



NOTES: HOW DID THE COLD WAR DEVELOP? 1943-56 (ORIGINS)

Why did the USA and USSR become rivals in the period 1943 to 1949?

The widening gulf between the Allies

- Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. This led Britain and the Soviet Union to form an alliance against Hitler. When Japan attacked the USA in December 1941, Hitler also declared war on the USA. This brought Britain, the Soviet Union and the USA together as allies.
- The three powers together became known as the Grand Alliance, and their leaders – Churchill (Great Britain), Roosevelt (USA) and Stalin (Soviet Union) became known as the 'Big Three'.
- However, this alliance did not mean close friendship and harmony. There was constant tension throughout the war.

Stalin's point of view

- Stalin did not trust the West and was determined to build a buffer zone against possible future German attacks.
- During the war the Soviet people suffered terribly. By 1945, some 26,000,000 Soviet citizens had died in the conflict. This made Stalin determined that this should never happen again.
- He remembered that the Western Allies had intervened in the Civil War in 1918-9 and he suspected that they had encouraged Hitler in the 1930s.
- Britain and France had turned down an offer of an alliance with the Soviet Union in 1939.
- Stalin believed that the Allies had deliberately delayed invading France until 1944.
- This made Stalin very suspicious of the West during the war. He believed that the USA and Britain had wanted the Soviet Union to destroy itself fighting Germany on its own.

The West's point of view

- The West believed that Stalin wanted to impose communism upon Europe. Essentially the rivalry grew out of two different belief systems – capitalism and communism.



- He did not allow the Red Army to intervene in the Warsaw Uprising (1944) to help the Poles.
- Stalin had not declared war on Japan despite the fact that Britain and the USA were fighting the Japanese across Asia and the Pacific.
- Winston Churchill stated that he had not fought against one dictator for six years to see another one take his place.

The Teheran Conference, November 1943

- This was the first meeting of the 'Big Three' and the main discussion was focused on opening a second front in Western Europe.
- Roosevelt hoped that this conference would cement close relations between the leaders.
- It was agreed that Britain and the USA would open up a second front by invading France in May 1944. The Soviet Union would simultaneously mount an offensive in the East against Germany.
- It was agreed that as much help would be given to partisan forces in Yugoslavia who were fighting Hitler.
- The Soviet Union would declare war on Japan once Germany was defeated
- A United Nations organisation was to be set up after the war
- Stalin was promised the lands that the Soviet Union had lost to Poland in 1920 and as a result of this Poland's borders with Germany would move to the rivers Oder and Neisse.
- There were discussions about splitting up Germany after the war but no firm decisions were made.
- Roosevelt, the US president, was prepared to believe Stalin's promises about free elections, provided that Stalin was prepared to declare war on Japan and to join the UNO.
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The Yalta Conference, February 1945

- In February 1945 Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met at Yalta in the southern Soviet Union to plan the end of the Second World War.
- Tension between Churchill and Stalin grew and when the Big Three next met at Yalta, clear differences emerged. Nevertheless, the Churchill and Roosevelt needed Stalin's support in case it was necessary to invade Japan.



- By February, the Soviet Union was advancing through Eastern Europe and Churchill was convinced that Soviet troops would remain in the countries they liberated from German occupation.

What happened at Yalta?

- The Allies agreed to divide Germany into four zones, each one would be occupied by one of the four allies.
- Stalin agreed to accept France as one of the powers – this was after much persuasion by Churchill. Berlin would also be divided into four sectors.
- Poland would be given land in the west, which would be taken from Germany and would lose land to the USSR.
- Stalin agreed that some members of the Polish government in exile (the London Poles) would be allowed to join the Polish government that he had set up (the Lublin Poles). Free elections would be held.
- The USSR would declare war on Japan three months after the end of the war with Germany.
- Stalin promised to allow free elections in the countries of eastern Europe, which had been occupied by the Soviet army.
- It was agreed that Nazi war criminals would be tried in an international court of justice.
- The Big Three agreed that a conference at San Francisco in April of 1945 should formulate plans for a new world body – to be called the United Nations. Its aim would be to keep peace.
- However, no agreement could be reached about reparations.

The Potsdam Conference, July–August 1945

- The Potsdam conference was the last of the conferences between the leaders of the allies during the Second World War.
- President Roosevelt died on 12 April and he was succeeded by Harry Truman who took a much tougher line with Stalin. By July, the USA had developed the atomic bomb, which meant that Truman no longer needed to rely upon the Soviet Union in the war against Japan.

