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Edexcel - GCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE

Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91



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Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

Edexcel - GCSE





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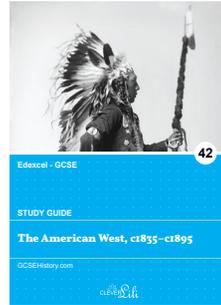
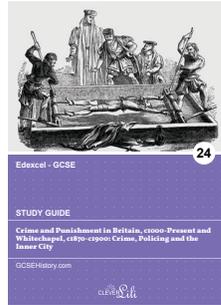
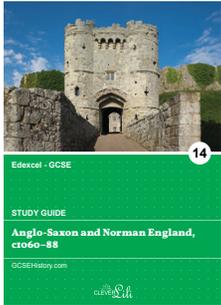
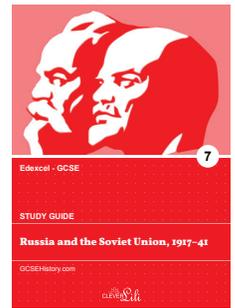
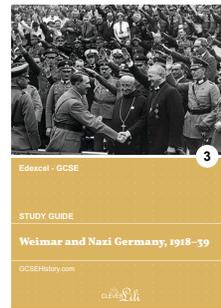
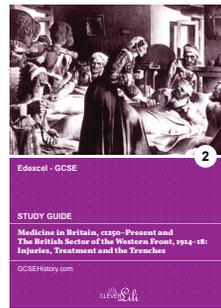
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

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 18**.

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?

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91 is the period study that investigates the causes of the Cold War, three of its key crises and the reasons it ended. You will study the role key individuals played during the Cold War, as well as how it impacted specific countries. You will focus on crucial events during this period, and study the political, economic and military changes that occurred.

Purpose

This study will enable you to understand the complexities of the Cold War. You will investigate themes such as communism, capitalism, sphere of influence, satellite states, containment and the arms race. This course will help you develop the historical skills of explanation and analysis of key events to demonstrate your understanding of how they are connected.

Topics

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91, is divided into 3 key topics:

- ☐ Topic 1 looks at the origins of the Cold War and the reasons for increasing tension between 1943 and 1956. You will investigate how and why the divisions between the superpowers grew, politically, economically and militarily.
- ☐ Topic 2 looks at the three key Cold War crises between 1958 and 1970. You will investigate the causes, main events and consequences of the Berlin crisis (1958-61), the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Prague Spring.
- ☐ Topic 3 looks at the end of the Cold War between 1970 and 1991. You will study how far tension was eased during the period of détente and the reasons why it ended with the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan. You will investigate the roles of President Reagan and Premier Gorbachev in bringing the Cold War to an end. The topic culminates with the collapse of the USSR.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

- 👤 President Roosevelt.
- 👤 Prime Minister Churchill.
- 👤 Premier Stalin.
- 👤 President Truman.
- 👤 Premier Khrushchev.
- 👤 Premier Brezhnev.
- 👤 Fidel Castro.
- 👤 President John F Kennedy.
- 👤 President Ronald Reagan.
- 👤 Premier Mikhail Gorbachev.

Key Events

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:

- 📅 The three wartime conferences.
- 📅 The Berlin Blockade and Airlift.
- 📅 The Arms Race.
- 📅 The Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 📅 Détente.
- 📅 The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
- 📅 The Fall of the Berlin Wall.

Assessment

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91, forms part of paper 2 which you have a total of 1 hour 45 minutes to complete. You should spend approximately 50 minutes on this section, booklet P, of the paper. There will be 3 exam questions which will assess what you have learnt on the Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91. For Question 3, you will have to select two from three options.

- 🔗 Question 1 is worth 8 marks. This question will require you to identify two consequences of an event. You will need to support the identified consequences with facts and explain how they occurred.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

- 👤 Question 2 is worth 8 marks. This question will require you to write an analytical narrative account of an event or time period. You will need to describe what happened as well as explain how and why events are connected.
- 👤 Question 3 is worth 8 marks. This question will require you to explain the importance of two events, people or developments in relation to specific situations. You will need to explain what difference the event made to the specific situation.

