

GCE 'O' Level Elective History

Collated Notes and Events

Unit 1: Impact of WWI in Europe

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Woodrow Wilson	American	U.S. President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of WWI (November 1918) Treaty of Versailles signed (28 June 1919) Ruhr Crisis (1923)
Georges Clemenceau	French	French Prime Minister	
David Lloyd-George	British	British Prime Minister	

Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

The terms can be classified into BRAT – blame (war guilt clause), reparations, army (reduction in military), territorial loss. The impacts of the Treaty of Versailles can be classified into political, economic and social. Once you understand the different terms of the Treaty, you will be able to know **why** the Germans felt as such.

Political	Economic	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of national pride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effect of reparations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower standard of living Loss of national pride

Clause 231

- Germany had to accept complete blame for causing World War I.
- Made the Germans feel humiliated.
- Germany had to pay reparations to the Allies.

Reparations

- Greatly affected the middle and working classes. **WHY?**
- They became poor and the standard of living dropped. Most lacked some of the basic necessities for survival.
- Greater emphasis in C3 (effects of the 1923 Ruhr Crisis).

Military reduction

- To prevent future aggression.
- Germany allowed to only have 100,000 professional soldiers, 6 battleships and a few smaller ships, no tanks and submarines.
- Disallowed to own an air force.
- Demilitarisation of the Rhineland and Germany's western borders with France.

Territorial loss

- Germany had to give up her territories (i.e. Alsace-Lorraine to France) and colonies in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
- France would administer the Saar coal fields.
- Danzig was made a free country and administered by a new organisation called the League of Nations.
- Injured German pride.

Background information on the League of Nations

It was set up in 1920. Wilson was the main supporter for the formation of the LON, but the USA never became a member.

Successes and failures of the LON in the 1920s

This essay question came out for the 'O' Levels in 2010.

Successful	Somewhat successful	Unsuccessful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albania (1920) • The Aaland Islands (1921) • The Greek-Bulgarian Border (1925) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Silesia (1921) • Memel (1923) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vilna (1923) • The Ruhr (1923) • Corfu (1923)

GCE 'O' Level Elective History
 Collated Notes and Events
 Unit 2: Stalin's Soviet Union

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Joseph Stalin	Russian	Lenin’s successor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stalin became the Secretary-General (1922)Lenin’s death (1924)Implementation of collectivisation (1928)Stalin became the Supreme Leader (1929)3 Five-Year Plans (1928-1932, 1933-1937, 1938-1942)Great Famine (1932-1933)The Great Terror (1934-1938)
Vladimir Lenin		Politician	
Leon Trotsky		Lenin’s other potential successors (focus on Trotsky)	
Alexei Rykov			
Nikolai Bukharin			
Lev Kamenev			
Grigory Zinoviev			
Alexei Stakhanov		Miner	

Reasons for the rise of Stalin

In this section, you will assert whether Stalin rose to power due to his capabilities (manipulations) or sheer luck.

- Non-disclosure of Lenin's Testament
- Trotsky's unpopularity in the Politburo
- Stalin's manipulations
 - Pretended to have been close to Lenin
 - Control over Party organisation
 - Exploitation of ideological divisions

Non-disclosure of Lenin's Testament

- When Lenin suffered a stroke in 1922, Stalin often visited him but they quarrelled. **Lenin's reactions?**
- Lenin voiced criticisms on his successors in his Testament. **Claim about Stalin?**
- When Lenin died in 1924, his testament was read out at a meeting of the Central Executive Committee where all of his potential successors were present. The testament was not made public. Stalin hid Lenin's Testament to prevent him from being unpopular.
- Some members felt that Trotsky was a greater threat.
- Stalin established the Troika Alliance with Kamenev and Zinoviev against Trotsky.

Trotsky's unpopularity

- Trotsky was one of the strongest competitors. He was regarded as Lenin's right-hand man.
- Trotsky was the leader of the Red Army so he had great support from the members, giving him power. He was the greatest threat in the Politburo.
- The Troika alliance aimed to discredit him.
- Trotsky believed in permanent revolution but Stalin believed in socialism. **SO?**

Stalin's manipulations (pretended to have been close to Lenin)

- The public had the impression that Lenin had favoured and trusted Stalin (natural successor).
- Lenin died in 1924. Stalin ordered his body to be embalmed in a mausoleum in the Moscow Red Square.
- Stalin organised his funeral and was the chief mourner, showing his sorrow for the loss of Lenin.
- Stalin gave Trotsky the wrong date of Lenin's funeral. **SO?**

Stalin's manipulations (control over Party organisation)

- Stalin was made Secretary-General of the Party in 1922. Authority to appoint and re-assign Party members.
- Replace allies of his opponents, fill the Party with his supporters.
- Trotsky's support shrank considerably. His ideas were discredited and was forced to resign as the head of the Red Army in 1925, then expelled from the Communist Party in 1927. Eventually assassinated in 1940.

Stalin's manipulations (exploitation of ideological divisions)

- Expelled Trotsky, then broke the Troika alliance, then attacked Bukharin and Rykov.
- With his political opponents and competitors removed from power, discredited and even executed, Stalin became the supreme leader of the Soviet Union by 1929.

Impact of Stalin's rule

You must categorise the different impacts into economic, political and social. If the question asks for the positive/negative impacts during Stalin's reign, you must categorise them into a different format. Also note that **THERE IS A DIFFERENCE** when a question asks '...to the Soviets' and '...to the Soviet Union'. The key focus must be clearly addressed, meaning no overlapping.

Economic	Political	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernisation of Soviet agriculture via collectivisation • Modernisation of Soviet industry via industrialisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalin's dictatorship • Climate of fear • Persecution • Cult of personality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled society • Climate of fear • Policies on minorities

Collectivisation, 1928

- Merging of smaller farms into collective farms with use of technology. The State distributed land and crops and provided equipment (e.g. tractors) for farmers.
- Many kulaks killed their animals and burnt their produce. Sent to gulags/starved.
- Bad harvest led the Great Famine (1932-1933). Resulted in the deaths of millions of peasants in the Soviet Union especially Ukraine. Grain harvest dropped dramatically.
- Reduction in need of manpower for farming. Rest went to the cities (rapid industrialisation).
- **LONG TERM:** Modernisation of farming, increase in production.

