

# Exploring The Cold War

## Information and Activity Pack

KS3: History

# Keywords Glossary

**Allies** When countries work together to achieve something, e.g. winning a war

**Bolshevik Revolution** A revolution in 1917 in which communists (see below) took over control of Russia and formed a government led by Vladimir Lenin

**Communism/communist** A political system in which all property is owned by the state, and everyone gives and receives according to their ability and needs. Everyone is expected to share their wealth so that there is no social class system. A country run with this political system is called a communist country

**Capitalist/Capitalism** A political system in which people are encouraged to make money for themselves and become wealthy. Buying private property is encouraged. A country run on this political system is called a capitalist country

**Democracy** A political system in which citizens can vote for their leaders

**Détente** An attempt to reduce the tension between the USA and the Soviet Union

**Guerrilla** A small group who fight against a larger army. Members are unlikely to be professionally trained by the military

**Ideology** A set of ideas, particularly political ideas

**Mujahideen** Muslim guerrilla fighters, motivated by their religious beliefs

**NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) An alliance between Western countries founded in 1949 to protect the freedom and security of its member countries

**Satellite State** A country that is formally independent, but under the heavy influence of another country

**Superpower** A country or state that has great power and influence globally (in the case of the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States of America are seen as the two key superpowers)

**The Marshall Plan** Financial aid (money) for Western Europe to stop the spread of communism

**The Truman Doctrine** Political aid to Western Europe to stop the spread of communism

**United Nations Organisation (UN)** An international organisation set up in 1945 aimed at increasing co-operation between member countries

**Warsaw Pact** A military alliance of eight nations led by the Soviet Union to counter the threat of NATO

# How did the Cold War start?

Towards the end of the Second World War, the leaders of the USA, Britain and the Soviet Union regularly met to decide on tactics and discuss how they would go forward in the war. The Soviet Union and the USA had only become **allies** out of their shared need and the desire to defeat Hitler.

In terms of **ideology**, there were huge differences between the two nations, as the USA was a **capitalist** country, whereas the Soviet Union was **communist**. This meant that as the war progressed and Germany's defeat looked likely, tensions grew as the Allies began making decisions about how to divide up land and resources.



Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference in February 1945

## Ideological Differences: Communism and Capitalism

Since the **Bolshevik Revolution** in 1917, Russia had been a communist country. This meant that its leaders wanted a society in which there was no divide between rich and poor. When Russia started expanding its territory into other neighbouring countries in 1922, it became known as the Soviet Union. One of the main aims of the Soviet Union was to spread communism into other countries. This was a threat to capitalist countries in the 'West' such as the USA, particularly when the Soviet Union expanded further and gained more power.

## Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam Conferences

Between 1943-45, there were three important meetings (known as conferences) where the leaders of Britain, the USA and the Soviet Union met to discuss their military tactics and wider aims for their countries. While there were a lot of things that the Allies agreed on, such as dividing Germany into four zones and setting up a **United Nations Organisation**, there were also disagreements.

These disagreements became more serious as time went on and meant that the atmosphere between the Western Allies and Stalin had begun to grow frosty by the time of the Potsdam Conference in July 1945. At this conference, Stalin was denied the massive financial compensation he wanted from Germany, and the leaders also disagreed about the future of **democracy** in Eastern Europe (the areas occupied by Soviet troops). The Western allies wanted free elections in these countries, while Stalin was against this.

Harry Truman (new President of the USA) was left furious after this final meeting and began a 'tough policy' against the Soviet Union. This marked the beginning of the Cold War.

**What is a Cold War?** A hot war is a 'traditional' war in which fighting takes place, such as the First and Second World Wars. In the Cold War, the two sides waged war in every way without directly fighting each other.

# How did the Cold War start?

## Activities to try at School

### Ideological Differences: Communism and Capitalism

It is important to appreciate the contrasting systems that the USA and the Soviet Union had during the time of the Cold War. This will help you to understand why the two sides feared the expansion of the other's ideology into their territory.

Divide the features listed below into the correct section of the table below.

