

The Early Stages of the Cold War

Activity I: Who is Who? – The “Big Three”

Leaders of the USA, Great Britain and the Soviet Union in 1945 – the “Big Three”

- Write down the names of the people shown in the pictures. In the gaps below fill in the names of the countries which the three politicians represented at the Conferences of Yalta and Potsdam in 1945.

Yalta (February 1945)



Potsdam (July 1945)



Activity II: Yalta and Potsdam Conferences in 1945

The Yalta and Potsdam **conferences** were called to help the Allies decide what would happen to Europe, and in particular Germany, at the end of the Second World War.

Yalta - February 1945: Germany was not yet defeated, so, although there were tensions about Poland, the “Big Three” - Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill - managed to agree to **split Germany** into four zones of occupation, and to allow **free elections** in Eastern European countries. The Soviet Union was invited to join the United Nations, and the Soviets promised to join the war against Japan when Germany was defeated.

Potsdam - July 1945: Germany had been defeated, Roosevelt had died and Churchill had lost the 1945 election - so there were **open disagreements**. Truman came away angry about the size of reparations and the fact that a communist government was being set up in Poland. Truman did not tell Stalin that he had the atomic bomb.

- Read the text “*Comparison of Yalta and Potsdam*” of Activity II to understand the main differences between these two conferences. To help you remember the most important points fill in the table below (**How Relations Deteriorated in 1945**) using the words in bold from the text.

How Relations Deteriorated in 1945

Yalta	deteriorated over	Potsdam
<i>four zones in Germany</i>	deteriorated over	<i>details of the boundaries</i>
-	deteriorated over	-
-	deteriorated over	-
-	deteriorated over	-
-	deteriorated over	-

Activity III: Soviet Expansion in Eastern Europe

Twenty million Russians died during the Second World War, so Stalin said he wanted a **buffer zone** of friendly states around the Soviet Union to make sure that the Soviet Union could never be invaded again. In fact Stalin was planning the takeover of Eastern Europe. As the Red Army drove the Nazis back, it occupied large areas of Eastern Europe and Churchill agreed that Eastern Europe could be a Soviet "sphere of influence".

In the countries that the Red Army "**liberated**", communist-dominated governments took power. The Communists made sure that they controlled the army, set up a secret police force, and began to arrest their opponents. Non-Communists were gradually beaten, murdered, executed and terrified out of power. By 1949, **all** the governments of Eastern Europe, except Yugoslavia, were hard line Stalinist regimes.

Eastern European Countries in the Soviet “sphere of influence”
(and the years in which pro-Communist/Soviet governments took power)

Country	Year
<i>Albania</i>	<i>1945</i>

Activity IV: Europe divided – Economy

- Read the texts of Activity IV and fill in the missing words on your worksheet. Afterwards complete the two tables. The first one lists the names the European countries that received Marshall Plan Aid (use the map), the second one mentions all COMECON members.

In 1947, two important events occurred: firstly, US President _____ warned the American Congress that it was America's job to **contain Communism** - this became known as the _____ - and secondly, General George Marshall came up with a plan to help Europe **recover** from the war using American money - this became known as the _____ (nicknamed the "_____").

Stalin **forbade** the countries in the Soviet "sphere of influence" to apply for _____ and in 1949 the **Council for Mutual Economic Assistance** (also referred to as _____) was founded. The primary factors in COMECON's formation appear to have been _____ desire to enforce Soviet domination of the lesser states of _____ and to mollify some states that had expressed interest in the Marshall Plan.

Countries receiving MARSHALL PLAN AID

Austria			

Members of the COMECON

Soviet Union			

Activity V: Europe divided – Political/Military alliances

- Read the texts of Activity V and fill in the missing words on your worksheet. Use the map "*Military alliances during the Cold War*" to complete the tables of NATO and Warsaw Pact members as well as the table of neutral and non-aligned European countries during the time of the Cold War.

NATO = _____

Military alliance formed in April _____ against the military force of the _____

Important Members:

USA	Canada			
				Spain (in 1975)

WARSAW PACT = _____

Military alliance formed in May _____ as a military response to _____ integration into NATO Pact

Members:

Soviet Union	Albania (until 1961)		

NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Austria			Spain (until 1975)