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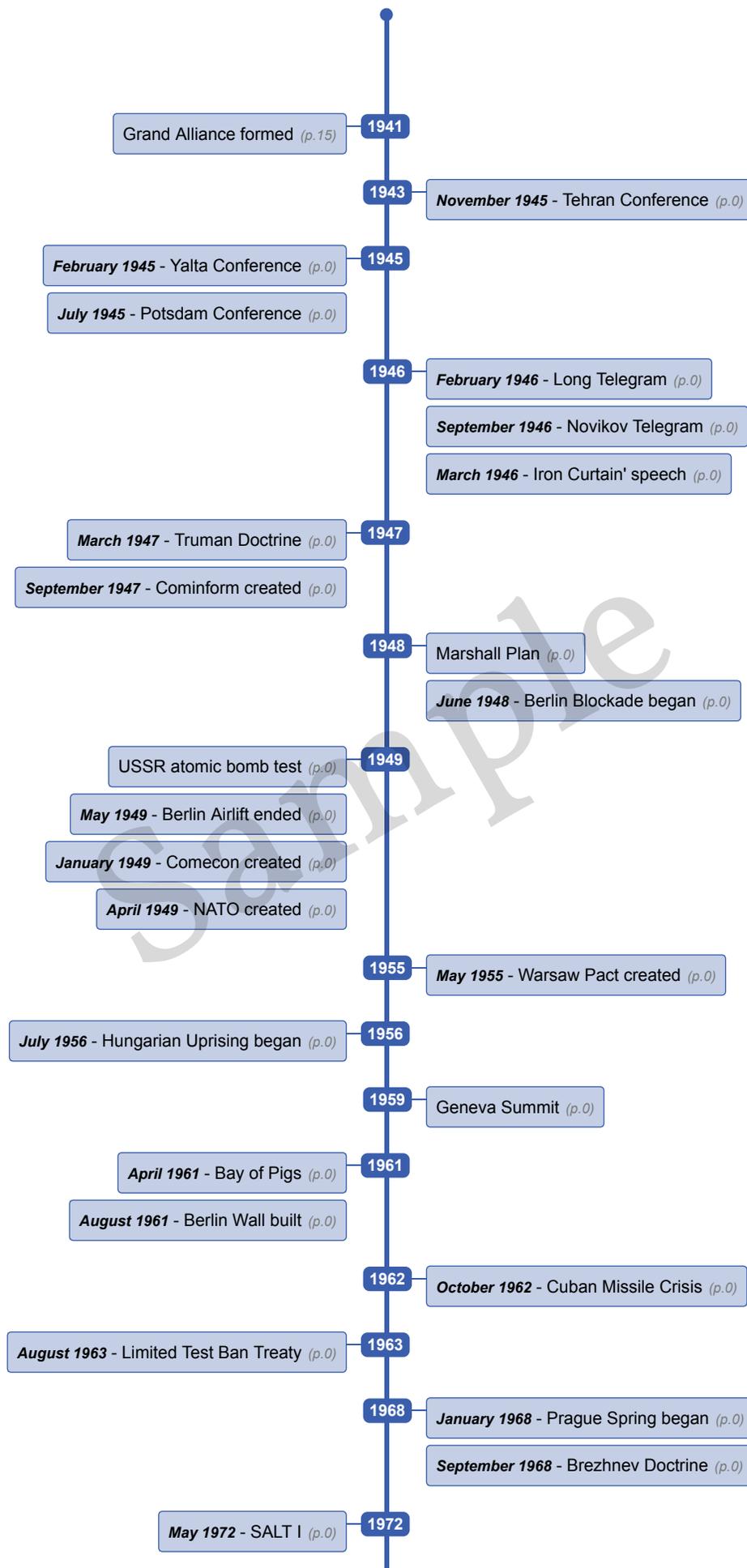


