

Topics

1. How close did we come to a WW3?
2. The Vietnam War
3. Civil rights movement in the USA
4. Permissive society and 1960s Britain
5. Russia- Communism in action

How do I revise?

Step 1- Go over information-

Read it or highlight it....

Step 2- Re-present the information-

Write key points in bullet points, spider diagrams, flow charts, poster, post its etc

Step 4-Use the information-

Try and answer a question about the information or ask a friend to test you- can you describe or explain the information you have revised?

Step 3- Remember/recall the information-

Try and read out loud key points, write key points down without looking at information.

• Topic 1. How close did we come to a WW3?

Was the dropping of the atomic bomb justified?

- In 1939, the Manhattan project to develop a nuclear weapon cost \$2 billion and was undertaken in secret at a number of locations in the USA.
- On 16 July 1945, the first atom bomb was tested in secret in the desert in New Mexico USA. Throughout 1945, the Japanese army had continued to put up strong resistance. The battles for some of their islands were within striking distance of Japan, had cost the American 75,000 casualties.
- On 6 August, an atom bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima killing 70,000 people outright, and a further 70,000 by the end of the year as a result of their injuries.
- On 9 August, the US air force dropped a second atomic bomb, this time on the city of Nagasaki. Approximately 40,000 people were killed immediately by the explosion, and a further 40,000 by the end of the year.

• What was the Berlin blockade and airlift?

Joseph Stalin, the Soviet leader, imposed the Berlin Blockade from **24 June 1948 to 12 May 1949**, cutting off all land and river transit between West Berlin and West Germany. The Western Allies responded with a massive airlift to come to West Berlin's aid.

CAUSES

- The Berlin Blockade was an episode in the **Cold War** – Stalin was taking over eastern Europe **leaving his troops in states that should have been freed**. The USA was offering money 'Marshall Aid' for countries to avoid communism.
- **Stalin wanted to destroy Germany**, and was stripping East Germany of its wealth. Britain and America wanted to rebuild Germany's industry - in January 1947, they joined their two zones together into Bizonia.
- Finally, on 23 June Britain and America introduced a **new currency** into Bizonia. The next day the Russians stopped all road and rail traffic into Berlin and blocked all road and rail routes in to East Germany. The Americans thought Stalin was trying to force them out of Berlin. Stalin claimed the new currency was an attempt to wreck the East German economy.

EVENTS

- In June 1948, Stalin blocked all routes in and out of Berlin. Road, rail and canal routes were all cut - all surface transport links.
- The Western Allies decided to fly goods in to Berlin and so it showed they wouldn't give in to Stalin, but also wouldn't provoke war. It placed pressure back on Stalin - he couldn't just shoot planes down!
- For eleven months food and other supplies were flown into Berlin by British, French and US planes.
- Inhabitants of West Berlin depended on these flights for everything. In the winter of 1948 they lived on dried potatoes, powdered eggs and cans of meat, with just four hours of electricity per day.
- 275,000 flights carried in 1½ million tons of supplies. At its peak, one plane landed every 3 minutes.
- The airlift cost over \$100 million, together with the lives of 79 servicemen who died in accidents.

CONSEQUENCES

- Using the Berlin blockade as 'proof' of Stalin's intentions to take over Europe, the Western Allies set up **NATO** in 1949. This 'North Atlantic Treaty Organization' was a military alliance that offered mutual support in case of attack. The **Warsaw Pact** (the USSR equivalent) was set up in 1955.
- Germany became divided officially in two sides. In May 1949 the Western Allies set up the new Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) - **West Germany**. In October 1949, the USSR responded by creating the German Democratic Republic (GDR) - **East Germany**.