- Not much censorship of the media (e.g. TV, newspapers)
- Only one political party
- Several different political parties
- Most businesses privately owned by individuals
- People can vote to change their government
- No voting or elections
- Some people are wealthier than others
- The media (e.g. TV, newspapers) is censored
- Everyone equal
- All businesses owned by the state, so there is no private profit

Capitalism (USA and their allies)	Communism (The Soviet Union and their allies)

### What is a Cold War?

1. In pairs or small groups, make a list of the features of a traditional 'hot' war.
2. Then discuss the following questions:
  - How might a Cold War be similar to a traditional war?
  - How might it be different?
  - What methods might the USA and Soviet Union have used to wage war without directly fighting?

# How did the Cold War develop?

## Soviet Satellite States

After the defeat of Germany in the Second World War, the Soviet Union immediately began spreading its influence over Eastern Europe. In part, this was for security reasons. The Soviet Union had been invaded by Germany twice (once in 1914, and again in 1941). In both cases they faced heavy losses and casualties. Stalin couldn't allow this to happen again, so created '**satellite states**' in Eastern Europe. These countries would act as a buffer if the Soviet Union came under attack, and were run by communist governments, under the heavy influence of the Soviet Union.

### The following countries were made into Soviet satellite states:

Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and East Germany (known as German Democratic Republic or GDR after 1949)

## Reflection

Discuss the following questions:

How might the creation of satellite states increase rivalry and tension between East and West?

How might the West respond to the creation of satellite states?

Read the speech bubble. What does it imply about the intensity of the division between East and West? Hint: Think about the properties of iron as a metal.

## The Long and Novikov telegrams (1946)

A telegram is an old form of communication that is similar to sending a text message.

The Long telegram was sent by George Kennan on 27 February 1946. Kennan, who was the USA's Deputy Chief of Mission at the US embassy in Moscow, saw the Soviet Union as suspicious and aggressive. He recommended that the US government take action against the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe. Kennan's telegram influenced the President of the USA, Harry Truman, who put in place the **policy of containment**.

The Soviet Union found out about the Long telegram and responded by sending the Novikov telegram. In this telegram, the Soviet ambassador to the USA, Nikolai Novikov, warned Stalin that the USA was set on world domination. As a result, the Soviet Union needed to secure its buffer zone (satellite states) in Eastern Europe.

**Containment** was an American policy to stop the spread of communism into non-communist countries. The USA used its military and influence around the world to achieve this.

## Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech

In March 1946, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill made a speech in which he said '**an iron curtain has descended across the continent of Europe.**'

The 'iron curtain' discussed by Churchill was an imaginary dividing line between capitalist West and communist East in Europe.



## The Truman Doctrine (1947)

US President Harry Truman was convinced that the Soviet Union was trying to spread communism and began his policy of containment. He was particularly worried when Greece was threatened by a communist takeover in 1947, as earlier that year Britain had announced that it could no longer afford to support the Greek and Turkish governments.



Harry Truman was the President of the USA between April 1945-January 1953.

In March 1947, Truman gave a speech in which he announced US support for Greece. The speech became known as the **Truman Doctrine**. As a result of the Truman Doctrine, the Greek government was able to prevent a communist takeover. After this success, the USA was increasingly committed to preventing the spread of communism and became more involved in Europe.

### Reflection

Discuss the following questions:

How might the Truman Doctrine have increased tension with the Soviet Union?

How might the Soviet Union respond or retaliate?

What methods could the USA use to prevent countries from turning to communism?

## The Marshall Plan (1947)

As a result of the Second World War, a lot of European countries were in financial difficulty and struggling to rebuild. Truman believed that countries with weaker economies would be more likely to support communism. It was decided that the USA would support its policy of containment by offering money to Europe. This was known as the **Marshall Plan**. By 1953, the US had provided \$17 billion in aid to help several European countries rebuild.

**Impact:** As a result of the Marshall Plan, East and West Europe were more divided than ever. While those in the West had their economies boosted, Stalin prevented Eastern European countries from getting involved with the USA, which meant they had a slow recovery after the Second World War. Stalin also accused the USA of attempting to boost their own economy and dominate Europe.

## The Soviet Response: Cominform (1947) and Comecon (1949)

The Soviet Union retaliated against the new US policies by setting up two rival organisations:

**Cominform** was set up in 1947 to co-ordinate and direct the various Communist parties of Eastern Europe, ensuring that they were working towards the aims of the Soviet Union. It helped Stalin maintain control and created a united front against the West.

**Comecon** was created in 1949 in response to the USA's Marshall Plan. It was meant to provide financial support to communist countries in Europe, however, it was mostly used to control the economies of these countries and strengthen the influence of the Soviet Union.

