



Why did
civilians fear for
their lives?



KS3 History Knowledge Organiser

THE COLD WAR



1. ARMS RACE



After World War II, the two remaining Superpowers, united in their aim to defeat Hitler soon began to distrust each other. Much of it was down to the ideologies of **capitalism** and **communism**.

Both developed nuclear weapons and began to build up an arsenal of weapons designed to be a deterrent against attack. Both sides also built underground bunkers and citizens were told to build fallout shelters and taught how to react to a nuclear attack

Can you find out which weapons each side built and which countries became part of NATO and the WARSAW PACT?



2. BERLIN

In 1948, Stalin decided to blockade western Berlin belonging to the Allies. He intended for the Allies to be driven out; but instead the Allies airlifted in supplies everyday. Stalin eventually gave up a year later.

In 1961, the East Germans began to build a wall across the centre of Berlin. They were fed up with thousands crossing into West Berlin each year, which included the most skilled and educated people. It also looked like communism was failing. The wall lasted until 1990 when it was knocked down.

How did the wall eventually fall and who made a dreadful mistake in telling East Berliners they could cross the border?



3. KOREA

The Korean War began in 1950 when the communist north, supported by China, attacked the democratic south, supported by the USA.



The war turned into a stalemate as both sides won victories followed by defeats. In July 1953, an armistice was signed at Panmunjom on the 38th parallel, which left Korea divided as it had been in 1950, and still is today.

Why is the world so fearful of Korea today. Who is its leader and what does he want?

Key words >>

Allies, nuclear arsenal, ICBM, Domino Theory, Bay of Pigs, USSR, Soviet Union, humiliated, fake, conspiracy theory, brink, stalemate, armistice, blockade, capitalism, communism.

6. VIETNAM

America became involved in Vietnam as early as 1965, having decided to make sure it didn't fall into the hands of the communist north Vietnamese. Despite having superiority in numbers and backed up by modern technology and firepower, the Americans left defeated and humiliated ten years later. *Why did this happen?*

4. CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS



When Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, he turned to Communist Russia for support. The CIA tried to oust him in 1961 at the Bay of Pigs, but it was a disaster. Castro allowed the Soviet Union to begin preparations to put nuclear missiles on Cuba, but the missile launch pads were spotted by an American U2 spy plane. The world was on the brink of nuclear war as the US President, Kennedy began a blockade of Cuba. Soviet ships, loaded with nuclear missiles only turned away from Cuba at the last minute.

How long did the crisis last and why did the Soviets back down at the last minute and agree not to place missiles on Cuba?

5. MAN ON THE MOON

America was desperate to beat the Soviet Union to land on the moon. This would give them great bragging rights. When Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed there in 1969, some people have questioned if they really did, and have even accused the space agency NASA of faking the photos. So has begun the greatest of all the conspiracy theories.



What evidence is there that the photos are fake?

The Journey through History at KS3 2021/22