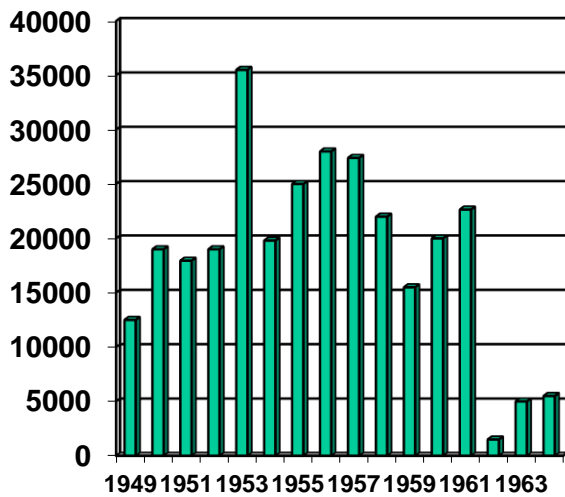
The impact of the blockade should not be underestimated. It highlighted the divisions between East and West - and made these divisions more permanent. They lasted until the early 1990s.

The Berlin Wall 1961

In August 1961 Berliners awoke to find their city divided in half. The construction of the **Berlin Wall** had begun. East German guards patrolled the wall and shot anyone trying to escape over it.

CAUSES- There were many people fleeing or defecting from East Berlin to the West. This was seen as an embarrassment as the USSR wanted to show how well communism was working. It clearly wasn't working if so many people were leaving. Between 1949-61 → 4 million East Germans fled to the West. **From early 1961, up to 20,000 refugees leaving this way per month including professionals, the educated, and skilled craftsmen.**

A graph to show the number of defectors (people who flee an area to another side) 1949-61



EVENTS

On 13th August 1961, Khrushchev ordered the border between East and West Berlin to be closed.

- Streets near the border were torn up and 27 miles of barbed wire were laid around the whole of West Berlin which separated it from the rest of East Germany. On 13 August 1961, the East Germans began building a wall around West Berlin. This was initially a barbed wire fence, which was gradually replaced with concrete. The Allies did nothing to stop the building of the Wall. All movement between East and West was stopped. For several days Soviet and US tanks faced each other across the divided Berlin streets. Eventually, the original barbed wire barricade was replaced by the Berlin Wall itself. The wall was 12 ft tall and made of concrete. It also had a curved lip at the top to make climbing the wall more difficult.
- In addition to the Wall itself, a second wall was built and what became known as the 'death strip' was the space between them.
- The death strip contained over 100 guard towers, anti-vehicle trenches, barbed wire, guard dogs, and hundreds of human guards who had orders to shoot on sight anyone attempting to cross.
- During the almost 30 years that the wall existed, thousands of people attempted to escape but around 200 were killed trying to cross the death strip.



CONSEQUENCES

The Berlin Wall became a **symbol for the division** of the world into the Communist east and Capitalist West. In 1963, US president Kennedy visited West Berlin and delivered his famous '*Ich Bin Ein Berliner*' speech. He spoke to a crowd of around 200,000 people with others in the East listening and applauding.

- The flow of refugees was reduced to a trickle.
- Between 1961 and 1989 (when the wall came down), only 5000 people managed to escape across it.
- Western nations were given a propaganda victory, as it seemed that communist states needed to build a wall to stop their citizens leaving.
- The wall became a symbol of the division of East and West.
- Peace was maintained, but at a price for the German people. Families were split, and travel restrictions made it very difficult for relatives to see one another
- Construction of the Berlin Wall led to a serious stand-off between the two superpowers
- President Kennedy worked behind the scenes to avoid conflict. He promised Khrushchev that if the Soviet Union removed its troops, the USA would do the same. This ended the stand-off

The Cuban Missile crisis

CAUSES

Cuba is an island just 90 miles off the coast of Florida. Until 1959, it was closely allied to the United States under the leadership of the right-wing dictator, General Batista. There was considerable American investment in Cuba and the USA was the chief consumer of Cuba's sugar and tobacco.

In 1959 Batista was overthrown in a revolution led by Fidel Castro. One of Castro's first moves was to go to the USA to secure support for his new state, but President Eisenhower refused to speak with him. At the United Nations office in New York, Castro talked with representatives of the Soviet Union, and they offered their support for his new government. Castro had not been a *communist* before 1960, but was drawn to *communism* by the friendship and support offered by Khrushchev and his government.

