

# Key Facts 1: Before the Truman Doctrine

## (p1-11)

Grand Alliance	AKA The Big Three; USA, GB and USSR agreement to work together to defeat common enemies Germany and Japan. Always likely to fall apart as USA was democratic and capitalist and USSR was dictatorship and communist
Tehran Conference	Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill plan to defeat Germany by USA/GB invading France and Soviet moving against Germany in Eastern Europe; USSR to get land from Poland; USA/GB to have influence in Western Europe while USSR to have influence in Central and Eastern Europe.
Yalta Conference	United Nations to be set up; Poland to be within Soviet sphere of influence; Free elections in all liberated countries; Reduction in size of Germany; Reparations from Germany; Punish war criminals; USSR to help USA defeat Japan.
Potsdam Conference	Borders of Poland finalized; Germany (and Berlin) to be split into 4 zones; War crimes trial to take place at Nuremberg.
Arms Race	USA used A-bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force Japan to surrender before USSR became involved in war against Japan so stopping USSR having influence over defeated Japan; USSR knew about A-bomb and working on their own but no Soviet nuclear weapons until 1949, giving USA feeling of superiority.
Sphere of Influence	Part of Europe under the influence of one or other of the Superpowers eg Poland in USSR sphere of influence and France in USA sphere of influence.
Iron Curtain	Metaphor used to describe the invisible wall separating the European countries in the Western Sphere of Influence from those within the Soviet sphere of influence - term first used by Winston Churchill to imply that those in the East were in a kind of prison.
Buffer Zone	An area set up to create a kind of fire-break between opposing nations. USSR felt buffer zone necessary in case the Western powers wanted to invade USSR again.
Satellite States	Countries being controlled by USSR - Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania
Collectivisation and Nationalisation	Key features of Communist economic policies: State control of industry and agriculture - no private ownership of factories or farms. All profits taken by the state and used to improve the whole community (in theory)
Long Telegram	Sent by US ambassador Kennan to Truman warning him that Stalin wanted to destroy capitalism and was planning to build up its military strength for aggressive purposes
Novikov's Telegram	Sent to Stalin by Soviet Ambassador Novikov warning him that Truman didn't want to work with Stalin; he (and the American people) wanted USA to use its wealth and military strength to eliminate communism
Cominform and Comecon	Soviet organisations set up so that the USSR could control information (cominform) and the economies (comecon) in the satellite states.

### Key Individuals:

**Franklin Roosevelt:** President of USA until 1945 when he died of a heart attack- not hostile to Soviet Union/ prepared to work with Stalin

**Harry S Truman:** Roosevelt's replacement - hated Communism so much more aggressive in dealings with USSR

**Winston Churchill:** Wartime leader of United Kingdom - had always been very suspicious of Stalin's intentions.

**Joseph Stalin:** The leader of the Soviet Union (USSR) until 1956. Didn't trust the Western powers at all and felt the need to create buffer zone so USSR couldn't be invaded again.

# Key Facts 2: The Breakdown of Trust

## (p12-16)

<b>The Truman Doctrine 1947</b> - America's policy of <b>containment</b>	<b>The Marshall Plan 1948</b> (aka <b>Marshall Aid</b> )
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Truman declared that 'communist tyranny' is evil, while democratic freedom is good</li><li>• USA has a duty to protect freedom everywhere in the world</li><li>• USA was to give economic aid to stop communist takeovers in any country in the world - poverty was the best friend of communism!</li><li>• Military support would be provided if necessary.</li><li>• As part of the Truman Doctrine USA gave \$400 million to governments in Turkey and Greece to fight communist forces in their civil wars.</li><li>• Formal end of the Grand Alliance as Stalin saw this as an attack on the USSA/ start of 'the Cold War'</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Financial aid offered to all European countries affected by the Second World War to end post-war poverty, making them less likely to choose a communist future.</li><li>• \$13 billion made available</li><li>• The Catch? The country receiving aid had to agree to have an open trade agreement with America</li><li>• Aid helped western European countries become strong allies to the USA and stopped the spread of communist ideas amongst the people of these countries.</li><li>• Aid offered to the Eastern bloc countries but Stalin wouldn't let them accept it.</li></ul>

