

Background

Tsarist Russia	Russia was ruled by Romanov Dynasty for 300+ years
	WW1 = catastrophe for Russia = Tsar Nicolas ii = ruled from 1896 =forced to abdicate = incompetent leader
Provisional Government	promised land reform, free elections + end to WW1 = failed
	lead to rise of revolting Bolsheviks = communist group = lead by Vladimir Lenin
October Revolution	Bolsheviks = overthrow government 25-26 Oct = seized key cities of Petrograd + Moscow
	brutal civil war = 1921 = Russia under control
1945	USSR + US = both to conquer Germany & enter Berlin first = exert control
	US = atomic bombs = defeat Japan = prevent Russia invading Japan = alliance not lasting much longer
Conferences	US + USSR disagreed on almost everything
	key issues = what to do with Germany = how to rebuild Europe
	US = Capitalist Democracy -> USSR = Communist Revolution
Partition of Germany	Berlin = 2 sectors = West [US, UK + France] = South [USR]
Soviets'	installed communist governments = countries they liberated from Nazi control = banned all other political parties
	buffer zone = friendly nations = prevent future invasions
Americans'	Containment = <i>Truman Doctrine</i> = promised to help countries threatened by communism
	European Recovery Plan = <i>Marshal Plan</i> = US\$13 billion = help rebuild countries = reject communism = capitalist democracy
Berlin Crisis	1948-49 split in Europe - USSR = blocked routes into US-controlled Berlin = food, electricity + other resources cut off = US flew everything over for nearly 1 year
Following Events	April 1949 NATO; May 1949 West Germany; August 1949 USSR atomic bomb; October 1949 East Germany = China to communism; 1950-53 Korean War; 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis; 1940's + 50's ' <i>Red Scare</i> '
Results	world divided = 2 'spheres of influence' -> West [US] = capitalism -> East [USSR] = communism

Road to war

