

Potsdam Conference, July- August 1945

- Leaders changed from Yalta to Potsdam= changed the relationship. Truman replaces Roosevelt in USA.
- Neither Attlee or Truman had been involved in Yalta conferences, or foreign political negotiations.
- Stalin started to put pressure on new leaders over the following things
 - Forcing high reparation payments on Germany to cripple their economy. (**West did not want as did not want to repeat mistakes from WW1**)
 - Stalin ignored agreement at Yalta and took over Eastern Europe by falsifying elections to make Communists win, and then putting Soviet leaders in place. (**West could do nothing, wanted to avoid conflict BUT distrust grew between each side**)
 - To influence Stalin, Truman mentioned the atom bomb, which angered and worried Stalin as the US were not keeping them up to date with their military advances and saw it as a threat.
- Agreements were made on reparations; the Nazis being banned, and Germans in Eastern Europe being sent back to Germany.



Yalta Conference, Feb 1945

- All leaders (Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin) had the same aims to have peace in Europe and to ensure Germany would never again threaten peace **BUT** they had different views on how to achieve this.
- The West wanted all countries to become independent and have self-determination- the USSR wanted a buffer zone who work closer with the USSR and make Germany weak.
- **Declaration of Liberated Europe** signed where all countries agreed that all Eastern European countries should get free elections.
- **PROBLEM-** USSR viewed this agreement differently. In **Poland**, the Soviets wanted to have a Communist government, but the West wanted the old government back and the country run in a **50/50 split**. The USSR overruled this and **supported a full Communist takeover of the Polish government**.
- Division over Germany but eventually decided it would be split into 4 zones, including Berlin, but reparations not agreed, running Stalin's plan to crush Germany.

Atom Bomb, August 1945

- With no communication between East and West, President Truman wanted to show his new weapon off to the world and end the second world war.
- The US dropped to bombs on **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**.
- The first bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed **70,000 people instantly** and many more **died** in the **following weeks** from **radiation poisoning and burns**.
- The dropping of the bombs removed the need for Soviet intervention and showed how USA wanted to dominate the post-war period.
- The use of the bomb and the East's control of Eastern Europe highlighted again the **mistrust and suspicion of both sides**.
- **Stalin became determined to also create and have an atom bomb** as a response to USA's attack on Japan.

Iron Curtain and Long Telegram, 1946-1947

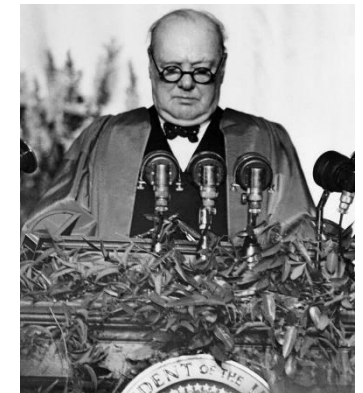
- **Long Telegram** from American ambassador in Moscow back to Washington stated that USSR wanted to expand and saw USA as the enemy.
- In 1946, Kennan sent a report to the US President stating that the USSR wanted to (a) spread communism and the USSR's influence as wide as possible; (b) the USSR saw the US as the main enemy and (c) any attempt of a good relationship between the US and USSR would fail.
- **The 8000-word telegram** supported Truman's internal fears and made him take a tougher stance towards the USSR.
- In the **Iron curtain Speech, 1947, Churchill criticises USSR** accusing them of spreading ideology at any cost with the intention of increasing their power. He also said that Stalin had drawn an invisible line, the iron curtain. Trade and tourism would stop between both sides.
- Stalin argued innocence and that USA & Britain working together to destroy their reputation and force people to ally themselves with the US.