### Key Facts about the Berlin Blockade

- Berlin was in the Eastern sector of Germany but was divided into 4 zones (Soviet, American, Britain and France)
- Stalin didn't want the Western powers having any influence in Eastern Europe and therefore wanted complete control of Berlin
- America, Britain and France decided to make their zones in Berlin stronger so united them to create Trizonia; they planned to introduce a single currency there
- June 1948: Stalin tries to take control of all of Berlin by cutting off all road, rail, river and canal routes linking Berlin to the Western part of Germany hoping to force the western powers to give up their part of Berlin

### Key Facts about the Berlin Airlift

- The USA and the UK launch the Berlin Airlift which was the operation designed to provide West Berlin with all the food and other supplies that were necessary by air; there were over 2 million people living in 'trizonia' at the time needing up to 1500 tons of food a day.
- 277,000 flights over a 10 month period carrying 2.3 million tons of supplies
- 65% of supplies were coal, needed for electricity production
- 3 million tons of candy dropped by the airlift to keep morale up
- May 1949: Stalin admitted defeat and called off the Blockade

**Consequences:** Germany became **two separate countries** (West = FRG and East = GDR); The Western Powers formed **NATO in 1949**; this was a military organisation which would work together against the USSR when and where necessary. Berlin was the **first face-to-face confrontation** between the superpowers. The **USA had 'won'** but without the need for any actual fighting.

# Key Facts 3: The Hungarian Crisis 1956 p17-19

1953	Stalin died and was replaced by <b>Nikita Khrushchev</b> ; this led to a period called ' <b>the thaw</b> ' in the Cold War as Khrushchev <i>seemed</i> less aggressive.
1955	1) <b>The Warsaw Pact</b> was a promise by ALL of the Eastern bloc countries to come to the defence of the others if any were attacked by the West. Obviously the Soviet Union was the driving force of the Warsaw Pact. 2) <b>At the Geneva Summit</b> , Khrushchev told American President Eisenhower that he wanted ' <b>peaceful coexistence</b> ' between the Superpowers.
1956	Khrushchev made ' <b>the Secret Speech</b> ' in which he denounced Stalin's purges and suggested that Communism would not be so repressive.

## Hungary Before 1956

- It had major **economic problems** and low living standards because the USSR took large amounts of their food and industrial products
- **No political parties** were allowed except for the Communist party
- Ruled by **Rakosi**, a brutal Communist hardliner known as '**the Budapest Butcher**'

## What happened in Hungary in 1956 before Imre Nagy took over?

Students in Budapest protested against Rakosi and these protests turned to riots. Protests spread to other cities - the Hungarian police began to lose control.

## Why was there such unrest?

Khrushchev's '**Secret Speech**' of 1956 had given the Hungarian people hope that they would have more freedom and they were desperate.

In response to the riots and protests Khrushchev replaced Rakosi with **Imre Nagy**. In November 1956, Nagy promised **reforms** including free elections and - most importantly - to **withdraw Hungary from the Warsaw Pact**. He even asked the **UN (United Nations)** for **help** against Russia.

## What was the Soviet Response to Nagy's promises in Hungary?

- Khrushchev sent **200,000 Soviet troops**, backed by **5,000 tanks**, into Budapest to crush the protests and remove Nagy from power.
- There were **two weeks of fighting** and at least **20,000 Hungarian deaths**
- **Nagy** was arrested, put on trial and **executed** for treason
- A new Communist hardliner, **Janos Kadar** was installed as leader of Hungary
- Kadar used **Hungarian troops to support the Soviet troops** and re-established Communist control of Hungary.

## Why did Khrushchev crush the Hungarian Rising so brutally?

- He wanted to **send a message** to all the other satellite states; the USSR would not tolerate rebellion and **no Eastern Bloc country would be allowed to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact**.

**What did the West do?** President Eisenhower ignored pleas of military support but offered \$20 million worth of food and medical aid saying it was a matter of the 'highest priority to prevent the outbreak of war. UN attitude was the same.