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- During the conference, Churchill was replaced by Clement Attlee, who had become Britain's new Prime Minister following the July general election.

What was decided at Potsdam?

- Germany was divided into four zones. Each zone would be occupied by one of the four Allies, Great Britain, France, the USA and the USSR. Berlin was divided into four sectors.
- Germany was to be de-militarised. All German naval and merchant ships were to be given to the Allies.
- The Nazi Party would be dissolved. War criminals would be tried and punished. Nazis were removed from important positions and leading Nazis were to be put on trial for war crime. These trials were held in Nuremberg during 1946.
- There would be free elections in Germany, freedom of speech and a free press.
- Germans living in Eastern Europe would be transferred into Germany.
- Germany would pay reparations for the damage caused by the war. Most of this would go to the USSR, either in money or goods.
- All the Allies agreed to take part in the United Nations.
- Poland's frontier was to be moved westwards to the rivers Oder and Neisse

But there were also disagreements at Potsdam.

- The new US president, Harry Truman tried to force the USSR to allow free elections in the countries of Eastern Europe, which had been occupied after the end of the war.
- Stalin was angry that the USA had not told him about the atomic bomb, which he knew that the USA had developed.
- This was the beginning of the 'Cold War'. During 1945 –46, Stalin's policies showed that he did not trust the West and he kept control of those countries of Eastern Europe that had been liberated from Nazi rule. This led to Winston Churchill coining the term '**Iron Curtain**'.

The development of the 'Iron Curtain'

What was the Cold War?

- The events of 1945 to 1949 led to what became known as the COLD WAR. This is the name used to describe the hostility between East and West which existed



until the 1980s. It was a war of propaganda and ideas, but there was very little actual fighting.

- A hot war is a conflict in which actual fighting takes place. A cold war is a war conducted against an enemy by every means without resorting to fighting.
- The Cold War started in 1945–46 and was officially announced to be over in 1989.
- At first it was confined to Europe, but during the 1950s and 1960s it spread across world, as the USA and the Soviet Union sought to gain influence and control over as many countries as possible.

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The 'Iron Curtain'

- The Iron Curtain was the name given to the border between East and West in Europe that was set up by Joseph Stalin, the ruler of the USSR in the years after the Second World War.
- The name came from a speech made by Winston Churchill in Fulton, Missouri in 1946.
- The Iron Curtain became a thousand mile fence cutting off the Communist countries of Eastern Europe from the non-communist west.

Why did Stalin build the Iron Curtain?

- He wanted to set up a buffer zone of countries in Eastern Europe to protect the USSR against another invasion by Germany.
- He did not trust Germany – there had been two invasions in his own lifetime - 1914 and 1941.
- Stalin was determined to prevent this happening a third time. He wanted to make sure that Germany was kept weak, whereas the western Allies wanted Germany to be allowed to recover from the effects of the war.
- During the years 1945 –48, all the countries which had been occupied by the Red Army at the end of the war were brought under Soviet control (Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary – the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania had been absorbed in 1940 and then kept as part of the Soviet Union). In Czechoslovakia the leaders were simply murdered.
- He did not trust the west, Britain and the USA, because they had invaded Russia in 1919 and he believed they had delayed the invasion of France until 1944.
- Stalin was trying to prevent western influence reaching the west and refugees leaving the east for Western Europe.

The Soviet Control of Eastern Europe

How did Stalin secure control of Eastern Europe?

- When countries were liberated from the Nazis, Stalin ensured that Soviet troops remained there.
- In Hungary and Romania, two countries which had fought on the Nazis' side, Stalin felt justified in keeping Soviet troops there as occupying forces.

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- Stalin ensured that any new governments were coalitions which meant that the Communist Party would have a say in the running of the country.
- Gradually the Communist Party would infiltrate the key areas of government and security organisations.
- When elections took place, the Communist Party used any means necessary to discredit and frighten opponents.
- Such tactics enabled the Communist Party to take over the government of the country and then began to establish a one-party country – a communist state.

Czechoslovakia

- The Communist Party was the largest party in the coalition government by 1947. Stalin ordered Gottwald, the Communist leader to remove the non-communists in the government.
- In 1948, all communist opponents were removed. Masaryk, a leading opponent of Gottwald was found dead.

