



CIE

STUDY GUIDE



International Relations: How Secure Was the USSR's Control Over Eastern Europe, 1948 - 1989?

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**International Relations: How Secure Was
the USSR's Control Over Eastern Europe,
1948 - 1989?**

CIE





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contact@cleverlili.com

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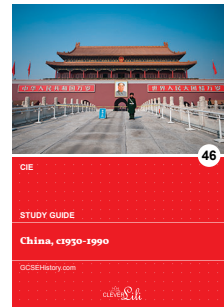
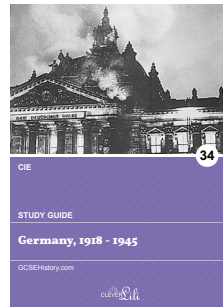
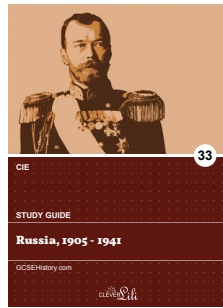
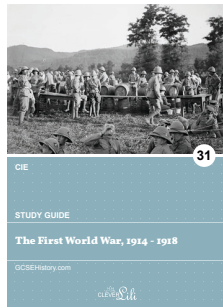
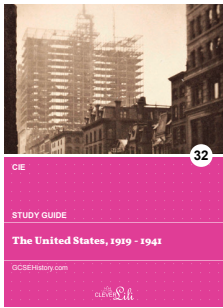
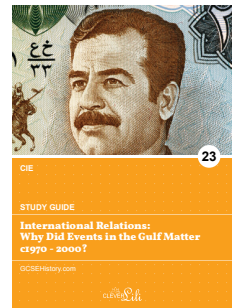
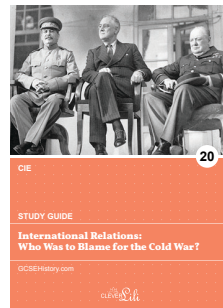
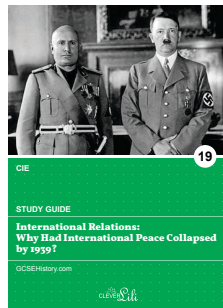
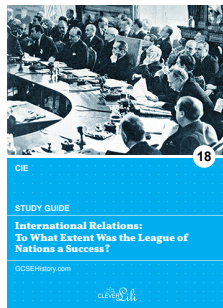
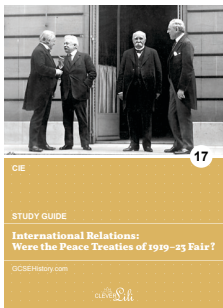
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons



WHAT questions cover the key events and themes.



WHO questions cover the key people involved.



WHEN questions cover the timings of key events.



WHERE questions cover the locations of key moments.



WHY questions cover the reasons behind key events.



HOW questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.



IMPORTANCE questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.



DECISIONS questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on page 16.

Page references

Tudor (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?






The focus question of the sixth unit in the CiE Option B Core Content is 'How secure was the USSR's control over eastern Europe 1948 - c1989?'. This unit investigates Soviet power in eastern Europe, and the relationship between the USSR and other communist countries in the area.

Purpose

This unit focuses on international relations and the way in which different nation states interacted, and the change, continuity and significance of their relationships over time. You will study their priorities, agreements, disagreements and the key events that affected them.










Enquiries

This unit gives you the information that you need to understand the following:

-  Why there was opposition to Soviet control in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, and how the USSR responded.
-  Similarities and differences between events in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
-  Why the Berlin Wall was built in 1961.
-  The significance of 'Solidarity' in the decline of Soviet influence in eastern Europe.
-  How far Gorbachev was responsible for the collapse of Soviet power in eastern Europe.

Topics

Topics covered in this course include:

-  The nature of Soviet control in eastern Europe.
-  De-Stalinisation, 1956.
-  The Hungarian Uprising, 1956.
-  The Prague Spring of 1958.
-  The Berlin Crisis and Berlin Wall.
-  The rise of 'Solidarity' in Poland in the 1980s.
-  The leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev.
-  The collapse of Soviet control in eastern Europe.
-  The collapse of the USSR.




