

Knowledge Organiser: Unit 2, Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941 - 91.

Part 2: Crises, 1958 - 1970.

Summary.

The Cold War divide was fully established by 1958 and had been re-enforced after the Hungarian Uprising. However, the years 1958 to 1970 saw tensions escalate further. Problems in Berlin led to the construction of the Berlin Wall. This became a constant reminder of the east west divide across Europe. Tension increased outside of Europe after Khrushchev's decision to place nuclear missiles in Cuba, almost resulting in a nuclear war. In Europe tension returned over Czechoslovakia following the Soviets use of force to crush the Prague Springs Uprising.

Key events.

1	1959 – Jan: Castro became leader of Cuba May: Geneva Summit Sept: Khrushchev visited USA
2	1960 – May: U2 spy plane crisis; Paris Summit.
3	1961 – June: Vienna Summit August: Berlin Wall construction began; Bay of Pigs invasion.
4	1962 – Oct: Cuban Missile Crisis
5	1964 – Oct: Khrushchev forced to resign as General Secretary and replaced by Brezhnev.
6	1968 – April: Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia. July: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty signed August: Warsaw Pact troops crush Prague Spring Uprising September: Brezhnev Doctrine announced

Key terms.

Domino Effect – The American theory that a communist takeover in one country would lead to communist take overs in neighbouring countries. This theory was promoted under the Eisenhower Presidency.
Brezhnev Doctrine – Soviet policy that any threat to socialist rule in the Soviet bloc was a threat to them all, and therefore justified intervention to protect socialism.
Thirteen Days – Reference to the time of the Cuban Crisis when the threat of nuclear action was at its height.
Peaceful Co-existence – The two superpowers would get along without tension between them.

Key words

Arms Race	When countries compete against each other for more powerful weapons.
Blockade	Military force refuses to let something past.
Brinkmanship	Pushing disagreements to the point of risking war.
Buffer Zone	Eastern European countries seen as a barrier to the west.
Capitalism	Belief people should be free to own their own property and make money. The USA and Britain.
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency responsible for security.
Containment	US policy of stopping communism spreading.
Confrontation	When two countries challenge each other and risk war.
Conventional	Any military weapons that are not nuclear or chemical
Communism	Belief all property and wealth should be owned by the state to ensure everyone has a fair share. The USSR.
Deterrent	Something that stops a country attacking another
ICBM	Inter-continental Ballistic Missiles.
MAD	Mutual Assured Destruction
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation – western military alliance
Satellite States	Countries that came under the control of the USSR.
Summit	Term used for the meetings between USA and USSR
United Nations	International Peace Keeping Organisation set up in 1945,

Key people.

Eisenhower	American President 1953 - 1961
Khrushchev	Soviet General Secretary 1955 - 1964
Kennedy	American President 1961 - 1963
Castro	Communist dictator of Cuba
Johnson	American President 1963 - 1969
Brezhnev	Soviet General Secretary 1964 - 1982
Nixon	American President 1969 - 1974

Concept: Cause and Consequence