



Turning Point: How close did the Cold War bring us to the end of the world?

Historical Skills

We will be focussing on 'significance'. This topic will focus on the significance of events in the Cold War, both at the time and now.

What words/phrases will help me use this skill?

This was significant because...

This has had short term significance such as...

This has had long term significance such as...

This was a turning point because...

This had far-reaching consequences such as...

Words we will need to know

Nuclear weapons – A bomb or missile that uses nuclear energy to cause an explosion. By far the most powerful form of explosion in existence.

Mutually assured destruction – The idea that if one person or group uses a nuclear weapon, then their opponents will do the same. This would result in the destruction of all people involved. Sometimes called MAD.

Domino Effect - The belief that as soon as some countries turned Communist, it would lead to all other countries falling to it as well.

The Space Race – Quite literally a race to get to space between Russia and America, for example who would build the first satellite or be the first on the Moon.

Berlin Wall – A wall built by the Soviets through the middle of Berlin. This became symbolic of the division between 'East' and 'West'.

USSR – Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This was the name Russia began using after Lenin took over. This led to many Russians being nicknamed 'Soviets'.

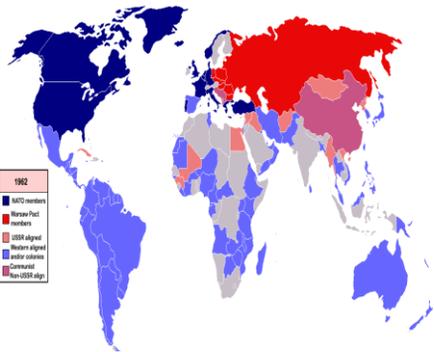
Capitalist – The belief that property should be privately owned and that the aim should be to make as much profit as you can for yourself.

Communist – The belief that the government should own everything and distribute wealth and property in equal chunks.

NATO – NATO stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, an alliance formed in 1949 by 12 founding nations to provide security against the Soviet Union.

The Warsaw Pact - The Warsaw Pact (1955–1991) was a Soviet-led alliance between the Soviet Union and seven Eastern European communist states.

Where are we learning about?



Who are we learning about?

Joseph Stalin – A dictator that took control of Russia after Vladimir Lenin. Prime figure in the start of the Cold War.

Nikita Khrushchev - Led Russia during Berlin crises and Cuban Missile Crisis; implemented destalinization.

Mikhail Gorbachev - Implemented perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness), leading to the end of the Cold War

Harry S Truman – The American President who authorised the use of atomic bombs on Japan in World War Two.

Dwight Eisenhower – A prominent figure in the Cold War during the 50s as the President of the US.

John F Kennedy – Another prominent President involved in the Cold War in the early 60s.

What was going on in the wider world?

Winston Churchill's second term – Following being voted out of office at the end of World War Two, Winston Churchill was voted back in as Prime Minister from 51-55.

The Suez Crisis: A global crisis involving Britain, France and Egypt took place in 1956.

The Vietnam War – A conflict that took place from 1955 to 1975 between North and South Vietnam, along with their allies. The war was part of the Cold War and was fought in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.



Which Catholic teachings does this link to?

Dignity of the Human Person – The belief that, as all humans are created in God's image, all people should be treated with dignity and respect

Rights and responsibility – All God's people have the right to food, work, clothes, a home, school, and medical care.

Stewardship – The continuing importance and spread of Christianity and the teaching of God's creation

How can we learn more at home?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8k9q6f/articles/z77cg7h>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8k9q6f/articles/z3gptra>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8k9q6f/articles/zvgptra>