Key Individuals

Key individuals studied in this course include:

-  Nikola Khrushchev.
-  Imre Nagy.
-  Leonid Brezhnev.
-  Alexander Dubček.
-  Lech Walesa.
-  Mikhail Gorbachev.

Assessment

This unit usually appears as one of four possible questions in Option B Core Content International Relations Since 1919 on the Paper 1 exam, of which you must complete two. Therefore, you will answer one question on the causes of the Cold War, if this appears as an option on your exam paper. The question is comprised of 3 sections; a), b), and c). However, check with your teacher to find out whether this unit will appear on the Paper 2 source paper in your exam.

-  On the Paper 1 exam, you may choose to complete a three-part question on this topic, which will be divided into sections a), b) and c).
-  Question a is worth 4 marks. This question will require you to describe key features of the time period. You will be asked to recall 2 relevant points and support them with details or provide at least four relevant points without supporting detail.
-  Question b is worth 6 marks. This question will require you to explain a key event or development. You will need to identify two reasons, support those reasons with relevant factual detail and then explain how the reasons made the event occur.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

- 👤 Question c is worth 10 marks. This question will require you to construct an argument to support and challenge an interpretation stated in the question. You will need to have a minimum of three explanations (two on one side and one on the other) in total, fully evaluate the argument and come to a justified conclusion. You will have the opportunity to show your ability to explain and analyse historical events using 2nd order concepts such as causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity and difference.
- 👤 If this topic appears on Paper 2, you will answer six questions on a range of source material about this topic. Check with your teacher to find out your Paper 2 topic.