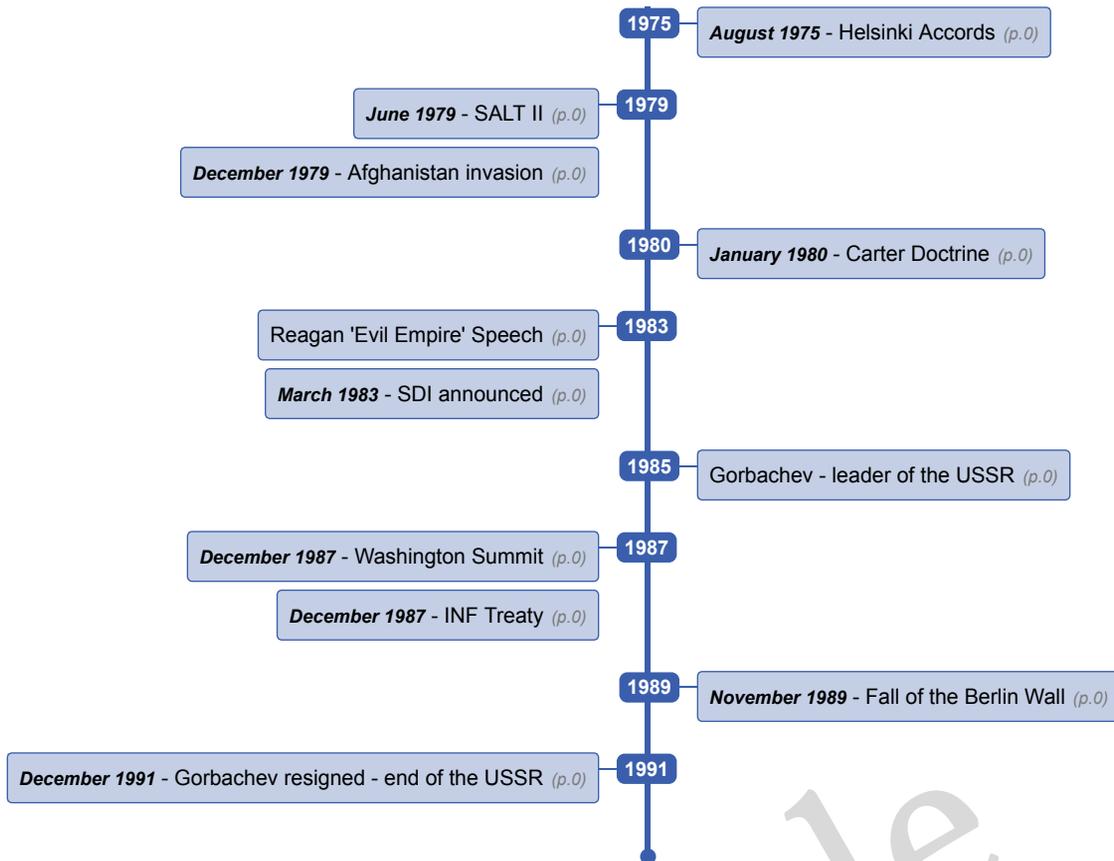
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SUPERPOWER RELATIONS AND THE COLD WAR, 1941-91

TIMELINE





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COLD WAR

*Although the shooting war is over, we are in the midst of a cold war which is getting warmer.' -
Bernard Baruch, 1947*



What was the Cold War?

The Cold War was a **state** of hostility that existed between the USSR and the USA in the second half of the 20th century.



What is the definition of a cold war?

A cold war is a conflict in which there is no direct fighting between the two sides. It is fought through **economic** and political actions.



When was the Cold War?

The Cold War lasted from 1945 to 1991.



Who was involved in the Cold War?

The Cold War was between the USA and its **allies**, and the Soviet Union, its **satellite states** and its allies.



What were the long-term causes of the Cold War?

There are 7 main reasons the Cold War happened:

- ✓ In October 1917, the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia. By 1921 they had created the first **communist state**. They were anti-capitalism and wanted to spread the communist **revolution** across the world.
- ✓ America and Britain did not trust the USSR as Russia had withdrawn from the First World War in 1917, despite being a member of the Triple Entente with Britain and France.
- ✓ The USSR did not trust the USA, France and Britain because they sent troops to fight against the Bolsheviks in the Russian Civil War.
- ✓ In the 1920s, the USA suffered from the First Red Scare and was hostile towards the USSR.
- ✓ The USSR was angry it was not recognised as a country by the USA until 1933.
- ✓ The relationship between the USSR and the West deteriorated before the Second World War. The Soviet Union was angry at not being invited to the Munich Conference in 1938.
- ✓ When the USSR signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact in 1939, Britain and France were horrified.



