

1960s Cold War- GCSE

U2 crisis- 1960

- U2 spy plane shot down by the USSR's new anti-aircraft weapons over USSR and USA claimed it was a weather plane that accidentally went off course.
- USSR found pictures of missile sites and suicide pill-Powers put on trial and sentenced to 10 years in prison.
- Khrushchev withdrew Eisenhower's visit to USSR which was supposed to be historic moment- tension clearly increasing.
- At Paris Peace Summit, Eisenhower accepted it was a spy plane but refused to apologise. He did suspend spy planes being used (but this means they will come back).
- Khrushchev angry with the response, stormed out of the summit after day one calling Eisenhower the 'thief caught red-handed in his theft'
- Eisenhower failed in his mission to end his presidency by stopping the progression of the Cold War. On the surface, US were to blame for this event.



The Berlin Wall- 1961

On 13th August 1961, East German troops lined the border between East and West Berlin and barbed wires were put up and trains could no longer pass the border. Over the following days a concrete wall was built. The reason given to build the wall was to stop Western spies entering Soviet territory, but one secret reason was that it was losing too many educated people to the West.

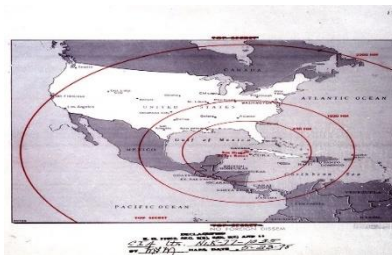
The Americans response was to do nothing, they didn't see starting a war over East Berlin as a valid reason. As long as West Berlin and West Germany weren't affected President Kennedy was happy. One moment of tension was when a US diplomat was refused entry to East Germany. The military then tried to help them through the checkpoint, but this led to Soviet and American tanks facing off at Checkpoint Charlie. Eventually, Kennedy and Khrushchev agreed to remove tanks slowly but surely.

Cuban Missile Crisis- 1962

- US discovered that **USSR sent warheads** in the summer of 1962 and more were going to be placed in Cuba and as a result placed a blockade around the island, refusing to let any good enter- any ship to pass would be sunk.
- Khrushchev sent ships to the blockade carrying missiles- eventually ordered them to stop but not turn around- countries start preparing for what seemed an inevitable nuclear war.
- One ship sailed past the blockade, US searched and realised it was an oil tanker and let it sail past- US now prepared a 120,000 manned army to invade.
- **26th October 1962**- Kennedy receives letter saying he will take missiles out of Cuba as long as USA promise never to invade Cuba.
- **27th October AM 1962**- The lone submarine was detected- America drop bombs to shock it to surface- USSR nearly retaliate. A senior Commander was on the ship and stopped the commander from launching a nuclear torpedo.
- U2 plane shot down over Cuba and Kennedy was pushed to declare war on Cuba and USSR by his own government.
- **27th October PM**- Khrushchev sends new letter stating that if missiles were removed from Cuba, then US to remove missiles from Turkey. This was kept secret as the other option would have been a full-scale war.

Cuban Missile Crisis: The Start

- Cuba was run by a corrupt Dictator, General Batista. He was heavily funded by the Americans and gained mass profits whilst the majority of the public suffered in poverty. He dealt with opposition quickly, but more people started to rise in opposition to his government.
- Castro, in 1956, launched a 2-year guerrilla warfare fight against Batista. On 1st January 1959, Batista fled, and Castro declared a new Cuba.
- Once Castro was in power, he put businesses and industries under state control, even those owned by Americans. The Americans became hostile, refusing to communicate with Castro so Castro turned to the USSR. The USSR provided loans and oil to Cuba. The USA as a response stopped all trade with Cuba.
- Cuba became isolated and now relied both ideologically (Communism) and economically on the USSR.