Sample

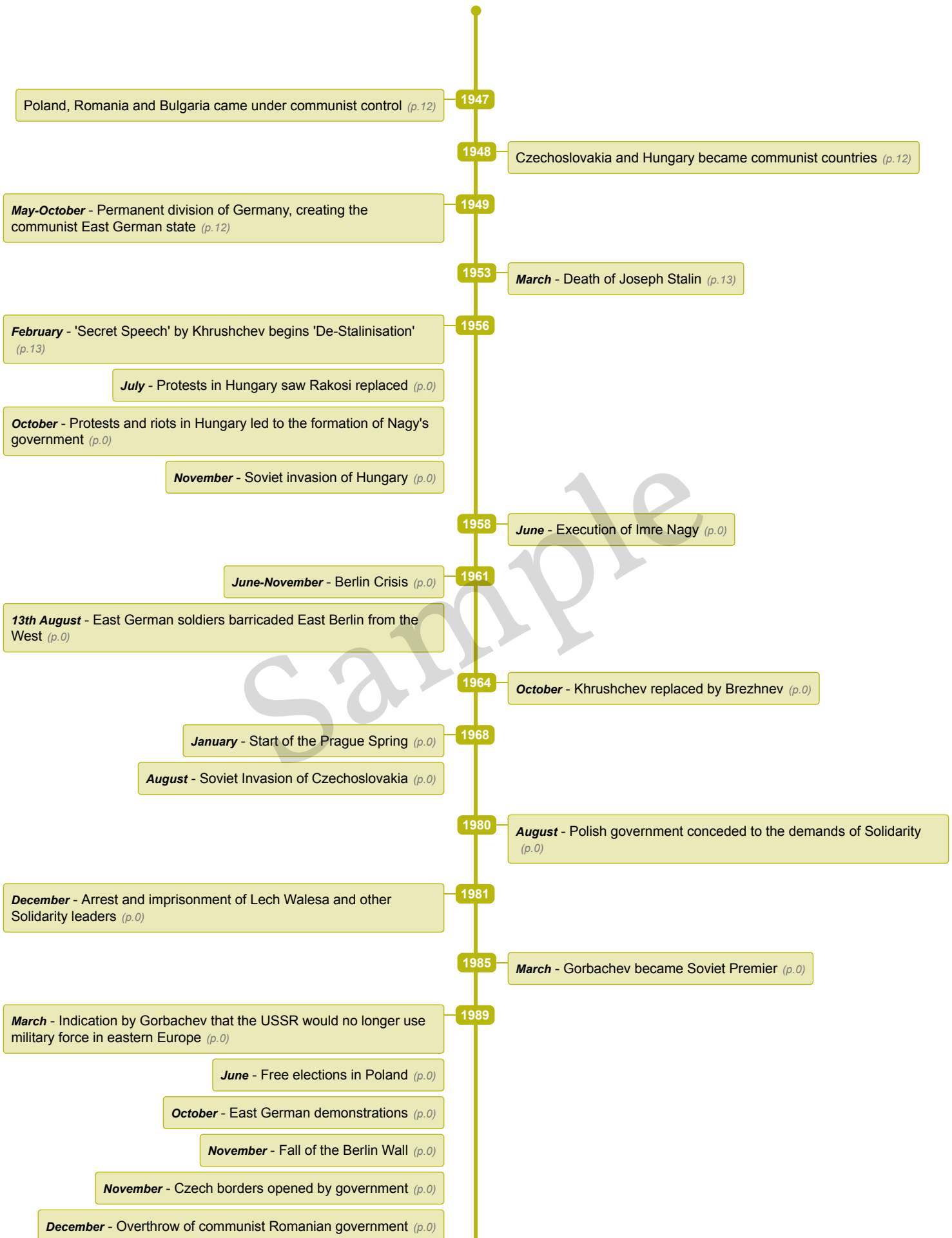


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Sample

HOW SECURE WAS THE USSR'S CONTROL OVER EASTERN EUROPE, 1948-C1989?

TIMELINE



December - Free elections declared in Hungary (p.0)

1990

March - Independence declared by states within the USSR (p.0)

August - Attempted coup by Soviet communists (p.0)

1991

December - Resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev (p.0)

Sample



USSR CONTROL IN THE EASTERN BLOC

*'Wearing western clothes was considered dangerous...'
Laszlo Beke, a Hungarian student*



What did the USSR control in eastern Europe during the Cold War?

At the end of the Second World War, the USSR was instrumental in placing **communist** governments in many of the countries that it had helped to liberate from the Nazis in the Second World War. These countries became known as the 'Eastern Bloc', or were referred to as 'behind the Iron Curtain'.



Which countries did the USSR control in eastern Europe?

The USSR's control extended over 6 countries that it had liberated in the Second World War:

- ✓ East Germany.
- ✓ Poland.
- ✓ Czechoslovakia.
- ✓ Hungary.
- ✓ Romania.
- ✓ Bulgaria.



Were there communist countries in eastern Europe that the USSR didn't control?

Some eastern European countries had **communist** governments after Second World War, but hadn't been liberated by the USSR and were more **independent** of it. These were:

- ✓ Yugoslavia.
- ✓ Albania.



When did Soviet control of eastern European countries begin?

The USSR helped to establish **communist** governments in the eastern Europe after Second World War, between 1947 and 1949. It set up different systems to maintain control over them.



How was Soviet control established in eastern Europe?

The USSR used 7 main methods to ensure that **communist** governments took power in the Eastern Bloc countries after the Second World War.

- ✓ **Soviet** troops often remained in the countries after they had been liberated.
- ✓ Show-trials were used to publicly denounce opponents.
- ✓ Secret police forces investigated and arrested those who opposed the **communists**.
- ✓ **Rigged** elections were held.
- ✓ Opposing politicians might be arrested or murdered.
- ✓ Pro-communist **propaganda** was widespread.
- ✓ Other political parties were forced to merge with the **communist** parties, or close down.



How did the USSR control eastern European countries?

The USSR used 3 key methods to control the governments and people of the countries in its **sphere of influence**.

- ✓ Cominform, the Communist Information Bureau set up in 1947, made sure that their governments were following the same policies.
- ✓ Comecon, or the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance, was an **economic** agreement between the countries that was set up in 1949.



- ✓ The Warsaw Pact (p.o) was a military **alliance** set up in 1955 to which the USSR, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania belonged.