Poland

- Having been a member of the coalition for two years, the Communist Party fixed the elections of January 1947.
- The Polish Communist Party set up a government which took its orders from Stalin in Moscow.

Bulgaria

- The November elections of 1945 were fixed and the Communists won a majority of seats and in 1946, a one-party state was established

Hungary

- The Communist Party secured a large share of the vote and took over the government following the general election of August 1947.
- All other parties were then banned and the Communist leader, Rakosi, established a Stalinist regime.

Romania



- By the November election of 1946, the Romanian Communist Party had won a huge majority and set up a government which then forced King Michael to abdicate in 1947.
- Soviet domination was thus complete.

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What was the Allied response to Soviet control of Eastern Europe?

The growing involvement of the USA in Europe

What was the Truman Doctrine?

- In February 1947 the British government informed the USA that it could no longer afford to support the Greek government against Communist rebels.
- The US government stepped in with an offer of \$400,000,000. Harry Truman also took the opportunity to extend the offer of aid.
- The Truman Doctrine was announced by Harry Truman, the president of the USA, in March 1947.
- He offered to help any country that was being threatened either from within or from without its own borders. He did not name any country, nor did he specify what sort of aid would be given.

Why was the Truman Doctrine published?

- The USA, and especially Truman, believed that the Soviet Union was trying to spread communism – first through Eastern Europe and then to the west and beyond.
- Truman wanted to help the countries of Europe recover from the effects of the Second World War.
- He had seen the devastation, which the war had caused and he wanted the USA to play a part in recovery. **Marshall Aid** was announced at the same time.
- Truman was trying to stop any other countries in Europe becoming Communist. Already the Iron Curtain had cut Europe in two; he did not want that to go any further.
- Truman also hoped that he might be able to persuade some of the countries of eastern Europe to break away from Communism. Marshall Aid was also intended to help here.
- While the Truman Doctrine did not actually mention the Soviet Union, it was obvious that it was intended as a warning to Stalin that Truman was not going to let him get away with any more attempts to take control of Europe.
- Truman had said that he was going to 'get tough with Russia': this was one example of his policy. Truman was committing the USA to a policy of what became known as containment.

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- Truman argued that the world was becoming divided into two armed camps – the capitalist camp, which he claimed was the free camp, and the communist, which was not.
- The USA would use its economic **and** military strength to protect the world from the threat of communism.

How did the Marshall Plan work?

- Marshall Aid was an attempt to rebuild Europe after the Second World War. It put the ideas of the Truman Doctrine into effect.
- In March 1947 President Harry Truman offered grants of American money to all European countries. The plan was named after his secretary of state George C Marshall.
- Truman intended that Marshall Aid would be made available to all countries in Europe, but in fact only countries in the west accepted it.
- The USSR and other eastern countries attended the first meetings in 1948, but withdrew when they discovered that they would have to join the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation.
- The **Marshall Plan** would control how Marshall Aid would be spent. Individual countries would not be able to decide for themselves
- This would mean that the USA would be able to influence the countries of the east and undermine communism. This was what Truman had hoped would happen.
- When the Soviet Union realised what Truman was up to, other Eastern Bloc countries, Czechoslovakia in particular, were forced to withdraw applications for Marshall Aid.
- Altogether seventeen countries received a total of \$13,750,000,000, which allowed them to recover from the war much more quickly than the countries of the east.
- Italy, which had been an ally of Germany during the war, received \$600,000,000. Marshall Aid was one of the reasons why Stalin tried to force the west out of West Berlin in 1948.

How did the Soviet Union react to the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan?

COMINFORM (Communist Information Bureau)

- This was established in September 1947. It emerged from a meeting about whether to attend US meetings about the Marshall Plan.



- Its purpose was to co-ordinate the activities of Communist Parties in the world not only in Soviet dominated countries.
- COMINFORM was to indicate how Stalin's foreign policies were to be followed
- It was also established to encourage the introduction of policies such as collectivisation and the command economy.
- Any Communist state or Party which did not follow the Moscow line was expelled from the organisation.

COMECON (The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance)

- Stalin set up a Soviet Version of Marshall Aid, COMECON, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance on January 25 1949.
- It was intended to be the Soviet Union's response to Marshall Aid. Stalin offered aid to communist countries to help them recover from the effects of the Second World War.
- Founding members were The Soviet Union, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland. East Germany joined in 1950.
- The Soviet Union wanted each member to develop its own specialisms – e.g. Romania on agriculture and Czechoslovakia on industry.
- The Soviet Union lacked the financial strength of the USA and the attempt to set up a communist rival led to bankruptcy and ruin.
- Comecon was a major drain on the resources of the Soviet Union and helped to bring about its economic downfall in the 1980s.