## What were the consequences of these events?

America's failure to send any military support showed the Soviet Union that **the Truman Doctrine was all talk; the USA was not really going to risk actual war** in defence of an Eastern Bloc country (because since **both sides had nuclear weapons**.) It was clear to the other satellite states that if they tried to free themselves from Soviet control, they would receive no help from America and would face the same fate as the Hungarian protestors -

**The Iron Curtain was there to stay.**

## Key Facts 4: Berlin Part II - From refugee crisis to the building of the Berlin Wall (p20-22)

1949-1961	-The Refugee Problem aka the Brain Drain: 2.5 million East Germans escaped to the West via Berlin, causing embarrassment and a skills shortage in East Germany.
Nov 1958	The Berlin Ultimatum: Khrushchev tells the West they have six months to withdraw their troops from East Berlin.
1959	Meeting in Geneva and Camp David in America- Khrushchev withdraws ultimatum and agrees to further talks in Paris in 1960
1960	The U-2 spy plane fiasco (see below) destroys any chance of a negotiated settlement to the Berlin refugee crisis as <u>it ends the thaw</u> in relations between Khrushchev and Eisenhower.
June 1961	New US President, JF Kennedy, tells Khrushchev at Vienna that he is increasing the defence budget by \$2 million and won't pull out of Berlin
August 1961	Khrushchev starts to build a physical barrier around West Berlin, cutting it off from the rest of East Germany - making it impossible for East Germans to escape to the West via West Berlin anymore.
June 1963	President Kennedy visits West Berlin and declares his solidarity with the people and declares America's commitment to keeping it part of the western world, despite it being in the middle of East Germany

**U-2 KEY FACTS:** Gary Powers, CIA, U-2 spy plane shot down over Russia - USA denial - 'it was a weather plane'; Soviets photographs of plane and Powers; Powers confession of CIA role; American humiliation - peace talks between superpowers cancelled.

**Berlin Wall Key Facts** 13th August; 27 miles; No Man's Land between two walls - booby traps and barbed wire; machine gun posts; 130 shot dead trying to escape over wall; only access to West Berlin via checkpoints on roads, rail, river and air; passport checks and searches of vehicles; all communications routes to West Berlin guarded.

### Significance and Consequences of the Berlin Wall 1961-1989

1. The fact that the communists had to build a wall to stop its people from escaping was a constant source of embarrassment - walls are usually built to keep people OUT! This gave the USA a great propaganda victory in the Cold War. The message was clear; communism is so bad it has to build walls to stop people leaving.
2. GOOD THING because... building the Berlin Wall decreased the likelihood of war between the superpowers. This was because it was a peaceful and seemingly permanent resolution to the West Berlin problem. Therefore, although the building of the Berlin Wall was awful for the people of East Germany and Berlin, it was a positive development because it reduced tension between the superpowers.

# Key Facts 5: Cuba (1) p23-25

## Context to Cuban Missile Crisis - The Cuban Revolution 1959

- In 1959 Fidel Castro overthrew the pro-American dictator, Batista, in a popular rising.
- Castro was popular because Batista had been allowing American gangsters and businessmen to make a fortune exploiting the poor Cuban people.
- Castro shut down the casinos and brothels and nationalised the American owned sugar plantations and mills.
- The American government banned the import of Cuban sugar so Castro started trading with the Soviet Union.
- President Carter was horrified at having a pro-Russian country so close to America so gave his support to CIA trained invasion by Cuban exiles of Cuba.

## Key Facts about the Bay of Pigs Invasion April 1961

**March 1960:** US President Eisenhower ordered CIA to train Cuban exiles for armed invasion of Cuba.

**1961:** The new US President, Kennedy, gave the go ahead for Bay of Pigs Invasion.

**17 April 1961:** Invasion is a complete disaster; 100 of the exiles were killed and over 1,000 were captured.

## Why did the Bay of Pigs Invasion Fail?

1. Castro had known about the plan and had been able to use the tiny Cuban air force to sink the exiles supply ships in the Bay.
2. The Cuban people had not risen up to support the invasion because they were happy with what Castro was doing.
3. The United States didn't provide any ground or air military support for fear of international condemnation leaving the rebels stranded.