What was the impact of Soviet control in eastern Europe?

Initially, **communism** and **Soviet** control brought hope to many people following the Second World War. However, as time wore on, they found that it had the following 4 main effects:

- ✓ Loss of freedom. People could no longer criticise the government and newspapers were censored. People were forbidden to travel and could be imprisoned.
- ✓ Shortages. Food, fuel and **consumer goods** were in short supply, and clothes were very expensive. The USSR controlled what the factories produced, so they didn't produce the goods that people wanted.
- ✓ Many countries struggled economically after the war and wages fell.
- ✓ People lost the right to protest. In 1953, **Soviet** troops killed 400 East Germans who protested against **communist** policies. Czechoslovakia, Romania and Hungary experienced a similar reaction.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Hungarian flag with a hole in it became the symbol of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.

The protesters cut the coat-of-arms of the repressive communist leader, Matyas Rakosi, out from the middle of the flag.



DE-STALINISATION

'If, after forty years of communism, a person cannot have a glass of milk or a pair of shoes, he will not believe communism is a good thing whatever you tell him.'
Nikita Khrushchev, 1955



What was De-Stalinisation?

De-Stalinisation was a series of political **reforms** in the USSR which were introduced after the death of Stalin in 1953.



When did De-Stalinisation happen?

De-Stalinisation took place from 1956 to 1964.



Who introduced De-Stalinisation?

Khrushchev brought in the policy of De-Stalinisation in his 'Secret Speech'.



What did the 'Secret Speech' say about Stalin's government during the period of De-Stalinisation?

Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech' criticised the brutality of Stalin's government and led people to believe **Soviet** control would be relaxed in eastern Europe.



Why was De-Stalinisation introduced?

There were 3 possible reasons why Khrushchev brought in his policy of De-Stalinisation:

- ✓ To weaken the position of his political rivals inside the USSR's Communist Party.
- ✓ To weaken the secret police and the Gulag system.
- ✓ To help develop peaceful **coexistence** with the USA, with the idea the USSR would not interfere in America's affairs.



What was the impact of De-Stalinisation on the Cold War?

De-Stalinisation influenced the Cold War in 3 main ways:

- ✔ It was seen as a time when the relationship between the USA and the USSR improved - there was a 'thaw' in the Cold War.
- ✔ When the contents of the 'Secret Speech' reached eastern Europe, people expected the repressive nature of communist-controlled governments would be relaxed.
- ✔ It encouraged rebellions in Hungary and, later, Czechoslovakia.



What actions did De-Stalinisation lead to?

Khrushchev's programme of De-Stalinisation included the following 6 main actions:

- ✔ Cominform was closed down.
- ✔ Soviet troops were withdrawn from Austria, where they had been since 1945.
- ✔ Marshall Tito of Yugoslavia was invited to Moscow.
- ✔ Thousands of political prisoners were released.
- ✔ Stalin's foreign minister, Molotov, was sacked.
- ✔ He seemed to promise greater freedom for the people of eastern Europe.



What were the results of De-Stalinisation in the Eastern Bloc?

De-Stalinisation suggested to many eastern Europeans that they could make changes. There were 3 key results:

- ✔ Polish workers began to riot in 1956 so Khrushchev moved troops to the border. A new communist leader was appointed who agreed to stop persecuting Catholics, and the riots stopped.
- ✔ In the 1956 Hungarian Uprising (p.0), the communists forced out the hardline communist leader, Matyas Rakosi, and the people began to riot. A new government started to make changes.
- ✔ The USSR continued to use eastern Europe as a buffer zone against the West. In 1955, Khrushchev created the Warsaw Pact (p.0). All Eastern Bloc countries joined, with the exception of Yugoslavia.



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REMAINING PAGES REMOVED.
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Sample

GLOSSARY

A

Agricultural - relating to agriculture.

Alliance - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.

B

Boycott - a way of protesting or bringing about change by refusing to buy something or use services.