EVENTS

The Bay of Pigs: In April 1961, just after he was installed as President of the USA, John F Kennedy approved a plan to invade Cuba and overthrow communism. The CIA landed 1,400 Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs on the southern coast of Cuba with the aim of provoking an anti-communist uprising. Almost at the last minute, Kennedy cancelled an order that had promised the Cuban resistance US Air Force support for their *coup d'état*. The lack of air support meant the rebels were easily defeated when they were met by 20,000 heavily armed Cuban troops. All were captured or killed.

On 14 October 1962, an **American spy plane** flying over Cuba took pictures that showed the construction of Soviet missile launch sites. Experts estimated that they would be ready to fire in seven days. Meanwhile, another American spy plane discovered 20 Soviet ships carrying nuclear missiles in the Atlantic Ocean heading for Cuba. Cuba was only 90 miles from the coast of Florida meaning that the USA, including many of its biggest cities like Washington DC and New York, would be well within range of these missiles. The lives of 80 million Americans were at stake.

CONSEQUENCES

The USA - Kennedy seemed to have won the 'war of words' and had now recovered his damaged reputation since the Bay of Pigs. He was now a great statesman who had stood up to communist aggression. His negotiation skills and swift action had silenced his critics.

The USSR - there were many Soviet politicians who believed Khrushchev had been humiliated for backing down. Some even tried to remove him. However, Khrushchev believed he had saved Cuba from invasion. But because the removal of missiles from Turkey had been secret, it looked like he taken nothing from the U.S and could claim no credit.

For Both - As the superpowers had almost gone to war - a war that could have destroyed the world - there was a decision made to try to allow swifter communication and prevent the sending of letters. A **hotline** was installed in June 1963 between the White House in the USA and the Kremlin in the USSR so that both leaders could communicate quickly to resolve issues and to not allow tensions to rise to this point again.

Topic 2- the Vietnam war

Viet Cong Tactics

1. Guerrilla Warfare- Refusal to give up

- **Earn support and respect from the locals** - By helping local Vietnamese they received food, medicine, and shelter.
- **No uniform and anyone could be a fighter** - Viet Cong did not wear any uniforms and they could be made up of men, women, or children. This made it impossible for US soldiers to identify them and stop them. The US never knew who was a friend and who was an enemy.
- **Used ambush attacks** - Viet Cong soldiers would hide in the jungle, cover themselves with camouflage such as mud and leaves and wait for the enemy. They would attack quickly and disappear back into the environment before US soldiers knew where they were. US soldiers were very afraid of being ambushed.

Viet Cong Tactics

2. Booby Traps

- Designed to **cause the maximum damage possible**, often covered in **faeces, urine, or poison to cause an infection** and make sure the victim died.
- **Carefully placed and disguised to look like the environment**. Could be covered in **leaves, mud, sticks**. Some were placed above doors or in the trees and some were placed **underwater beneath a bridge**.
- Booby traps were **made out of sharpened bamboo sticks, nails, and pieces of sharp metal**.
- Most common traps were **Punji traps (sharpened stakes in a hole in the floor)**. US soldiers would be impaled by the stakes, and they would cause a lot of damage.
- Other traps included the **Venus fly trap, door trap, bear trap and hornet trap**.

US Tactics

1. Hearts and Minds

- This was the **idea that if the US helped Vietnamese locals by building schools, hospitals, roads, bridges etc. to improve their lives, the locals would help the US soldiers with information, resources etc.**

2. Napalm

- **Weapon made of petrol jelly.**
- **Used to burn down large areas of the jungle/environment.**
- **Cannot be put out with water and will burn until there is nothing left to burn.**
- **Caused terrible injuries to civilians.**

3. Operation Rolling Thunder

- **Tactic of constantly bombing targets such as bridges, villages, and weapons caches.**
- **3 million tonnes of bombs were used during Operation Rolling Thunder.**

Topic 3- Civil Rights in the USA

Key events

1. **Brown v Board of education**

Linda Brown was a young African American girl who lived in Topeka, Kansas. She was born in 1943, and her family wanted the best education for her. There was a good school, Sumner Elementary only 7 blocks from her home.

The school was for white children, and due to the segregation in American schools, Linda was not allowed to attend. Linda was forced to attend Monroe Elementary School for African American children. Monroe Elementary School had broken ceiling tiles, cracks in the floors and walls, broken windows and no central heating. She had to walk 2 miles to school every single day.

