Edexcel GCSE History A: The Making of the Modern World

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Section 4: How did the Cold War develop? 1943–56

How many World Wars have there been? This seems like an easy question. There were two: the first between 1914 and 1918, and the second between 1939 and 1945. However, some American writers have suggested that there was a Third World War, which started in 1945 and ended in 1991 with the fall of the Soviet Union. This war is better known as the Cold War.

In this section you will study the development of the Cold War. In particular, you will look at: **Spec check**

- Why did the Cold War begin? The end of the Grand Alliance how allies became enemies 1943–1947.
- The development of the Cold War: dividing Germany and dividing Europe 1948–1949.
- Hungary under Soviet rule 1949–1956.

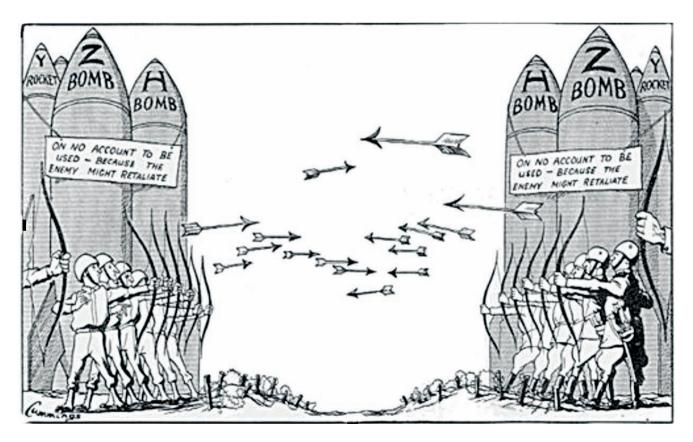
You will consider the breakdown in trust between the USSR and America following their victory in World War Two, and how this led to a division of Europe. Additionally, you will see how ideology, the personalities of powerful men and the development of the atom bomb intensified conflict in the late 1940s. Finally, you will consider the first two flashpoints of the Cold War: Berlin and Hungary.

What was the Cold War?

Can we really call the Cold War the Third World War? There were important differences between World War One and World War Two, on the one hand, and the Cold War on the other. The Cold War was a new kind of conflict in which America and the USSR never declared war on each other, nor did American and Russian soldiers face each other in battle. In fact during much of the time there was a 'Cold Peace' – both sides were keen to avoid actually fighting because they knew that a real Third World War, a nuclear war, would be unwinnable.

However, although Russia and America never fought each other, the Cold War had many of the characteristics of an actual war. For example, both sides were involved in an arms race: a military buildup of nuclear weapons as well as armies, navies and air forces. Both sides formed military alliances and were involved in spying on each other. Finally, propaganda was an essential aspect of the Cold War. Governments used propaganda to persuade their own citizens that they were under threat and therefore that the military build-up was necessary. Propaganda was also essential to show why enemies were evil and why they needed to be fought.

Cummings of the Daily Express, *24 August 1953: 'Back to where it all started' A British cartoonist sums up the nuclear stand-off that developed during the Cold War.*



Why did the Cold War begin? The Breakdown of the Grand Alliance

Learning objectives

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- The difference between communism and capitalism.
- The three key meetings of the Grand Alliance.
- The difficult relationship between Russia and America before the Cold War began.

The Grand Alliance (1941)

Prior to the Cold War, America and the USSR worked together as members of the Grand Alliance: an alliance created in 1941 to defeat the Nazis. However, the Grand Alliance was a marriage of convenience between communists and capitalists united only in their opposition to Hitler. Once Hitler had been defeated, the Alliance became increasingly uneasy. Between 1943 and 1945, the leaders of the Grand Alliance met at three international conferences: Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam.

	Capitalism	Communism
Focus	Individual rights	The rights of the working class
Values	Individual freedom	Equality
Economy	Free trade	Government planned
Politics	Democratic elections	Communist Party controls government

The Tehran Conference (1943)

The Tehran Conference was designed to make plans for the reconstruction of Europe following World War Two. The 'Big Three' – American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Russian leader Joseph Stalin – agreed that the USSR should have a 'sphere of influence' in Eastern Europe. A 'sphere of influence' meant an area in which communism was respected. This would guarantee that the USSR was not threatened by any of its neighbouring countries. Equally, Western Europe would be a British and American sphere of influence, where capitalism would be dominant.

The Big Three did not, however, agree on Germany's future. Stalin believed that Germany should be punished for starting World War Two, losing territory and paying reparations. This would ensure that Germany was never again a threat. Roosevelt and Churchill, on the other hand, believed that Germany should be rebuilt. They argued that a peaceful Europe needed a prosperous Germany.

The Yalta Conference (1945)

The Yalta Conference marked the highpoint of the Grand Alliance. The Big Three made the following decisions:

- Stalin agreed that Russian troops would help America defeat Japan once Hitler had been defeated.
- Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to the establishment of a communist government in Poland.
- The Declaration on Liberated Europe committed the USSR, America and Britain to work for democracy in Europe.
- The allies agreed to establish the United Nations, an organisation committed to maintaining peace.
- The Big Three restated their agreement that the USSR should have a sphere of influence in Eastern Europe.

Signs of tension

In spite of the apparent unity, there were important issues that divided the Big Three. For example, although they all agreed to work for democracy, there were ideological disagreements over what democracy meant. Stalin believed that a democratic government had to be a communist government because only the communists truly represented the working people. Roosevelt, on the other hand, believed that democracy involved a number of different political parties competing to win the people's support in free elections.

The success of the conference was based largely on Stalin's relationship with Roosevelt. However, within two months Roosevelt had died and the new American President, Harry S. Truman, was less willing to compromise with Stalin, leading to further tensions at the Alliance's final conference.

Stalin, Truman and Churchill at Potsdam in 1945.



The Potsdam Conference (1945)

The Potsdam Conference was the final meeting of the three leaders of the Grand Alliance. The Conference addressed the question of the government of Europe following the German surrender. The big question, according to Churchill, was Germany. The allies agreed to ban the Nazi Party and to prosecute surviving Nazis as war criminals. They also agreed to reduce the size of Germany by approximately a quarter. Finally, they agreed to temporarily divide Germany into four zones allocated to the French, the British, the Americans and the USSR.

Once again, there was disagreement on bigger issues. The USSR wanted to impose heavy reparations on Germany, whereas America wanted Germany to be rebuilt. The Conference agreed a compromise whereby each ally would take reparations from the zone they occupied.

Truman attempted to assert his authority during the Potsdam Conference. His first move was to postpone the Conference to give American scientists more time to test the first atomic bomb. Following the successful test of the American atomic bomb in July 1945, Churchill noticed a change in Truman's attitude. Truman believed that America possessed the ultimate weapon and therefore, in Churchill's words 'told Stalin where to go and generally bossed everyone around'. Truman believed that the atomic bomb was 'the master card' in the Potsdam discussions. It gave America the power to destroy entire enemy cities without risking a single American life.

Stalin refused to be bossed around. He was determined to protect the interests of the USSR and was also unimpressed by America's bomb. Stalin's plan was to protect the USSR by creating a buffer zone – an area in Eastern Europe between the USSR and the capitalist west.

Truman's arrogance and Stalin's determination soured the relationship at the centre of the Grand Alliance. Their relationship was further strained by the USSR's actions in Poland. Stalin had agreed to set up a government in Poland that included both communists and capitalists. However, by the time of the Potsdam Conference it was evident that he had broken his word. Although the Potsdam Conference finished with a show of unity, insiders at the conference were aware that there were bitter divisions between America and the USSR, which some thought would lead to a new war.



ResultsPlus Build Better Answers

The examiner is looking for a developed statement, a statement that both answers the question and provides some detailed support. **Question: Describe one decision that** was made about the division of Europe at the Yalta Conference in 1945 [2]

A basic answer (Level 1).

At the Yalta Conference, Europe was divided between Russia and America.

A good answer (Level 2).

At the Yalta Conference, Europe was divided between Russia and America. It was agreed that both countries should have a 'sphere of influence' in Europe within which their interests would be respected.

