

SUPERFACTS 4

The SuperFacts are a two-page summary of each of the **four** topics. The page references refer to the textbook on Moodle.

Key Topic Summary

After the Second World War, the alliance between the communist USSR and the democratic/capitalist West fell apart and the Cold War began.

Both sides felt that other countries in the world should choose one side or the other in the Cold War, and both sides felt that the other side was out to destroy them. They worked hard to spread their influence and stop the influence of the other side.

The Cold War included an 'arms race' and a 'space race' to become the most powerful superpower. The actions of the superpowers in other countries, for example the influence of the USSR in Hungary, could be violent and destructive.

1 - The Grand Alliance (1941) of Britain, the USA and USSR only formed to defeat Hitler. With him gone, different ideologies and disputes at conferences made it crumble. Also, once the USA had atomic bombs (after 1945) it didn't need the support of the USSR. (see p. 74)

2 - Communism v. democracy/capitalism The USSR believed in communism where the Communist Party dominated government and the government controlled all aspects of the economy. The West believed in democracy, with free elections, and capitalism, with a free-market economy. This split weakened the Grand Alliance. (see p. 74)

3 - At the Tehran Conference (1943) the Big Three discussed what to do when Hitler was defeated. They agreed on a Soviet 'sphere of influence' in Eastern Europe and a capitalist one in Western Europe. They could not agree on what to do in Germany. (see p. 74)

4 - At the Yalta Conference (1945) the Big Three agreed that Poland would be communist, the USSR would help the war against Japan, and the United Nations would be set up. They also agreed to work for democracy, but what this meant was unclear. (see p. 74)

5 - At the Potsdam Conference (1945) the Big Three agreed to ban the Nazi Party and punish surviving Nazis as war criminals. They agreed to temporarily divided Germany and its capital Berlin, into four zones run by the USSR, USA Britain and France. (see p. 76)

6 - The 'Long' and Novikov Telegrams (1946) An American diplomat in Moscow and the Soviet ambassador in the USA both sent telegrams home in 1946, warning about military build-ups. The telegrams contributed to the build of the Cold War.

7 - Cold War The break-up of the Grand Alliance and the telegrams made the Big Three suspicious of each other. From 1947, the USA and USSR waged a 'Cold War'; a war of propaganda, military pacts, an 'arms race', and a 'space race'.

8 - The Truman Doctrine (1947) resulted from political differences between the Great Powers. US President Truman worried that communism would spread in Europe; so, his Doctrine said the USA would use military and economic means to stop it spreading. It led to the Marshall Plan and fed the Cold War. (see p. 80)

9 - The Marshall Plan (1947) aimed to reduce poverty to stop the spread of communism. The USA offered \$13 billion to rebuild Europe. Britain, France and 14 other nations took the help offered. This helped their economies and boosted their trade with the USA. (see p. 80)

10 - Satellite states The Marshall Plan was a threat to the USSR. Stalin was worried it would buy US influence in Eastern European states. To prevent this, he increased Soviet control over countries like Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. They became satellite states – supposedly independent, but really controlled by the USSR. (see p. 82)

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11 - Cominform (1947) was an organisation which represented communist parties all over Europe. For example, in 1947, it encouraged 2 million French workers to go on strike in protest against Marshall Aid. Stalin used Cominform to control the satellite states. (see p. 82)

12 - Comecon (1949) was another way Stalin controlled his satellite states. It was a rival to the Marshall Plan. It encouraged trade and industry in Eastern Europe and discouraged trade with the West. This contributed to the Cold War. (see p. 83)

13 - Bizonia (US and British zones of Germany) was run almost as one unit. It had good relations with the French Zone. In 1948, the Western Allies started to make the three zones (Trizonia) a democratic, capitalist state, increasing tension with the USSR. (see p. 84)

14 - The Berlin Blockade (1948-49) was Stalin's retaliation against events in Trizonia. The USSR tried to get all parts of Berlin to vote to become communist. When they refused, it cut off all supply routes except from the USSR. The aim was to prevent the new state, set up by the Western Allies, from being run from Berlin. (see p. 85)