Her father, Oliver Brown, was helped by the **National Association for the Advancement of Coloured people (NAACP)** to bring a legal case against the education board. This court case was called Brown versus Board of Education. On 19 May 1954 the court declared that segregation was against the law and the constitution of the USA. The Board of Education of Topeka and every other education board were forced to bring segregation to an end.

In theory, this should have ended segregation in schools. However, many schools ignored this, and by 1956, in six southern states, not a single black child was attending any school where there were white children.

2. **Little Rock**

In September 1957, nine black pupils tried to attend a **school for white children in Little Rock**. The Governor of Arkansas sent National Guard soldiers to prevent the black children from entering the school. The black people brought a case against the Governor.

They won and the soldiers were forced to leave. **The black pupils now had the right to go to the school** and President Eisenhower sent **1,000 soldiers to look after them for the rest of the year**.

3. **The lynching of Emmet Till**

Emmett Till was an African American boy from Chicago who was brutally murdered by two white men in Mississippi. Emmett Till was 14 years old when he was murdered.

It is not clear exactly what happened in the shop. The 2 main theories are:

- Emmett Till wolf-whistled at the white shop keeper, Carolyn Bryant.
- Emmett Till was accused of 'talking inappropriately' to Carolyn Bryant, saying: 'Bye, baby' to her

There were 4 main reasons the murder of Emmett Till was important:

- The growth of the **civil rights** movement was fuelled by the murder of Emmett Till.
- For the first time, many white Americans saw the **extreme** racism faced by African Americans living in the south.
- More African Americans were encouraged to take part in **civil rights** protests and bring about change.
- The murder inspired **Rosa Parks** to refuse to move on the bus in Montgomery in December 1955.

4. Greensboro sit-ins

Causes -Four black students, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, Edzell Blair and David Richmond ordered food at a white people only lunch counter. The four students were refused service. This campaign started in Greensboro, North Carolina on the 1 February 1960.

Events -When asked to move they refused and returned to the same lunch counter the next day with dozens more protesters, some of whom were white.

The idea of sit-ins spread quickly, by the start of 1961 it was estimated that around 700,000 people had taken part.

Impact -News of the sit-ins was broadcast throughout America on television, gaining the civil right movement publicity. Many white people also showed solidarity with the black protesters and joined the sit-ins. Dozens of lunch counters in the South were desegregated by the summer of 1960.

5. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Causes -In December 1955, Rosa Parks was returning home from work on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Segregation laws in Montgomery stated that when a bus was full the black passengers must stand and give their seat to a white passenger. However, Parks refused to give up her seat and was subsequently arrested.

Events -Park's actions sparked a boycott (avoidance) of buses in Montgomery by the African American population.

Throughout the boycott Martin Luther King led the protests against segregation on Montgomery's bus system. This affected the income of the bus company, as around 60 to 70 per cent of customers had been African Americans.

Impact -The courts decided that the segregated nature of Montgomery's buses was unconstitutional and ordered that they be desegregated.

- The boycott demonstrated the economic power of African Americans when they worked together.
- It also highlighted the effectiveness of non-violence.
- However, this did not get rid of segregation. White-only restaurants and theatres still existed in Montgomery and across all the southern states.

The role of Martin Luther King

Under the leadership of Martin Luther King, the civil rights movement adopted tactics of non-violence, peaceful protest and civil disobedience. King had been impressed by the tactics of Mahatma Gandhi who had used non-violent protest in India in the 1940s against the British rulers. He outlined his vision of non-violence when speaking during the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

He said, 'in our protest there will be no cross burnings. No white person will be taken from his house by a hooded Negro mob and brutally murdered. There will be no threats or bullying.' King thought that civil disobedience was necessary to increase civil rights and believed that if a law was wrong then the

citizens of the country had the right to protest against that law. He was not worried about the high number of arrests that might occur. Instead, he saw it as an opportunity to gain even more publicity.

The March on Washington was organised to try and force the Government into improving Civil Rights. The purpose of the March was to gain publicity for the new Civil Rights Bill.

