



History – Cold War in Asia

Welcome to History! In preparation for September we would like you to begin getting to know about the Cold War in Asia and some of the key events and concepts that are part of our new and exciting course. In order to do this we would like you to complete the series of activities below. You will need to bring this work to lessons as we will be drawing from this knowledge in our classroom discussions in the few first weeks of the new term.

Tasks

1. The Second World War in Asia

- Read this summary on the end of WW2 (specifically 1943 Europe- consequences of the atom bomb) and make notes, consider: What happened? How might this impact the Cold War?
[World War Two: An Overview - World War Two and the Holocaust - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize](#)
- Read this summary of the start of the Cold War up to 'Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan' and make notes consider: what is it about? What happened? When did it happen?
[The start of the Cold War 1945-55 - The Cold War - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize](#)

2. Individuals we need to get to know

Use p. 4-6 of the transition reading document to create a fact-file page of the key individuals on topic 1 of the Cold War in Asia topic:

- Josef Stalin
- Harry S. Truman
- Mao Zedong

You could add to this with further research if you wanted to find out more.

3. Choose one of these tasks:

- Read through the information on the Vietnam War and divide your notes into causes, events and consequences.
[Background to the Vietnam War - The Vietnam War - AQA - GCSE History Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)
[Background to the Vietnam War - The Vietnam War - AQA - GCSE History Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)
- Read through the information on the Korean War and divide your notes into causes, events, and consequences.
[What caused the Korean War? - BBC Bitesize](#)
- Read through this section on China, make notes on the government of China. Consider: causes, events and consequences. Try to write 3 bullet points for each section.
[The Chinese Civil War: Causes, Rise Of Mao Zedong & Republic of China | HistoryExtra](#)

4. Western powers in Asia

- Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2lcmLkuhG0>. Make sure you have key dates of events, countries involved, outcome for the Korean and Vietnam war.



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Extra reading

Inspired? If you can't wait until September to find out more you could:

- Go back over your Cold War GCSE course so you're happy with the causes of the Cold War particularly
- <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/a-quick-guide-to-japans-role-in-the-second-world-war>
- <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/britains-war-in-the-far-east-during-the-second-world-war>
- The Cold War by Odd Arne Westad can be accessed on Google Books (doesn't have complete copy though)
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=4fotDwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=the+cold+war+odd+arne+westad&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj3o-68gejpAhVRaRUIHYRVCAAQ6wEITDAE#v=onepage&q&f=true>
- In Our Time Podcast: Karl Marx <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9jg>
- In Our Time: Sino Japanese War <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b042ldyq>
- Witness History Podcast on The Beginning of the Korean War:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswsn8>
- Witness History Podcast on The Korean War:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0086hv0>
- BBC Witness History Podcast on The Vietnam War: Surviving the 'Christmas Bombing Campaign': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csyww8>
- The BBC have done a series of documentaries on the aftermath of the Cold War, here is one on Indonesia: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cszbfq>
- If you're looking for something more historically rigorous you should refer to the read/watch/listen list. There are some wonderful documentaries, podcasts and books on there. [Read watch listen - Cold War in Asia.pptx](#)

If you need any help or have any questions about this preparation work you can contact us by email:

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Josef Stalin

1879	Born in Georgia
c.1926–53	Dominated Soviet politics
1939	Initial collaboration with Hitler in the Second World War
1941	Nazi Germany attacked USSR
1941–5	USSR and USA allied in the Second World War
1944–8	Took control of Eastern Europe, antagonising the USA and triggering the Cold War
1950	Recognised Ho Chi Minh's Democratic Republic of Vietnam (January) Supported Kim Il Sung's attack on South Korea (June) Encouraged Communist China to enter the Korean War (October)
1953	Died

Background

Born to a peasant family, Stalin opposed the Russian monarchy from 1899. One of the leading Communists by 1912, he worked quite closely with Lenin during and after the 1917 Russian Revolution. After Lenin's death

in 1924, Stalin eliminated all potential rivals and led the Soviet Union from c.1926 until his death in 1953.



Achievements

During Stalin's brutal dictatorship, the Soviet Union was rapidly industrialised. Stalin was greatly revered by many Russians for having led the nation successfully through the Second World War, during which he acquired an East European Empire that served to strengthen the Soviet Union's western frontiers.