Examination question

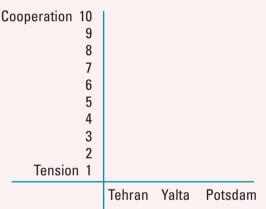
(a) Describe one issue that caused tension at the Potsdam Conference (1945)

[2]

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Activities

- 1. Divide the following conference aims into those belonging to the USA, those belonging to the USSR, and those shared by both:
 - A 'sphere of influence' in Eastern Europe.
 - Reparations from Germany.
 - Governments representing working people.
 - A peaceful and prosperous Germany.
 - Governments elected by the people.
 - Prosecution of Nazi war criminals.
 - A communist government in Poland.
 - Democratic governments across Europe.
- The three conferences Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam form the background to the Cold War. During this period it became clear that relations between the USSR and America were uneasy. This activity will help you to understand how these relationships developed.
 - a) On a large piece of paper, draw the following axes:



- b) For each conference, make two lists:
 - a) evidence that the 'big three' were cooperating
 - b) evidence that there was tension in their relationship.
- c) Use the information on your lists to reach a judgement about the extent to which the big three were cooperating at each conference. Give the big three a mark out of 10, where 10 represents complete cooperation and 1 represents great tension.
- d) Plot the scores for each conference on your graph.
- e) In what ways did the relationship between the big three change during this period?
- f) Make a list of reasons why the relationship between the big three changed between the Tehran Conference in 1943 and the Potsdam Conference in 1945.

Why did the Cold War begin? **Fear of War**

Learning objectives

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- The breakdown of trust between Russia and America.
- How Russia and America viewed each other in 1946.

The War of words

During 1946 it became increasingly clear that Europe had been divided between capitalism in the west and communism in the east. Stalin, representing the east, and Churchill, representing the west, responded with a 'war of words' showing that the former allies now viewed each other with tremendous suspicion. This suspicion became an important part of the Cold War.

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind the line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe... all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in the Soviet sphere and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and increasing measure of control from Moscow.

Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech, March 1946

Stalin's response to Churchill's speech, **March 1946**

Essentially, Mr Churchill now adopts the position of the warmonger, and in this Mr Churchill is not alone. He has friends not only in Britain but in the United States of America as well. A point to be noted in this respect is that Mr Churchill and his friends bear a striking resemblance to Hitler and his friends.

Churchill gave his speech during a trip to America and everyone understood that President Truman supported what he had said. Clearly, both sides had started to view each other as opponents rather than allies.

Sending out the spies!

Truman and Stalin were concerned about the breakdown of the Grand Alliance and the threat of a new war. Both men asked for secret reports from their embassies to help them to understand how

their opponents were thinking. Both reports were sent as telegrams.

ResultsPlus

Build Better Answers

Question: Describe one factor that led to a breakdown in the Grand Alliance in 1946. [2]

A basic answer (Level 1). This will be accurate, but will lack detail.

A good answer (Level 2). Better answers will be accurate and will include supporting information.

Look at the question above. Take one of the following factors:

- a) Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech
- b) The Long Telegram

c) Novikov's Telegram

What supporting information would you use to develop your point?

The Long Telegram (1946)

Truman received worrying news in the 'Long Telegram'. This telegram reported that:

- Stalin had given a speech calling for the destruction of capitalism.
- There could be no peace with the USSR while it was opposed to capitalism.
- The USSR was building up its military power.

Novikov's Telegram (1946)

Novikov's telegram to Stalin was equally concerning, and reported that:

- America desired to dominate the world.
- Following Roosevelt's death, the American government was no longer interested in cooperation with the USSR.

• The American public was being prepared for war with the USSR. Following these secret telegrams, both governments believed that they were facing the possibility of war. Indeed, the government of the USSR came to believe that war with America was inevitable. In America, too, soldiers who had fought in World War Two, who had returned to America and entered politics, called Stalin 'the new Hitler'. Their point was simple: Stalin, like Hitler, was preparing for war and must be stopped.

On the verge of the Cold War

By the end of 1946, the Grand Alliance was all but over. America had come to believe that the USSR was planning world domination and many in the USSR feared that America was planning the same. At the beginning of 1947, Truman addressed the American government, setting out his belief that America must stand against communism. This speech, setting out the 'Truman Doctrine', can be seen as the unofficial declaration of the Cold War.



Do not confuse the Churchill's 'Iron curtain' with the Berlin Wall! The 'Iron curtain' is a metaphor for the division of Europe, whereas the Berlin Wall was an actual barrier dividing Berlin.

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Activity

Divide your class into three teams. Each team must prepare a short speech explaining who they believe was responsible for the breakdown of the Grand Alliance. Team 1 will argue that the USA was to blame. Team 2 will argue that the USSR was to blame. Team 3 will argue that both sides share the blame.

Present your speeches in turn. Your teacher will award marks in the following way:

- Relevant and accurate statement 1 point
- Specific supporting detail 2 points
- Clear explanation of why the opposing side is to blame 3 points
- The team with the most points wins!

The Development of the Cold War: The Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid

Learning objectives

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- The key features of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid.
- America's reasons for offering Marshall Aid.

The Truman Doctrine (1947)

Following the 'Long Telegram', Truman asked the American military to assess the strength of the USSR's army. He learned that the USSR was in no position to wage a war. Nonetheless, Truman believed that the USSR had a second strategy which would allow them to conquer more and more territory without having to declare war: Stalin would encourage Communist revolutions across Europe. After World War Two, much of Europe was shattered and citizens in Italy, France, Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom were suffering great hardships. In these conditions communism was highly appealing. To address this threat, in 1947 Truman set out a new policy which soon became known as the 'Truman Doctrine'.

The Truman Doctrine stated that:

- The world had a choice between communist tyranny and democratic freedom.
- America had a responsibility to fight for liberty wherever it was threatened.
- America would send troops and economic resources to help governments that were threatened by communists.
- Communism should not be allowed to grow and gain territory.

The significance of the Truman Doctrine

The Truman Doctrine was important because it suggested that America, rather than the United Nations, had a responsibility to protect the world. This marked a reversal of the USA's policy of 'isolationism' which had meant that America would stay out of international affairs. It was also significant because it divided the world according to ideology: it stated clearly that capitalism and communism were in opposition. Finally, it set a realistic goal for American foreign policy. Truman was committed to 'containment', which implied that America would not invade the USSR, but it would make every effort to stop the spread of communism. **ResultsPlus**

Build Better Answers

Question: Briefly explain the key features of the Truman Doctrine.

[6]

A basic answer (Level 1) This will contain simple statements that are accurate, but contain no supporting examples. The Truman Doctrine said that America would help protect other countries from Communism.

• A good answer (Level 2) This will be made up of one or two statements which are both accurate and developed with specific examples. e.g. The Truman Doctrine said that America would help protect other countries from Communism by sending troops and economic aid if necessary.

An excellent answer (Full marks)

To get full marks, you must write three detailed statements with specific examples,

The Marshall Plan (1947)

Truman described containment and the Marshall Plan as 'two halves of the same walnut'. By this he meant that America had a dual strategy for dealing with communism. First, containment aimed to beat communism through military force. Secondly, the Marshall Plan of 1947 committed \$13 billion of American money to rebuild the shattered economies of Europe. By encouraging prosperity, the Marshall Plan would weaken the attraction of communism. To those suffering economic hardship following World War Two, the promise of sharing resources equally had great appeal. If people were wealthy, however, the idea of sharing resources would have less appeal. In order to qualify for American money, European countries had to agree to trade freely with America. In this way, the Marshall Plan also helped the American economy.