## What were the consequences of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion?

- Because Cuban leader Castro knew that the CIA was involved in the invasion, and that the American President had agreed to it, he was fully convinced that Cuba needed the support of the Soviet Union (USSR) . Without Soviet military support, America would remain a major threat to the survival of the Cuban revolution.
- Castro announced that he was a Communist and that Cuba would be a communist country and requested additional military support from the Soviet Union (which might include the placing of nuclear weapons on Cuban soil).
- President Kennedy had been made to look weak and indecisive - which in turn made America look weak and indecisive.
- Kennedy would be keen to make America look strong as soon as the next opportunity to do so arose.

## Key Individuals involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis

**President Eisenhower:** Was in charge of America when the Cuban revolution started and ordered CIA to support Cuban exiles attempt to overthrow Castro

**Fulgencio Batista:** The corrupt pro-American dictator of Cuba 1952-1959

**Fidel Castro:** The very popular left-wing leader of the Cuban Revolution

**President Kennedy:** Took over from Eisenhower in 1961. Ignored military advisors who said the Bay of Pigs invasion wouldn't work and gave the go-ahead but without authorising full American military support.

**Nikita Khrushchev:** Leader of Soviet Union during the Cuban Missile Crisis

# Key Facts 6 : Cuba II: The Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

## p25-27

### Why did the Cuban crisis reach a climax in October 1961?

1. Khrushchev told Kennedy he wouldn't put nuclear warheads in Cuba but in October a U-2 spy plane captured photographs of what looked like launch pads in Cuba.
2. On the same day that Kennedy was told about the photograph, he was informed that a fleet of Soviet ships was on its way to Cuba.

### Summary of what happened during the Thirteen Days

1. Kennedy announced the imposition of a naval blockade around Cuba and called on Khrushchev to recall the ships.

2. Khrushchev replied saying that his ships would break the blockade and that the Soviet Union would use nuclear weapons if America declared war.

**Both sides told their armed forces to prepare for war**

3. Kennedy wrote a telegram asking Khrushchev to remove missiles from Cuba.

4. Khrushchev offered to remove the missiles but only if America would agree to a promise not to invade Cuba

### Secret stuff going on behind the scenes

- Khrushchev learned that America was planning to invade Cuba within the next 24 hours and offered America a secret deal (which the world was not to know about).
- The secret deal was that the USSR WOULD remove the Cuban missiles so long as the Americans removed their nuclear missiles from Turkey.

The Soviet Union shot down a U-2 spy plane over Cuba putting Kennedy under great pressure from the HAWKS in his government to take immediate action.

### So what did happen?

Kennedy openly promised that America would not invade Cuba if the Soviet Union removed their missiles from Cuba and secretly agreed to remove the American missiles from Turkey - so long as the rest of the world was not told about the missile removal in Turkey.

### The Consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis

- President Kennedy was left looking strong while Khrushchev looked weak, because the Turkish side of the deal was kept secret from the rest of the world.
- A telephone hotline was set up so that the leaders could communicate immediately and directly if another crisis occurred,
- 1963: Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed between USSR, USA and UK.
- 1967: Outer Space Treaty - space was not to be used for military purposes
- 1968: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - 40+ countries agreed that only USA, USSR, GB, France and China would have nuclear weapons.
- Both sides made a greater effort to work towards a more peaceful relationship because the Cuban Missile crisis made them realise how easy it would be for a nuclear war to break out.

# Key Facts 7 - The Prague Spring 1968 (p28-29)

## Alexander Dubcek:

- The Communist who became leader of Czechoslovakia in 1968
- He believed in 'Socialism with a human face' - if you give the people more freedom, they will like communism more
- He introduced a series of reforms in April 1968 which led to the Prague Spring

## Leonid Brezhnev:

- The new leader of the Soviet Union
- He trusted Dubcek at first as Dubcek was a committed communist
- He was determined not to look weak either to his political colleagues or the rest of the world.
- He was determined to keep the Warsaw Pact intact and stop any of the satellite states breaking line from the others.

## Dubcek's Reforms

1. Workers to be given a say in the running of their factories
2. Czechs to be allowed to travel abroad
3. Living standards to be raised
4. Censorship to be relaxed and criticism of the government allowed
5. Possibility of multi-party elections *in the future*.