The development of the Cold War, 1948-49

How was Germany governed after the war?

- When the Allies met at Potsdam to decide how to govern Germany at the end of the Second World War, they agreed to divide the country into four zones, one each for the USA, the USSR, Britain and France.
- Each of the four allies was to be responsible for its own sector. Decisions affecting Germany as a whole would be taken jointly and it was intended that Germany would be reunited in the future.
- Berlin the capital of Germany was inside the Soviet zone, so this was also divided into four sectors. It was governed by the Joint Kommandatura, which contained the military leaders of the four allies.



The Berlin Blockade

- From June 1948 until May 1949, Joseph Stalin ordered that all traffic between West Germany and West Berlin should be stopped.
- He was able to close the road, canal and rail routes, but was not able to prevent the western allies, Great Britain, France and the USA from bringing supplies into West Berlin by air.
- The Berlin airlift lasted ten and a half months and one plane landed in West Berlin every ninety seconds.

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Why did Stalin blockade Berlin?

- The main reason for the blockade was that Great Britain and the USA had made it clear that they intended to rebuild the economy in their zones of Germany.
- In January 1947, the British and US zones were joined together in 'Bizonia'. Stalin said this broke the Potsdam agreements.
- Tension had been increasing in the occupied zones and Britain and the USA saw that a merger of the zones would assist future economic planning for Germany.
- The French zone was added in April 1948. Stalin said this broke the Potsdam agreements.
- Stalin believed that Germany should be kept weak to prevent any risk of further trouble. He also wanted to get reparations from Germany to help rebuild the Soviet Union.
- In 1948 the Western Allies announced that they were going to introduce a new currency, the Deutschmark, in Trizonia to help the economy get going again. Stalin said the new currency broke the Potsdam agreements.
- The currency was introduced to prevent inflation and to stop the black market trade and bartering which were still common three years after the end of the war.
- The new currency would mean that the eastern and western parts of Germany would now be separate economically and would begin to develop at different rates. This angered Stalin and the Soviet authorities.
- West Berlin was a temptation to East Berliners. In the west, the Marshall Plan was beginning to make life much better. Already East Berliners and East Germans were trying to escape to the west.



How did the Allies react to the Blockade?

- They were determined that Stalin should not succeed. General Lucius Clay the US commander in Berlin said, 'If West Berlin falls, West Germany will be next'.
- Clay offered to fight his way out of West Berlin, but was ordered not to by Truman. The USA had reduced its army after the war and, by 1948, it had only about 500,000 soldiers.
- The Allies believed that if they gave in Stalin would behave as Hitler had in the 1930s. More and more countries would be taken over.
- The solution was to fly supplies to the people of West Berlin. The U.S. action gave the name Operation Vittles and the British gave the name Operation Plainfare to the airlift.
- The Airlift began on 28 June 1948. The Allies began to bring supplies into West Berlin by air. 4,000 tonnes were needed every day. Eventually they were bringing in 8,000 tonnes; even coal was brought in by plane.
- The airlift reached its peak on 16–17 April 1949 when almost 1400 flights landed nearly 13,000 tons of supplies in 24 hours.
- On 12 May 1949 Stalin called off the blockade. He had failed to starve the Allies out of Berlin.
- More than 320,000 flights were made altogether and 79 pilots died.

What were the consequences of the Berlin Blockade?

- The distrust that had been growing between the USA and USSR was now clear for the world to see. It was a sign that relations between the Superpowers were now so bad that some form of military alliance was necessary. The Cold War had started in earnest.
- Many East Germans began to try to escape from the Soviet zone to the other three.
- **The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** was set up in April 1949. During the Berlin Blockade, the USA was concerned about the military power of the USSR in Europe and set up its own military alliance to counter the threat.
- Member states were – USA, Great Britain, France, Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Italy and Portugal.
- The members of NATO made it clear that any attack on any part of their territories would be considered an attack on the whole alliance.

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- NATO led to US troops and aircraft being stationed in European countries to protect them against a possible attack by the countries of Eastern Europe.
- The **Federal Republic of Germany** (West Germany) was set up in May 1949 and the **German Democratic Republic** (East Germany) in October of that year.