Rapid industrialisation, 1928-1942

- Stalin's Five-Year Plans sought to rapidly industrialise the Soviet Union.
- Emphasis was placed on the development of heavy industries (e.g. coal, iron and steel). Expansion of industrial workforce.
- The State set quotas for producing such machinery and other factory goods.
- **SHORT TERM:** Work long hours, punished for not meeting quotas, fined for being late/skipping, drop in standard of living, shortage of consumer goods. ***What was the focus?***
- **LONG TERM:** Generally perceived as a success. Did not suffer from the Great Depression. ***WHY?*** Soviet Union became an industrial base for a powerful arms industry in 1941 (explored in C5).

The Great Terror (Purges and show trials)

- Forced to confess to crimes (i.e. to murder Stalin, work with his opponents) even though they did not commit them.
- Sent to gulags or given death/long sentences.

The Great Terror (Arrests and interrogations)

- The NKVD arrested many people who were deemed anti-Stalin.
- Stalin had many Red Army officers arrested and executed. The Party was replaced with young and inexperienced officers. ***WHY?***
- Stalin considered everyone around him a potential threat and tirelessly sought to eliminate them.
- Ensured that there was no opposition against him so he could carry out his plans effectively.

The Great Terror (Loss of intellectuals, skilled workers and officers)

- The Soviet Union could not be administered properly and the industries could not be run efficiently.

Propaganda

- Portrayed as the 'all-knowing and wise leader' and the 'caring father of the country'.
- Propaganda created a perception that Stalin was infallible and even god-like, possessing supernatural qualities.
- Ensured that it was almost impossible for any form of opposition against him.
- Gave the Soviets the impression that Stalin was the ideal ruler of the Soviet Union. He was glorified.

Living in fear

- Stalin created the cheka and the people led a life of fear of the secret police, which had unfettered powers.
- Talk about purges and anyone could be arrested anytime. **WHY?**
- Those arrested were executed or sent to gulags. Most never returned home alive.

Minority groups

- **Women:** Encouraged to work in factories. Must fulfil the roles of a housewife and worker. **Compare with Germany in C3.**
- **Schools (education):** Compulsory education. Increased literacy rates compared to during Tsarist rule.
- **Schools (youth, komsomol):** Brainwashed to be loyal to Stalin

GCE 'O' Level Elective History
Collated Notes and Events
Unit 3: Hitler's Germany

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Adolf Hitler	Austrian-German	Succeeded von Papen as Chancellor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of WWI (November 1918) • Ruhr Crisis (1923) • Hitler imprisoned (1923) • Great Depression (1929-late 1930s) • 1932 elections (July 1932, November 1932) • Hitler became Chancellor (January 1933) • Reichstag Fire (February 1933) • Enabling Act (March 1933) • One Party Rule (July 1933) • Night of the Long Knives (June 1934) • Creation of the Fuehrer position (August 1934) • Nazis introduced conscription (1935) • Goering's Four-Year Plan (1936) • Night of the Broken Glass/<i>Kristallnacht</i> (November 1938) • The Holocaust/The Final Solution (1941-1945)
Gustav Stresemann	German	Replaced old money with the Rentenmark	
Franz von Papen		Chancellor, then became Vice-Chancellor	
Paul von Hindenburg		President	
Joseph Goebbels		In charge of propaganda	
Ernst Röhm		Ally of Hitler, commander of the SA. Killed during the Night of the Long Knives.	
Heinrich Himmler		Commander of the SS	
Hermann Goering		Came up with the Four-Year Plan	
Hjalmar Schacht		President of the Reichsbank	

Reasons for the rise of Hitler

In this section, you will assert whether Hitler rose to power due to the weakness of the Weimar government or his leadership.

- Weakness of Weimar
 - Hyperinflation
 - Impact of the Great Depression
- Hitler's abilities
 - Nazi ideology
 - Charisma and oratorical skills
 - Exploitation of the fears of communism
 - Skilfulness at making deals with politicians
 - Reorganisation of the Nazi Party

Weimar weakness (hyperinflation)

- Started with the Treaty of Versailles. Germany was unable to hand over the reparations to France.
- The French invaded the Ruhr (1923 Ruhr Crisis). The German government printed more money. **Effect on economy?**
- Stresemann eased tensions with France. **So?** He introduced the *Rentenmark* and this ended the hyperinflationary crisis in November 1923.
- Germany entered the LON in 1926.
- Negotiated the 1924 Dawes Plan and the 1929 Young Plan.

Weimar weakness (impact of the Great Depression)

- Started in 1929 due to the stock market crash in New York. **How?** Germany was heavily affected. **Why?**
- Germany's economy suffered. Increased unemployment (1.5 million in 1929 to 6 million in 1933).
- Weimar was helpless. Only Stresemann could solve this but he died in October 1929.
- Germans turned to the Nazis (aims: prosperity and economic stability by solving unemployment).

Hitler's abilities (Nazi ideology)

- The Nazis promised to provide work, freedom and bread.
- Hitler was seen as a trustworthy and ideal leader.

Hitler's abilities (charisma and oratorical skills)

- Great speaker who delivered his speeches with fiery.
- Painted his enemies (**who were they?**) as scapegoats and put them in bad light.
- Able to appeal to the emotions of the Germans.
- Promised employment, German pride, industrialism, military.
- Deemed as an ideal leader who could resolve the political, economic and social problems.
- Stresemann died in 1929. Hitler seen as the only hope. Weimar was useless.

Hitler's abilities (exploited the fears of communism)

- Suppression of communism in Germany.
- Intention to prevent a revolution like what happened during Lenin's time.
- Many (e.g. Papen and Hindenburg) feared the threat of communism. Papen was convinced so he appointed Hitler as Chancellor.

Hitler's abilities (skilfulness at making deals with politicians)

- Waited for the right opportunities to take power gradually.
- Skilful at making deals to advance his position, eventually became Chancellor.

Hitler's abilities (reorganisation of the Nazi Party)

- Establishment of the SA (protect Nazi candidates from reprisals) and SS (personal bodyguards).
- Gave Germans the impression that the Nazis were capable of restoring stability.
- Goebbels handled with propaganda. Established the Nazi greeting Sieg Heil, meaning 'hail victory'.
- Consistent appeals to emotions. Grand and unified vision. Germany marched towards inevitable success.

Impact of Hitler's rule

In this section, you will determine whether Hitler's rule benefitted the Germans and Germany. His impacts can be classified into political, economic and social. If the question asks for the positive/negative impacts during Hitler's reign, you must categorise them into a different format. Also note that **THERE IS A DIFFERENCE** when a question asks '...to the Germans' and '...to Germany'. The key focus must be clearly addressed, meaning no overlapping.