Buffer zone - a neutral area of land to separate hostile forces or nations and provide protection. In the Cold War, Eastern Europe was the buffer zone between Western Europe and the USSR.

C

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Capitalism - the idea of goods and services being exchanged for money, private ownership of property and businesses, and acceptance of a hierarchical society.

Censorship - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or unacceptable is suppressed.

Claim - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.

Coexistence - living or existing together at the same time or in the same place.

Collective security - a policy adopted by the League of Nations, with the idea members should feel safe from attack as all nations agreed to defend each other.

Communism - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.

Communist - a believer in communism.

Constitution - rules, laws or principles that set out how a country is governed.

Consumer goods - products that people buy.

Cooperate, Cooperation - to work together to achieve a common aim. Frequently used in relation to politics, economics or law.

Council - an advisory or administrative body set up to manage the affairs of a place or organisation. The Council of the League of Nations contained the organisation's most powerful members.

Coup - a sudden, violent and illegal overthrow of the government by a small group - for example, the chiefs of an army.

D

Defect - the act of defection; to leave your country or cause for another.

Democratic - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

Democratisation - to introduce a democratic system or principles into a country or organisation.

Deport - to expel someone from a country and, usually, return them to their homeland.

Dissent, Dissenting - to hold or express views against an idea or policy, often in politics.

Dissolution, Dissolve - the formal ending of a partnership, organisation or official body.

Détente - the easing of tension, especially between two countries.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economic depression - a sustained downturn in the economy.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

F

Foreign policy - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

Free elections - elections in which voters are free to vote without interference.

H

Hard line - strict and uncompromising.

I

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

L

Liberal - politically, someone who believes in allowing personal freedom without too much control by the government or state.

M

Mass - an act of worship in the Catholic Church.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

P

Parliament - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

Persecute - to treat someone unfairly because of their race, religion or political beliefs.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

R

Rationing - limiting goods that are in high demand and short supply.

Rebellion - armed resistance against a government or leader, or resistance to other authority or control.

Reform, Reforming - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

Refugee, Refugees - a person who has been forced to leave where they live due to war, disaster or persecution.

Repress, Repression - politically, to prevent something or control people by force.

Repressive - a harsh or authoritarian action; usually used to describe governmental abuse of power.

Republic - a state or country run by elected representatives and an elected/nominated president. There is no monarch.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Rig, Rigged - politically, to interfere in or fix an election to determine the winner.

Riots - violent disturbances involving a crowd of people.

S

Satellite state - a country under the control of another, such as countries under USSR control during the Cold War.

Socialism - a political and economic system where most resources, such as factories and businesses, are owned by the state or workers with the aim of achieving greater equality between rich and poor.

Soviet - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

Sphere of influence - an area or country under the influence of another country.

Standard of living - level of wealth and goods available to an individual or group.

State of emergency - where a national emergency, disaster or

crisis has occurred in which normal government procedures are suspended so it can deal with the situation.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Strike - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

T

Thaw - the period of time where the relationship between the USSR and the USA improved.

Trade unions - organised groups of workers who cooperate to make their lives better at work. For example, they might negotiate for better pay and then organise a strike if one is refused.

U

Ultimatum - a final demand, with the threat of consequences if it is not met.

V

Veto - the right to reject a decision or proposal.

B

- Berlin Crisis** - 0
- Berlin Wall** - 0
- Brezhnev Doctrine** - 0

C

- Collapse of the USSR** - 0

D

- De-Stalinisation** - 13
- Dubček, Alexander** - 0

F

- Fall of Gorbachev** - 0
- Fall of the Berlin Wall** - 0

G

- Glasnost** - 0
- Gorbachev, Mikhail, policies and beliefs** - 0

H

- Hungarian Uprising** - 0

L

- Loss of USSR control over Satellite States** - 0
- Loss of USSR control over eastern Europe** - 0

P

- Perestroika** - 0
- Prague Spring** - 0

S

- Similarities between the Hungarian Uprising and Prague Spring** - 0
- Solidarity** - 0

U

- USSR control in eastern Europe** - 12

W

- Warsaw Pact** - 0