Truman Doctrine, 1947

- Truman worried about spread of Communism promised that countries were to be protected with military and political aid.
- This would start the policy of **containment**- to keep the Communists where they were and stop their ideology from spreading.
- **An example is in Greece** where Britain could not afford to stay and support the King of Greece in their Civil War against the Communists. The fear was if Greece fell to Communism, it would give them access to the Mediterranean Sea. America funded Britain's army to stay in and support= Capitalist victorious and Greece did not fall.
- **Response= COMINFORM**
 - Provide political understanding of how to run Communist countries, to untie them all and ensure they are following Soviet policies. Would meet regularly in Moscow to ensure that all Communist countries could work together to respond to the aggression of the Truman Doctrine.

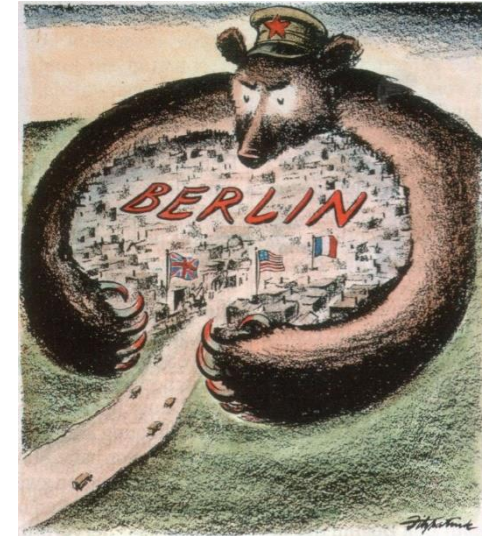
Marshall Aid

- George Marshall investigated Europe and saw how the continent had been destroyed by war. He advised that the US provide money to Europe to help rebuild them and stop the support of Communism growing.
- He Proposed **\$18 billion fund to rebuild Europe** - initially rejected but only introduced after the issue in Czechoslovakia. Offered to **ALL** European countries.
- The Plan/Aid would **create markets in Europe for American goods**, make Communism less attractive and promote unity in a Capitalist Europe.
- Marshall aid was rejected by Communist countries as it was seen as **dollar imperialism**.
- **COMECON set up**
 - Support and bring economic stability to Eastern Europe.
 - All countries worked together to share knowledge and resources, each state became responsible for certain items.
 - General Tito accepted Marshall aid, Yugoslavia banned from COMECON and INFORM. **Communist state now working with Capitalist. Showed Stalin as Imperialistic**



Berlin Blockade, 1948-49

- **Western allies were keen to rebuild Berlin** and in 1948 agreed to unite all their zones into one. They would also **introduce a new currency**.
- West Berlin had been united and rebuilt economically- looked appealing to East Berliners which worried Stalin on who he might lose.
- In **April 1948, Stalin blocked off military supply routes** which led to a British and Soviet plane crashing, leading to violence on the streets as the West Berliners became more determined to not leave their zones.
- Stalin put in place a full blockade in June 1948- all power supply from East Berlin cut off and all transport links blocked by Soviet military. **2.5 million People forced to live on reserve food and fuel.**
- American could have attacked- but Britain could not support another war. **Fly over agreed and USSR under pressure of whether to shoot planes down**- war seemed a real possibility.
- Flights were landing in West Berlin every 3 minutes and 4,000 tonnes of supplies were delivered every day. On 15th April 1949, 12,000 tonnes of coal were delivered in one day.
- After endless flights and resource deliveries, Stalin lifted the airlift 11 months after starting.
- Two direct opponents declared when **two new states declared in Europe**- Federal Republic of Germany allied to the West, and the German Democratic Republic- allied to the USSR.
- NATO set up as US realised they could be alone in a war against the Soviets with Britain being reluctant to fight over this issue.



NATO, 1949

- Reaction to Berlin Blockade, USA set up NATO in 1949. **Key agreement was that any country attacked within organisation then all of them respond and support.**
- The Treaty was not economical but was an agreement that the **militaries** from all countries **would work together** on military drills or military action.
- This treaty confirmed US involvement in Europe and made European countries more confident that the US would not stop supporting European Capitalist states.
- **Stalin saw this as an aggressive act** that saw USA want to unite all western countries in a force to prepare for a full-scale invasion on the Soviet bloc.