Political	Economic	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidation of power One-party rule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery of the economy Nazi control over the economy Militarisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled society Climate of fear Persecution of Jewish people and minority groups

Consolidation of power (Reichstag Fire, February 1933)

- Took place 1 week before the February Elections.
- Communist arson was found at the scene. Hitler blamed the communists and banned his greatest rivals.
- Nazis' support base improved. Hitler achieved his aim.

Consolidation of power (Enabling Act, March 1933)

- At the March elections, the Nazi party was the largest single political party. Suspension of communists and using his SA to intimidate other parties, Hitler had two-thirds majority in parliament. **So?**
- Allowed Hitler to rule as a dictator without other parties being involved in the Reichstag.
- Press and media were controlled by the Nazis.

Consolidation of power (One-Party Rule, July 1933)

- Nazis became the only legal political organisation in the country.
- No one could challenge the Nazis, making opposition dangerous.

Consolidation of power (Night of the Long Knives, June 1934)

- Rohm, other SA members and some opponents were executed. This strengthened Hitler's power. **Why was Rohm executed?**
- This allowed Hitler to ensure absolute power within the Nazi Party (strengthened his power).
- Showed that Hitler became powerful without the presence of protest.

Consolidation of power (Creation of the Fuehrer position, August 1934)

- Hitler's final threat was Hindenburg who could remove him as the Chancellor.
- Hindenburg died in August 1934. Hitler combined the Chancellor + President roles and became the Fuehrer.
- Hitler became an absolute leader with limitless power.

Re-employment

- Schacht reorganised Germany's finances (provision of new jobs).
- The construction of new roads, autobahns and public buildings helped to create new jobs.
- Reduction in unemployment and provision of infrastructure and facilities.

Rise of big industrialists

- Hitler's aim was to make Germany self-sufficient. He had a close relationship with the big businesses.
- 1934 New Plan led to an increase in production of coal and oil so reduced reliance on imports.
- Government contract causes big companies to support the Nazis. Bosses need not worry about conflicts (strict control).
- Goering's Four-Year Plan (initiated in 1936), aimed to prepare Germany for war in 4 years.
- Overemphasis on production of war materials at the expense of consumer goods (Explored in C5).

Control of trade unions

- Hitler abolished the trade unions. He set up the German Work Front (DAF) to convince workers to work together for the country.
- Strikes were banned and people were not allowed to change jobs easily.
- Under the DAF, productivity improved, more people had work and prices were stabilised. Economy improved.

Organising workers' leisure time

- The DAF set up schemes like the 'Strength through Joy' (KdF) and 'Beauty of Labour' (SdA).
- **KdF**: Provided affordable entertainment and organised cheap recreational activities (i.e. holiday cruises).
- **SdA**: Improve workers' working conditions (e.g. better sanitary facilities, machine safety).
- Aim to gain more support from workers.

Militarisation

- Conscription introduced in 1935. Men required to make war materials. Reduced the unemployment rate, boosted the economy.
- Violation of the Treaty of Versailles – remilitarised the Rhineland, creation of the Luftwaffe.

Propaganda

- Led by Goebbels. Bring about anti-Semitism and anti-communist messages. The Nuremberg rallies highlighted the display of German power. To showcase Germany's might and give Germans a sense of belonging.

Censorship

- Works hand in hand with propaganda. Book burning of un-German books. Disallowed to listen to foreign stations.
- Lack of freedom of expression and ideas among the Germans.
- Ensured that Germans would be only exposed to Nazi ideologies and not be brainwashed by the Western world.

Rise of the secret police (SS and Gestapo)

- The SS were Hitler's personal bodyguards.
- The Gestapo is responsible for finding and removing threats to the Nazi Party. Feared by the people as the Gestapo had unlimited powers of arrest.
- Ensured that there was no opposition against him so he could carry out his plans effectively.

Jewish and minority groups

- Kristallnacht/Night of the Broken Glass. Hitler hated the Jews even more.
- Minority groups were deemed not pure Aryans.

Women

- Women were supposed to serve their nation by being good wives and mothers and bearing children. ***Compare with the Soviet Union. How did it lead to Germany's defeat in WWII in C5?***
- Most women respected Hitler and supported the Nazi Party.

Hitler Youth

- Seen as Germany's future. To groom youths to be future leaders in Nazi organisations.
- Compulsory membership and they were indoctrinated in anti-Semitism and Nazi ideology.

GCE 'O' Level Elective History

Collated Notes and Events

Unit 4: Outbreak of WWII in Europe

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Benito Mussolini	Italian	Leader of Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty of Versailles signed (June 1919) • Washington Naval Conference (1921) • Locarno Treaties signed (1925-1926) • World Disarmament Conference (1932) • Anglo-German Naval Treaty signed (1935) • Abyssinian Crisis (1935) • Hitler remilitarised the Rhineland (1936) • Anschluss (1938) • Munich Agreement signed (1938) • Germany conquered the Sudetenland (October 1938) • Germany took over the rest of Czechoslovakia (March 1939) • Nazi-Soviet Pact signed (August 1939) • Hitler invaded Poland (1 September 1939) • Britain and France declared war on Germany (3 September 1939)
Adolf Hitler	Austrian-German	German Fuehrer	
Joseph Stalin	Russian	Leader of the Soviet Union	
Neville Chamberlain	British	British Prime Minister	
Winston Churchill		Succeeded Chamberlain	
Clement Attlee		Deputy Prime Minister during Churchill's reign	

Some questions may ask about the factors which led to the outbreak of WWII in Europe. The reasons are due to Hitler's expansionist policy, the policy of appeasement and the weaknesses of the LON. Do caution that you cannot bring in the invasion of Poland as that was a direct trigger which led to the outbreak of WWII. Ideally, there are both short-term (e.g. Nazi-Soviet Pact) and long-term factors (e.g. expansionist policy as a whole) which led to the war.

Weaknesses of the League of Nations

We have talked about the weaknesses of the League of Nations in the second half of Unit 1. It had failed to get powerful countries to disarm and it resulted in crises like the 1935 Abyssinian Crisis (failure of collective security).

Failure of disarmament in the 1930s

- This meant that powerful countries still had the military and economic capacity to wage war.

Failure of collective security

- The LON had failed to step up to defend small nation states from aggressors. Failed to uphold one of its aims.
- Abyssinian Crisis as Italy was adversely affected from the Great Depression and invading Abyssinia to obtain its resources would succumb to its economic woes.

Hitler's expansionist policy

Hitler's aims were to establish a Greater Germany, create Lebensraum and establish the superior Aryan race.