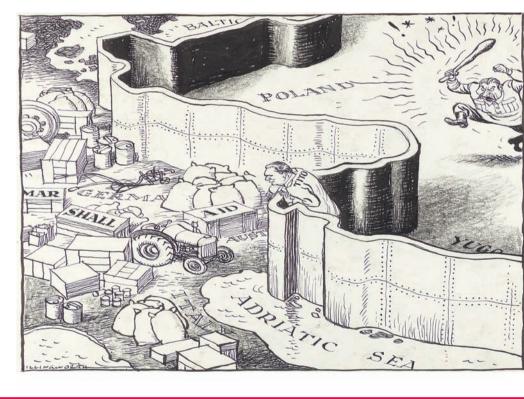
Examination question

Briefly explain the key features of the Marshall Plan. [6]

Initial reaction to the Marshall Plan

European leaders met at the Paris Conference of 1948 to discuss the American offer. Many European countries were keen to receive

Marshall Aid. However. representatives from the USSR walked out of the conference claiming that the Americans were attempting to split Europe into 'two camps'. They argued that Marshall Aid was the first step in creating a military alliance which would wage war on the Soviet Union. Stalin also insisted that Eastern European countries in the Soviet 'sphere of influence' refuse the help offered by America. By contrast, 16 countries including Britain and France welcomed the offer, seeing it as a way of rebuilding their economies and defeating communism in their own countries.



Activity

You are one of Truman's advisors. Prepare a letter to be sent to the leaders of all European governments inviting them to the Paris Conference of 1948. The letter should:

- Describe America's offer of assistance (the Marshall Plan).
- Explain why America is offering this assistance.
- Set out what the government must do in order to qualify for this offer.

Remember to be persuasive!

Key Topic I: The Weimar Republic 1918–33

By 1918, the Germans had been at war – the First World War – for four years. They faced the combined might of the Allies – Britain, France, Russia and the USA. The Allied navies were blockading Germany, preventing imports. There were shortages of weapons for troops and basic supplies for the population. The Germans launched a last desperate attack upon Paris in the spring of 1918, but failed.

Food shortages caused severe hardship and military failures caused a sense of hopelessness. All this created public unrest all over Germany. Workers at the Daimler plant in Stuttgart went on strike and demonstrated in the streets. In Munich, there was an uprising led by a Jewish communist named Kurt Eisner. In several cities workers set up their own local government councils. In Hanover, soldiers refused to control rioters and in Kiel and Hamburg, naval crews refused to follow orders and mutinied.

It was clear that Germany would lose the war. The Army told the German Emperor (the Kaiser) that he had to abdicate to save the country from civil war. On 9th November 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm accepted his fate and fled to Holland.

Germany's biggest political party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) declared Germany a republic, soon known as the Weimar Republic. Friedrich Ebert, an SDP leader, became its first Chancellor. But governing the new Germany was very difficult.

In this Key Topic you will study: 🔨 Spec check

- The origins and early problems of the Weimar Republic 1918–23.
- The recovery of the Weimar Republic under Stresemann 1924–29.
- The impact of the Great Depression 1929-33.

The Weimar Republic faced many problems in its early years. There were economic problems caused by the effects of the war; there were revolts against the new government. From 1924 the work of Chancellor Stresemann seemed to bring prosperity back to Germany. But this came to a dramatic end after 1929 when economic depression destroyed both the German economy and the Weimar Republic.

The Treaty of Versailles

Learning objectives

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- the Treaty of Versailles its terms and effects
- reasons for German resentment of the treaty.

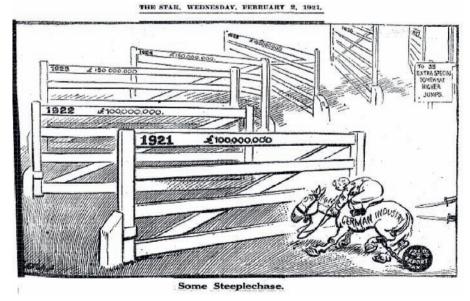
The Diktat

On 11th November 1918, just two days after the Kaiser had abdicated, Mattias Erzberger, representing the new government, signed the Armistice – an agreement to stop fighting. The Allied leaders, David Lloyd George (Britain), Georges Clemenceau (France) and Woodrow Wilson (United States) then drew up the peace treaty.

The Germans were given 15 days to respond to the treaty. It said Germany had to accept the blame for starting the war, pay reparations (compensation) to the defeated nations and agree to reductions in Germany's armed forces and land.

The Germans were bitterly opposed and asked for several changes; all were refused. The treaty was a *diktat* – it was imposed upon them. Because of their military collapse, and economic and political turmoil, they had to accept. On 28th June 1919, the German delegation signed Treaty of Versailles.

The treaty was not liked by the German people or German political parties. They blamed Germany's new political leaders for signing the treaty. This link with defeat and humiliation weakened the new republic right from the very start.



A cartoon from The Star in 1921. When reparations were fixed in 1921, even the British press could see that they were too high.

The victors demand that, as the defeated, we shall be made to pay and, as the guilty, we shall be punished. The demand is that we should agree that we, alone, are guilty of having caused the war. Such a confession, in my mouth, would be a lie.

Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, leader of the German delegation at Versailles.

Vengeance, German nation! Today, in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, a disgraceful treaty is being signed. Never forget it! On that spot...German honour is being dragged to its grave. There will be revenge for the shame of 1919.

Deutsche Zeitung, *a German newspaper, 28th June 1919.*

Activity

Put yourself in the place of Chancellor Ebert. Write a reply to the *Deutsche Zeitung*.

Use the information on these two pages to explain why you had to sign the Treaty of Versailles.

The terms of the Treaty of Versailles

Germany had to pay reparations to the Allies

• Eventually fixed, in 1921, at 136,000 million marks (£6,600m).

Germany lost land

- Alsace and Lorraine were given to France
- Eupen and Malmédy went to Belgium
- Posen and West Prussia were given to Poland
 - The loss of Posen divided Germany in two, cutting off East Prussia from the rest of the country
- Plebiscites (public votes) had to take place in other areas, to decide whether to leave Germany
 - Upper Silesia voted to become part of Poland
 - Northern Schleswig decided to become part of Denmark
- The German port of Danzig was made an international city not governed by Germany.

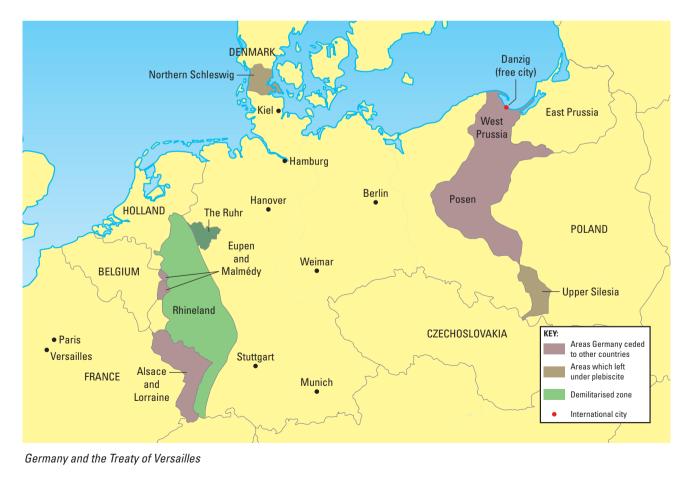
- Altogether, Germany lost:
 - about 13% of its European territory
 - almost 50% of its iron and 15% of coal reserves.

Germany lost all its colonies

 11 German colonies in Africa and the Far East were given to victorious countries as 'mandates' – territories to look after.

German military forces were cut

- The army was limited to 100,000; to be used internally only.
- The navy was limited to 6 battleships, 6 cruisers, 12 destroyers and 12 torpedo boats. No submarines were allowed. The rest of the fleet was destroyed.
- No air force was allowed. The existing air force was destroyed.
- The Rhineland was demilitarised.
- The German army was not allowed in Rhineland, which bordered France.



Dolchstoss – the stab in the back

The Treaty of Versailles was particularly unpopular because the German Army had never been defeated in the war. It had failed to win, but it had not been defeated. Critics of the treaty claimed that the army had been ready to fight on. They said that the army had been betrayed by politicians in Berlin. In effect that they had been 'stabbed in the back' (the *Dolchstoss*).