How was the Cold War fought?

The Cold War was fought in 7 key ways:

- ✓ **Propaganda**.
- ✓ Spying or espionage, such as using spy planes to take photographs.
- ✓ An arms race to have the most developed weapons, particularly nuclear missiles.
- ✓ A space race competing for success in space, such as being the first nation to put a man on the moon.
- ✓ Financial aid or loans to other countries to gain their support.
- ✓ **Proxy wars**, where the USA and the USSR became involved in conflicts in other countries. An example is the Korean War of 1950-53.
- ✓ Threats made by either side.



What created tension between the Soviet Union and the USA at the beginning of the Cold War?

The ideological differences between the superpowers created tension between them. The Soviet Union supported **communism**, whereas the USA and Britain were capitalist countries.



What were the different ideologies in the Cold War?

The Cold War was a result of ideological differences between the two sides:

- ✓ The USSR was **communist**. **Communism** is a system where there is no private ownership of land, property or business. The aim is to achieve **economic** equality for the benefit of the people through central control of the **state economy**.
- ✓ The USA was capitalist. **Capitalism** is a system where individuals are free to own land, property and businesses to create wealth and accept there will be **economic** inequality as a result.



Why were the USA and the USSR considered superpowers during the Cold War?

The USSR and the USA were considered to be superpowers because they possessed 3 key things:

- ✓ Massive military might, including nuclear weapons.
- ✓ **Economic** might.
- ✓ The ability to dominate other countries.



Why was Stalin distrustful of Truman at the beginning at the Cold War?

Joseph Stalin was distrustful of Harry S Truman for 3 key reasons:

- ✓ Truman was anti-communist.
- ✓ He tried to control the Potsdam meeting.
- ✓ He successfully tested the atomic bomb without consulting Stalin and used it in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings in the days after Potsdam.



Why did Britain ally closely with the USA at the beginning at the Cold War?

Britain was concerned about **communism** spreading. The nation's **economy** was severely impacted after the Second World War so it couldn't act against the Soviet Union alone.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first known mention of the term 'Cold War' was made by English author George Orwell.

He mentioned it in an essay entitled 'You and the Atomic Bomb', written in 1945.



GRAND ALLIANCE

'The Russian danger... is our danger.' - Winston Churchill



What was the Grand Alliance?

The Grand Alliance was a military and political **coalition** against the Axis powers of Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan during the Second World War.



When was the Grand Alliance formed?

The Grand Alliance began after the USA entered the Second World War. The **alliance** was formally signed by the USA, the Soviet Union and Great Britain on New Year's Day, 1942, and lasted until 1945.



Who was part of the Grand Alliance?

The Grand Alliance consisted of the three major Allies of the Second World War - the Soviet Union, the United States, and Great Britain.



Why was the Grand Alliance formed?

The sole purpose of the Grand Alliance was to defeat the Axis powers - Nazi Germany, **fascist** Italy and Imperial Japan.



Why was there tension in the Grand Alliance?

Although they were fighting the Nazi threat together, there were 3 main reasons for tension between the countries of the Grand Alliance during the Second World War:

- ✓ Both sides kept secrets. Stalin refused to share battle plans with Britain and France; when German troops surrendered in Italy, Britain and the US did not include the USSR in the discussions.
- ✓ Stalin believed the USA had deliberately delayed opening a second **front** in France until 1944 so the USSR would be weakened fighting Nazi Germany on its own.
- ✓ The two sides had opposing **ideologies** and did not trust each other.



How did the Grand Alliance cooperate during the Second World War?

The public was presented with a positive image of the Grand Alliance, and the three countries did help each other in 3 key ways:

- ✓ British **merchant ships** helped take supplies to the USSR.
- ✓ America included the USSR in its Lend-Lease programme, which meant it lent and sold military equipment to help defeat Germany.
- ✓ The USSR lost 26 million people fighting the Nazis after 1941, but this meant Germany's army was tied down and allowed Britain and America to plan and launch D-Day.

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GLOSSARY

A

Abdicate - to give up a position of power or a responsibility.

Abolish, Abolished - to stop something, or get rid of it.

Aggression - angry, hostile or violent behaviour displayed without provocation.

