

# Year 9 Autumn 2 Knowledge Organiser – The Cold War



## Summary

1.	The Cold War was a long period of tension between the democracies of the Western World and the communist countries of Eastern Europe. The west was led by the United States and Eastern Europe was led by the Soviet Union. These two countries became known as superpowers.
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## Key Events

2.	<b>1945-</b> The Yalta and Potsdam Conferences. The USA explodes the first atomic bombs
3.	<b>1947-</b> Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan. Setting up of Cominform
4.	<b>1948-</b> Beginning of Berlin Blockade
5.	<b>1949-</b> The formation of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic and the setting up of NATO
6.	<b>1950-</b> Start of the Korean War
7.	<b>1954-</b> Active US involvement in Vietnam
8.	<b>1975-</b> US troops formally leave Vietnam

## Key Individuals

11. <b>Stalin</b>	Leader of the USSR (Soviet Union) from 1924 until his death in 1953. He ruled the USSR as brutally as Hitler ruled Germany, being responsible for millions of his people's deaths
12. <b>Harry Truman</b>	President of the USA from 1945 to 1953. The 'Truman Doctrine' involved containing communism from spreading and keeping American allies' economies strong
13. <b>John F Kennedy</b>	President of the USA from 1961 until his assassination on November 22, 1963. He Tried to stop communism spreading to American neighbor Cuba and worked with Khrushchev to dissolve the nuclear crisis of 1962.
14. <b>Richard Nixon</b>	President of the USA from 1969 until his resignation followed corruption charges in 1974. He was elected on the promise to pull America out of the Vietnam war.

## Key Terms

15.	Allies	America, Russia and Britain were friends in WW2
16.	Capitalism	An economic system where the government has no (or little) control over the economy. Private business is encouraged.
17.	Communism	A system where the government has complete, central control of the economy. There is no (or very little) private property or business.
18.	Eastern Bloc	Group of countries in Eastern Europe that were allied because of shared interests during the Cold War.
19.	Marshall Plan	A special system of loans from the USA to European countries implemented at the end of the Second World War which allowed for reconstruction and economic regeneration.
20.	Domino Theory	Theory followed in the USA from Eisenhower onwards that when one country falls to Communism, its neighbours would fall too, like dominoes.
21.	NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)	Created in 1949 following the Berlin Crisis of 1948- 49, its 12 founding members included the USA and Canada, Britain and France. NATO exists to protect the freedom and security of its members using both political and military means.
22.	Proxy War	An indirect war between the superpowers where the USA or USSR fund the other enemy eg Korean War, Vietnam War.
23.	MAD (mutually assured destruction)	) The belief that, because America and the Soviet Union could wipe each other out, neither side would actually use their nuclear weapons.
24.	Napalm	A very flammable jelly-like substance, made infamous in the American war against Vietnam