- Withdrawal from the LON and the Geneva Disarmament Conference
- Conscription and rearmament
- Remilitarisation of the Rhineland
- Involvement in the Spanish Civil War
- Anschluss
- Czechoslovakia
 - Munich Agreement (Sudetenland)
 - Invasion of Czechoslovakia
- Nazi-Soviet Pact
- Invasion of Poland

Withdrawal from the LON and the Geneva Disarmament Conference

- Talk about the level of disarmament of Germany and France and how Hitler disapproved the LON's actions.
- Hitler's demands were rejected. He quit the conference and LON due to the inequality in treatment.

Conscription, 1935 and rearmament, 1936

- Partially mentioned in C3 where he violated the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Introduced conscription in 1935. **A reverse of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.**
- No opposition from the Allied countries.

German reunification with Austria (Anschluss)

- German-speaking Austrians supported Anschluss.
- In reality, Hitler wanted to get access to the resources in Austria (e.g. coal, iron, gold) to boost Germany's economy and military power.
- Allies did not counter.

Czechoslovakia

- Sudetenland had 3 million Germans. **Relate to Hitler's aims.**
- Due to the Munich Agreement, Chamberlain allowed Germany to take over Sudetenland to avoid war.
- In March 1939, Hitler invaded the entire Czechoslovakia. **How did Chamberlain feel?**
- Chamberlain warned Hitler if he invaded Poland, Britain and France will declare war.

Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, August 1939

- Signed in August 1939. It stated that Germany and the Soviet Union would not attack each other and would resolve any problems between them in a friendly manner.
- Both leaders had their reasons for signing the pact.

Hitler's perspective	Stalin's perspective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanted to avoid a war on 2 fronts. • Wanted to invade Poland without Soviet interference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy time to avoid war. Second Five-Year Plans? • Shortage of commanders and scientists. Purges? • Stalin failed to sign the Munich Agreement with Britain and France. Why was the Soviet Union not consulted?

Invasion of Poland, 1 September 1939

- Hitler's troops marched into Poland on 1 September 1939.
- Chamberlain realised it was too late. Britain and France declared war on 3 September 1939.

Policy of appeasement

The British and French leaders adopted a policy of appeasement to give into Hitler's demands. The reasons are as follows:

- Fear of another major war
- Weaknesses of the LON
- Buying time to rearm
- Sympathy for Germany over the Treaty of Versailles
- Chamberlain's misjudgement of Hitler
- Fear of communism

Fear of another major war

- The leaders of various countries wanted to avoid another war due to the massive destructions caused by WWI.
- Chamberlain fulfilled Hitler's demands to avoid starting a war with Germany.

Weakness of LON

- Failure in getting countries to disarm.
- Ineffectiveness in handling conflicts and crises (i.e. 1935 Abyssinian Crisis and 1931 Mukden Incident).
- Idea of personal interest which outweighed collective interest.

Buying time to rearm

- WWI had weakened Britain and France's economies and militaries. There was a need to buy time to rearm to acquire the power to suppress Germany.

Sympathy for Germany over the Treaty of Versailles

- Many British politicians felt that the terms of the Treaty of Versailles were too harsh on Germany. They felt that Hitler's demands was only for self-determination (acceptable).
- Perception that if they made good relationships, a war could be avoided.

Chamberlain's misjudgement of Hitler

- Chamberlain saw Hitler was interested in reuniting the Germans in 1 country (perception of not abolishing the terms of the Treaty of Versailles). Hitler played his role well.
- Chamberlain was too naïve. He believed whatever Hitler said which in reality, were lies.

Fear of communism

- British and French leaders saw Stalin's Communism as a greater threat than Hitler's Nazism.
- To Chamberlain, Nazism was like a barrier against communism with Germany's militarisation acting as a shield.

Failure of appeasement

Some historians argue that if the British and French leaders stood up to Hitler when he first violated the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, WWII could have been avoided. Appeasement made Hitler bolder in his foreign policy aims as what he wanted became more demanding.

- Lack of action against Hitler's aggressions
- Approval of Anglo-German Naval Agreement
- Munich Agreement

Lack of action against Hitler's aggressions

- British sympathy towards Hitler's aggression. **WHY?**
- Even when Hitler claimed that conquering the Sudetenland was his demand, he did not keep to his word but Chamberlain believed in him as he wanted to avoid war at all cost.

Approval of Anglo-German Naval Agreement

- Germany was allowed to have submarines and its fleet was to be 35% compared to the British's.
- Purpose to reduce Germans' anger towards the Treaty of Versailles. In reality, it encouraged rearmament.

Munich Agreement

- Chamberlain allowed Germany to take over Sudetenland to avoid war. ***So why did appeasement fail?***

GCE 'O' Level Elective History
 Collated Notes and Events
 Unit 5: Defeat of Germany in WWII

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Benito Mussolini	Italian	Leader of Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roosevelt implemented 'cash and carry' plan (1939) • France fell to Germany (1940) • Tripartite Pact signed between the Axis Powers (1940) • Operation Barbarossa (June 1941) • USA's formal involvement (1941) • Italy surrendered (1943) • D-Day landings (June 1944) • Ploesti oilfields put out of operation (1944) • Hitler committed suicide (30 April 1945)
Adolf Hitler	Austrian-German	German Fuehrer	
Joseph Stalin	Russian	Leader of the Soviet Union	
Franklin D. Roosevelt	American	U.S. President	
Winston Churchill	British	British Prime Minister	

Was Germany's defeat in WWII mainly caused by the entry of the USA? In this section, you will study how the USA played a significant role and why Germany was also responsible for its defeat. Note that 'allied resistance' is **NOT REQUIRED** in the syllabus.

Reasons for Germany's defeat

- Entry of the USA
- Over-extension of Hitler's army on many fronts

Initial isolationism of the USA

- The USA initially did not want to get involved.

Informal involvement

- Introduction of 'cash and carry' in September 1939. Payment in cash and immediately upon purchase.
- Countries that required help from the U.S. had to pay for ships and equipment themselves. **Why is this risky?**
- France fell in 1940. Lend-lease act introduced in March 1941. Payments could be deferred and may not be in cash. **Why did Roosevelt introduce this? (Hint: security of the USA)** The USA gave Britain 50 old destroyers.
- Prompted Japan, Italy and Germany to form a Tripartite Pact. **Why?**

Formal involvement

- The USA formally entered the war 1 day after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbour (explored in C6). The USA declared war on Japan and Germany declared war on the USA. **Why did Germany declare war?**
- Idea of fighting a war of attrition to see which country will eventually surrender due to supply shortages.
- The USA contributed a vast amount of resources and manpower. This solved the weapon shortage and strengthened the Allied Powers when fighting against Germany. Boost in morale.
- Collaboration with other Allied Powers in operations like Operation Overlord (D-Day Landings, 1941).
- The Allies eventually had control over the air and sea. **So what? Talk about Germany's geography.**
- War with Germany was a war of attrition. Inevitable for Germany to be defeated. **Link to USA's industrial capacity.**
- Can talk about the Battle of the Atlantic and destruction of the Luftwaffe. **How did it impact Germany?**

Ineffective command structure

- Hitler made decisions by himself but they should have ideally been left to his generals. Hitler failed to capitalise on opportunities.
- A system of overlapping authority.

