Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

The origins of the Cold War, 1941-58

The First Berlin Crisis 1947-1949: The Berlin Blockade and Airlift
Why did Stalin blockade Berlin in 1948?

**L/O:** To explain why the Berlin Blockade happened and evaluate how it increased tensions between East and West

**Key words:**
- Allied Control Commission (ACC)
- Operation Vittles
- Bizonia
- Trizonia
- Deutschmark

**Lesson Colour Key**

- **Purple:** Instructions
- **Red:** Copy into book
- **Green:** Answer questions in neat book
Why did Germany cause tensions to increase?

Task: Summarise the content below in neat book, answering the question above.

- **Germany** had become a real problem for the Western Allies by 1948.
- At the **Potsdam** conference in 1945, the Grand Alliance agreed to divide Germany, and its capital Berlin, into 4 separate occupation zones administered by the Soviet Union, the USA, Britain and France.
- After the destruction of war, the **Western zones were in economic chaos**.
- Stalin feared a recovering Germany and wanted to keep it crippled. He also wanted to take as much material and resources from Germany to help rebuild the Soviet Union.
- But it was clear to the Western Allies that Germany would not be able to feed its people if it was not allowed to rebuild its industries and economy.
How were the Western Zones of Germany united?

Task: Read through page 25, either use the final slide of this PowerPoint or the PDF of the chapter uploaded on Edmodo.

Task 2: In your neat book, explain why and how the Western Zones of Germany were unified. Use the terms below in your explanation:

- Bizonia
- Trizonia
- Deutschmark
What impact did the Deutschmark have on US-Soviet relations?

Task: Answer the following question:
'How did the Deutschmark lead to further tensions between the capitalist West and the Soviet East?'

• One reason is...
• This heightened tensions because...

• Another reason is...
• This heightened tensions because...
How did Stalin react to the unification of the Western controlled zones of Germany?

Task: Read P.25 on the Berlin Blockade and create a fact-file about it by answering the following questions:

1) What did Stalin do and in what year?

2) What action did Stalin take?
   Stalin decided to...

3) Why did he do this?
   One reason Stalin decided to do this...
   Another reason is...
   Another reason is...

4) Who was this a direct challenge to and why?
   The blockade was a direct challenge to ______. This is because...

5) What did the West know and what did they later do and why?
   The West knew...
   Instead they decided to... because...
Why was the Berlin Blockade important in the Cold War?

**Task:** Write a judgement explaining why the Berlin Blockade was important.

One reason why the Berlin Blockade was important is...

For example...

This shows why the Berlin Blockade was important because...
L/O: To explain why the Berlin airlift happened and evaluate how it increased tensions between East and West.
How did the Western Allies react to the Blockade?

**Task:** Read P.25 on the Berlin Airlift and create a fact-file about it by answering the following questions:

1) How did the Western Allied react to the Berlin Blockade?
The Western Allies launched...

2) What did they fly to the people of Berlin and why was it dangerous?
They flew...
However, it was dangerous because...

3) How did the people of West Berlin react?
The people of West Berlin reacted by...
Some ordinary citizens also helped by...

4) What impact did the reactions of people from West Berlin have on supplying East Germany?
One impact the reactions had was that America...
Also the British...

5) Why was the Berlin Airlift a success for the west?
One reason why...
Another reason why is...

**Extension:** Write a reason or two explaining why the USA was so determined to keep the Western Zones out of Soviet hands.

One reason why the USA was determined to...

Another reason is...

*Source 44*
## Consequences of the Berlin Airlift (1948)

**Task:** Read the next slide handout. Make notes in your neat book on each development in the boxes. Which event was the most important and why? Write a judgement in your neat book.

### Federal Republic of Germany
- What did the Trizonia become known as in what year?
- What were Germans allowed to do in the FRG?
- What was the new capital called?

### German Democratic Republic
- How did Stalin react and when?
- What was significant about its recognition?
- How did people feel towards each of their nations?

### NATO
- Why was NATO formally set up?
- Who joined it in 1955?
- When was it set up and what did its 12 countries agree to do?
- How did NATO increase tensions? (consider US military)

### Warsaw Pact
- Why did Stalin create this and when?
- What did the Satellite States became known as?
- What was significant about its leadership?
West Germany joining NATO now meant that Germany once again had military power.

For the Soviets, who had suffered greatly at the hands of the Germans, this was too much. The Soviets set up the Warsaw Pact which the Eastern European countries signed.

It was intended to be a defensive alliance, like NATO, but it was essentially used to keep control in Eastern Europe.
Explain the importance of the Berlin Blockade on Cold war for relationships between the USA and the USSR

Task: Summarise the content below in neat book, answering the question above.

