

Knowledge Organiser: Cold War Crises 1958-1970

<p>From 1958 to 1970, the Cold War escalated dramatically. There were three crises: in 1961, the Soviet Union built the Berlin Wall, separating Berlin into east and west. Then, the 2 superpowers almost came to the point of a nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Finally, the third crisis was over Czechoslovakia, when the Prague Spring led to a Soviet invasion that angered the West.</p>		Chronology: What happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: Define these keywords:	
		1958	Khrushchev's Berlin Ultimatum was issued.	Sphere of influence	A region over which a powerful country exerts unofficial but significant political, military, and economic domination.
		1959	Fidel Castro successfully took control of Cuba following the Cuban Revolution.		
Summarise the 3 key Cold War crises:		1960-61	Paris and Vienna Summits witnessed the breakdown of US-USSR relations.	Summit	An official meeting between heads of government.
Topic 1: Berlin Crisis 1961	<p>In 1958, Khrushchev issued the 'Berlin Ultimatum' in which he accused the Allies of breaking their agreement at Potsdam about Germany's future. The USA did not want to go to war over Berlin and entered talks with the Soviet at the Paris and Vienna Summits, both of which ended in only increasing tension between the 2 superpowers. In August of 1961, the USSR began constructing a 3.6m high wall dividing Berlin permanently. A standoff ensued at Checkpoint Charlie, in which both sides pointed their tanks at each other. After careful negotiations behind the scenes, the crisis was averted but the wall remained standing. The Berlin Wall remained a symbol of physical and ideological tension until it came down in 1989.</p>	April 1961	Bay of Pigs invasion: US President Kennedy attempted to overthrow Castro by using Cuban exiles. The invasion was a failure and embarrassment for the USA.	Invasion	The hostile takeover of a country using force.
		August - October 1961	Soviet Union began constructing the Berlin Wall, dividing the city into east and west. The crisis at Checkpoint Charlie was narrowly avoided.	Ultimatum	A demand whose fulfilment is requested in a specified period of time and which is backed up by a threat to be followed through.
		22nd-28th October 1961	Cuban Missile Crisis: the USA and the USSR stood on the brink of nuclear war over the missile crisis in Cuba. A solution is agreed upon and nuclear war was avoided.		
Topic 2: Cuban Missile Crisis	<p>Following the Cuban Revolution in which Cuba became closely aligned to the Soviet Union, the USA greatly worried that the American sphere of influence was being tested. President Kennedy attempted to overthrow Castro during the Bay of Pigs invasion, using 1,500 Cuban exiles trained by the CIA. The invasion failed and was an embarrassment for the USA. Tension reached a climax in 1962 when the Soviet Union began sending nuclear ballistic missiles to Cuba which had a radius that covered the majority of the east, south and north coast of the USA. Tense negotiations ensued between Kennedy and Khrushchev for 13 days; in the end, the Soviet Union agreed to remove missiles from Cuba if the US removed theirs from Turkey. Lastly, a 'hotline' was set up between Moscow and Washington DC to encourage diplomacy and avoid future disasters.</p>	1963	The Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed by the USA and the USSR, agreeing to stop testing atomic weapons in the atmosphere.	CIA	The USA's Central Intelligence Agency, used for foreign policy events.
		Jan – Aug 1968	The Prague Spring: a set of reforms in Czechoslovakia that caused concern for the Soviets.		
		Aug 1968	The Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia.		
		Do you know these people?			
Topic 3: Czechoslovakia 1968	<p>The Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 occurred as a result of a series of reforms known as the 'Prague Spring' and it led to the Brezhnev Doctrine. The invasion severely tested relations again between the east and west. The hard-line communist Czech leader Novotny was unpopular. Dubcek challenged his leadership and introduced reforms: end of press censorship, reducing secret police, new trade with West Germany and free speech. Worried that these changes would challenge the stability of the Warsaw Pact, Brezhnev sent in thousands of troops and tanks, arresting the reformers and ending the country's moves towards democracy. The USSR justified this using the Brezhnev Doctrine which declared that the USSR had the right to invade one of their satellite states if they were threatening the stability of eastern Europe.</p>	JFK	John Fitzgerald Kennedy: President of the USA from 1961-63	La Brigada 2506	CIA-sponsored group of Cuban exiles formed in 1960 to attempt the military overthrow of the Cuban government headed by Fidel Castro.
		Nikita Khrushchev	Leader of the Soviet Union from 1953-1964.		
		Leonid Brezhnev	Leader of the Soviet Union from 1964-1982.	ICBM	Intercontinental ballistic missiles, called ICBMs, were nuclear-armed ballistic missiles with a range of more than 3,500 miles.
		Alexander Dubcek	Instigator of the Prague Spring and wanted Czechoslovakia to have more capitalist-leaning policies.		
				Brinkmanship	Pushing agreements to the point where there is a strong risk of war. Used to describe Kennedy and Khrushchev during the Cuban Crisis.
				Doctrine	A belief or philosophy set out by politicians.
				Berlin Refugees	A person who flees their home country due to political or economic hardship. In 1958, over 3 million east Germans had fled the border to West Germany. Many of them were skilled workers who wanted better pay and quality of life.

