

Who was to blame for the Cold War?

Explain the Who, What, Where, When, and Why involved for each question. Create a memory word to remember the main ideas for each question

1. Why did the USA–USSR alliance begin to break down in 1945? Memory Word=_____

Who was involved in the creation and dissolution of the USA-USSR alliance in 1945:

What did the breakdown of the USA-USSR alliance do:

Where did the breakdown of the USA-USSR alliance cause problems:

When did the USA-USSR alliance break down (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why did the USA-USSR alliance break down (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

2. How had the USSR gained control of Eastern Europe by 1948? Memory Word=_____

Who was leading the USSR's efforts to gain control in Eastern Europe (Major individuals in each country):

What did the USSR hope to gain by controlling Eastern Europe:

Where did the USSR gain control by 1948:

When did the gain control of each part of Eastern Europe (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why was the control of Eastern Europe a key for the USSR's political and economic goals (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

3. How did the USA react to Soviet expansionism? Memory Word=_____

Who was involved in the reactions to Soviet expansionism:

What did the USA hope to gain by reacting:

Where did the USA react or involve themselves in response to Soviet expansionism:

When did the USA react or involve themselves in response to Soviet expansionism (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why did the USA react in response to Soviet expansionism (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

4. What were the consequences of the Berlin Blockade? Memory Word=_____

Who was involved in the Berlin Blockade:

What was the Berlin Blockade:

Where did the Berlin Blockade have an effect (country, region, land mass, etc):

When was the Berlin Blockade (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why was the Berlin Blockade enacted and how did it effect the region (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

5. Who was more to blame for starting the Cold War: the USA or the USSR? Memory Word=_____

Who was in a leadership position in USA or USSR at start of Cold War:

What did the actions of USA and USSR do for relations:

Where did the actions of the USA and USSR impact the relationship (country, region, land mass, etc):

When did these issues impact the USA-USSR relationship (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why was the USA and USSR to blame for the Cold War (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

Sample Exam Questions

1. Read the extract, and then answer the questions which follow

In the hallway at Yalta we stopped before a map of the world on which the Soviet Union was colored in red. Stalin waved his hand over the Soviet Union and exclaimed, 'Roosevelt and Churchill will never accept the idea that so great a space should be red'.

A Communist supporter of Stalin writing in 1948 about the Yalta Conference.

- (a) What was decided at the Yalta Conference of February 1945? [5]
(b) Why was there mistrust between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers in 1945? [7]
(c) 'The Berlin Blockade was the main reason for increasing Cold War tension in the years 1947–9.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [8]

2. Read the extract, and then answer the questions which follow.

Truman decided to surprise us at Potsdam. He took Stalin and me aside and informed us they had an extraordinary new weapon. It's difficult to say what he was thinking, but it seemed to me he wanted to alarm us. Stalin reacted quite calmly and Truman decided he hadn't understood. The words 'atomic bomb' were not spoken, but we immediately guessed what he meant.

From Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov's memories of the Potsdam Conference, recorded some time after the event.

- (a) What did Churchill mean by the 'iron curtain'? [5]
(b) Why was it difficult to reach a satisfactory agreement at the Potsdam Conference of July 1945? [7]
(c) How successful was the USA in containing Communism in Europe up to 1949? Explain your answer. [8]

3. Read the extract, and then answer the questions which follow.

What can be surprising about the fact that the Soviet Union, anxious for its future safety, is trying to see that governments loyal in their attitude to the Soviet Union should exist in the countries of Eastern Europe? How can anyone describe these peaceful aspirations of the Soviet Union as expansionist tendencies on the part of our state?

Stalin speaking about Eastern Europe in 1946.

- (a) Describe how Czechoslovakia became communist controlled in 1948. [5]
(b) Why did Stalin set up the Berlin Blockade in 1948? [7]
(c) Was Soviet policy towards Eastern Europe from 1945-48 aggressive in nature? Explain your answer. [8]