

### Term 3A) Year 9: The Cold War

Learning objective: To understand the causes, course and outcome of the Cold War, and at which points the Cold War 'got hot.'

### Assessment Skill focus:

**Source Usefulness** = evaluating the reliability and content of a piece of historical evidence, like a primary or secondary source, using inferences and own knowledge.



#### **What do I need to know about the causes of the Cold War?**

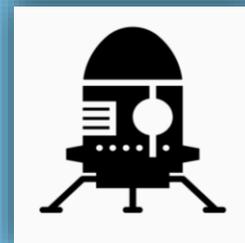
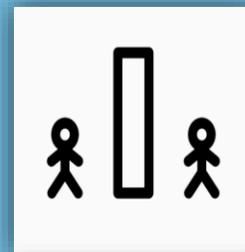
- What happened during the Atomic Bombings on Japan.
- Why the Berlin Wall was built to separate West from East Germany.
- What the differences were between communism and capitalism.

#### **What do I need to know about the 'hot points' of the Cold War?**

- What occurred during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Why the USA lost the Vietnam War.
- Who was responsible for the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

#### **What do I need to know about the end of the Cold War?**

- Who won the Space Race.
- Whether man truly landed on the Moon.
- What happened during the Chernobyl Disaster.
- How Chernobyl represented the fall of the USSR and end of the Cold War.



#### **KEYWORDS:**

Chronology = events put in the order that they happened.  
Sources = evidence from the past.

Interpretations = a person's opinion on a historical event.

#### **Key events/people:**

Communism  
Capitalism  
Berlin Wall  
Cuban Missile Crisis  
USSR v USA  
President John F. Kennedy  
Vietnam War  
Space Race

1945



The Fatman and Little Boy atomic bombs are dropped on Japan, drawing World War II to an explosive end.

1962



The Cuban Missile Crisis brings USA and USSR to the brink of nuclear war.

1991



The Cold War ends with the USSR falling apart, and the Berlin Wall falling too.

### What first-order concepts do I need to learn below?

*Hint: remember! A first-order concept is a word historians use to describe facts related to events.*

#### ➤ Facts on the causes of the Cold War:

- By the end of World War II, it was clear that Japan was not going to surrender willingly to the USA. In order to prevent a long, protracted and costly war, the Americans had been working on something called the Manhattan Project – a bomb that could destroy cities in an instant. In 1945, atomic bombs were loaded onto the Enola Gay US bomber plane. The payload was dropped on Japan, ending WWII.
- The Russians (USSR), who were our allies in WWII, were not told about the atomic bomb programme. They felt like the USA had kept it a secret from them, and this caused tensions between both sides.
- Whilst Berlin lay in ruins after the Nazis defeat, the Americans, British and French secured the West, and Josef Stalin's Russians secured the East. A wall was erected separating both sides: the Berlin Wall.
- Both sides had different political ideologies: one capitalist, the other communist.

#### ➤ Facts on the 'hot points' of the Cold War:

- Whilst fighting never formally erupted between the USA and USSR due to MAD (mutually assured destruction), both sides came close to nuclear war many times – such as the Cuban Missile Crisis (where the Russians were sending warheads to Cuba – a country close to America), the Vietnam War (one of the last colonial conflicts and a bid to contain communism in the east) and the conspiracies that surrounded the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

#### ➤ Facts on the end of the Cold War:

- When it was clear both sides had reached a stalemate, the USA and USSR tried to out-do each other in other fronts – like space. JFK had promised his people that man would reach the moon by the end of the decade. The USSR was the first to reach space, however, whilst the Americans were first to land on the Moon. The Cold War formally ended in 1991, following the collapse of the USSR after Chernobyl.

### What second-order concepts do I need to learn below?

*Hint: remember! A 'second-order concept' is a phrase historians use to describe the history skills that are used in history – like putting events in chronological order, or analysing sources!*

- Chronology is putting events and years in order. E.g. the Nuremburg Laws came before the Final Solution.



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### Look to the past:

Below is a primary source: a cartoon of JFK and USSR Premier Nikita Khrushchev having an arm-wrestle above buttons connected to nuclear warheads. It has come to symbolise MAD (mutually-assured-destruction) and the stalemate of the Cold War.