15 - The Berlin Airlift (1948-49) started with 70 US cargo planes carrying about 700 tonnes of food and supplies a day. The British also flew in supplies. During January 1949, the Airlift provided over 170,000 tonnes of supplies. Lack of trust meant that any dispute after this simply increased existing tension and suspicion. (see p. 85)

16 - Divided Germany In 1949, Germany was formally divided in two. In September, western Germany became the Federal Republic of Germany (FDR). In October, eastern Germany became the German Democratic Republic (GDR). (see p. 85)

17 - NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was set up in 1949. It was made up of the USA and its allies. Its members promised to defend each other if attacked. The communist version of NATO was the **Warsaw Pact**, set up in 1955. (see p. 86)

18 - Arms Race The USA had the atomic bomb by 1945; the USSR had its own by 1949. By 1953, both had more powerful 'hydrogen' bombs. They each raced to get more bombs than the other. (see p. 86)

19 - Hungary was a satellite state of the USSR. It became communist, lost land and its coal and oil were shipped to Russia. In 1949, Cominform made Matyas Rakosi dictator there. Under Rakosi, 387,000 Hungarians were gaoled and 2,000 executed. (see p. 88)

20 - Khrushchev was Soviet leader after Stalin died in 1953. His 'Secret Speech' (1956) promised to change Stalin's policy and relax Soviet control of satellite states. (see p. 87)

21 - Nagy became leader of Hungary in 1956. The 'Secret Speech' had made Hungarians riot for change. Nagy proposed reforms such as leaving the Warsaw Pact and ending communism in Hungary. The USA offered \$20 million of aid to Nagy's government. (see p. 87).

22 - Crushing Hungary (1956) Fearing Hungary would set a trend, 200,000 Soviet troops invaded. The USA and UN disapproved, but sent no military aid. 20,000 Hungarians died in the Soviet takeover. Nagy was found guilty of treason and hanged. (see pp. 87-88)

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Key Topic Summary

Berlin, Cuba and Czechoslovakia were all crises in the Cold War between 1957 and 1969. The drain of refugees from East to West Berlin led to Khrushchev ordering the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. It soon became a worldwide symbol of the Cold War divide.

The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 is often said to have been the point when the Cold War came closest to turning into an actual nuclear war, which would have caused appalling devastation.

The 'Prague Spring' of 1968 and the Soviet occupation that followed showed just how determined the USSR was to keep control of the satellite states that were a buffer between the USSR and the West.

23 - Berlin refugees Almost 3 million East Germans fled to West Germany 1949-61. Most went from East to West Berlin. One reason was that the East German government was very unpopular. Another was that people wanted western freedom and wealth. (see p. 95)

24 - Berlin ultimatum (1958) It embarrassed the East that refugees preferred the West and they were losing skilled people. So Khrushchev said all Berlin belonged to East Germany. To humiliate the Western powers, he gave their troops 6 months to leave Berlin. (see p. 95)

25 - Eisenhower's Berlin talks (1959) Khrushchev and President Eisenhower agreed to discuss Berlin. Khrushchev withdrew his ultimatum. In 1959, they met in Geneva and then at Camp David in the USA. They met again in Paris in 1960, but could not agree what to do about Berlin. Before the talks a US spy plane was shot down over the USSR. When Eisenhower refused to apologise for the incident, Khrushchev walked out. (see p. 96)

26 - Kennedy's Berlin talks (1960-61) Khrushchev met the new president, Kennedy, in Geneva. Hoping to take advantage of the new president's inexperience, Khrushchev again told the USA they had 6 months to leave Berlin. (see p. 96)

27 - Kennedy plans for war The USA refused to leave Berlin. In case of war, Kennedy put \$3.2 billion more into military funds, and spent \$270 million on nuclear fall-out shelters. (see p. 97)

28 - The Arms Race By 1961, the USA had 20 times more nuclear weapons than the USSR and, unlike them, had B52 planes that carried nuclear bombs. (see p. 100)

29 - The Berlin Wall (1961) Khrushchev could not force US troops to leave Berlin, but he had to save face. So overnight on 12 August, East Germany sealed off West Berlin with barbed wire, then gradually built the Berlin Wall. (see p. 98)