Even Ebert, the new Chancellor, greeted the return of the German Army to Berlin in December 1918 with the words 'Your sacrifice and deeds are without parallel. No enemy defeated you!' Ebert had to accept the peace, but he had lost two sons who were soldiers in the war and he never accepted defeat.

Despite this, the politicians who signed the treaty were blamed for its harsh terms. These politicians became known as the 'November Criminals' and resentment followed the new republic all the way to its collapse in 1933.

The treaty therefore had lasting effects within Germany.

- It weakened the popularity of the Weimar Republic.
- It caused lasting political protest.
- It harmed Germany's economy.



Examination question

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Explain why the Germans disliked the Treaty of Versailles. [8]



The examination will always have questions on why things happened – like the one above.

A basic answer (Level 1) This will give two reasons why the Germans disliked the treaty.

• A good answer (Level 2) This will give detailed information to illustrate each reason.

A better answer (Level 3) This will explain why each reason was unpopular (e.g. Losing Posen divided Germany into two parts, cutting off East Prussia completely).

An excellent answer (Level 3 full marks)

This will show links between reasons (e.g. *The Germans didn't like being blamed for the war. They thought this was unfair. But also this blame meant they had to pay reparations, which they also disliked.* The answer then gives details of reparations and why they were disliked.)

A poster from 1931 showing a German in the Shackles of Versailles. Even 12 years after the treaty was signed, parties campaigned against it.

The Weimar Republic – a new constitution

Learning objectives

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- how a new constitution was agreed
- the terms of the new Weimar constitution
- the weaknesses of the constitution.

After the Kaiser's departure, there was unrest all around Germany. Armed groups clashed with the army and claimed control in some towns. But central government went on much as before. Civil servants stayed in post and six moderate social democrats formed a Council of People's Representatives, a temporary government. They weren't interested in revolutionary change. They organised elections for a National Assembly which met, in February 1919, to create a new constitution. With so much unrest in Berlin, the Assembly met in Weimar – and the new republic was called the Weimar Republic, even after the government moved back to Berlin. By August 1919 the Assembly had drawn up the new constitution.

Armed protesters parading in Berlin in 1919.



The terms of the constitution

The constitution was more democratic than government under the Kaiser. German people had more control. There was also a system of checks and balances. This meant that power was shared out.

Local government was run by the 18 regions of Germany (eg Bavaria, Prussia) which kept local parliaments.

Central government was given more power than before. The dominant house of the new German parliament was the Reichstag. It controlled taxation.

- Members of the Reichstag were elected every four years.
- All men and women over 20 could vote, using a secret ballot.
- Proportional representation was used. This meant that the number of Reichstag seats which political parties were given depended on the percentage of votes they gained.

The other house of the German parliament was called the Reichsrat.

- A number of members were sent by each local region, according to its size.
- The Reichsrat could hold up new laws unless overruled by a two-thirds majority of the Reichstag.

The head of the government was the Chancellor, who chose ministers and ran the country.

• In order to pass laws, he needed majority support in the Reichstag.

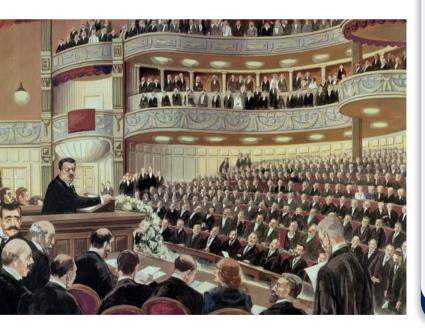
The head of state was the president, who was directly elected by the people every seven years. The president took no part in day-to-day government, but was a powerful figure.

- He chose the chancellor (the chancellor was usually the leader of the largest party).
- He could dissolve the Reichstag, call new elections and assume control of the army.
- Under Article 48, the president could suspend the constitution and pass laws by decree.

A social democrat, Friedrich Ebert, was elected by the Assembly as the first president. He carefully gained the support of powerful groups in society. He promised General Groener, the head of the German Army, that there would be no reform of the armed forces. He reassured the industrialists' leader, Hugo Stinnes, that there would be no nationalisation of private businesses. He ensured the support of trade unions by promising their leader, Karl Legien, a maximum eight-hour working day. With this support, the new government overcame the opposition of the protesters and gradually gained control of the country. The new republic was successfully launched.

Weaknesses of the constitution

Firstly, proportional representation meant that any party with a small election vote gained seats in the Reichstag. During the 1920s, 28 parties were represented in the Reichstag. To get majority support, chancellors needed coalitions of several parties – usually Social Democrats, the People's Party, the Democratic Party and the Centre Party. But these all wanted different things, making stable government difficult.



A 1950s painting of Ebert addressing the National Assembly in the National Theatre in Weimar, 1919.

Secondly, the careful balancing of powers made strong, decisive government by the chancellor very difficult in times of crisis. This second weakness meant that, whenever compromise broke down, chancellors had to ask the president to suspend the constitution, under Article 48, and rule by decree. This gave the impression that the new constitution didn't really work.

The Weimar Republic was built on shaky foundations. Extremist parties didn't support it; moderate Germans feared it was too weak.

Did you know?

Because the National Assembly could not meet in Berlin, its meetings were held in Weimar's National Theatre, complete with stage, circle and box seats.

ResultsPlus

Build Better Answers

Describe how the Weimar Republic was governed.

Your exam paper will always have a question like the one above, which tests your ability to *select* and *communicate* factual information.

A basic answer (Level 1)

This will make one or two points without detail (e.g. *The Government was democratic*).

A good answer (Level 2)

This will give detail (e.g. *The Government was more democratic than under the Kaiser, because men and women over 20 could vote*).

An excellent answer (Level 3 full marks) This will make three points, all with supporting detail.

[6]

Economic problems 1918–23

Learning objectives

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- the bankruptcy of the new Weimar government
- the occupation of the Ruhr
- inflation and hyperinflation.

Bankruptcy

At first, Germany's biggest problem was that its government was bankrupt. Its reserves of gold had all been spent in the war. The Treaty of Versailles made things worse. It deprived Germany of wealth-earning areas, such as coalfields in Silesia; it also made the German government pay reparations. Germany asked for reductions, but the victors, especially France, needed money to pay war debts to the USA. With no gold reserves and falling income, by 1923 Germany could no longer pay.

Occupation of the Ruhr

In retaliation, the French sent troops into the German industrial area of the Ruhr. They confiscated raw materials, manufactured goods and industrial machinery. The German government urged passive resistance; workers went on strike; there was even some sabotage. The French replied by arresting those who obstructed them and bringing in their own workers.

The Germans bitterly resented what the French had done. However, many Germans also resented the failure of the Weimar Republic to resist, even though, realistically, they had no choice. Germany's reduced troop numbers of 100,000 were no match for the 750,000 in the French army.

The occupation of the Ruhr did the French little good, but it crippled Germany. Many factories and 80% of German coal and iron were based there. The disruption increased Germany's debts, unemployment and the shortage of goods.

Inflation

These shortages meant that the price of things went up and people had to pay more money to get what they needed. This is called inflation.

Unfortunately, the government made this worse. They needed more money to pay their debts, but unemployment and failing factories meant taxes brought them in less money. From 1919–23, government income was only a quarter of what it needed. So they just printed more money. In 1923, the government had 300 paper mills and 2,000 printing shops just to print more money.



This 1923 poster shows German bitterness about the economic situation. France is seen ravaging German industry. The caption reads 'Hands off the Ruhr area'.

German cartoon from 1922 – Gutenberg, the German inventor of the printing press says 'This I did not want!'



This made it easier for the government to pay reparations. But it made inflation even worse. It was a vicious circle: the more prices rose, the more money was printed, which made prices rise again. By 1923, prices reached spectacular heights: in 1919 a loaf of bread cost 1 mark; by 1922 it cost 200 marks; and by 1923 it cost 100,000 million marks. This extreme inflation is called hyperinflation.

The results of hyperinflation were complex.