## North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

It was realised that Western Europe needed the ongoing formal support of the USA in case of attack by the Soviets. In April 1949, the twelve founding members (including the USA) signed the North Atlantic Treaty which strengthened the alliance in Western Europe, but deepened the division with Eastern Europe. In 1955, to counter the threat of NATO, the Soviet Union created **The Warsaw Pact**, which formalised the alliance between the Soviet Union and seven other countries in Eastern Europe.

# How was the RAF involved in the Cold War?

## The Berlin Airlift (1948-49)

In 1945 it was decided that Germany would be split between France, the UK, the USA, and the Soviet Union. Due to its location within Germany, Berlin (Germany's capital city) was located deep within Soviet territory, but the city was still split into four zones of occupation, rather than being handed over to the Soviets. The Western Allies (the USA, France and Britain) took over West Berlin, while the Soviet Union took the East.



RAF staff loading a Handley Page Hastings with supplies for the people of West Berlin

On 24 June 1948, with growing tension caused by contrasting standards of living between East and West Berlin, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin put a blockade in place which prevented Western supplies entering the city. He also called for the electricity to be cut off in West Berlin.

On the day the blockade was put in place, the people of West Berlin had just 36 days' worth of food and 45 days' worth of coal in reserve, but the Western Allies were determined not to abandon the people of Berlin. The West had just one option: an airlift.

The Royal Air Force and United States Air Force (USAF) launched the Berlin Airlift together. They planned to fly in 4,000 tons of supplies each day to prevent the collapse of West Berlin. By the start of 1949 5,290 RAF personnel and 160 women of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) were required to maintain the airlift to Berlin. It was a huge undertaking.

Between the start of the blockade on 24 June 1948, to its end on 12 May 1949, the Berlin Airlift flew in 2.3 million tons of supplies to the people of Berlin.

There were approximately 2 million people living in Berlin at the time of the blockade. To keep that population alive, the daily food requirement was:

**900** tons of potatoes

**106** tons of meat and fish

**641** tons of flour

**105** tons of cereals

This was a total of approximately 1,800 to 2,000 tons of food.

At the height of the operation, on 16 April 1949, an Allied aircraft landed in Berlin **every minute**.

Approximately **45 per cent** of the food and supplies taken into Berlin were flown in British aircraft.

The enormous success of the Allied airlift led to the Soviet decision to lift the blockade on 12 May 1949. However, the airlift continued until September to build up a reserve of supplies for Berlin in case the Soviets decided to reintroduce the blockade.

For the West, the airlift was seen as a huge success, but Stalin was left humiliated. This greatly increased rivalry between the two sides.

# What were the major crises of the Cold War?

As the Cold War progressed into the late 1950s to 1970s, tensions increased dramatically. By 1962, the two 'superpowers' were on the brink of nuclear war. This threatened the whole world due to both the potential destructive power of nuclear weapons and the number of allies both sides had across the globe. There were three main crises during this period.



The Berlin Wall under construction in August 1961

## The Berlin Wall

Between 1949-1961 roughly four million people left East Germany and headed to the West through Berlin. This was largely due to the standard of living being higher in West Germany. This angered Nikita Khrushchev (Soviet leader 1953-64) and led to the Berlin Ultimatum of 1958, in which he demanded that the Allies leave Berlin within six months and hand over control to his government. The USA did not want to go to war over this and were prepared to negotiate, but after many meetings between 1959-61, a compromise couldn't be agreed.

The tensions over Berlin continued to grow, which led to the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Overnight on 13 August, Khrushchev officially closed the border between East and West Germany and sent in East German troops to install barbed wire entanglements and fences to prevent anyone from escaping. Over time this makeshift wall was replaced with a tall concrete structure which was almost impossible to climb. The USA couldn't do anything to prevent this from happening.

The physical division of Berlin came at a great cost for the people of Germany. Many were split apart from their family, friends and support groups, and some lost their jobs as they were no longer able to travel to their workplace which was now on the other side of the wall.

## Reflection

Why might the Berlin Wall have decreased overall support for the Soviet Union in the East?



