



**The Origins of the Cold War – Questions and Answers**

These questions and answers are taken from the [Origins of the Cold War](#) podcast at [www.mrallsophistory.com](http://www.mrallsophistory.com). Scan the QR code or visit <https://goo.gl/dBCC5s> to listen.



You might find it useful to cover the answers and then write them in as you listen to the podcast.

Which countries were the world’s main superpowers after the Second World War?	The USA and the USSR
When did Russia become Communist?	1917
Which principals was American society based on?	Democracy and capitalism
Why did Stalin think the Allies refused to help him fight the Nazis from 1943?	To weaken the Communists for when the war was over
Where did the Big Three leaders meet in February 1945?	Yalta
Who were the Big Three at that meeting, and which countries were they in charge of?	Churchill: Britain Roosevelt: USA Stalin: USSR
What was agreed at Yalta?	Divide Germany into four zones Eastern Europe would be a Soviet ‘sphere of influence’ Divide Berlin into four zones Free elections in liberated countries Soviet troops would go to Japan after defeating the Nazis Establishment of the United Nations



What did they disagree over at Yalta?	How much influence pro-Soviet governments should have in the liberated states
When did Germany surrender?	May 1945
When did the Potsdam conference take place?	August 1945
Who was the new President of the USA?	Harry S. Truman
Why did his arrival increase tensions between the USA and the USSR?	He was more anti-Communist than Roosevelt had been
Why did the USA that raised tensions between the USA and the USSR?	Dropped the atomic bomb on Japan
What did the Big Three disagree over at Potsdam?	Whether Germany should pay reparations Free and independent elections
Who was the new leader of Britain?	Clement Attlee
How did the Soviet Union create a 'buffer-zone' against the West after the war?	Imposed Communist governments on surrounding countries
How many seats did the Communists win in the rigged elections in Poland?	400 out of 450 seats
In which country was there a Communist uprising against the monarchy in 1946?	Greece
When did Truman Declare the Truman Doctrine?	March 1947

What did the Truman Doctrine effectively state?	The USA would help any country oppose a Communist take-over
How did the Truman Doctrine affect Greece?	Truman sent money and equipment to support anti-Communist forces
How much money did Marshall Aid make available to European countries?	\$17 billion
Why was Marshall Aid introduced?	To stop the people of Europe turning to Communism. It would improve the economies of Europe by restoring jobs, allowing people to make money again, and therefore make them feel good about democracy.
What did Stalin think about Marshall Aid?	It made Europe economically dependent on America
Who made the Iron Curtain speech in 1946?	Winston Churchill
When did the USSR detonate its first atomic bomb?	1949
What happened to Germany following the Second World War?	It was divided into four zones, controlled by France, Britain, USA and USSR
Why were western improvements in Berlin a problem for Stalin?	The population could see that the non-communist zone was more pleasant than the communist zone
How did Stalin try to force the Allies out of Berlin?	Berlin Blockade – closed rail, canal and road access to West Berlin



How did the Allies respond to the Blockade?	Berlin Airlift – they flew supplies into West Berlin
Why couldn't Stalin shoot down the planes?	It would be an act of war
When did Stalin end the Blockade?	May 1949
What organisation did the non-Communist nations form after the Blockade?	NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)