Inappropriate use of resources and military funds

- Women were disallowed to work in factories and had to be good wives and mothers and bear children. **So?**
- Hitler did not focus on developing suitable clothing and effective weapons but diverted Germany's resources to more expensive weapons, research and development.

Heavy reliance on petroleum

- Germany had little petroleum reserves and it relied most of the supplies from occupied territories.
- Oilfields were put out of operation by the Allies. Loss of Ploesti oilfields in Romania negatively affected Germany. ***What was petroleum used for?***
- Slowed down Germany's ability to fight.

War on two fronts

- Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941 (Operation Barbarossa). He felt that the Soviet Union was becoming stronger and was a priority to attack without finishing the British.
- Thinned out Germany's resources. Hitler was unable to concentrate his efforts in a single theatre of war.
- Efforts further exacerbated due to the Russian winter.
- Retaliation of the Soviet Union + combined efforts of the Allies (did not finish attacking the British and Americans) = managed to push Germany back the battle front.

GCE 'O' Level Elective History

Collated Notes and Events

Unit 6: Outbreak of WWII in the Asia-Pacific

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Hirohito	Japanese	Emperor of Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Demands (1915) • Washington Naval Conference (1921) • London Naval Conference (1930) • Japan invaded Manchuria (1931) • Japan withdrew from the LON (1933) • Second Sino-Japanese War (1937) • Japan occupied French Indochina, America responded with trade embargo (1940) • Japan attacked Pearl Harbour (7 December 1941)
Tsuyoshi Inukai		Prime Minister of Japan	
Puyi	Chinese	Emperor of China	
Hideki Tojo	Japanese	Prime Minister of Japan (Pearl Harbour)	

The attack on Pearl Harbour is literally the outbreak (trigger) of WWII in the Asia-Pacific. This prompted the Americans to be formally involved in the war.

Reasons for the outbreak of WWII in the Asia-Pacific

- Economic crisis in Japan
- Japan's expansionist foreign policy
- Weaknesses of the LON
- Japan's worsening relations with the USA

Japan's attacks

- Attack on Manchuria
- Attack on Pearl Harbour

Crises in Japan

- Three crises – overpopulation, economic crisis and growing military influence in Japanese politics.
- Needed more territories (space and resources) for its growing population. Rapid population increase and a shortage of agricultural land led to food shortage.
- The Great Depression resulted in Japan to struggle to sell their main export, silk, to other countries. **WHY? (Hint: protectionism)**
- Japan's government was now controlled by the military, who were aggressive and wanted to go to war to solve its economic problems.

Japan's expansionist policy

- Japan had limited resources. The strong military government in Japan wanted to build a powerful empire to make the country equal to the European powers. Expansionism = a valid solution to Japan's problems.
- Idea of a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere to liberate Southeast Asia from European control; 'Asia for Asians'. In reality, it was a façade for Japanese expansionism.

Weaknesses of the LON

- Invasion of Manchuria in 1931 – set up Manchukuo. Lytton Commission concluded that Japan was the aggressor. The LON demanded Japanese withdrawal but Japan refused and withdrew its membership from the LON. **So why did LON fail?**
- Marco Polo Bridge incident in 1937 – Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China (Second Sino-Japanese War). China appealed to the LON for help but it failed. **Why was the LON reluctant?**
- Made the LON lose credibility as a peacekeeping organisation. Japan took advantage of the LON's weakness, was emboldened and advanced further into China.

Worsening relations with the USA

- Japan expected America to ignore their invasion of China. **Why?**
- The USA provided military aid to China and cancelled the 1911 commercial treaty with Japan in 1939 (reduced trade). The USA placed a trade embargo on Japan (to coerce Japan into surrendering) in 1940. It banned the export of steel, scrap iron and fuel to Japan. **Why are these useful?**
- Roosevelt's decision was a hindrance to Japan's interests. They did not surrender. **Why and so?**
- Japan attacked Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 and the USA declared war the next day.

Attack on Manchuria, 1931

- Economic impact of crises on Japan (Great Depression and overpopulation).
- Use Manchuria as a defence buffer against China (strategic). **Purpose of Japan attacking China?**
- Japan was involved in WWI but was not recognised as a great power at the Paris Peace Conference. Mention the Sino-Japanese Wars.

Attack on Pearl Harbour, 7 December 1941

- When Japan began building up its navy, the USA felt that Japan was a threat in the Asia-Pacific.
- Trade embargo in 1940. **Impact on Japan?** Roosevelt wanted to coerce Japan into surrendering. A hindrance to Japan's interests.
- Japan did not surrender due to their samurai code and surrender equals dishonour.
- Japan attacked Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 and the USA declared war the next day.

GCE 'O' Level Elective History
 Collated Notes and Events
 Unit 7: Japan's Defeat in WWII

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Franklin D. Roosevelt	American	U.S. President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan attacked Pearl Harbour (7 December 1941) • Battle of Coral Sea (May 1942) • Battle of Midway (August 1942) • Battle of Iwo Jima (February 1945) • Bomb dropped on Hiroshima (6 August 1945) • Bomb dropped on Nagasaki (9 August 1945)
Winston Churchill	British	British Prime Minister	
Adolf Hitler	Austrian-German	German Fuehrer	

Reasons for Japan's defeat

- Allied victory in Europe
- Economic and military might of the USA
- Over-extension of the Japanese empire

Allied victory in Europe

- Japan's success was because the Allies were distracted by Hitler's expansionist policy in Europe (speed, not power).
- Allied Powers wanted to concentrate on defeating Germany first. Even before Germany's defeat, Japan could not hope to win.
- The Allies demanded an unconditional surrender from Japan as they wanted to avoid a repeat of the situation in WWI in Europe. The Japanese were determined not to surrender.