Women protesting for peace in the USA  
Photo © Phil Stanziola/Library of Congress

## The Cuban Missile Crisis

Since 1952, Cuba had been controlled by General Batista. He was a military dictator who was under the influence of the USA and allowed the USA to have control over Cuba's key industries. He was widely disliked, leading to a revolution in 1959, in which Fidel Castro took over as leader. Castro wanted greater independence for Cuba, leading him to act out against the USA. In response, the USA stopped importing sugar from Cuba, which nearly bankrupted the Cuban economy. The Soviet Union saw an opportunity and began buying and importing Cuban-made products and supporting them with machinery and technology. Castro already had some communist connections, but this strengthened them.

In 1961, the USA tried to overthrow Castro's government in an event known as the **Bay of Pigs** invasion. It was a failure for the USA, and Castro grew closer to the Soviet Union as a result. In May 1962, Castro agreed to the Soviet Union stationing nuclear weapons on Cuba. In October, an American U-2 spy plane took aerial reconnaissance photographs showing that missile sites were being built. Throughout October 1962 various deals and promises were made between the Soviet Union and the USA, resulting in the Soviet Union removing its nuclear weapons from Cuba and the USA removing theirs from Turkey. It was a swift de-escalation from what had been the most dangerous moment in the Cold War to date.



Aerial reconnaissance photograph taken by an American U-2 spy plane. The photo shows a medium range ballistic missile launch site at San Cristobal in Cuba.  
Photo © National Archives

### Do now...

The Cuban Missile Crisis and Bay of Pigs incident had some important consequences, and ultimately decreased tension between East and West. Do some further research to find out about the various consequences.

### The Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia

In the 1960s there was decreasing support for Soviet control in Czechoslovakia (today known as the Czech Republic). This was mostly due to their struggling economy and fall in the standard of living. Czech leader Alexander Dubček was also widely disliked by his people for being too 'hardline' in his communist beliefs and policies.

In 1968, Dubček surprised the people of his country when he announced a series of reforms, which became known as the **Prague Spring**. Overall, these reforms marked a partial move away from communism. Individual policies included:

- Removal of travel restrictions and new contact made with the West, including trade
- Increased political freedom, including free speech and reduction of press censorship
- Introduction of elements of capitalism into the economy
- A ten-year programme for political change to introduce democratic elections

**Soviet Control** The Soviet Union was understandably suspicious of the changes taking place in Czechoslovakia. In particular, the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was concerned that Czechoslovakia would leave the Warsaw Pact and join NATO instead (thereby becoming allies of the USA). Brezhnev was also under pressure from other leaders within Eastern Europe.

On 20-21 August 1968, thousands of Warsaw Pact troops entered Czechoslovakia. There was mass protest by Czech people, but ultimately the Warsaw Pact troops were successful. Dubček and other Czech leaders were arrested and taken to Moscow where they were forced to end their attempts to bring about democracy.

The Soviet invasion temporarily worsened relations between East and West and resulted in the Soviet Union tightening its grip on countries in the Warsaw Pact.

# How was the RAF involved in the Cold War?

## RAF Fylingdales

The image of a nuclear mushroom cloud and the fear of a four minute warning weighed heavy on the minds of all those who lived through the Cold War in the United Kingdom.

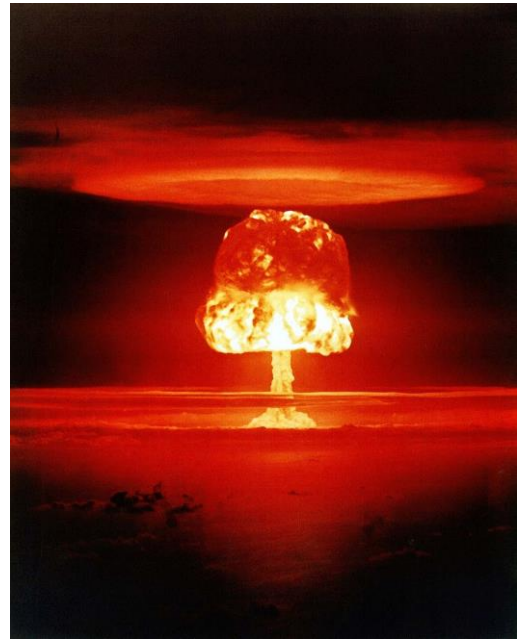
The mushroom image created by nuclear tests was seen widely throughout the media and illustrated the threat of a Third World War.

In the event of war, Soviet missiles launched against the United Kingdom would be detected by the Ballistic Missile Early Warning station at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire. This would give only a four minute warning before the missiles began to fall on their intended targets.