- **Germany and Berlin would remain a source of tension in Europe** for the duration of the Cold War.
- In April 1949, the **USA, Britain and France** officially **announced the formation of the German Federal Republic (West Germany).**
- By 1949 there was a **worldwide awareness of a Cold War.**
- Europe was now divided with the USSR controlling Eastern Europe and a state of permanent hostility now existed between it and the USA. **The Berlin Blockade was a low point for international relations.**
- After the crisis of the Berlin Blockade in 1948-49, **Europe became divided into two opposing armed camps** - the US-backed **NATO on one side**, and the **USSR Warsaw Pact**, on the other.
- NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), formed in 1949, was an alliance of countries around the North Atlantic formed for their mutual defence.
- **All members agreed to go to war if any one of them was attacked.**
- **The Warsaw Pact** (formed in 1955) was an alliance of the communist countries of Eastern Europe **formed in response to NATO.**
Exam Practice: Narrative

Task: Exam Practice

• Complete your answer in the ‘Origins of Cold War Assignment’ word document that has been uploaded on Edmodo.
• Upload your completed answer to the ‘Origins of Cold War’ assignment on Edmodo.
• Answer the exam question below:

‘Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Berlin Blockade and airlift in 1948-49 (8)
• Trizonia
• Operation Vittles

Exam Technique: Narrative

• You need to include key events and link between them
• You will be given two information points to prompt you
• You must include a third point of your own.
• Explain the connection between the events

What to write: 3x PEEL Paragraphs
P-Point: (Identify a event)
E- Evidence
E-Explanation
L- Link your explanation to the next point

This question is worth 8 marks and you should take 15 minutes to complete it.
For further tips and advice answering the question opposite, use the next slide.
Plan a **narrative** account analysing the key events of the Berlin Blockade and airlift in **1948-49**.

You may use the following in your answer: **Trizonia and Operation Vittles**

Key points to have included – **check with green pens.**

- **June 1948**
- Stalin shut off the land routes across Soviet controlled Germany into Berlin.
- Trizonia – unable to communicate with the capital Berlin
- Berlin would run short of food
- Stalin hoped for huge propaganda victory at the expense of the West
- Blockade was a direct challenge to Truman
- West – knew that any attempt to force supplies to Berlin along the closed land routes would be seen as a potential act of war and might lead to direct military action between each side.
- West – could fly supplies into Berlin, which Stalin may shoot down and then he would be seen as the aggressor.

**TOP TIPS:**

Narrative = story
A good story has a:
- Beginning
- Middle
- End

The ‘narrative’ should show how the story moves from the beginning, to the middle, to the end.

Language such as:
- **The Berlin blockade was sparked off by....**
- **The resulted in...** (outline knowledge)
- **The blockade ended when....**
in favour of trade with the Soviet Union and other member states. So, for example, Bulgaria's trade with other Comecon members increased from around 10% in the 1930s to over 90% in 1951.

Stalin formed Cominform and Comecon in response to the threat he believed the Marshall Plan posed to the Soviet Union. However, his actions actually increased tension and played a significant part in the USA and Western European countries creating a new military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), in April 1949.

The 1948 Berlin Crisis – testing the West

Europe was now divided into two distinct political and economic camps. Soon there would also be two military camps, but first Stalin wanted to see just how determined the West really was.

Germany divided

At Potsdam, the Grand Alliance agreed to divide Germany, and its capital, Berlin, into four separate occupation zones administered by the Soviet Union, the USA, Britain and France. The division was meant to be temporary but ended up lasting for many years. The Allied Control Commission (AGC) was the central organisation for the four zones. There were soldiers on the streets and, in Berlin, military checkpoints between zones.

There were disagreements between the occupying powers. The three Western countries and the Soviet Union had different ways of looking at Germany. The Soviets wanted to take as much of the country as possible back to help rebuild the Soviet Union, whilst the Western countries wanted to build up Germany's economy. In December 1947, talks between the foreign ministers of the occupying powers broke down and the Soviets stormed out.

Uniting the Western zones

With the Soviets no longer co-operating, the remaining allies (the USA, Britain and France) had to decide how to run their part of Germany. The British and Americans had already combined their zones into 'Bizonia' in 1947 and, in March 1948, the French added theirs to create 'Trizonia'. Although this was their intention, the result was that Germany and Berlin were now split into two parts: western Trizonia and eastern Soviet-controlled Germany.

Then, in June 1948, the three Allies created a single currency, the Deutschmark, to give Trizonia economic unity. The decision to introduce the Deutschmark took place at an AGC meeting in Berlin. The Soviets were furious about the decision for two reasons:

- The new single currency in Trizonia created a separate economic unit from the East.
- It acknowledged that there were in effect two Germans: West and East.

To Stalin, this was a further example of the West 'ganging up' on the Soviet Union. He saw the formation of Trizonia as a means of developing the three zones more effectively and deliberately forcing the Soviet zone into poverty. He was now even more determined to stand firm and protect Soviet interests in Germany.