- Everyone suffered from shortages. This was because German marks became worthless in comparison with foreign currency. In 1918 £1 cost 20 marks; by 1923 £1 cost 20 million million marks. Foreign suppliers refused to accept marks for goods, so imports dried up and shortages of food and other goods got worse for everyone.
- Everyone found it difficult to buy what they needed even if their wages went up. People had to carry bundles of money in baskets and even wheelbarrows. Many workers were paid twice a day, so that they could rush out and buy goods before prices rose even further. Some suppliers refused to take money at all, asking for payment in kind (swapping goods).
- **People with savings were hit hardest.** Money saved in bank accounts, insurance policies or pensions became worthless. People with these types of savings were mainly from the middle class.

On days when Mutti was not able to buy bread, she searched through the garbage cans for potato peels and other scrap...(or)...she took Kitchen scraps and leftovers from the houses where she did laundry.

On Hitler's Mountain, by Irmgard Hunt; her mother lived in Germany in the 1920s.

Eventually, things improved. In September 1923 a new chancellor was appointed – Gustav Stresemann. In November 1923, he cancelled the old mark and issued a new currency – the Rentenmark. This led to a period of stability. However, most Germans had suffered and many of them blamed the Weimar Republic. The middle classes had suffered most. They should have been the bedrock of support for the Weimar Republic.



Lette Juflucht

German cartoon from 1923. A mother holds her emaciated child above a sea of paper money, pleading for 'brot' – bread.

Examination question

Explain why there were so many economic problems in Germany between 1918 and 1923. [8] Note: This is a *causation* question – about *why* things happened. There will always be a causation question in your examination.

Activity

- Write the following on small cards: fall in value of pensions; shortage of industrial goods; government bankruptcy; fall in value of savings; inflation; reparations; occupation of the Ruhr; printing more money; loss of land after Versailles.
- Organise the cards into *causes* and *effects*. Draw lines between causes and their effects. (Note: some cards may be both a cause of one thing and an effect of another.)
- What does the resulting diagram tell you about
 - the causes of the bankruptcy of the German government?
 - the causes of the social and economic problems of the German people?

Political problems 1918-1923

Learning objectives

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- the main political groups in the Weimar Republic
- the political unrest in the Weimar Republic from 1918–23.

The first years of the Weimar Republic were dominated by political unrest all over Germany. This unrest came from right wing and left wing groups.

Right wing and left wing

Generally speaking, those on the right wing of politics:

- want to keep society very stable
- want a strong government dominated by powerful leaders
- support capitalism, the private ownership of land and business
- stress family unit, law and order and traditional values
- are nationalist placing the interests of the nation over the individual.

Fascism and Nazism are extreme right wing movements.

Generally, those on the left wing of politics:

- want to change society rapidly
- aim to treat all people as equals and give political power to workers
- oppose capitalism; they want to abolish private ownership of land or business and put these in the hands of workers
- are internationalist; they stress cooperation of nations.

Did you know?

The terms 'left' and 'right' to describe political views date back to the French Revolution. In the new 1789 parliament, members who wanted to limit change and keep power in the hands of the King and a small elite sat on the King's right. Those who wanted to change political system and give the people more power sat on the King's left. A right wing cartoon. It shows Karl Liebknecht, leader of Germany's Communists, attacking German property, industry, money and families.



Socialists are left wing; communism is an extreme left wing movement.

At this time, the right wing in German politics included a host of small nationalist parties.

- They resented that the Weimar Republic's Social Democratic politicians had abandoned the army in 1918.
- Even more, they hated the Communists who had undermined the Kaiser with riots and mutinies in 1918.
- They feared the damage Communists would do to their property and German traditions.
- They wanted to reverse the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, reinstate the Kaiser, boost the army and return Germany to its former strength.
- They gained support from the military, the judiciary and the civil service, who were opposed to giving power to ordinary people in the new, democratic Weimar Republic.

The left wing in Germany was dominated by the KDP, the German Communist Party.

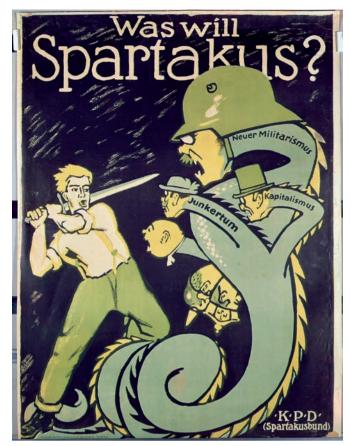
- They wanted a revolution in Germany like the one in Russia in 1917.
- They thought that the Weimar Republic gave too little power to the workers.
- They wanted government by councils of workers or soldiers.
- They wanted to abolish the power in Germany of the landowning classes and the army.

From 1918 to 1923, the German people were unhappy about:

- the Weimar leaders' decision to admit defeat in 1918
- the 1919 Treaty of Versailles which Germans regarded as punitive and vindictive
- the hardships caused by unemployment and inflation.

All this persuaded many people in Germany to support extreme left wing or right wing political groups between 1918 and 1923. If they did support extremist groups, at this stage, German workers tended to support the socialists and communists, while the German Army, business classes and landowners tended to support the right wing groups.

The main political parties in the Weimar Republic



A left wing political poster produced by the KDP. Note that they portray themselves as the slayers of German capitalism, militarism and the German landed nobility – the 'Junker'. The Spartacists were part of the Communist Party.

KDP	SDP	DDP	ZP	DVP	DNVP	NSDAP
Communist Party	Social Democrats	Democratic Party	Centre Party	People's Party	National Party	Nazi Party
Extreme left wing	Moderate left wing	Left wing liberal	Moderate	Right wing liberal	Right wing party	Extreme right wing
Opposed Weimar Republic	Supported Weimar Republic.	Supported Weimar Republic	Supported Weimar Republic	Supported Weimar Republic in 1920s	Opposed Weimar Republic	Opposed Weimar Republic
Supported by workers and some middle classes	Supported by workers and middle classes	Backed by business	Originally the party of the Catholic Church	Backed by upper middle classes	Landowners, wealthy middle class and big business	

Violent political unrest

One thing which made politics in the Weimar Republic so violent was that political parties had their own private armies. They recruited mainly ex-soldiers, who were often unemployed and bitter that their government had accepted peace. The left wing had its *Rotfrontkämmpfer* (Red Front Fighters). The *Stahlhelm* (Steel Helmets) were a conservative organisation on the right wing. Even the moderate SDP had its Sozi force.

At first, private armies were for protection, but they quickly caused political activity to become violent. For example:

- Hugo Hasse, one of Ebert's Council of People's Representatives, was murdered in 1919
- Matthias Erzberger, a moderate politician who signed the surrender of Germany in 1918, was shot and killed walking in the Black Forest in August 1921
- Walther Rathenau, the Weimar Foreign Minister, was machinegunned to death in the street in Berlin in June 1922.

In all, between 1919 and 1922 there were 376 political murders, mostly of left wing or moderate politicians. However, not a single right wing murderer was convicted and executed, while ten left wing assassins were. This shows how much the legal system (the judiciary) was filled with right wing supporters.

The Spartacist League

Sometimes, extreme political groups tried overthrow the Weimar Republic by force. For example, in January 1919 in Germany, there were Communist uprisings. They set up workers' and soldiers' soviets – local councils – in towns throughout Germany. A central Council of Commissars was created claiming to be the true government, as a direct threat to Chancellor Ebert's new moderate government in Berlin.

The most influential communist leaders were Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, leaders of the *Spartacist League,* named after Spartacus, the leader of a slaves' revolt in Ancient Rome. On 6th January 1919, they led a march of 100,000 communists in Berlin and took over key buildings.

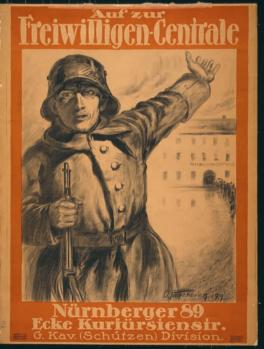
The Chancellor, Ebert, and his Defence Minister, Gustav Noske, needed to put down the rebels. They realised that the regular army (the *Reichwehr*) was in no shape to put down the revolt alone. They turned to the *Freikorps*.