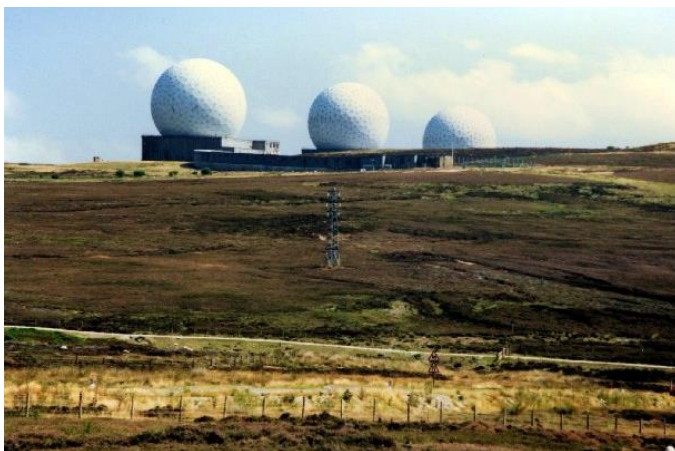
These four minutes would have allowed the RAF V- bombers (such as the Vulcan) to get into the air, but four minutes would not be long enough for the government to send a mass alert to the public.

The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System that was put into place during the Cold War is an ongoing partnership between the USA and UK. In the early 1960s there were already two similar stations in Greenland and Alaska. To ensure that the West was protected from Soviet threats, the two nations agreed to open a third station in England. This would provide overlapping coverage and protection.

RAF Fylingdales was opened in 1962 and was fully operational by September 1963. In addition to providing missile warnings, Fylingdales also played a second role as a base from which satellite launches and orbits could be detected, reported and tracked.



A mushroom cloud created by the dropping of a nuclear bomb



RAF Fylingdales as it looked until 1989 when the spherical 'golf ball' structures were replaced with a pyramid.

Photo © Lynne Kirton

To keep up with technological advances, the RADAR system at Fylingdales was upgraded in 1990 and the Solid State Phased Array Radar was declared operational in October 1992. Today, the RADAR at Fylingdales is capable of tracking objects including satellites and debris, 3000 miles into space.

RAF Fylingdales is part of UK Space Command, whose aim is 'Making space safe, secure and sustainable for all generations.'

# How was the RAF involved in the Cold War?

## Activities to try at School

To the right is a quote about a Vulcan pilot's experience during the Cold War. Complete the inference questions below based on this quote.

An inference is a bit like an educated guess based on a small amount of evidence.

For each inference you make, you need to support it with a **short** quote. There is an example question and answer below to give you an idea of how to answer.

**Example Question and Answer**  
What can you infer from this quote about how much pilots knew about their missions during the Cold War?

**Inference:** I can infer that RAF pilots weren't always aware of what they were heading into when sent on missions during the Cold War.

**Supporting Quote:** 'We were to fly East into the unknown.'

1. What can you infer from this quote about the destruction that nuclear weapons could cause?

Inference:.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Supporting Quote:.....  
.....

2. What can you infer from this quote about the chances of surviving a mission as a Vulcan pilot during the Cold War?

Inference:.....  
.....  
.....

Supporting Quote:.....

**'Had we been scrambled, we were to fly East into the unknown. What is pretty certain ... is the face of Lincolnshire would have been unrecognisable, had we been fortunate enough to return.'**

Air Vice Marshal Eric H Macey OBE, Vulcan pilot based at RAF Waddington (Lincolnshire) in 1961.

Source: Imperial War Museum Oral History 18089



© vulcancrewchief.org  
(President and Vice Presidents)

# How did the Cold War escalate?

## Activities to try at School

### Timeline Dominoes

Cut out the dominoes below, then place them end to end, ensuring that the events are in the correct chronological order.

**Challenge** Once you have laid out the dominoes in chronological order, colour code to show which events would have angered the Soviet Union, and, in a separate colour, the events that would have angered the Western Allies.

