

Khrushchev Notes:

Khrushchev and co-existence:

- US-Soviet summit
- Due to Eisenhower's willingness and attitudes of new leadership in the Soviet Union
- After Stalin's death in 1953 collective leadership formed
- 'peaceful-co-existence' with the West
- Capitalism and communism should accept the continuing existence of one another
- Americans believed that if deprived of opportunity for expansionism, Communism would collapse
- No need to risk nuclear war

East-West relation in the 1950s: the reality

- Improved US-Soviet relations after 1953 agreement over Austria
- 1955 USSR proposed formal treaty with Austria
- Ended four-power occupation of Austria
- Geneva Summit of 1955- little was achieved politically but relationships improved
- THAW: spirit of Geneva and spirit of spirit of Camp David

East-West Tensions increase against after 1955?

- 1956: Khrushchev gave de-Stalinisation speech
- At same time problems in Hungary and West involvement in Suez Crisis
- Raised fears of Soviet influence in Middle East

Technology Race:

- Soviets into space- Sputnik 1957
- Satellite spy
- Americans panic of Soviet missile technology
- The Missile Gap:
 - Formulated idea of lack of missiles
 - Report recommended
 - *Vast increase in offensive defence power*
 - *Build-up of conventional forces capable of fighting a limited war*
 - *Massive building program of **fallout shelters** to protect US citizens from nuclear attack*
- US spy planes flying over Soviet Union confirmed that there was no missile gap
- Established NASA, science programs in schools and promotes missile development

Events in 1958-1960 affect the East West uprising:

The U-2 incident:

- Meeting between Eisenhower and Khrushchev was first meeting of USSR and USA president

- Few results but general positive attitude
- 'Spirit of Camp David'
- Optimism was short lived
- American plane had been shot down over Soviet Union on May 1st 1960
- Any thaw that might have been achieved was now over

Hungarian Uprising:

- Nagy, moderate leader tried to reform Hungary and wanted to leave Warsaw Pact
- Khrushchev sends in army, captures Nagy (execute him)
- 35,000 killed
- Soviet Bloc in tact

Why was Germany a Source of Tension?

The Two Germanys:

Economic Differences:

- West Germany was larger in population and output
- Known as 'economic miracle'
- In East, forced collectivisation and socialisation of the economy
- Hardships meant that many fled to West from East

Political Differences:

- West Germany was a democracy
- East had no free elections and rigidly Stalin
- Discontent manifested into riots in 1953
- Riots were put down quickly with tanks
- Represented first major rebellion within Soviet sphere of influence

Why did Berlin Crisis Develop:

Khrushchev and the crisis of 1958:

- Economic and political inequalities of the two Germanys
- West Germany was a glittering, dynamic example of capitalism
- Political freedoms and open lifestyle
- Encouraged East Germans to escape travel from East to West to emigrate to West Germany
- Young and skilled were leaving
- Allowed West to maintain espionage base in East German territory
- Khrushchev demanded that Berlin be made into a free city and demilitarised
- Threatened to turn over control of Western corridors into Berlin
- Would allow GDR access to FRG (West)
- West had to negotiate and forced to recognise sovereignty of GDR
- Dangerous: West could not lose face over Berlin but to resist could mean war

- Khrushchev was prepared to hurry this crisis:
 - Soviet fear of West acquiring nuclear weapons
 - Concern over failing East German economy
 - Pressure of Ulbricht, leader of GDR
- West were outraged so Khrushchev dropped his plan
- He did force the Allies to talk about German question
- Ulbricht grew frustrated with Khrushchev's lack of resolution over the issue
- Hoped he would have more luck with new US president

JFK and 'Flexible Response':

- Took a more diplomatic approach:
 - More spending on conventional forces
 - Enlarging nuclear arsenal
 - Continuing CIA covert work
 - Economic aid to developing countries to resist Communism
 - Continue **negotiations** with Soviet Union
- Broadened range of options to resist Communism
- Communist threat was now much more diverse (including geographically)

Khrushchev and Ulbricht and crisis of 1960-61:

- Vienna Summit 1961 first time JFK and Khrushchev meet
- Khrushchev decided to renew his Berlin ultimatum
- Kennedy did not make any concessions to Khrushchev's
- Responded to summit with increased military spending and civil defence program

The Wall:

- August 12th 1961 40,000 refugees flee the East via West Berlin
- Khrushchev agreed to closer of East German boarder
- August 13th Wall was erect

What did it mean?

For Khrushchev:

- Communist propaganda message had failed
- Soviets had to try and keep people in by force
- He was however able to better control the situation
- There was less pressure from Ulbricht and danger he may act independently

For Ulbricht:

- Didn't get a peace treaty he wanted
- Did closer boarder into Berlin ad help consolidate control of Berlin

For citizens of Berlin:

- Horrifying experience
- Family and friend separated with no hope of reunion

For the Cold War:

- Removed as a key issue of negotiation
- Americans complained about the wall
- But relieved that the issue was over
- Focus shifted from Europe

The Cuban Missile Crisis:

1. What actions were taken by Castro to convince US that he was Communist?

1959: Agrarian Law Reforms introduced- banning land ownership by foreigners; wants to implement industrialisation reform

1960: shipment of arms from USSR to Cuba arrives; Castro seizes Texaco and Esso oil refiners who refuse to accept Russian oil; Castro seizes US industrial property and nationalised banks;

1961: announces regime as a socialist regime

2. What actions taken by Castro indicate he may not have been Communist in 1959?

Castro visits the USA to try and discuss an aid plan for industrialisation and an appeal for a loan from the Organisation of American States, showing that Castro was not immediately looking to shut off the US.

3. What evidence is there to support the view that the US helped to push Cuba into a relationship with USSR?

The US's refusal to give Cuba money unless they followed the standards of the IMF and the turning down of the request for a loan from the Organisation of American States.