Bay of Pigs- 1961

- Cuba being an **ally** (friend) of USSR on the doorstep of the USA concerned the President- plans drawn up on how to deal with Cuba.
- Plan was to train Cuban **exiles** (people who have fled Cuba), trained by the CIA and supported by the US air force.
- Members of the government started to learn **Cubans in Cuba wouldn't support** any possible invasion and the US started to become fearful that this invasion would break international law.
- US still carried on with plan as they had spent \$5million on it.
- 17th April 1961- Cuban exiles landed and it was a disaster. However, **the US withdrew air support** at last minute. 200 exiles were killed and 1197 were taken as prisoners.

Prague Spring, 1968

Alexander **Dubcek comes to power** and introduces reforms that would turn country in to a state of '**socialism with a human face.**' Reforms included: removal of state controls over business; allow public meetings and freedom of speech; end press censorship; Allow Czechs to visit non-communist countries and allow trade unions.

WOULD NOT LEAVE THE WARSAW PACT

To stop the reforms the following "Peaceful" methods took place:

- 1) Warsaw Pact members put pressure on Brezhnev when the Czechs opened borders with the West and removed censorship- to intimidate and slow down reforms the Warsaw Pact **performed military drills on Czech border.**
- 2) The Warsaw Pact **sent the Warsaw letter** as the final warning to remove the reforms.
- 3) The USSR then invaded when **Czechs refused to negotiate** but faced no opposition- Dubcek arrested and replaced with a hard-line Soviet government.

USSR faced backlash from Communists in Western Europe who saw it as a betrayal to communism and **protests happened in Yugoslavia, China and in Russia where the soldiers revealed they had been lied to.** US condemned invasion and UN tried to condemn, but USSR vetoed. US took no further action as they were more concerned with events in Vietnam. However, a meeting between Brezhnev and Johnson was cancelled which was damaging as the meeting could have been a possible end to Cold War. However, meeting put back on table again so not to increase tensions.

1960s Vietnam

Kennedy increased numbers of "advisors and experts" and had 16,000 in the south. US flying missions took place against the north even though war was not declared. President Johnson sanctioned full scale invasion after attack in Gulf of Tonkin. Proxy war kicked off with the Viet Cong being supplied by China and USSR. US struggled with guerrilla warfare and the Vietnamese jungles. World criticism when the US used chemical warfare against Vietnamese and killed thousands of innocent people- not just communists criticised but foreign powers and US civilians put pressure on American government. Showed and demonstrated that the US were still committed to the policy of containment, even if the youth of the American people paid a heavy price in this war.

Detente

Detente, a thaw in Cold War tensions, emerged in the late 1960s, aiming to ease US-Soviet relations. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) were crucial components of detente. SALT I (1972) and SALT II (1979) aimed to curb nuclear arms race, establishing limits on strategic weapons. Despite tensions, these agreements reflected efforts to manage the nuclear arms race.

Economic issues

Both were spending billions on nuclear weapons and war (Vietnam \$168 billion) and it was also clear that there was no immediate end to the Cold War. Continuing the arms race at the same pace would have bankrupted the USSR and in the USA, there was increasing pressure to improve social policies for the poor and veterans. Neither country could continue with the mass spending.

Lessons of Conflict

The war in Vietnam showed that having a big army and nuclear weapons did not prove that victory would be guaranteed. The American people were increasingly shocked and disillusioned by the events of the Vietnam War and wanted to withdraw from global politics. Increasingly, the USA and USSR could defend their interests without directly getting involved militarily, by providing political or financial support to countries in need. For example, the US supported Israel and USSR Syria and Egypt.

China-Soviet split

The relationship between the China and the USSR (Russia) in the late 1960s broke down completely. Mao Zedong did not agree with how Khrushchev or Brezhnev had been running the USSR and so cut ties to follow his own form of Communism. As a result, both the USSR and China were willing to work with the USA so the Americans were happy to take advantage of the split. An improving relationship with China could give the Americans the upper hand when dealing with the Russians. In 1972, President Nixon visited China.