The Berlin Airlift comes to the aid of Berliners

The Soviet Union creates the Warsaw Pact

Disagreement between the Allies at Potsdam Conference

The Berlin Wall is constructed overnight, with devastating consequences

The Cuban Missile Crisis threatened the world

The Long and Novikov telegrams

The 'Iron Curtain' speech

The Truman Doctrine was put into action

The Marshall Plan helped European countries to rebuild

Alexander Dubček makes reforms known as the Prague Spring

The Soviet Union regained control over Czechoslovakia

The Soviet Union launched Cominform and Comecon

NATO is formed to protect the West

The beginning of the Cold War

The creation of Soviet satellite states

The USA fails at the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba

RAF Fylingdales opens at the height of Cold War tension

# How did the Cold War end?

The threat of all-out nuclear war had reached its peak in the 1960s, causing widespread fear across much of the world. By the 1970s, those on both sides of the conflict were willing to try new strategies to cool relations and bring about more peaceful times.

There were many attempts to reduce tension between East and West, which had varying levels of success. These included:

- **Détente** (throughout 1970s)
- **SALT 1** (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, 1969-1972)
- **The Helsinki Agreements** (1975)
- **SALT 2** (1974-1979)
- **The Summit Conferences** (1985-90)
- **The INF Treaty** (1987)

## Do now...

Pick one or two of these events to research further. How did they help to calm the tension between East and West?



Members of the Mujahideen armed for combat  
Photo © Erwin Franzen

## The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

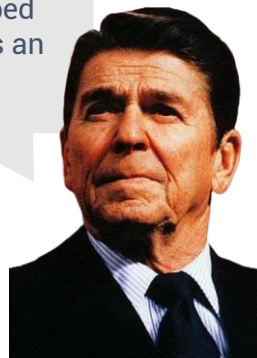
Between December 1979-January 1980, Soviet troops were sent to Afghanistan to help defend their communist government (the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, or PDPA) from a Muslim **guerrilla** group known as the **Mujahideen**. The USA became involved due to their interest in the oil produced in Afghanistan, and wider area of the Persian Gulf. The USA pledged their support to the Mujahideen to help them fight back against the Soviet forces. They also promised military aid to all the countries bordering Afghanistan.

## Tensions reignite under Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan became President of the USA in 1980 and had a much tougher approach to the Soviet Union than his predecessors had. He had no interest in friendly relations with the East, and did not continue the policy of **détente**. Instead, he massively increased spending on defence, which cost over a trillion dollars between 1981-87.

As part of his 'Strategic Defence Initiative' Reagan invested heavily in satellites fitted with lasers that could intercept and destroy Soviet missiles. This so-called 'Star Wars' technology gave the USA a huge upper-hand, as the Soviet Union could not compete with such weapons.

On 8 March 1983, Reagan made a speech in which he described the Soviet Union as an **'evil empire'**



## Reflection

Given that the fear surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis would still be fresh in many people's minds, how might the American public have felt about Reagan's aggressive policy?

### Gorbachev's 'new thinking'

Mikhail Gorbachev was the final leader of the Soviet Union. He wanted to improve Superpower relations and was willing to change some key Soviet policies to make that happen. The following actions massively improved the Soviet Union's relationship with the West:

- Reforms designed to make the Soviet economy more efficient
- Censorship of the media was relaxed
- Signed agreements to reduce number of weapons in the Soviet Union
  - Stopped Soviet interference in Eastern European satellite states



### The Fall of the Berlin Wall

When the East German government announced that the border crossings would be opened to allow entry into West Germany on 9 November 1989, people saw their opportunity and immediately began to smash apart and dismantle the Berlin Wall. In just a few days, over one million people had seized the chance to reunite with friends and family, and to experience life in West Germany. East and West Germany were formally reunified in October 1990.

#### Reflection

The Fall of the Berlin Wall is still a very prominent memory for those who witnessed it (whether in person or on television).

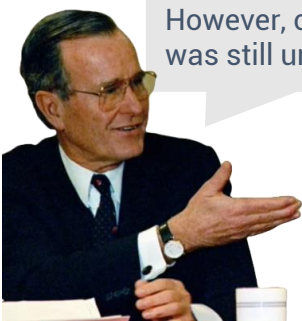
- Why might it have had such a huge impact on people?
- What did it signify?

### The Collapse of the Soviet Union

In the late 1980s, the Soviet Union could no longer afford to support military forces in their satellite states and allied countries across Eastern Europe.

In 1989, Gorbachev acknowledged that members of the Warsaw Pact could bring about change in their own countries without interference from the Soviet Union. Between 1989-90 there were a huge number of anti-communist protests and democratic elections held across Warsaw Pact countries. By 1990, a number of these countries now had non-communist governments, including Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. In 1990, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania declared themselves independent. The Soviet Union was losing its grip on power.

