

Knowledge Organiser: How did Communism impact the World?



<p>This topic looks at what communism is and the impact it had on the world after the Russian Revolution in 1917. We will look at case studies of countries where communism spread including the division of Europe, the Chinese Revolution, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of Kennedy, and the Vietnam War. You will consider the scale and scope of the consequences of Communism and make judgements about their relative importance.</p>		Chronology: What happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: Define these words.	
Summarise your learning		1917	The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led by Lenin.	Communism	An economic and political system where all wealth is shared equally. There is no private property or land ownership leading to an equal and classless society.
Topic 1: What is communism?		Communism is a theory about how to run a country. It was created by Karl Marx who believed that workers would rise up and overthrow the rich. All wealth would then be shared equally, there would be no private property or land ownership. This would create an equal, classless society.			
Topic 2: Russian Revolution and Soviet Union		1922	Joseph Stalin took over control of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.	Capitalism	An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state, creating an unequal and class based society.
Topic 3: Division of Europe		1949	Chinese Revolution when China became Communist under Mao Zedong.		
At the end of WWII, the Allies agreed that Eastern Europe could be a Soviet "sphere of influence". In the countries that the Red Army "liberated", communist-dominated governments took power. By 1949, all the governments of Eastern Europe, except Yugoslavia, were hard line communist regimes. The Western powers were alarmed by Stalin's takeover of Eastern Europe; Churchill declared that an "Iron Curtain" had come down across Europe and Truman declared his containment policy.		1950 - 53	The Korean War when America and UN attempted to contain the spread of communism in Korea.		
Topic 4: Chinese Revolution		1959	The Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro which turned Cuba into the first Communist country in the Americas.	Revolution	A sudden and violent change in government leading to significant social, economic and political change.
After a long civil war, China turned Communist in 1949 under Chairman Mao. The Chinese Communist Party was an extreme dictatorship. Mao created a cult of personality around himself with is "Little Red Book". Mao took control of all farmland and tried to create a communist society through collectivisation and the formation of people's communes but this led to economic disaster. The Cultural Revolution led to extreme violence where the population was urged to rid itself of the "Four Olds": Old customs, old culture, old habits, and old ideas. Mao's successor Deng, turned China into a superpower.		1962	The Cuban Missile Crisis. America blockaded Cuba in response to Soviet missiles and launch sites being placed in Cuba.	Superpower	A nation that is immensely powerful and influential.
Topic 5: Korea and Vietnam		22 Nov. 1963	Assassination of President Kennedy by Lee Harvey Oswald	Cold War	A state of political hostility between the USA and USSR characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare.
Korea - The first proxy war in Asia. The USA and UN forces fought for South Korea to stop the Communists taking over. The USSR and China supported the communists in North Korea. It ended in stalemate with a truce declared by both sides on the 38 th parallel. Vietnam - The USA entered the war in 1965 after the Gulf of Tonkin incident. They tried to stop Ho Chi Minh and the communists taking South Vietnam. Opposition to the use of the Draft and the use of Agent Orange and Napalm lead to mass anti-war demonstrations in the USA. The USA later withdrew its troops in shame as they were unable to win the war.		1965	First US combat troops arrive in Vietnam to try and contain the spread of communism, escalating the war.		
Topic 6: Cuban Revolution and Missile Crisis		1975	Vietnam became unified under communist leadership	Bolshevik	Communist party led by Lenin that seized power in Russia in 1917.
Cuba had a communist revolution in 1959 led by Fidel Castro. This greatly concerned the USA, resulting in the Bay of Pigs invasion which failed. In October 1962, there was a 13 day crisis over the USSR's secret placing of nuclear weapons on Cuba which almost resulted in WWIII. After Kennedy imposed a blockade upon Cuba, a peaceful deal was negotiated between Kennedy and Khrushchev with both sides removing their nuclear weapons from Turkey and Cuba respectively.				Soviet Union	The name given to communist Russia and its satellite territories. A 'soviet' is a worker's council.
Topic 7: Assassination of Kennedy				Gulag	A Russian prison for political prisoners.
On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated as he rode in a motorcade through Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas, Texas. Lee Harvey Oswald, a Communist supporter of Castro and former US marine, was arrested for the murder but questions still remain about whether he was the lone assassin.				Proxy War	A war in which the Superpowers fight indirectly through other countries.
				Collectivisation	Large state owned peasant farms producing food for the workers in cities.