Dubcek thought his reforms would be acceptable to the Soviet Union because he wasn't going to try to take Czechoslovakia out of the Warsaw Pact

## Brezhnev's Response

- 21st August: 500,000 troops from the Warsaw Pact (led by Soviet Union) invaded Czechoslovakia and removed Dubcek from office.
- Dubcek urged his supporters and the Czech army NOT to resist the invading troops because it would be futile and just lead to loss of life.
- Just 100 people were killed compared to up to 30,000 in Hungary in 1956
- Dubcek wasn't killed but was replaced by Gustav Hasek, a hard-line communist loyal to Brezhnev
- The reforms were all reversed so that Czechoslovakia once again became a closed country with no freedom or speech or movement.

## The Consequences of the Prague Spring

- America, Britain and other countries criticised the Soviet Union for its actions but nothing was done; this showed that the Soviet Union could still enforce communism within the Eastern bloc countries without fear of punishment.
- The United Nations was not able to take action because the Soviet Union used its power of veto.
- A new Soviet policy was announced - the Brezhnev Doctrine.

## Brezhnev Doctrine

**"Wherever something in an Eastern Bloc country makes it turn towards capitalism (eg Dubcek's reforms) the rest of the Eastern bloc must make it turn back to communism"**

In other words: Every communist government is responsible not only maintaining communism in its own country, but also for maintaining it in all of the other Eastern bloc countries.

# Key Facts 8: Detente 1970s (p30-31)

**What was Detente?** This was an attempt in the early 1970s by the superpowers to reduce tensions and thus reduce the chances of M.A.D - Mutually Assured Destruction. It was a genuine attempt on BOTH SIDES to cooperate to achieve a more stable relationship.

## Detente Agreements

### Why did both sides wanted to reduce tensions?

1. Each side had enough nuclear missiles to destroy the other
2. The Soviet Union was finding it difficult to AFFORD the cost of the arms race; the standard of living of its people was failing to improve making communist rule more unpopular
3. America was caught up in an expensive war in Vietnam which was making the US government unpopular internationally and at home.
4. America's social problems such as inequality between rich and poor and black and white were resulting in protests and riots
5. Points 3 and 4 above meant that the US government had less money available for nuclear weapons; they also meant that America was beginning to look like 'the bad guy'.

### 1972 - (SALT1) Strategic Arms Limitations Talks Agreement

Both sides would limit the number of their nuclear weapons; it was followed by a visit by Nixon to Moscow and Brezhnev to Washington.

#### Significance of SALT1

Showed the world that both sides wanted peace not war; it was hoped that it would be the beginning of the end of the Cold War.

### The Helsinki Accords 1975

33 NATO and Warsaw Pacts worked together for 2 years (starting in 1973) and finally made an announcement known as the Helsinki Accord. It was agreed that:

- Borders could not be altered by force, including those of Germany.
- All the nations would work for closer relationships, including better trading links, share improved technology and start a joint space mission
- All nations would respect human rights and guarantee individual freedom including free speech, freedom of movement and freedom of religion across Europe.

#### Significance

Although this sounded good there were to be no checks on the human rights promises but it did mark a new approach to international relations.

**SALT 2 - Although this improvement on SALT 1 was agreed in 1979 but it was never ratified because in the same year, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.**

**Consequences of Detente:** The 1970s, unlike the 1960s, were a time when it looked much less likely that there would be a nuclear armageddon. This enable more economic progress and a reduction in real terms spending on nuclear weapons. Sadly it all came to an end because of events in Afghanistan in 1979.

# Key Facts 9: (p32-35)

## The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan in 1979

### Why as Afghanistan important in the 1970s?

1. Afghanistan was not part of the Soviet Union but had a very similar religion and culture to many of the Asian countries which WERE such as Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.; what happened in Afghanistan might affect the Soviet states in Asia.
2. Afghanistan bordered Iran which had experienced an Islamist revolution and had established a fundamentalist Muslim government.
3. Russia was scared of something called **the Domino Effect**. Afghanistan might copy Iran and then the neighbouring Soviet countries with large Muslim populations might copy Afghanistan and then the Soviet Union itself might break down.
4. Due to its strategic importance (next door to Iran) Brezhnev was determined to keep a pro-Soviet government in charge of Afghanistan.