Agricultural - relating to agriculture.

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

Allies - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

Ambassador - someone, often a diplomat, who represents their state, country or organisation in a different setting or place.

Armistice - an agreement between two or more opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

B

Blockade - a way of blocking or sealing an area to prevent goods, supplies or people from entering or leaving. It often refers to blocking transport routes.

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

Brinkmanship - pushing a disagreement to its limits in the hope the other side backs down, especially pertaining to war.

Buffer - a protective barrier.

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

Cabinet - politically, the group of senior ministers responsible for controlling government policy.

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

Casualties - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

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

Civil rights - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.

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

Coalition government - a government formed by more than one political party.

Coalition, Coalitions - a temporary alliance, such as when a group of countries fights together.

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.

Colonialism - when a country seeks to bring other territories under its control, often with the aim of dominating its economy. Religion and cultural practices may also be imposed.

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.

Conference - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.

Conservative - someone who dislikes change and prefers traditional values. It can also refer to a member of the Conservative Party.

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

Containment - meaning to keep something under control or within limits, it often refers to the American idea of stopping the spread of communism.

Conventional - in accordance with what is considered normal or generally accepted. In military terms, it refers to non-nuclear weapons.

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.

Currency - an umbrella term for any form of legal tender, but most commonly referring to money.

D

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

Demilitarised - to remove all military forces from an area and forbid them to be stationed there.

Democracy - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

Democratic - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

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

Deploy - to move military troops or equipment into position or a place so they are ready for action.

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

Desegregation - a policy of removing racial segregation (separation).

Deterrent - something that discourages an action or behaviour.

Dictator - a ruler with absolute power over a country, often acquired by force.

Dictatorship - a form of government where an individual or small group has total power, ruling without tolerance for other views or opposition.

Disarmament - the reduction or removal of weaponry.

Dispute - a disagreement or argument; often used to describe conflict between different countries.

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.

Doctrine - a stated principle of government policy; can also refer to a set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party or other group.

Dollar imperialism - a phrase used by the Soviet Union's Foreign Minister, Molotov, in accusing the USA of using its economic strength to take over Europe through the Marshall Plan.

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

E

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

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

Embassy - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

Empire - a group of states or countries ruled over and controlled by a single monarch.

Exile - to be banned from one's original country, usually as a punishment or for political reasons.

Export - to transport goods for sale to another country.

F

Fascist - one who believes in fascism.

Federal - in US politics this means 'national', referring to the whole country rather than any individual state.

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

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

Front - in war, the area where fighting is taking place.

H

Hard line - strict and uncompromising.

I

Ideology - a set of ideas and ideals, particularly around political ideas or economic policy, often shared by a group of people.

Import - to bring goods or services into a different country to sell.

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.

Intercontinental ballistic missile - a guided ballistic missile with a minimum range of 5,500km or 3,400 miles.

Iron Curtain - a phrase used by Winston Churchill to describe the non-physical divide created by Stalin between Eastern Europe and the West.

L

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

M

Merchant ships - unarmed ships used for carrying supplies and goods.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

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

Monarchy - a form of government in which the head of state is a monarch, a king or queen.

Mujahideen - Islamic guerrilla fighters.

P

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

Predecessor - the person who came before; the previous person to fill a role or position.

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.

Prosecute - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

Proxy war - a conflict between two sides acting on behalf of other parties who are not directly involved, but who have usually supplied equipment, arms and/or money.

Purged, Purging - abrupt and often violent removal of a group of people from a place or organisation; medically, to make someone sick or induce diarrhoea as a treatment to rid them of illness.

Q

Quarantine - a period of isolation where a person or animal who has or may have a communicable disease is kept away from others.

R

Ratification, Ratified - to give formal agreement or consent to something.

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.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

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.

Reparations - payments made by the defeated countries in a war to the victors to help pay for the cost of and damage from the fighting.

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

Sanctions - actions taken against states who break international laws, such as a refusal to trade with them or supply necessary commodities.

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

Sino - is a reference to China or something relating to China. It is a prefix which is used instead of China.

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.

Summit - a formal meeting between two or more heads of government.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

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.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

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.

W

Western powers - a group term used to describe developed capitalist nations, such as Britain and the USA.

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