



Knowledge Organiser: Conflict in the 20th Century



The 20th century was one of the most violent centuries in history. Political ideas such as fascism and communism led to tension and outright war.		Timeline		Key Words	
Key Topics		7th November 1917	The Bolsheviks seize power in Russia, founding the world's first communist country.	Bolsheviks	Communist party that seized power in Russia in 1917.
Communism and the Russian Revolution	The Bolsheviks seize power in Russia and create the world's first communist country.	30th January 1933	Adolf Hitler becomes the Chancellor of Germany. He later destroys all opposition to become the undisputed dictator of Germany.	Soviet Union	The name given to communist Russia and its satellites. A 'soviet' is a worker's council.
		August 6th/9th 1945	The USA drops nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the Second World War but introducing the nuclear age.	Fascism	Extreme right-wing political idea which prefers to be led by a militaristic dictatorship.
Fascism and Nazi Germany	Fascist ideas grew after 1918 and helped to cause the Second World War.	June 1950–July 1953	The Korean War is fought as the first 'proxy war' of the Cold War.	Lebensraum	'Living space' or land needed for the growing German population.
		16th–28th October 1962	The Cuban Missile Crisis.	Kamikaze	Japanese pilots who deliberately crashed their aircraft into their targets.
The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki	In August 1945, the USA dropped two nuclear bombs onto Japan, ending the Second World War but causing huge controversy.	1955–75	The Vietnam War. After French defeat, US involvement escalated from 1964 onwards, until they withdrew, and then South Vietnam was defeated by North Vietnam.	Superpowers	Refers to the USA and USSR during the Cold War.
		Key People & Events		Proxy wars	A war conducted through intermediaries, such as the Korean War.
The Korean War	In 1950–53 the first proxy war of the Cold War happened in Korea. After a vicious war, the country was divided into two.	Joseph Stalin	Became the leader of the USSR in 1924.		
		Communists	They believed that society would be improved by staging a revolution, seizing all property, and sharing it out amongst everyone.	Guerrilla	Irregular soldiers who do not wear uniforms and conduct 'hit and run' attacks.
The Cuban Missile Crisis	The 1962 crisis in which the world came to the brink of nuclear war.	The Cold War	Tense standoff between the USA and the Soviet Union which lasted from about 1948–91.	Insurgency	A war in which one side uses guerrilla tactics against the other.
		Viet Cong	Communist guerrillas, led by Ho Chi Minh, who fought first the French then the US in Vietnam.	The draft	The conscription of young US men who were ordered to serve in Vietnam; many refused to serve.
The Vietnam War	The most devastating proxy war of the Cold War fought in South East Asia.	John F Kennedy	US president from 1961–63. Famous for handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Assassinated in November 1963.	Quarantine	The blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
		Nazis	Extreme right-wing political party led by Adolf Hitler; controlled Germany in 1933–45.	Civil rights movement	Groups or people that fought for the rights of black people from the 1950s onwards.
Summary of war in the 20th century	The causes of, and reasons for war have changed a lot over the 20th century.				