### When and why did the Soviet Union invade Afghanistan?

Good thing for Brezhnev:	In April 1978 there as a pro-Communist Revolution in Afghanistan and its new President, Taraki, became an official ally of the USSR.
Bad thing for Brezhnev:	In September 1979, President Taraki was overthrown by Aman, the head of the Afghan army. Unlike Taraki, Amin was not popular with the Muslim majority. Still, Brezhnev tried to work with the new leader.
Even worse	Brezhnev discovered that Amin was in talks with America about establishing a possible alliance.
Action	On December 24th 1979, Brezhnev sent Soviet troops into Afghanistan to remove Amin and occupy the country; a Communist leader Babrak Karmal was installed as Afghan President. Brezhnev claimed that Amin had invited him in but this wasn't true. This was a hostile invasion of a non-Communist country.

### What were the immediate consequences of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan?

- Detente was over! Unlike the invasion of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, this was a Soviet invasion of a country which wasn't part of the Soviet Union.
- US President Jimmy Carter misunderstood the reason for the invasion; he thought that the invasion was the start of a move by Brezhnev to take control of the oil-rich Persian Gulf (Middle East). This led to a speech which became known as "The Carter Doctrine"

### The Carter Doctrine 1980

America would do whatever was necessary, including the use of military force, to prevent the USSR gaining control of the Persian Gulf.

### Long term consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

- USA formed an alliance with China and Israel; all three agreed to support the Mujahideen (Islamist rebels fighting against the Soviet troops). The CIA sent money and weapon to them.
- Economic sanctions were imposed on the Soviet Union, undoing the Helsinki Agreement.
- American support was withdrawn from SALT 2, ending the work to end the arms race.
- Carter organised a boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games of 1980 in which 60 nations supported the American led boycott.

In other words, all the gains of the Detente period were destroyed either by the Soviet invasion, or the American's response, depending on your point of view.

# Key Facts 10: The Second Cold War

(p35-36)

## A New Cold Warrior - Key Facts about President Ronald Reagan

1. He was elected President in 1981 because of anti-Communist feelings in America in response to the invasion of Afghanistan so you could say his election was really another consequence of that invasion.
2. He referred to the Soviet Union as 'an evil empire' in 1983.
3. He announced a new American policy known as "the Reagan Doctrine" which was a promise to take firm action against the Soviet Union and the international spread of communism.
4. He spend over 20% more money on developing weapons including the development of Trident submarines, Stealth bombers and SDI (the so-called Star Wars plan)
5. Internationally he wasn't taken seriously at first because of his background as a Hollywood movie star and his populist speeches (a bit like Donald Trump).

## Factors leading to a changing situation..

### The Star Wars Programme (SDI)

The idea was that America would have satellites in space which would be able to fire lasers to shoot down Soviet missiles before they reached their targets in America.

**Was this possible?** Not then and not yet! Technology was not yet advanced enough to make this a reality and it would have cost more money than even the USA had.

### So why did Reagan promise to make SDI happen?

1. Reagan knew that America was more technologically advanced than the USSR and that this fact scared the Soviet leaders; why not take advantage of that fear?
2. Reagan knew that the Soviet Union would not be able to afford to spend the same amount as the Americans of weapons development because their economy was struggling. They would either have to negotiate a way to end the Cold War or force their people to suffer even more poverty.

## The Soviet Union at this time.....

- After Brezhnev died in 1982, there was no strong leader which led to a lack economic and political planning and progress
- As the population of the Soviet Union grew it was clear that Soviet farming methods were too inefficient and millions of tons of grain had to be important needed to feed the people.
- The cost of the unpopular war in Afghanistan - and the trade boycott it caused - meant that the Soviet economy was on the brink of collapse leading the people to dislike their government even more.
- Money was still having to be spent on keeping control of the Eastern bloc countries like Poland in 1981.

## What was the significance of SDI?

The leadership of the Soviet Union understood that they could not afford their own SDI and that they didn't have the level of computer expertise to make it possible even if they could. Basically, if SDI was developed by America, then the Soviet Union could be defeated in a nuclear war. Since this the Soviet Union and America were no longer equal in strength, a new approach to international relations was needed.