How did the Cold War develop in the period 1949 to 1956?

Communism in Asia

- In 1949 the Chinese Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, defeated the Nationalists and established a communist government in China.
- The USA was concerned about the spread of communism, especially to such a large populous country.
- The USA had been keen to contain the spread of communism in Europe containment; however, the spread of communism into Asia saw the development of the domino theory.
- This was the belief that if one nation fell to communism then it would be followed by many others. The image of a set of dominoes being knocked over one after the other terrified the USA.
- The domino theory seemed to be confirmed by the Korean War of 1950–53. North Korea was ruled by communist forces, supported by the Soviet Union and China.
- South Korea had a US-supported democratic government. When North Korean forces invaded South Korea in 1950, the USA saw this as the beginning of communist domination of the whole of Asia.
- This led to US forces being sent to help South Korea against the invading communist forces. After three years a truce was signed and Korea remained divided in two – as it had been in 1950.

The beginnings of the arms race

- The USA developed the atomic bomb in 1945 and used it on two occasions, at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Possession of this devastating weapon gave the USA a clear advantage over the Soviet Union and Stalin pushed for the development of the Soviet bomb immediately.
- In 1949 the Soviet Union also exploded its first atomic bomb. This led to an Arms Race between the superpowers. Now that both Superpowers owned atomic weapons, each sought to have more than the other.



- More importantly, each wanted to develop more destructive weapons and huge amounts of money was spent developing these weapons of mass destruction.
- In 1952 the USA tested its first hydrogen bomb.
- In 1953, the Soviet Union tested its first hydrogen bomb.

The death of Stalin

- In March 1953 Joseph Stalin died and was eventually replaced by Nikita Khrushchev.
- Khrushchev believed in **CO-EXISTENCE**. Rather than try to destroy the West, the Soviet Union should accept that it had a right to exist.
- Khrushchev did not intend, however, to weaken the ties between the Soviet Union and the other countries of Eastern Europe. In 1953 workers in East Germany were shot when they demonstrated against conditions.
- He was not going to take a more lenient attitude to West Germany. In 1955 Khrushchev set up the Warsaw Pact.

What was the WARSAW PACT?

- The Warsaw Pact was a military alliance of the Communist countries of Eastern Europe. It was the communist equivalent of NATO.
- The full title was the 'Pact of Mutual Assistance and Unified Command'.
- The Warsaw Pact was set up in 1955 in response to the admission of West Germany (the German Federal Republic) to NATO.
- The USSR was very concerned at this, as Germany had invaded Russia twice in the twentieth century. This showed the fear that the Soviet Union had of a further invasion by Germany.
- It was an attempt to protect the USSR by drawing the countries of Eastern Europe even closer together.
- The members of the Pact were the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and East Germany.
- It had two important effects. It created a joint command of the armed forces of the alliance.
- It set up a Political Committee to co-ordinate the foreign policies of the members.



- The Pact increased the influence of the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe and led to more Soviet troops being stationed there. This made the crushing of the Hungarian Rising of 1956 all the easier.
- Its forces outnumbered those of the West and an invasion through northern Germany always seemed very likely.
- From the 1950s to the 1980s, the threat from the Warsaw Pact was taken very seriously by the West.
- Eventually, support for the Pact was financially ruinous for the Soviet Union and was an important factor in the bankruptcy and collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Hungary: the tightening of Soviet control in Eastern Europe

- In 1956, there was a serious threat to Soviet control of one of its satellite states – Hungary. The threat was only removed only after Soviet troops invaded Hungary.
- Problems began for the Soviet Union in Poland in 1956 after Khrushchev had made his 'Secret Speech', in which he criticised Stalin.
- Rioting, which led to more than 100 deaths, broke out in June 1956, but the real trouble began in October when the rioters were put on trial.
- On 21 October Wladislaw Gomulka became the new leader of the Polish Communist Party. He had only recently been released from prison after serving a five year sentence.
- Khrushchev had to decide between allowing Gomulka to remain in power, or to use force, as the Polish Defence Minister demanded.
- He decided to allow Gomulka to take power and removed some unpopular Stalinists from the government, but Gomulka had to promise that Poland would remain a loyal member of the Warsaw Pact, and the Communist Party remained firmly in control.
- The Defence Minister, Marshal Rokossovsky, was summoned to Moscow and accused of talking part in a conspiracy to overthrow Gomulka.