30 - Berlin Wall's effects The Wall stopped people leaving East Germany. Khrushchev also avoided war – and it made him look like a decisive leader. (see p. 98)

31 - Castro and Cuba Cuba is only 145 km from the USA and had been its ally. In 1959, Fidel Castro led a revolution there, taking over all American property in Cuba. The USSR offered Cuba aid and experts to industrialise. All this worried the USA. (see p. 102)

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32 - The Bay of Pigs In 1961, the CIA trained Cuban refugees from the revolution who invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs to overthrow Castro. The invasion failed. (see p. 102)

33 - The Cuban Missile Crisis Worried about the US threat, Castro asked the USSR to defend Cuba; 114 Soviet ships set off for Cuba, carrying nuclear missiles. This would put the USA within range of Soviet nuclear missiles for the first time. For 'Thirteen Days' in 1962, US and Soviet forces were both ready to go to war. (see pp. 103-105)

34 - The Soviet ships turned around Neither side wanted nuclear war. Kennedy and Khrushchev agreed that the USA would not invade Cuba, the USSR would not base missiles there and the USA would withdraw its missiles from Turkey. (see p. 104)

35 - Cuban Missile Crisis – results The USA and USSR wanted to avoid a similar crisis. In 1963, they agreed to a policy of building better relations. They set up the 'hotline' between Washington and Moscow and agreed to limit further nuclear testing. (see p. 106)

36 - Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) By the 1960s, the USA and the USSR both had so many weapons that any nuclear war would cause crippling damage to both sides. This brought a little more stability to their relationship. (see p. 107)

37 - Czechoslovakia and the USSR Communist rule was unpopular in Czechoslovakia, a satellite state of the USSR. The secret police crushed all political opposition and the economy suffered under the rule of the communist leader, Novotny. (see p. 108)

38 - Alexander Dubcek, the popular secretary of the Czech Communist party, became leader there in 1968. His reforms (including making political opposition groups legal and allowing some 'capitalist' profit-making) are called the 'Prague Spring'. (see p. 109)

39 - The Soviet Response Brezhnev repeatedly warned Dubcek about his actions, but Dubcek failed to take the hint. As a result, in August 1968, Soviet troops invaded Czechoslovakia. (see p. 110)

40 - Dubcek's reaction Dubcek told Czechs not to fight the invading troops. Students stood in the way of tanks holding anti-invasion banners. But Dubcek was forced to reverse his reforms. (see p. 110)

41 - International reactions Western powers condemned the USSR, but gave no military help. Communists outside Russia were angry; some turned to China for leadership; others set up a rival form of communism: Eurocommunism. (see p. 112)

42 - The Brezhnev Doctrine Dubcek's reforms were not just a problem in Czechoslovakia. Brezhnev worried that they would spread to other satellite states. Therefore, his 'Brezhnev Doctrine' said the USSR would invade any satellite state that threatened the security of the Eastern Bloc. (see p. 110)

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Key Topic Summary

The Cuban Missile Crisis had scared the superpowers so much that they had tried a policy of *détente* – an easing of the tension between them.

Détente flourished in the 1970s, but began to collapse after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, which the USA fiercely opposed.

During the 1980s and 1990s between the USA and the USSR shifted, as the USA became the wealthier, more advanced superpowers. At the same time, the USSR's hold on its satellite states was badly weakened, and the 1985 policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika* introduced by Gorbachev speeded up the collapse of the USSR.