He believed Germany should be one united country and that it should follow communist ideology.

The Berlin blockade

Stalin knew that the Western-occupied zones of Berlin were vulnerable, as they were entirely surrounded by Soviet-occupied territory. In addition, there were just two agreed land routes and two air routes or corridors across the Soviet zone of Germany to Western-occupied Berlin.

In June 1948, Stalin decided to shut off the land routes across Soviet-controlled Germany into Berlin. In what has become known as the 'Berlin blockade', he wanted to show the USA, Britain and France that a divided Germany would not work. The main section of Trizonia in western Germany would no longer be able to communicate with the capital Berlin and the people of Berlin would soon run out of food. If the blockade was successful, Stalin would win a huge propaganda success at the expense of the West.

It might also mean that the Western powers would give up control of their zones in Berlin and allow the whole of the capital to be controlled by the Soviet Union. This was a direct challenge to Truman – Stalin knew he could not ignore the blockade because of his recent speech about defending the world from communism (see page 24).

The West knew that an attempt to force supplies to Berlin along the closed land routes would be seen as a potential act of war and might lead to direct military confrontation. However, if they flew supplies into their zones in Berlin, the only way they could be stopped was if Stalin had the planes shot down. That would make him the aggressor and Truman doubted that Stalin was prepared to go that far.

Operation Vittles: the Berlin Airlift

The Western Allies launched Operation Vittles, better known as the Berlin Airlift. They flew food, coal and other necessities, assembled in the Allied zones, along the air corridors. The pilots took a huge risk as they could not be sure the Soviets would not shoot them down.

The people of West Berlin and Western troops in the city joined forces to build a new survey at the old airport, Berlin-Tempelhof, and a whole new airport at Berlin-Flughof, so that supplies could be landed in the Western zones. Ordinary citizens helped to unload the planes and hand out the essential supplies to all who needed them. The Americans were soon able to fly in at least 1,000 tonnes of
1.2 The development of the Cold War

Operation Little Vistula

While lending supplies at Tempelhof airport, the American pilot Gill Halvorsen saw children watching from the fence. He decided that on his next flight he would parachute drop sweets to them. Soon other pilots did the same. Their actions were nicknamed ‘Operation Little Vistula’.

The formation of East and West Germany

After the Berlin blockade, it was clear that the division of Germany would continue. The Western allies quickly moved to create a separate West Germany.

Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)
- 23 May 1949: Just three days after the end of the blockade, the USA, Britain and France permitted their zones to come together as a state known as the Federal Republic of Germany.
- 16 August 1949: Germans in the new country were allowed to elect their own parliament, called the Bundestag.
- 15 September 1949: The first democratically elected chancellor of the Federal Republic, Konrad Adenauer, took office.
- The Federal Republic’s new capital was Bonn. The new country was much bigger than East Germany.
- The three Western-controlled zones of Berlin continued and became known as West Berlin.

German Democratic Republic (East Germany)

Stalin responded by creating the German Democratic Republic in October 1949. Only the communist bloc countries recognised it as a nation. The Federal Republic refused to recognise that Germany had been split in two until the 1970s.

For the next 40 years, people would talk about West Germany and East Germany but, for most of this time, each German regarded their own state as the only real one.

The creation of two armed camps

NATO, 1949

Stalin’s threat to Berlin and the communist takeover in Czechoslovakia, which happened in the same year, persuaded the Western powers that they needed a formal military alliance to protect themselves from the Soviet Union. They also wanted to warn Stalin about their determination to stand firm against communism.

In April 1949, the USA, Britain, France and nine other Western countries joined together in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The members of NATO agreed that, if any member was attacked, all members of NATO would come to its assistance. The British foreign secretary, Ernest Bevin, had played a major part in bringing about this alliance. He made a speech in the British parliament in which he said that European countries would welcome American involvement and called on other Western European countries to reach out to the USA.

It was not inevitable that the USA would get involved directly in the defence of Western Europe after the Second World War. The Truman Doctrine said the USA would offer assistance, but the creation of a formal military alliance was a major step beyond this. NATO resulted in an ongoing American military presence in Europe throughout the Cold War, which has continued right up to the present day.

The Warsaw Pact, 1955

When the German Federal Republic (West Germany) was allowed to join NATO in May 1955, Stalin’s fears were increased. Now there was a real danger of an armed and powerful Germany on the borders of Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe. Within a week of West Germany joining NATO, the Soviet Union formed an equivalent communist defensive military alliance – the Warsaw Pact. The members were the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). These countries became known as the “Eastern bloc”. Although the Warsaw Pact had many member states, the leadership was entirely Soviet and the alliance was under the command of the Soviet Union.

Source E

A photograph of children watching as a supply plant comes into Berlin during the Berlin airlift.

The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them...will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.