The *Freikorps* were demobilised soldiers, returning from the war, who had refused to give back their arms. They were anti-Communist and worked with the regular army. It is estimated that the *Freikorps* numbered 250,000 by March 1919.

With the help of the *Freikorps*, the Weimar government was able to put down the Spartacist uprisings in early 1919.

Overall, several thousand communist supporters were killed, Subject to Approval The Social Democratic politicians into whose lap the German government fell in 1918 didn't have widespread support. Instead, they faced a bitter, suffering population, filled with unrealistic ideas about what peace could bring and divided about...the road ahead.

Richard Bessel, Nazism and War, 2004.



A recruitment poster for the Freikorps, 1919.

mostly in Berlin. Both Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were captured and then murdered by army officers on the way to prison.

The Kapp Putsch (revolt)

Despite the involvement of the army, the unrest continued. In 1920, 5000 right-wing supporters of Dr Wolfgang Kapp marched on Berlin to overthrow the Weimar Republic and bring back the Kaiser. For a while, the rebels controlled the city. The government fled to Dresden; they urged people not to cooperate and instead to go on strike.

Many workers obliged; they had socialist leanings and no desire to see the Kaiser return. Essential services – gas, electricity, water, transport – stopped and the capital ground to a halt. Kapp realised he could not govern and fled. He was caught and put in prison, where he later died.

Still the unrest continued. In 1923, there was another right wing uprising – the Munich Putsch – led by Adolf Hitler.

Unrest subsides

It wasn't until the end of 1923 that the political unrest calmed down. A new chancellor, Gustav Stresemann, came to power; inflation was brought under control, suffering was reduced and politics became more moderate.

However, by this time, the Weimar Republic was permanently weakened by the political unrest.

- They had not been able to govern on their own authority. They relied upon workers' strikes and the violence of the *Freikorps*. Government forces had killed thousands of Germans to keep them in power.
- Extremist parties had gathered strength during the turbulent years of 1918–23. They still had their private armies and events had proved the worrying lesson that those with most military power would eventually win.



ResultsPlus Watch out!

Exam candidates sometimes get confused.

- The Kapp Putsch (**R**evolt) was a **R**ight wing uprising.
- The Spartacist League was a Left wing organisation.



Armed Freikorps soldiers, an armoured car and a flame-thrower, putting down unrest in Berlin during 1920.

Examination question

Describe the ways political unrest was dealt with in Germany in the years 1919–20. [6] Note: This is a question where you *select* information and *communicate* it. There will always be a question like this in your exam.

Activity

As a class or a group, draw up a balance sheet of successes and failures for the Weimar Republic by 1923. Overall, how had it done?

Subject to Approval

Unit 3: Source Enquiry

Key Topic I: McCarthyism and the Red Scare

Although the USA and the Soviet Union had been allies during the Second World War, their political differences soon caused problems once the war was over. The Soviet Union was communist. The USA was capitalist. Both sides wanted the nations of the world to accept their political system. The opposition between them became known as the Cold War.

In this Key Topic, you will study: **Spec check**

- The impact of the Cold War.
- The development of the Red Scare.
- The impact of McCarthyism.

You will see how the fear of communism had a significant effect on US foreign policy. People feared that the Cold War could turn into a real war, possibly a widely destructive nuclear war, at any time. At the end of the war, only the West knew how to make the hugely destructive atomic bombs. The US government was desperate to stop the Soviet Union finding out how to make these bombs. You will also see how this fear caused a reaction against communism within the USA, known as the Red Scare, which led to people losing their jobs or going to prison because of their political beliefs. Reaction went further – Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed after having been convicted of passing nuclear secrets to the Soviets.

The pursuit of communists, real and imaginary, was called 'McCarthyism' after Senator Joseph McCarthy, one of the most active communist hunters. Eventually, McCarthyism declined but even now there are disputes about how real the communist threat was.

The impact of the Cold War

The communist Soviet Union and the capitalist West fought together in the Second World War and even made agreements about working together after the war. Once the war was over, many of the countries occupied by the Soviet Union soon had communist governments. The USA watched this spread of communism with growing concern, fearing a communist takeover of Europe. President Truman decided to send aid to European countries that were suffering badly after the war, to help keep them non-communist.

The Marshall Plan, set up by the US government, gave thousands of millions of dollars in aid to European countries. It provided everything from money, to food, to the railway cars needed to transport that food. The Soviet Union saw this as an attempt to 'bribe' these countries into staying capitalist. Cold War fears drove much US policy, at home and abroad, for many years. People were especially fearful of possible nuclear war, and the USA was desperate to keep the secret of making atomic bombs out of Soviet hands.

The communists believe there can be no permanent co-existence with the US. For Soviet power to be secure, it has to disrupt our society, destroy our way of life and break us as an international power. The Soviets have a highly developed system for working in other countries and they are very experienced and skilful at using it secretly.

Source A

Part of a telegram sent to the White House in February 1946 by George Kennan, the US ambassador in Moscow. Think about how this would affect US reactions to the Soviet Union.



Soviet expansion in Europe by 1950. Think about which countries might be next.

Today, nearly every nation must choose between opposing ways of life. Too often, the choice is forced on them. One way of life, based on the will of the people, has free elections, guarantees of individual freedom, free speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression. The second has the will of a minority forced on the majority. It relies on terror and oppression, a controlled press, fixed elections, and the suppression of individual freedom. I believe the US must support peoples resisting attempted control by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe our help should be mainly economic aid to restore economic stability and orderly political processes.

Source B

From a speech made by President Truman on 12 March 1947. It outlined the Truman Doctrine – the idea that the US should help other countries resist communism.

The Berlin Crisis

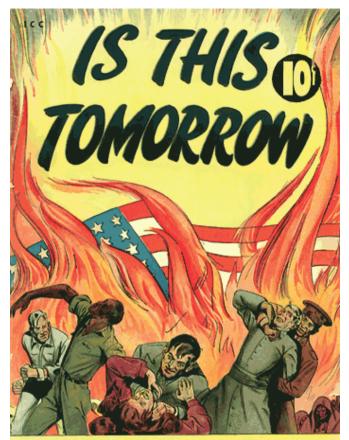
The first clash of the Cold War was in Berlin. The Soviet Union. Britain. France and the US all held parts of Germany after the war. The plan was to work together to unite Germany. However, Cold War fears meant disputes broke out; both sides made secret plans to exclude the other. Berlin, in Sovietcontrolled Germany, was split into four sectors, one for each of the Soviet Union. France. Britain and the US. The Soviet Union pressed Berliners from all sectors to vote to become communist in 'free' elections. In June 1948, it closed Berlin's transport links out of Soviet-controlled Germany, cutting off supplies to the British, French and US sectors. It looked as if these sectors would be starved into voting communist. So the western powers flew in supplies, despite the possibility of being shot down by the Soviets and dropped them in their sectors. In April 1949, they set up the Federal Republic of West Germany. The Soviets then set up the communist German Democratic Republic. Berlin was split between the two

Cold War fears hardened. In April 1949, the USA, Canada and Western Europe set up a military alliance called NATO, agreeing to defend each other if attacked. So the Soviet Union set up the Warsaw Pact, a communist version of NATO.

War in Korea

After the war, Korea (like Germany) was occupied by US and Soviet troops and divided into a communist north and a non-communist south. As in Germany, both sides disagreed over unification. They saw Korea as an important symbol in Asia - it mattered whether the united Korea was communist or not. After the war, North Korea elected a communist government; South Korea elected a non-communist one. In 1950, they went to war, with the US giving military help to the South (acting for the UN and supplying troops and a commander) and the Soviet Union supporting the North. The war dragged on until 1954 and ended with the country still divided. The USA began the war saying it would help countries fight communism with aid, advice and supplies. They ended the war prepared to send troops to fight in the name of the USA in another war.





AMERICA UNDER COMMUNISM!

