

Y9 KO5:

Key terms	Definitions
Cold War	A period of tension and rivalry between the USA and USSR after World War II (no direct fighting between them)
Superpower	A very powerful country with huge influence, like the USA and USSR
Arms Race	A competition between nations for superiority in the development of new weapons and accumulation of new weapons.
Capitalism	An economic system where businesses are privately owned and people can make profits
Communism	An economic system and political system where the government controls everything and wealth is shared
NATO	A military alliance of Western countries led by the USA to defend against the USSR.
Warsaw Pact	A military alliance of communist countries led by the USSR.
Space Race	Competition to explore space first
Alliance	An agreement between countries to support each other
Treaty	A formal agreement between countries often about peace and weapons
Ideology	A set of beliefs or ideas about how a country should be run
Independence	When a country rules itself instead of being controlled by another.
Crisis	A dangerous or difficult situation that needs to be dealt with quickly.

Key questions:

- What caused the Cold War?
- Why was the Berlin Wall important?
- How did the Cold War impact international relations?
- How did the Cold War end?

Key points to understand:

The main causes of the Cold War were **ideological** differences, power struggles, and competition for global influence between the **USA (capitalism)** and the **USSR (communism)**.

There were two main “sides”: the Western bloc led by the USA and **NATO allies**, and the Eastern bloc led by the USSR and **Warsaw Pact** countries.

The USA and USSR became superpowers after World War II, partly due to their military strength and economic power.

Key events acted as triggers for tension, including the **Berlin Blockade (1948–49)** and the **Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)**.

The Cold War was called “cold” because there was no direct fighting between the superpowers, but there were proxy wars in places like Korea and Vietnam.

People living in divided countries, such as East and West Germany, experienced restrictions on travel, freedom, and daily life, highlighted by the Berlin Wall.

Competition during the Cold War drove rapid technological advancement, including nuclear weapons development and the Space Race