Economic and military might of the USA

- The USA was the largest industrial producer in the world but Japan did not have strong industrial capabilities.
- Japan was unable to protect their merchant fleet from American submarines. The Allies also bombed many of the Japanese factories, while the American factories remained out of range from Japanese attacks (scorched-earth policy).
- Women's role in the war for the USA and Japan. (Refer to C3 and C5)

Over-extension of the Japanese empire

- By 1942, Japan occupied almost the whole of Southeast Asia.
- The over-extension of the Japanese empire made it difficult for the Japanese to defend the newly-occupied territories. **Basically a burden.**
- The Allied powers had a combined amount of resources and manpower (quick recovery from Japanese attacks).

GCE 'O' Level Elective History

Collated Notes and Events

Unit 8: Reasons for the Cold War in Europe

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Joseph Stalin	Russian	Leader of the Soviet Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nazi-Soviet Pact signed (August 1939) • End of WWII (1945) • Yalta Conference (February 1945) • Potsdam Conference (July-August 1945) • Kennan sent his Long Telegram (1946) • Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech (1946) • Truman Doctrine (1947) • Marshall Plan (1947) • Cominform (1947) • Berlin Blockade (1948) • Comecon (1949) • NATO (1949) • Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb (August 1949) • Warsaw Pact (1955)
Franklin D. Roosevelt	American	U.S. President	
Harry Truman		Succeeded Roosevelt	
Winston Churchill	British	British Prime Minister	
Clement Attlee		Succeeded Churchill	
George Kennan	American	Made the Long Telegram	
George Marshall		Introduced the Marshall Plan	

Ideological differences

- The USA and the Soviet Union believed that countries should follow their way of governance and the ideology competition (destabilisation of ideology) caused rising tensions which escalated into a Cold War.

The USA	Soviet Union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believed in a free market economy. • Believed in democracy. It allowed different political parties and free voting to exist. • Communism was seen as spreading ideas of revolution and dominance worldwide. Perceived as evil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believed in a command economy where the government decides what to be produced • Believed in communism. Existence of only the Communist Party. • Unhappy with the USA for trying to stop the spread of communism.

History of distrust

Even as early as WWII, the Soviet Union already felt suspicious of the actions of the USA such as the perceived delay in opening the second front. When Germany was defeated, the USA and the Soviet Union did not cooperate and agree to each other's terms. Here, we will explore more on this history of distrust and examine how the various events contributed to the Cold War tensions.

- Perceived delay in opening the second front
- Nazi-Soviet Pact
- Yalta Conference
- Potsdam Conference
- Secrecy of the American Nuclear Policy

Perceived delay in opening the second front

- The Soviet Union expected the opening of second front to be earlier.
- The delay caused them to suspect if the USA wanted to purposely let Germany bring more losses to the communists.

Nazi-Soviet Pact, 1939

- Made the USA feel suspicious as they thought the Soviet Union was allying with their WWII enemy, Germany.

Yalta Conference, 1945

- Attended by Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt.
- Stalin did not keep to his promise to allow countries liberated by the Soviet Union to hold free elections and choose their government. Instead, salami tactics were used and those countries became satellite states of USSR.

Potsdam Conference, 1945

- Attended by Stalin, Churchill and Truman. ***How did the change of the American President contribute to tensions?***
- Stalin did not keep to his promise to allow free elections in Poland instead he installed a communist government and assassinated other Polish political rivals to the communist.
- The USA lost the Soviet Union's trust.

Secrecy of the American Nuclear Policy

- The Soviet Union felt suspicious of the USA when the USA did not inform them about the plans on the usage of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

American and Soviet responses

The USA	Soviet Union
Rise of superpowers	
Containment	
	Salami tactics
Truman Doctrine, 1947	Cominform, 1947
Marshall Plan, 1947	Comecon, 1949
Berlin Airlift, 1948	Berlin Blockade, 1948
NATO, 1949	Warsaw Pact, 1955

Truman Doctrine, 1947

- Marked the start of the containment policy whereby economic and military aid were provided to weaker countries (e.g. Greece and Turkey) which were more prone to communist takeover.
- Highlighted conflicting intentions of both superpowers.
- Soviet Union perceived as a step to undermine communist influence in Europe.

Cominform, 1947

- To counter the Truman Doctrine.
- Ensures that satellite states only trade and communicate with communist countries (tightened control).
- Western countries were more firmly tied to the USA while Eastern European countries were more closely tied to the USSR.

Marshall Plan, 1947

- Provides more economic assistance (12 billion dollars) to more countries. Helped to remove Europe's economic problems.
- Makes communism less appealing. This was a more effective method to contain communism.
- Soviet Union perceived as a step to undermine communist influence in Europe.

Comecon, 1949

- To counter Marshall Plan. Complements Cominform by providing economic aid.
- Western countries were more firmly tied to the USA while Eastern European countries were more closely tied to the USSR.

Berlin Blockade, 1948

- Stalin felt that US handling of West Germany was provocative and he felt resentful. He decided to strengthen control over Eastern Berlin by isolating East Berlin to force Allies out of Berlin.

Berlin Airlift, 1948

- To counter Berlin Blockade.
- The USA transported supplies by planes into East Berlin as it was the only route that was not blocked. Fed the people in East Berlin for 11 months. Also kept them warm throughout the winter.
- It was a failure and it forced Stalin to remove the blockade. **Why was it a failure?**

NATO, 1949

- NATO stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.
- Acted as a military alliance between European countries and the USA, strengthening the security of Western Europe against the Soviet Union.

Warsaw Pact, 1955

- To counter NATO.
- Acted as a military alliance between the satellite states in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Who was winning the Cold War in Europe?

The USA	Soviet Union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containment • Berlin Airlift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of firm control over Eastern Europe

Containment

- Factors are the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan.
- Made Europe economically strong and communism less appealing. Democracy proved to be more effective.
- Democracy gained more support than communism.

Berlin Airlift

- Berlin Airlift was a success, Berlin Blockade was a failure. The Allied Powers remained in Berlin.
- Boosted the Allies' morale, humiliated the Soviet Union.
- Proves that the USA better handled conflicts and had a more powerful economy and military.

Establishment of firm control over Eastern Europe

- Use of salami tactics.
- The USA was unable to prevent the spread of communism in Eastern Europe as it was favoured there.