Source C

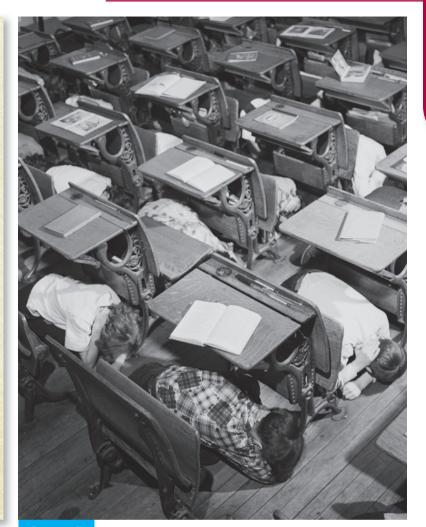
The front cover of a magazine sold (and given away free) by a church group in the USA. Think about why they would give it away free.

ResultsPlus

Top tip

Students who consider the purpose of a source will do well. Source C was clearly created as a piece of anticommunist propaganda. Churches in the USA saw the Soviet Union as violently opposed to religion.

Question: Mr. President, would you comment on the importance of Indochina [Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, which had been French colonies] to the free world? Answer: First, you have the value of a place in terms of its materials that the world needs. Then you have the possibility of many people being taken over by a dictatorship. Finally, you have to consider the 'falling domino' principle. You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and the last one goes over very quickly. Asia has lost 450 million people to the Communist dictatorship; we simply can't afford greater losses. The loss of Indochina could be followed by the loss of Burma, Thailand and Indonesia. That would be millions and millions of people. The possible consequences of the loss are just incalculable to the free world.



Source D

From a press conference given by President Eisenhower on 7 April 1954. Source E

Schoolchildren in the USA in 1951 practising the 'duck and cover' system, supposed to protect them if there was a nuclear attack. These practices were held regularly. Think about what that suggests about how threatened people felt.

Activities

- 1 Study the map on page 267. In groups, discuss how the map suggests that US fears about the Soviet Union's desire to take over Europe might be reasonable. Think of an argument the Soviet Union could put forward to counter this.
- 2 In groups, discuss what you can learn from the sources about how Cold War fears affected US policy. Make a table like the one below to show your decisions. The first one has been done for you.

Source	A	В	C	D	E
It suggests	The US government would become more afraid of communists in the USA.				
Because	An important government official told the White House that the Soviet Union would want to destroy the US way of life.				

Subject to Approval

The 'Red Scare'

Cold War fears also affected government policy inside the USA. Many people believed the Soviet Union was working secretly inside the USA to overthrow the government and fear of communism grew. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) built up files on possible communists. The House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), set up by the government, questioned more and more people in a search for Soviet agents. One woman, Elizabeth Bentley, admitted to being a Soviet agent. She gave the FBI names of 150 agents, including 40 government workers. HUAC held more investigations.

HUAC also investigated Hollywood, fearing communists might use the film industry to spread propaganda. Ten Hollywood writers refused to give evidence to HUAC. Famous film stars, such as Humphrey Bogart, supported the Hollywood Ten, but the Ten were still sent to prison for their refusal to give evidence. The FBI set up Loyalty Boards to investigate government workers and over 200 were forced to resign. People became less willing to support those investigated by HUAC or the FBI as anti-communist hysteria increased. They did not want to be accused of being communist themselves and face the possibility of imprisonment or losing their jobs or homes.

The Hiss Case

In 1948, Alger Hiss who had advised President Roosevelt and worked for the UN was accused of being a communist. He had been accused before, but this time HUAC accepted the evidence against him and he was sent to trial. While the trial was going on the Soviets tested their first atomic bomb, increasing fears of a nuclear war and communist spy rings. The evidence for and against Hiss was complicated and confused. He was found guilty and sent to prison for five years. He and his supporters still protest his innocence. Information from various Soviet sources after the Cold War ended suggests both his guilt and his innocence. Despite President Truman's pleas that US citizens had a right not to be punished for their opinions, the House of Representatives passed the McCarran Act to limit the places where communists could be employed and denied them US passports. All communist organisations had to be registered and their members were investigated.

Members of the Association of Motion Picture Producers strongly disapprove of the action of the Hollywood Ten. We will sack or suspend, and will not re-employ, any of the Ten until he is acquitted or has given evidence and declares under oath that he is not a Communist.

We will not knowingly employ a Communist or a member of any party wishing to overthrow the US government by force or by illegal or unconstitutional methods. However, we will not be swayed by hysteria or intimidation. We see that there is a danger of hurting innocent people. There is a risk of creating an atmosphere of fear. Creative work cannot be done in an atmosphere of fear.

Source A

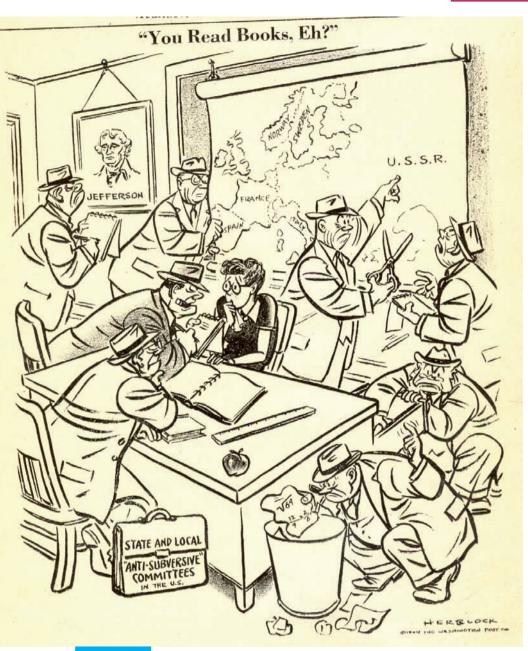
Statement issued by Hollywood Motion Picture producers, 24 November 1947. Think about why they made this statement.

Question: Is the FBI interested in information about any Communists, or only those connected with spy rings or possible sabotage?

Answer: The FBI is mainly interested in members of the Communist Party who might be engaged in espionage, sabotage, or who are a possible threat to the internal security of the United States. However, the FBI is interested in Knowing the identity of all Communists in the United States. Any Communist might be recruited into espionage. He may be handing out peace petitions today. Tomorrow he may be sabotaging American industry or working as a spy.

Source B

From an interview with J Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, in the US News and World Report, August 11, 1950. Think about why Hoover answered as he did.





A cartoon from The Washington Post, 24 April 1949. This cartoonist, Herbert Block (who signed himself 'Herblock'), made up the word 'McCarthyism'.

ResultsPlus

Top tip

Political cartoons often have a message and show the views of the cartoonist about political issues. Students who can work out the message from the content of the cartoon will get higher marks than those who describe what is in the cartoon.

Activities

- Write a letter to a friend from one of the people who signed Source A. Explain why you supported the letter.
- 2 Study Source C.
 - a Circle which you think is the right answer in the sentences below.

The cartoonist approves of the investigations.

The cartoonist does not approve of the investigations.

- List as many details from the cartoon as you can to support your answer under the following headings:
 - The person being investigated
 - The evidence the investigators are finding
- c Complete the sentences below, using your examples:

I can tell how the cartoonist feels about the investigations because...

McCarthyism

In October 1949, China became a communist country. This was a big blow to the capitalist West. As anti-communist hysteria increased, Joseph McCarthy, Senator for Wisconsin, made a public speech in which he said: I have here in my hand a list of 205 names known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who are still working in and shaping the policy of in the State Department. The next day, on 10 February 1950, he changed this number to 57. Ten days later, he told the Senate he could name 81. The senate set up the Tydings Committee to investigate his accusations and communist hunting had a new name: McCarthyism.

At first, McCarthy had a lot of support. Twenty-five US states brought in anti-communist laws. The media latched onto his sensational accusations and helped to fuel the hysteria. In many parts of the US, anti-communist groups worked to hound suspected people out of their jobs and homes and beat them up. Levels of fear rose. Now factory workers could as easily be the target of 'red-baiters' as people in jobs where they influenced how people thought or government policy, like teachers or government workers. Many newspapers, from Honolulu to Washington, echoed his charges that there was a spy ring in Washington. McCarthyism was catching fire. By March 1950, the donations and the letters of support were heavy: 'Why don't you get the rats out of the State Department?' Drew Pearson [a newspaper reporter later accused of communism by McCarthy] wrote in his diary for 21 March 1950, 'Support for McCarthy seems to be growing. Senator Taft amazed me by admitting that he was encouraging McCarthy'.