43 - *Détente* flourished by the 1970s. The USA and USSR wanted to reduce the chance of nuclear war; they also wanted to compete less; they co-operated more. (see p. 117)

44 - *Détente* in space 1967 Outer Space Treaty – USA and USSR ban nuclear arms in space; 1975: first joint space mission. (see p. 117)

45 - *Détente* and arms limitations 1972 Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT I) – limited numbers of nuclear weapons on both sides; 1975 Helsinki Conference – superpowers and allies agree areas of co-operation, e.g. respecting human rights. (see p. 117)

46 - The Kabul Revolution in Afghanistan in 1978 overthrew the government. Mohammed Taraki became the new, communist, leader and an ally of the USSR. But his communist government was not stable. Civil war broke out. (see p. 118)

47 - The USSR invaded Afghanistan in 1979. It wanted to support communism and to stop the growth of Islamic or Western control. Its war against Afghan rebels lasted 10 years; about 1.5 million people died, including 15,000 Soviet troops. (see p. 118)

48 - *Détente* was damaged by the invasion of Afghanistan. The USA feared Soviet expansion into the oil-rich Middle East. President Carter imposed economic sanctions. He ended the SALT 2 talks. He also joined China in supporting Afghan rebels. (see p. 120)

49 - Olympic boycotts In protest against the Soviet invasion, the USA and around 60 other countries boycotted the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. The USA ran an alternative Olympic Boycott Games in Philadelphia. In retaliation, in 1984, the USSR and 14 other communist countries boycotted the Olympics in Los Angeles. (see p. 121)

50 - The 'Second Cold War' (1979-85) was caused by the invasion of Afghanistan and a new US president – Ronald Reagan. He believed *détente* had strengthened the USSR. He called it 'the Evil Empire'. He believed that the USA should stop it growing. (see p. 122)

51 - The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI – 'Star Wars') was a US plan for satellites that could destroy Soviet nuclear weapons from space. It was planned to give the US arms superiority. It reversed arms *détente*. It also broke the Outer Space Treaty. (see p. 124)

52 - Soviet response to SDI By the 1980s, the USSR was behind the USA in computer technology and was too poor to keep up with SDI, the arms race or space race. (see p. 125)

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53 - Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader in 1985, when communism was becoming increasingly inefficient and unpopular there. He proposed *glasnost* (openness, cutting censorship; détente) and *perestroika* (economic reform to increase efficiency). He was very slow to allow democratic elections. He felt his reforms would help communism. (see p. 127)

54 - The Second Cold War ended after 1985 because the West liked Gorbachev's new approach, because Gorbachev knew the space and arms races were harming the Soviet economy, and because he wanted trade with the West. (see p. 128)

55 - At the Geneva Summit (1985), Gorbachev hoped to get Reagan to drop SDI. He replaced the anti-détente foreign minister Andrei Gromyko with pro-détente Eduard Shevardnadze. They did not reach agreement, but agreed to meet again. (see p. 128)

56 - At Reykjavik (1986), Reagan would not drop SDI but offered to scrap ballistic nuclear missiles. Gorbachev refused, but talks went on. Gorbachev saw the cost of nuclear weapons was draining the Soviet economy and did not make the USSR safer. He also saw that Reagan could not afford to back down on SDI and that accepting this would help détente. (see p. 128)

57 - Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty At Washington (1987), both sides signed this treaty. They agreed to ban all nuclear weapons with a range of 500 to 5,000 km, while SDI was left in place. (see p. 129)

58 - Gorbachev and the satellite states Gorbachev did not want to limit Soviet trade only to satellite states. He also did not want the expense of having Soviet bases there. He wanted communism to benefit from *perestroika* and *glasnost* there too. (see p. 130)

59 - Berlin Wall crumbles Once some Eastern Bloc countries became free, it was not possible to stop East Germans getting to the West. So, in November 1989, travel was allowed from East to West Germany and from East to West Berlin. (see p. 131)

60 - Communism crumbles Freed from Soviet controls, elections were announced and by 1990, communists lost power in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany. As the Warsaw Pact was an alliance of communist powers, this collapsed too. (see p. 130)

61 - Gorbachev falls Gorbachev was liked in the West for *glasnost*, for *perestroika*, and for freeing satellite states. But some Russians felt his policies had weakened communism. In 1991, the 'Gang of Eight', senior communists, removed him from power. (see p. 132)

62 - The Soviet Union falls The new Soviet government lasted only three days. Gorbachev returned. He tried to rewrite the constitution of the USSR, giving Soviet republics more freedom. But his overthrow had hurt his authority. The republics demanded freedom. In December 1991, Gorbachev dissolved the Soviet Union and resigned. (see pp. 133-134)