At the Malta Conference  
In 1989, US President  
**Bush declared that the  
Cold War was over.**  
However, communism  
was still undefeated.



### The End of the Cold War

Once Eastern European countries started declaring their independence from the Soviet Union, it became clear that the Warsaw Pact couldn't survive. Military co-operation between countries stopped in 1990 and the Warsaw Pact officially ended in 1991.

#### Reflection

Although the Cold War officially ended in 1991, echoes of this time are still felt around the world today. What examples can you think of?

# How did the Cold War end?

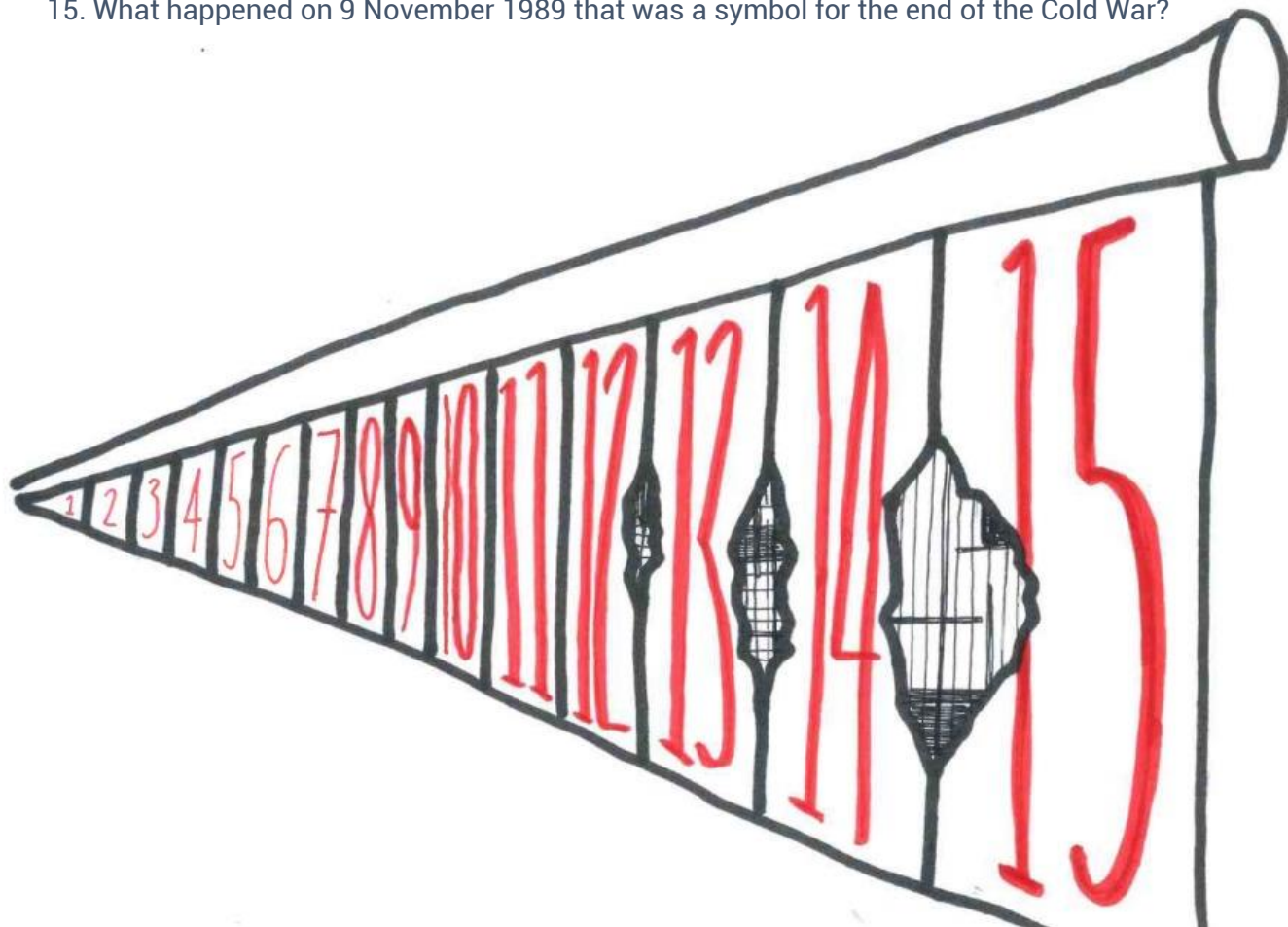
## Activities to try at School

### Break down the Berlin Wall quiz

Test your knowledge by answering the questions below. For each question you correctly answer, colour in a section of the wall below in a dark colour to 'break down' that section.