Source B

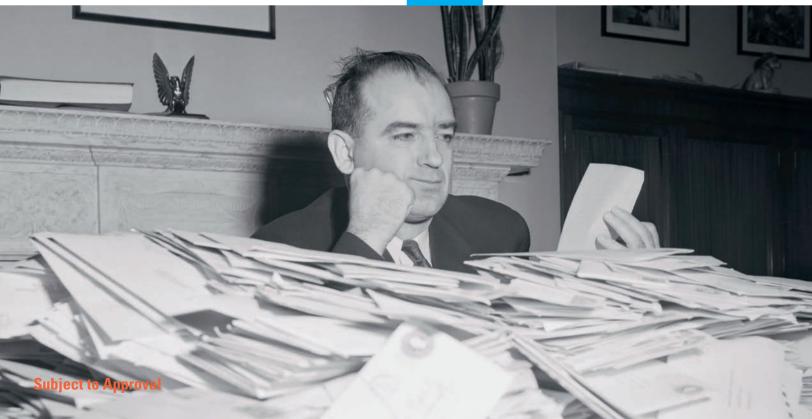
From Reds, *a book about McCarthyism written by Ted Morgan in 2003.*

Activity

Source A

- 1 In Source A, McCarthy was said to have had thousands of letters of support.
 - **a** Explain why these letters may have been supporting him.
 - **b** Explain why these letters may not have been supporting him.

A photo used in a newspaper on 24 March 1950, saying that McCarthy was getting between 5000 and 6000 letters a day supporting his campaign to clear communists out of the State Department. Think about why the photo was taken and what might be in the letters.



'McCarthyism' is now part of the language. Thousands turn out to hear his speeches. Millions regard him as 'a splendid American' (a fellow senator recently called him that). Other millions think McCarthy a worse menace than the Communist conspiracy against which he professes to fight.

Some have argued that McCarthy's end justifies his methods. This argument seems to assume that lies are required to fight Communist lies. Experience proves, however, that what the anti-Communist fight needs is truth, clearly and carefully presented. As The New York Times put it: 'He has been of no use whatever in helping us to find the guilty, but many of us have begun to suspect there must be some good, however small, in anybody who Senator McCarthy opposes.'

Source C

Part of an article published in TIME magazine on October 22, 1951.

Activities

- a For each source, write a sentence or two explaining whether you think it shows support for McCarthy and why.
 - b Write a paragraph to answer the following question (using the information from 1a): How far do the sources support the idea that there was a huge amount of support for McCarthy between 1950 and 1951?

ResultsPlus

Build Better Answers

Question: Do the sources support the view that therewas a huge amount of support for McCarthy in theyears 1950-51? Explain your answer.[10]

A good answer (Level 2)

This will consider points of agreement *or* points of disagreement, quoting from the sources.

A better answer (Level 3)

This will consider both points of agreement *and* points of disagreement.

🔺 An excellent answer (Level 4)

This will weigh up the evidence, thinking about how reliable it is.

An 'anti-communist squad' in California attacking suspected communists outside a car factory on 23 July 1950.







Know Zone Unit 1 - section 3

In the Unit 1 exam, you will be required to answer questions from three sections. We are going to focus on Unit 1, Section 3.

As with all the sections in Unit 1, you will have to answer three questions. The examiners think that you need only 25 minutes to answer three questions on each section. So they are not expecting you to write huge amounts. The number of marks and the number of lines set aside in the answer book help you judge how much to write. We are going to look at question (b) and question (c)

ResultsPlus

Maximise your marks

Question B:

Examiner's tip: Question (b) will be a question which asks you to take a major event or policy and explain it by writing about its 'key features' or explaining 'in what ways' a policy or treaty or action caused something to happen. Be careful that you don't just tell the story. You

Student answer

Hitler wanted to join Austria and Germany together even though the Treaty of Versailles said that they should not be joined. The Austrian Nazis made a huge fuss and the Chancellor had to give them places in government. Still they were not happy and Chancellor Schuschnigg was put under pressure to invite Germany to join with Austria in Anschluss. He decided to have a referendum but Hitler didn't like this. So Hitler invaded and then held the referendum.

One of the features of the Anschluss Crisis was that Hitler continued with his policy of breaking the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler wanted to join Austria and Germany together even though the Treaty of Versailles said that they should not be joined. He also used a policy of creating trouble in Austria and then bullying the Austrians into submission. The Austrian Nazis were encouraged to make a huge fuss and the Chancellor had to give them places in government. Still they were not happy and Chancellor Schuschnigg was put under pressure to invite Germany to join with Austria in Anschluss. He decided to have a referendum but Hitler didn't like this. So Hitler invaded and then held the referendum. Another feature was that Britain and France continued with their policy of appeasement. Neither country made any attempt to stop Hitler breaking the terms of the Treaty.

need to decide what the key features (or most important points) were and write about each in turn. Let's look at an example.

'What were the key features of the Anschluss Crisis in 1938?' (6 marks)

Examiner comments

This is quite a good summary of the story of March 1938 and is accurate about the events. But it doesn't really give 'the features', so would only be rewarded at around half marks for providing developed statements. Each key feature should be like a peg that you hang facts and explanation on. Let's re-write the answer with features added. So that you can spot them easily we will put them in bold.

As you can see, this answer has three developed explanations of key features and would receive full marks.

70

ResultsPlus

Maximise your marks

Question (c)

Examiner tip: Question (c) will test your understanding of causation. That means they will be questions which ask you 'Why?' something happened. This question also tests extended writing, but you will only have 15 minutes to

Student answer

At the beginning of 1939 Britain and Germany were on quite good terms. It was only a few months since they had signed the Munich Agreement and the Anglo-German Declaration. But during 1939 a number of things happened which caused the relations to get worse. First of all Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia, then he signed the Nazi Soviet Pact and finally he invaded Poland. So relations changed.

At the beginning of 1939 Britain and Germany were on guite good terms. It was only a few months since they had signed the Munich Agreement and the Anglo-German Declaration. But during 1939 a number of things happened which caused the relations to get worse. First of all it became apparent to Britain that they could not trust Hitler. British foreign policy was based on appeasement. This involved negotiating with Hitler to reach agreement. Hitler had said that after Munich he had no more territorial demands. So when he invaded Czechoslovakia he showed he was a liar and British policy had to change. The policy also had to change when he signed the Nazi Soviet Pact. This was an agreement between Hitler not to go to war. Britain had been presuming that Hitler could not invade Poland because Stalin would stop him. Now Chamberlain knew this was not the case relations had to change. So Chamberlain made an agreement with Poland.

I suppose, in the end, the invasion of Czechoslovakia and the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact are both the same reason. They both show that in 1939 Hitler could not be trusted. When Chamberlain realised this, he knew it was rearmament, not appeasement, that was needed. answer in the exam so get straight to the point!

Question: 'Explain why relations between Britain and Germany changed in 1939'

Examiner comments

This isn't really a very good answer. It tells the story of 1939 briefly and does say relations got worse because of events. BUT in a piece of extended writing the examiners want you to: - identify the causes

- identity the causes
- give some historical detail

- make links between the causes and the question (in the above example we aren't told why the Nazi-Soviet Pact caused a change of relations – just that it did!)

Let's re-write this so that it explains the causes.

This answer would get better marks because: - it gives two distinct reasons why relations changed (the invasion of Czechoslovakia and the Nazi-Soviet Pact)

- it gives details

- it makes links between the reasons and the question (Now Chamberlain knew this was not the case relations had to change)

But to get full marks you have to do a little more. You have to prioritise or make links between the reasons.

By adding this to the end of the previous answer, the student would get full marks because the reasons are linked.