Significance in the Cold War

Stalin's suspicious nature contributed greatly to the origins and development of the Cold War in Europe and Asia. His approval for Kim Il Sung's attack on South Korea triggered the Korean War. His East European policy antagonised the United States and was an important cause of the US entry into the Korean War. He encouraged Mao Zedong (see page 6) to enter the war after US forces entered North Korea. Although Stalin was far less active in his support of Ho Chi Minh and Communism in Vietnam than in support of Kim and North Korea, the US thought otherwise. The American belief that Ho was Stalin's puppet, coupled with Stalin's actions in Europe and Korea, helped to stimulate the US involvement in Vietnam.



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Harry S. Truman

- 1884 Born in Missouri
- 1935 Elected Senator
- 1945 Became President in April
- 1947 'Truman Doctrine' speech
- 1949 Established NATO
 - Republicans said the Democrats Roosevelt and Truman 'lost' China
- 1950 McCarthy said State Department contained Communists
 - Financially assisted French struggle against Vietnamese Communists
- 1950–3 Korean War
- 1953 Retired to Missouri
- 1972 Died

Background

A farmboy from Missouri, Truman first came to national attention by exposing inefficiency in government defence spending in the Second World War. As Vice President, he became President when President Roosevelt died. In 1948, he was elected President in his own right.

Achievements

Truman failed to persuade Congress to undertake meaningful social reforms and was unable to halt the excesses of the Red Scare, but his foreign policy decisions had a lasting impact. He is often praised for establishing NATO, defeating Stalin's Berlin blockade,

revitalising Western Europe through Marshall Aid, and for the containment of Communism in Korea.



Significance in the Cold War

Truman's decision to oppose Communism resulted in US involvement in the Cold War and in wars in Korea and Vietnam. That involvement cost a great deal in lives and money. Most people believe Truman had no choice but to oppose Communism in order to maintain American security, but some consider the Cold War an unnecessary war that might have been avoided had the more conciliatory Roosevelt remained in the White House. Truman's decision to send American troops to Korea after North Korea attacked South Korea in 1950 resulted in a war involving many countries that might have led to a third world war. Initially, he aimed only to restore the *status quo* in South Korea. In this he was successful, but he failed in his attempt to reunify the peninsula. When Truman sent American troops into North Korea, it brought China fully into the war and led to nearly three more years of bloody struggle. The conflict between the Chinese and the Americans in Korea confirmed that the Cold War had dramatically arrived in Asia, and ensured that Sino-American relations remained exceptionally hostile until the early 1970s. When Truman aided the French in their struggle to defeat the Communist Ho Chi Minh's fight for Vietnamese independence, he initiated the American involvement in Vietnam, although it could be argued that the commitment was still reversible at his death.

Mao Zedong

- 1893 Born to a Chinese peasant family
- 1921 Became a Communist
- 1934–5 Established domination over Chinese Communist Party
- 1930s–45 Simultaneously fought the Chinese Nationalist Party (Guomindang) and Japanese
- 1949 Established the People's Republic of China in October
- 1950 In June approved North Korean attack on South Korea
- 1950–3 Participated in Korean War
- 1960s Sino-Soviet split
- 1972 Relations with US improved
- 1976 Died

Background

Mao felt humiliated by China's disorder and weakness and believed China needed a great political and social revolution to become great again. He said that would inevitably involve violence ('All power grows out of the barrel of a gun'). A founder member of the Chinese Communist Party, he led it from 1935, masterminded the Communist victory over Jiang Jieshi's Chinese

Nationalists in the civil war, and established the People's Republic of China in 1949.



Achievements

During his ruthless dictatorship over China (1949–76), Mao contributed greatly to China's modernisation and emergence as a great power. His brutal methods and ideological experiments have been much criticised.

Significance in the Cold War

Mao was a very important factor in US involvement in Asia. When China became Communist in 1949, the United States began to switch its attention from Europe to Asia as the storm centre of the Cold War. Mao gave his assent to Kim Il Sung's invasion of South Korea, which triggered the Korean War. The American belief that Mao and Stalin were behind this invasion helped prompt the US intervention in Korea, which embittered Sino-American relations for the next two decades. The American conviction that Stalin and Mao were behind the Vietnamese Communists helped bring about US intervention in Vietnam.

Mao's relations with the Soviet Union were uneasy from the very beginning. He was a nationalist first and a Communist second, as demonstrated by his willingness to improve relations with the USA in order to counter the USSR after the Sino-Soviet split of the 1960s.