or political reasons?	<b>Buffer Zone</b>	A protective barrier of friendly countries	<b>Churchill</b>	Winston - British PM (replaced Chamberlain in 1940) – Long standing politician, distrusted Stalin and communism.
1946 Feb	Kennan's 'Long Telegram' – warns of Soviet 'expansionism' (8,000 words long!)	<b>Cold War</b>	When two countries threaten each other but do not fight directly	<b>Kennan</b>	George – A US diplomat that had been based in Moscow before WWII. The 'architect' of the containment policy.
Mar	Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' Speech – seen by Stalin as 'warlike' in response to Stalin's actions in Eastern Europe	<b>Containment</b>	The policy followed by the USA after WWII (Announced by Truman) to stop the spread of communism	<b>Marshall</b>	George (General) – Truman's Secretary of State and architect of the European Recovery Programme – Marshall Aid. \$13 billion to help contain communism in Europe
Sept	Novikov telegram – Soviet response to Kennan. Claims the USA is expansionist	<b>Deterrent</b>	Something which discourages one country to attack another	<b>Masaryk</b>	Jan – Czech foreign minister that accepted Marshall Aid but was found dead – murdered!
1947 Jan	Communist government established in Poland (Breaking the agreement made at Yalta)	<b>Free elections</b>	Where a range of political parties are allowed to compete fairly to win votes from the people	<b>Molotov</b>	Vyacheslav – Stalin's Foreign Minister who was behind the creation of the Soviet 'sphere of influence' after WWII
Mar	Truman announces his <b>Truman Doctrine</b> – offering support to countries resisting communism. (Context: Greek Civil War)	<b>Doctrine</b>	A set of political, military or economic beliefs	<b>Novikov</b>	Nikolai - Soviet ambassador to the USA, he warned that the USA had emerged from World War Two economically strong and bent on world domination.
June	Marshall Aid – offers financial assistance to Europe \$13 Billion. Also known as ERP. European Recovery Programme.	<b>Ideology</b>	A set of 'shared' political beliefs	<b>Roosevelt</b>	Franklin Delano (FDR) US President from 1933 – to his death in 1945. Had met privately with Stalin in Tehran
Sept	USSR creates Cominform to coordinate global communism	<b>Imperialism</b>	When a country seeks to extend its control over other countries	<b>Truman</b>	US President from April 1945. He took a hard line towards communism and introduced the policy of containment
<b>Key Concepts</b>		<b>Communism:</b> a set of political and economic beliefs followed by the USSR after WWII in which the state took control of all economic activity and where there was only one political party.		<b>Capitalism:</b> a set of political and economic beliefs followed by the USA and Western Europe where everyone could own property and businesses and make themselves wealthy.	
				<b>Democracy:</b> the belief that people should be able to choose their political representatives are by having regular multi-party elections. Democratically elected governments are representative and accountable to the people that elect them.	