History Core Content 4.1: Who was to blame for the Cold War?

'Grand Alliance'

- WWII
  - June 1941 - Germany invaded USSR
  - December 1941 - Japan bombed Pearl Harbour
  - **Common enemy** — Hitler, axis
- Tensions → Breakdown

Ideological differences

- USA — Capitalist democracy
- USSR — Communist one-party state

Yalta Conference, February 1945

Just before end of WWII, Red Army occupied nearly all of central and Eastern Europe

- Germany
  - Agreements — Germany and Berlin to be divided into Soviet, American, British and French occupation zones
  - Tensions 3
- Poland
  - Agreements — New Polish-Soviet borders give Poland German territory in west in compensation for ceded territory in east to USSR
  - Tensions — Roosevelt did not approve but Churchill convinced him since Stalin agreed to stay out of **Greece**; also Red Army controlled Poland
- Eastern Europe
  - Agreements — **"Soviet sphere of influence"** — Satellite states
  - Tensions 1
- Ending war — Agreements
  - Punish war criminals
  - Stalin agreed to enter the war against Japan
- **United Nations Organisation (UN)**
  - Agreements — Creation of UN - with a five-member Security Council to replace LoN - aimed to keep **peace**
  - Tensions

Changes

- Presidency in US — Roosevelt died April 1945 → Replaced by Truman (VP) — Hard-line attitude towards USSR
- Presidency in UK — Churchill → Clement Attlee (elected) — During Potsdam, so temporary absence

  Big Three - Stalin, Attlee, Truman
- End of WWII
  - **Hitler suicide 30 April 1945** — Common enemy
  - Allied troops reached Berlin May — Germany surrendered
- Soviet Sphere of Influence — Stalin's armies were occupying most of eastern Europe - eg. communist government in Poland
- Nuclear + Japan
  - Truman decided to use new atomic bombs on Japan (partly to keep USSR out of Pacific War)
  - Truman refused to allow the USSR a role in the post-war occupation of Japan
  - Truman refused to share atomic secrets with the USSR; Stalin immediately ordered the Soviet atomic weapon programme to be accelerated - start of nuclear arms race

  Hiroshima and Nagasaki 6 and 9 august

Potsdam Conference 17 July-August 1945

Truman told Stalin about their successful test detonation of the first atomic bomb on the **16th of July**

- Germany
  - Agreements — Division
  - Tension
    - Soviets given limited reparations despite huge economic losses
    - West wanted economic recovery; Stalin wanted to incapacitate Germany

    Truman didn't want to repeat ToV
- Eastern Europe
  - Agreements
  - Tension — USA concerned about **'Soviet sphere of influence'** - control in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia
- UN — Agreements — Formally created - permanent members of Security Council (have veto) - USA, USSR, Britain, France and China

4.2 - USSR control of eastern Europe by 1948

- **"Iron Curtain"** — In March 1946, Churchill used the term in a speech "Sinews of Peace" in the US; Truman private approval
- Grip on eastern Europe - Secret police imprisonned opposers - see mind map 4.2
- **Cominform** (Communist Information Bureau)
  - **October 1947**
  - Co-ordinate and supervise work of communist parties - bring leaders to Moscow to be briefed
  - Replace independant leaders with loyal ones
  - Tito Yugoslavia expelled 1948

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