# Key Facts 11: The New Thinking of President Gorbachev

- (p37-39)

**Mikhail Gorbachev: President of the USSR 1985 - 1991.** Gorbachev took over when Reagan was at his most powerful. The two men met and liked each other. Together they brought the Cold War which had existed since the end of the Second World War to a long term halt.



I intend to save communism in the USSR by making it better; I will make the economy stronger and communism more popular all over the Soviet Union by introducing more freedom. I will do this through using the policies of perestroika and glasnost.

## Perestroika

Gorbachev's plans for economic reforms would make the Soviet economy more efficient by making it less centrally controlled. These plans never really worked because there was too much corruption

## Glasnost

Gorbachev's reforms would make the Soviet Union a more open society - the censorship of the press would be relaxed and people would be told the truth for once. Political prisoners (people being punished for criticising the government and/ or communism) would be released. These reforms did happen in the Soviet Union and the satellite states.

## The Key Developments between 1985 and 1988

1985-1986	<b>Geneva Summit (1985) and Reykjavik Summit (1986)</b> Face to face meetings - Reagan realised that Gorbachev didn't plan to expand communist influence but did want to increase freedom in 'the evil empire'. This made progress possible but the sticking point was Reagan's refusal to drop SDI.
1987	<b>The Washington Summit</b> Gorbachev realised that Reagan wasn't going to drop SDI and agreed to the Intermediate Range Nuclear Force Treaty (INF). This was an agreement to remove all medium range missiles in Europe within the next 3 years.
1988	<b>Moscow Summit</b> Gorbachev agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Reduce its weapons stockpile and the size of the Soviet army;</li><li>● Withdraw its troops from the Soviet Union</li><li>● Abandon the Brezhnev Doctrine, letting the countries of Eastern Europe chose their own political future</li></ul>

## Significance of the Reagan/ Gorbachev era:

- Both sides would be able to cut spending on weapons leading to social reforms and a better standard of living for the people;
- Trade deals between the superpowers would again be possible which would benefit both economies
- The small countries influenced by the superpowers did not need to feel so scared about the possibility of a nuclear war.

# Key Facts 12: The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Collapse of the Soviet Union (p39-40)

## The consequences of Gorbachev's decision to abandon the Brezhnev Doctrine:

1. The Hungarian government opened its borders with Austria in May 1989. This meant that Hungarians were free to leave the Eastern Bloc if they wanted.
2. Free elections were held in Poland in June 1989 and the anti-communist movement 'Solidarity' won. Poland was no longer a communist country.
3. East Germans had begun to escape from Germany by crossing into Austria via Hungary. This took away the original purpose of the Berlin Wall making its fall inevitable.

## The Collapse of the Berlin Wall November 1989

- Once the Hungarians had started to allow free movement into Austria, the East German government came under increasing pressure to bring down the Berlin Wall.
- Because of protests and demonstrations in Berlin, the East German government asked the Soviet Union to send military help to maintain communist control - as it had done in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. This time though, the Soviet leader, Gorbachev, said no.
- The East German government was therefore forced to announce that the border into West Berlin would be opened.
- Thousands of East Berliners couldn't wait and flooded the checkpoints; the border guards just let them pass into West Berlin.
- The thousands of people who were present then started to physically pull down the Berlin Wall, again with no resistance from the guards. The Berlin Wall was no more.

## Why was the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 so significant?

- The Berlin Wall had been the symbol of the division of Germany; West Germany was democratic and capitalist while East Germany was oppressive and communist. Once the Wall had gone, the next logical step would be the unification of Germany. This had to happen because the removal of the Berlin Wall made it possible for any German to escape to freedom in the West via West Berlin. Germany was reunited in 1990.
- The division of Germany had only happened because of the defeat of Germany by the Grand Alliance in 1945; the division of Germany was symbolic of what had happened in the whole of Europe - the clash between communism and capitalism. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany seemed to bring things full circle; it was the physical representation of the end of the Cold War in Europe.

**The Warsaw Pact** was now pointless since Gorbachev wouldn't send Soviet troops to fight to save communist governments so it was **dissolved in July 1991**.

In December 1991 Gorbachev announced that all the Soviet Republics would become independent countries. That meant that the Soviet Union would no longer exist. Therefore it no longer needed a President, so President Gorbachev stepped down as the leader.

