

End of WWII / Cold War Study Guide

Why were the US and Soviet Union suspicious of each other after WWII?

- ↳ As a result of the Yalta conference in 1945, Stalin agreed to hold free elections in Poland and form a government of "national unity" between communists and non-communists
- ↳ Stalin frustrated with America's hesitance to accept them into the national community

- ↳ broke this promise anyway and arrested non-communist leaders
- ↳ USSR wanted too much money in reparations from Germany
- ↳ US and Britain noticed communism was rising in eastern Europe
- ↳ Stalin seized control of European nations 1945 - 1947

heightened tensions

Why did the US choose to bomb Hiroshima?

↳ Since it wasn't Japan's tradition to surrender in war, US feared that they would not back down and bombing Japan rapidly would show off strength and force them to surrender.

↳ Truman had four options

- 1) continue conventional bombing of Japanese cities (slow)
- 2) invade Japan
- 3) demonstrate the bomb on an unpopulated island
- 4) drop the bomb on a Japanese city

Causes of the Cold War

a) nuclear arms race

↳ show off who had the bigger and better bombs

b) proxy wars (countries fighting battles for others' interests)

↳ Korean War

↳ communism v. democracy

↳ Vietnam war

↳ communism v. democracy

c) Containment

↳ american plan to "contain" communist russia in the eastern bloc of europe ...

assisting countries with arms and weapons fighting for democracy.

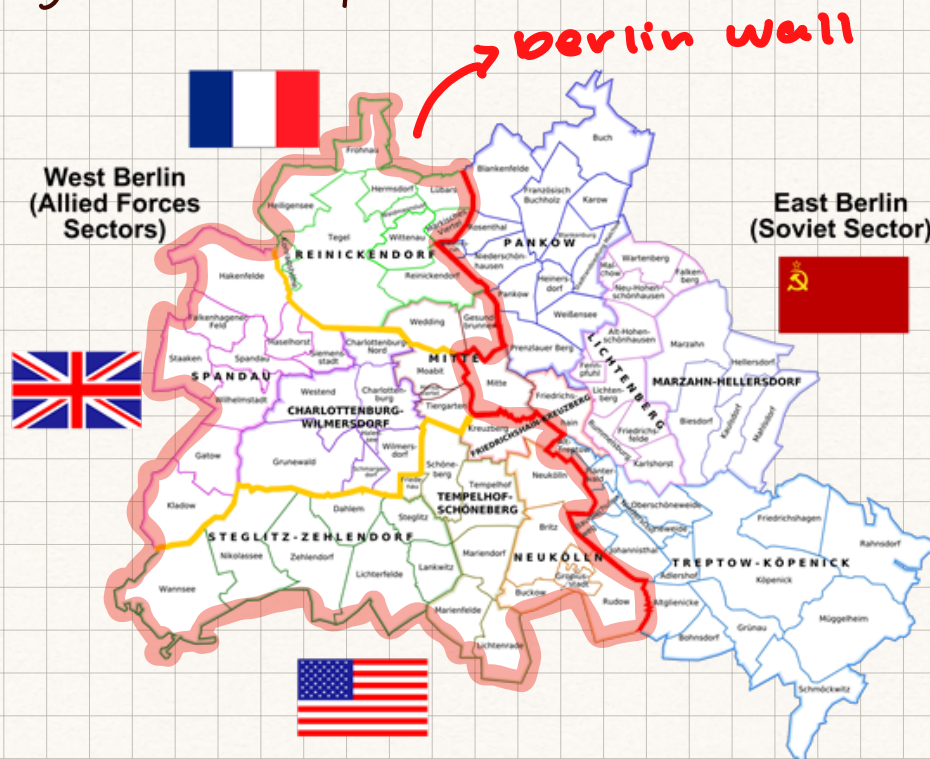
↳ **TRUMAN DOCTRINE**

d) economic aid

↳ **Marshall Plan**

↳ designed to assist and rehabilitate the economies of 17 western and southern european countries in order to build stable democratic institutions

e) Germany and Berlin



↳ the communist government of the German Democratic Republic built the wall to physically and ideologically separate democratic west and communist east berlin.

↳ territories a result of the Yalta conference (1945)

↳ the wall was built since many skilled workers, professionals, and intellectuals were fleeing the east to the west, East Germany built a wall along the west to close off access and prevent more losses.

↳ about 5,000 germans crossed the wall into west berlin safely.

↳ 5,000 captured by east german authorities

↳ 191 killed during actual crossing of the wall.

↳ november 9th, 1989, the wall fell after east germany's communist leader was forced from power

f) space race

↳ another way to show off which superpower could do the coolest tricks

↳ origins in ballistic missile-based nuclear arms race

↳ 1957 - 1969

Vietnam war

Ho Chi Minh → communist leader but backed up by USSR / china

Vietnam had been French Indochina

↳ fought for freedom from France in WW1