Much more serious were events in **HUNGARY** later in the year.

What happened in Hungary?

The impact of Soviet rule on Hungary

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- Hungary had been an ally of Germany in the war and had fought against the Soviet Union. In 1945, Hungary's Provisional Government agreed to pay the Soviet Union reparations of \$300 million.
- Soviet forces occupied Hungary
- Following the November 1945 elections, the leader of the Soviet forces, Voroshilov, ensured that the Hungarian Communist Party became part of the coalition government. Laszlo Rajk, of the Hungarian Communist Party, was in charge of the security police.
- After elections in 1947, the Hungarian Communist Party took complete control and established a one-party state. The new leader was Matyas Rakosi.
- Rakosi followed Stalin's ideas and set up a communist dictatorship and joined COMINFORM (see above).

Hungary under Rakosi

The economy

- Hungary joined COMECON (see above) and the Soviet Union interfered in its economy.
- Hungary – as with all other Soviet satellite states - was not allowed to receive any Marshall Aid.
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- Trade was never on a fair basis and exports to the Soviet Union were always below the market price.
- There was forced collectivisation which was hated by the bulk of the Hungarian population. Agricultural output fell.
- Progress in industry was slow and brought little prosperity.

Political and social control

- Rakosi followed Stalin's methods of imposing control on the people.
- More than 2,000 opponents were murdered during his purges.
- An estimated 200,000 opponents were imprisoned and it is calculated that a further 150,000 were removed from their jobs.
- Rakosi controlled communications and the media.

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- The secret police – AVH (Allamvedelmi Hatóság) – was Rakosi's main means of control.
- Religious education was not permitted in schools
- Cardinal Mindszenty, the leader of the Hungarian Catholic Church, was imprisoned for life in 1949.

Hungary under Nagy

- Rakosi had difficulty managing the economy and the people of Hungary saw living standards fall.
- His government became increasingly unpopular, and when Joseph Stalin died in 1953, Rakosi was replaced by Imre Nagy.
- Nagy put forward his ideas called the 'New Course'.
- Nagy brought in a more liberal regime.
- He promised to improve the economy and increase the production of consumer goods.
- The Soviet Union disliked his policies and he was sacked in April 1955.

The Uprising

- In October 1956 fighting broke out in Budapest between Hungarians and Soviet troops. On 24th October, Imre Nagy became prime minister of Hungary once again.
- This led to fighting between Hungarian and Soviet troops. Khrushchev tried to deal with the situation by withdrawing the Soviet troops from Hungary.
- Nagy set up a new government, which included non-communists. John Foster Dulles, the US Secretary of State, told Nagy - 'You can count on us'. Nagy saw this as a firm commitment from the USA.
- On 30th October, Nagy announced there would be free elections in Hungary. Cardinal Mindszenty and other leading political prisoners were released.
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- On 2nd November, Nagy said that Hungary would withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact.
- Khrushchev looked on in horror and saw one of his satellite states about to create a hole in the Warsaw Pact and Eastern Europe.



- On 4 November Khrushchev ordered the Soviet army to invade Hungary and crush the uprising. 200,000 Soviet troops and 6000 tanks returned to Hungary.
- There was bitter street fighting; 7,000 Soviet troops and 4,000 Hungarians were killed. (At the time, it was stated by Western observers that about 30,000 Hungarians had been killed.)
- Britain and France did not become involved because they were distracted by their involvement in the Suez Crisis.
- A ceasefire was agreed for 10 November but some fighting continued into the next year.
- Nagy was arrested and executed in 1958.
- The West protested, but did nothing because they were afraid that military action would lead to war. Moreover, the West was involved with the Suez Crisis and its attention was diverted.
- The new leader of Hungary was Janos Kadar.

What were the results of the uprising?

- Khrushchev was able to keep control and a new Soviet-backed leader, Kadar, was installed. Kadar remained leader until 1965.
- About 200,000 Hungarians escaped to Austria during the uprising.
- Khrushchev showed that Soviet satellite states had to comply with the wishes of Moscow or suffer the consequences.
- The Warsaw Pact remained intact.
- The next attempt to move away from Soviet control was Czechoslovakia in 1968.
- The Uprising showed the uncompromising nature of the Soviet Union – Western leaders became more determined to prevent any further spread of communism.
- President Eisenhower and the USA had shown that they were not prepared to go to war.
- The United Nations was unable to become involved because the Soviet Union used its veto in the Security Council.



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