**Can you destroy the wall and reunify East and West Berlin?**

1. Name the main three countries described as 'Allies' at the end of the Second World War
2. Why was the ideology and political system in the Soviet Union a threat to the USA?
3. What were the names of the three conferences held between the Allies in 1943-45?
4. Explain what makes a Cold War different to a 'traditional' war
5. Name three countries that were made into Soviet 'satellite states' in the late 1940s
6. What was the name of the policy that Harry Truman put into place after receiving the Long Telegram in 1946?
7. Who made the 'Iron Curtain' speech in March 1946?
8. Describe the Truman Doctrine in 15 words or fewer
9. The Marshall Plan aimed to support countries in which continent?
10. Explain why the Berlin Airlift was necessary in 25 words or fewer
11. Which leader of the Soviet Union called for the creation of the Berlin Wall, and in which year was it built?
12. What kind of aircraft did the USA use for reconnaissance before the Bay of Pigs invasion?
13. What was Ronald Reagan's 'Star Wars' technology, and how did it give the USA an upper hand over the Soviet Union?
14. Explain in 10 words or fewer how Mikhail Gorbachev's policies helped to reduce tension between East and West
15. What happened on 9 November 1989 that was a symbol for the end of the Cold War?



# How was the RAF involved in the Cold War?

## Activities to try at the Museum

### Cold War Aircraft

Try to find the following objects and answer the questions below.

**English Electric Canberra PR3**

1952-72

Location: Hangar 3



What role did the Canberra PR3 play in the Cold War?

.....

Why might this role be particularly useful when tensions between East and West escalated?

.....  
.....  
.....

**British Aircraft Corporation Lightning F6**

1965-88

Location: Hangar 3



What made the Lightning a 'first' for the RAF?

.....

What was the main role of the Lightning?

.....  
.....

**Find the information panel about the Korean War (1950-53)**

Location: Hangar 3 (by the Lightning)

How many RAF pilots served in the Korean War in total?

.....

**McDonnell Douglas Phantom FGR2**

1968-92

Location: Hangar 4



What were Phantom aircraft exclusively used for in the RAF after 1977?

.....

What were they protecting, and what does it tell you about the atmosphere of fear during the Cold War?

.....  
.....  
.....

**Handley Page Victor K2 (nose section)**

1958-93

Location: Hangar 5



What were Handley Page Victor's designed and originally used as?

.....

**Hawker Siddeley Blue Steel**

(Mounted AEC Mandator )

1963-70

Location: Hangar 5



When did the Blue Steel missile first enter service with the RAF?

.....

What made Blue Steel a good weapon against the Soviet Union?

.....

.....

What were the main problems with maintaining and handling Blue Steel?

.....

.....

**Avro Vulcan B2**

1956-84

Location: Hangar 5



What were Vulcan aircraft used as for 15 years between 1954 – 1969?

.....

.....

Why might nuclear deterrents have been used during the Cold War?

.....

.....

.....

## Want to know more?

RAF Museum Midlands is home to **The National Cold War Exhibition**, which is full of objects, aircraft and information about the Cold War period and its many dramatic events. To find out more visit: [www.nationalcoldwarexhibition.org/](http://www.nationalcoldwarexhibition.org/) or [www.rafmuseum.org.uk/midlands/](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/midlands/)

School workshops about the Cold War are also available at RAF Museum Midlands. Find more information and booking details here: [www.rafmuseum.org.uk/midlands/schools-and-colleges/on-site-workshops/](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/midlands/schools-and-colleges/on-site-workshops/)

The National Cold War Exhibition website is home to a range of **free learning resources** about the Cold War. Explore here: [www.nationalcoldwarexhibition.org/schools-colleges/](http://www.nationalcoldwarexhibition.org/schools-colleges/)



The National Cold War Exhibition at RAF Museum Midlands

Using these resources in your classroom? Let us know by sharing with us on social media @RAFMLearning