On August 28, 1963, 250,000 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, and Martin Luther King made his famous I have a dream speech to a worldwide audience.

Topic 4 Permissive society and 1960s Britain

New laws/changes that were brought in, in the 1960s 'permissive society'

1. New laws: Women and family

- The Contraceptive Pill Act (1961) - Made the contraceptive pill available for all married women to buy.
- NHS Family Planning Act (1967) - Contraceptive pill made available to unmarried women as well.
- The Abortion Act (1967) - Made abortions legal and ended the use of 'back street abortions'
- The Divorce Reform Act (1969) - Before this law you could only divorce if one member had committed adultery (cheated), now you could divorce if the you were unhappy being married to your partner for any reason.

2. New laws: Homosexuality

- The Sexual Offences Act (1967) - decriminalised private sexual activity between men over the age of 21 in England and Wales.

3. New laws: Capital Punishment

- Abolition of Death Penalty (1969) - Permanently ended the use of hanging/other execution methods as a form of punishment for crimes.

Topic 5. Russia

In 1917, the Tsar (emperor) Nicholas II of Russia was killed alongside his wife Alexandria, and his 4 daughters Olga, Maria, Tatiana and Anastasia, as well as his son Alexei. For years, there was speculation that his daughter Anastasia had survived and individuals would often turn up claiming to be her. However, these were all found to be imposters, and the remains were finally discovered in 2007.

Lenin, a communist and the Bolsheviks, overthrew Russia in 1917 when he transformed Russia. When he died in 1924, Stalin, the next communist leader took over, and continued Lenin's changed, in an even more oppressive communist style.

What is communism?

- A political system based on fairness and equality
- Karl Marx wrote the Communist Manifesto which explained Communism and the benefits of it to society.
- Does not have more than 1 political party.
- Does not agree with making a profit and so all property and industry with resources being shared out equally to all.
- Wanted to bring an end to a class-based society
- Uses censorship to control ideas, media, music, art, news, film etc. if it shows Communism negatively or encourages people to think freely.

Vladimir Lenin -Leader of the Bolsheviks and Communist Party

- After the death of Tsar Nicholas II and the Romanov family, Vladimir Lenin took control of Russia.
- As leader of the Communist Party, Lenin made some changes to Communism in Russia.
 - Made women equal to men.
 - Removed titles and ranks from the rich.
 - Re-distributed homes and land to the workers.
 - State took over the banks.
 - All newspapers that were not Communist newspapers were banned.
 - Banned the creation of any political parties who were not Communist.
 - Limited working hours to 8 hours a day.

Stalin's plan to Modernize the Soviet Union

Stalin believed that if the Soviet Union and Communism was to succeed, it would need to be modernized and be able to take care of its own needs in order to not be seen as weak by other countries who might invade e.g Germany. To do this he did a number of important things:

1. Collectivisation

- In 1927, Stalin declared that the way forward was for people in each village to voluntarily unite their farms into one collective farm. This collective farm would be able to afford machinery, be more efficient, and be able to create a surplus to send to the towns. People hated this and were angry, but they had no choice but to accept or be seen as an enemy of the State.
- ### **2. Removed land and wealth from the Kulaks**
- Stalin blamed the Kulaks (successful farmers) for the poor state of agriculture and the lack of food available in the Soviet Union. He argued that they were greedy and charging people too much or not giving people enough to survive on.
 - Stalin removed the Kulak's wealth and property and claimed that he wanted to remove all Kulaks. Many were sent to the Gulag's as punishment.

.3. Confiscation of food

- When a critical shortage of grain came to the cities in 1927-28 many refused to sell grain for the low price the government offered. Stalin accused them of hoarding and soldiers were sent to take the grain. Any who refused to hand it over were arrested and deported.
- By 1934, approximately 75% of the farms in the Soviet Union had been collectivized.
- By 1939, 99% of land had been collectivized. Farming was run by government officials.
- The government took 90% of production and left the rest for the people to live on.

4. Industrialisation - Five Year Plans

- Stalin decided the best way to modernise Russia was by creating the **Five Year Plans** that were focused on setting and meeting production targets for each industry and each worker.