GCE 'O' Level Elective History
Collated Notes and Events
Unit 9: The Korean War

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Joseph Stalin	Russian	Leader of the Soviet Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korea was divided along the 38th parallel (1945) • The Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb (1948) • China became communist (1949) • Signing of the Sino-Soviet Alliance (1950) • North Koreans invaded South Korea (25 June 1950) • MacArthur pushed North Korean forces beyond the 38th parallel (October 1950) • Armistice signed at Panmunjon (1953) • DMZ established along the 38th parallel (1953)
Kim Il-Sung	NK	Premier of NK	
Syngman Rhee	SK	President of SK	
Mao Zedong	Chinese	Chairman of the PRC	
Douglas MacArthur	American	General. Led the South Korean and UN forces to push beyond the 38 th parallel.	
Harry Truman		U.S. President	
Dwight D. Eisenhower		Succeeded Truman. Agreed to the armistice.	
Dean Acheson		Secretary of State	
Joseph McCarthy		Initiated McCarthyism	

The Potsdam Conference was held from July to August 1945. At Potsdam, the Western powers agreed to divide Korea into 2 along the 38th parallel (considering latitude), forming North Korea and South Korea. Both Koreas were ruled by tyrannical leaders. Kim Il-Sung became the Premier of North Korea whereas Syngman Rhee became the President of South Korea.

Reasons for the conflict

- Partition of Korea after WWII
- Emergence of communist China
- Role of external powers in the conflict

Korea's importance in the Cold War

- Soviet Union and the communist bloc
- Soviet explosion of the atomic bomb
- Emergence of communist China
- Sino-Soviet Alliance

Soviet Union and the communist bloc

- The communist bloc wanted to expand their influence to the world. China became communist in 1949. Stalin could use Korea to spread communist influence. ***Due to geographical reasons.***
- The Berlin Blockade took place in 1949. The Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb in August 1949. The Korean War intensified the tensions of the Cold War. ***Why?***

Soviet explosion of the atomic bomb

- The Soviet Union successfully exploded their atomic bomb in August 1949, creating atomic parity with the USA.
- Stalin could help North Korea without fear of American threat. Encouraged Stalin and Truman to make use of proxies. ***Why?***
- Unleashed a nuclear arms race. Competition for superiority in the development and accumulation of nuclear weapons.

Emergence of communist China

- China became communist in 1949. Truman perceived China as a big threat as it was a dominant power in Asia.
- North Korea would be a buffer against American forces in South Korea.

Sino-Soviet Alliance

- The Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance was signed between China and the Soviet Union in 1950. They promised to come to each other's aid if either country was attacked. The Soviet Union need not be involved directly.
- The Soviet Union does not need to get itself directly involved in Korea. ***Why?***

American foreign policies

- The USA was more interested in Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines
- McCarthyism

The USA was more interested in Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines

- USA was initially more interested in Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines. Korea could be used as a buffer to attack Russia or China.
- Acheson did not define South Korea in the American Defence Perimeter in his speech.
- Truman and Acheson were criticised for the loss of nuclear monopoly and the inability to prevent China from falling into communist hands in 1949.

McCarthyism

- National Security Council (NSC-68) concluded that the Soviet Union was against the USA. McCarthy suggested a drastic increase in military spending to contain the spread of communism.
- Korea became important to the USA in applying containment before Europe.

Was the Korean War a civil war or proxy war?

The Korean War started as a civil war as both leaders wanted reunification and both superpowers withdrew from Korea. It eventually became a proxy war as the USA and China got involved, helping on the South Korean and North Korean side respectively.

Korean War was a civil war

- Desire of unification by both Korean leaders
- Limited support from the USA, Soviet Union and China from 1948-early 1950s
- Border clashes between North and South Korea

Desire of unification by both Korean leaders

- The USA thought that Rhee was rash and the South Korean army was equipped with light weapons. **So what if Rhee was rash?**
- Both leaders believed that force was required to reunify Korea under their own ideology.
- Kim persuaded Stalin to provide support. Stalin provided military supplies and economic support making the army of the North more powerful than the South.

Limited support from 1948-early 1950s

- By 1949, the Soviet Union and the USA had withdrawn from their occupied zones.
- Gave the impression that both superpowers had no intention to be involved in Korean affairs.
- Stalin was reluctant to support Kim as he did not want a military confrontation with the US. **Before signing of Sino-Soviet Alliance.**

Border clashes between North and South Korea

- Showed the inability of South Korean forces to launch any offense against the North.
- Highlighted Rhee's unpopularity, making the USA more reluctant to send weapons.

Korean War was a proxy war

- Soviet's support for North's Korea's invasion
- Entry of the USA to support South Korea
- Entry of China to support North Korea
- Armistice talks

Armistice talks

- Stalin died in March 1953 and the new leadership wanted an armistice. Signed in July 1953.
- A demilitarised zone (DMZ) was established, separating the two Koreas.

Roles of the different powers in the Korean War

- The USA
- Soviet Union
- United Nations
- China

The USA

- **Aim:** Contain spread of communism in East Asia.
- Truman feared the domino effect. If one country fell to communism, all would too. Turned to the UN for help.
- Korea's fall would threaten its strategic position in the Asia-Pacific.
- Initially, South Korea was unable to defend itself effectively. The USA supported South Korea, provided forces, military aid and financial support.

Soviet Union

- **Aim:** Spread communism in East Asia.
- Gave Kim confidence to invade South Korea as he knew that he could rely on Stalin and Mao should the invasion not go smoothly.
- Boycotted the UN meetings because China was not recognised.
- Supported North Korea, provided aid to strengthen the NKPA. Convinced China to support North Korea's invasion.
- Flew Soviet aircraft but wore Chinese uniforms. **Intention?**

United Nations

- **Aim:** Put an end to the North Korean invasion of South Korea.
- The Korean War was the UN's first major challenge. **Relate to the failure of the LON.**
- Supported South Korea, condemned the North Korean invasion of South Korea.

China

- **Aims:** Spread communism in East Asia, defend border against American invasion.
- Supported North Korea.
- China warned the USA and UN that China would attack if their military moved beyond the 38th parallel. MacArthur pushed past the 38th parallel, near the Yalu River (ignored Truman's orders). China felt its security was threatened.

GCE 'O' Level Elective History
Collated Notes and Events
Unit 10: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Nikita Khrushchev	Russian	Succeeded Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuban Revolution led by Castro (1956) • Castro came to power (Jan 1959) • Land Reform Law introduced (May 1959) • The USA reduced Cuban Sugar Quota (July 1960) • Nationalisation of American properties (August 1960) • Khrushchev visited Castro in Harlem (September 1960) • The USA placed an embargo on exports to Cuba (November 1960) • Bay of Pigs invasion (April 1961) • Operation Mongoose (November 1961) • Castro identifies himself as communist, aligns with the Soviet Union (December 1961) • Cuban Missile Crisis (16 October-28 October 1962)
John F. Kennedy	American	U.S. President	
Fulgencio Batista	Cuban	President of Cuba	
Fidel Castro		Overthrew Batista's government, became the Prime Minister of Cuba	
Che Guevara		Minister of Industries	
Robert F. Kennedy	American	John Kennedy's brother	
Anatoly Dobrynin	Russian	Ambassador to the USA	

Reasons for the conflict

- Cuba's strategic importance to the USA
- Castro's policies and American responses
- Roles of Kennedy and Khrushchev

Cuba's strategic importance to the USA

- As early as the 1800s, the USA had been trying to expand its territory and influence. The USA saw included Cuba in its sphere of influence due to its close proximity to the USA.
- The USA had vested interests in Cuban sugar and tobacco and this helped the USA to profit.

Castro's policies	American responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking new markets for Cuban sugar • Land Reform Law • Nationalisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic pressure on Cuba • Attempts to remove Castro from power (Bay of Pigs, 1961 and Operation Mongoose, 1961)

Castro sought new markets for Cuban sugar

- The USA owned Cuban sugar industries but Castro wanted more markets to sell the Cuban sugar.
- Castro sought to sell Cuban sugar to the Soviet Union.
- The USA felt that it had lost a source of revenue from Cuban sugar. Its ally was also aligning with the communist bloc.

Land Reform Law

- Castro wanted to break up the large private estates in Cuba and redistribute them to the poor farmers to fulfill his promises during the Cuban Revolution
- The USA felt that Castro was moving towards socialism which was pro-communist. It threatened American economic activities in Cuba, affecting the USA's economy.

Nationalisation

- Castro nationalised American major properties and important companies.
- The USA lost its economic interest in Cuba and the Americans were unhappy.

Economic pressure on Cuba

- When Castro agreed to trade with the Soviet Union (Soviet oil for Cuban sugar), the USA was unhappy as it wanted to use its dominance over the Cuban economy to force Castro to change his policy.
- The USA reduced Cuban sugar quota.

Bay of Pigs Invasion, April 1961

- CIA-trained Cuban exiles landed on the Bay of Pigs, Cuba.
- Was a humiliating defeat for the USA and it angered the Cubans and Soviets. Pushed Castro closer to the Soviet Union.

Operation Mongoose, November 1961

- Kennedy aimed at sabotaging the Cuban economy and overthrowing Castro's regime. Included bombings of sugar plantations and assassination attempts.
- Made Castro desperate to seek help and pushed him even closer to Khrushchev.

Castro's friendship with Khrushchev

- Khrushchev visited Castro in Harlem in 1961. Castro openly associated himself with the USA's Cold War enemy.
- The Soviet Union could use Cuba as a bargaining chip to gain political leverage.

Cuba's formal alliance with the Soviet Union

- Castro declared himself a communist in 1961.
- Alarmed the USA as the Soviet Union now had an ally right at the USA's doorstep.

Soviet Union's interests

Political gains	Military and strategic gains
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Cuba as a bargaining chip to gain leverage. • Increase his prestige as the leader of the communist bloc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More missiles can now reach the USA. So? • Launch attacks on the USA more effectively.

Impacts of the Cuban Missile Crisis

	The USA	Soviet Union	Cuba
Reputation of leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful. • Secured his position in the government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost prestige. • Lost political power and removed from position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seen as a national hero.
Relations with its allies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATO members were unhappy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba felt betrayed. • China accused the Soviet Union for backing down during the crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to be the Soviet Union's ally.
Security concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had to accept the fact that Cuba remained as a communist threat in its backyard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat of Jupiter missiles removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost nuclear protection. • Well-protected by the Soviets.

Who won the Cuban Missile Crisis?

	The USA	Soviet Union
Won	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy gained popularity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained Soviet security after Jupiter missiles were removed. • Remained to have Cuba as their closest base to the USA
Lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba still remained a communist threat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost credibility as leader of the communist bloc; dismissed from position

GCE 'O' Level Elective History
Collated Notes and Events
Unit 11: The End of the Cold War

Important figures	Nationality	Role	Important events
Richard Nixon	American	37 th U.S. President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brezhnev Doctrine (1968) • Nixon ushered in a period of détente (1969) • Reagan became President; abandoned détente and renewed the arms race (1981) • Gorbachev became leader (1985) • Reagan and Gorbachev met at the Geneva Summit (1985) • Glasnost and Perestroika (1986) • Fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) • Reunification of East and West Germany (1990) • The Soviet Union disintegrated (1991)
Ronald Reagan		40 th U.S. President	
Leonid Brezhnev	Russian	Succeeded Khrushchev, 5 th leader of the Soviet Union	
Mikhail Gorbachev		8 th and last leader of the Soviet Union	
Boris Yeltsin		First Russian President	

When explaining the long-term developments which led to the end of the Cold War, you must present both perspectives – meaning the USA and the Soviet Union's actions, policies and capabilities etc. And the role of Gorbachev is very important so you must definitely mention him. Détente refers to 'relaxed tension'.

Reasons for the end of the Cold War

- Economic might of the USA
- Weaknesses of the Soviet economy
- Impacts of Glasnost and Perestroika on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

Long-term developments

- American economic and military superiority
 - Economic boom in the USA and Western European countries
 - Renewal of the arms race
- Declining confidence in communist ideology and failure of the Soviet economy
 - Command economy vs. free market economy
 - Lack of consumer goods and low quality of life
 - External economic burdens of the Soviet Union
 - Increasing resistance within the communist bloc

Economic boom in the USA and Western European countries

- Enabled the USA to recover from the economic downturn in the 1980s.
- Compare the success of the USA's Marshall Plan and the ineffectiveness of Soviet bartering.

Renewal of the arms race

- The boom provided Reagan with money to renew the arms race.
- Funding of the costly Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or 'Star Wars' Programme to develop new technologies, preventing the USA from nuclear attacks.
- Put pressure on the Soviet Union to keep up with the USA.

Command economy vs. free market economy

- The structural weakness of the command economy meant that the Soviet Union was no match for the USA.
- Resulted in an urgent need for the Soviet economy to save the economy to restore public confidence.

Command economy	Free market economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disallows private ownership. • Does not give individual producers the freedom to decide on what and how much to produce. • Poor economic decisions; poor quality of goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows private ownership. • Gives individual producers the freedom to decide on what and how much to produce. • Results in greater competition.

Lack of consumer goods and low quality of life

- The Soviets had neglected the production of consumer goods since the 1930s (relate to C2) as most resources were channelled to military production.
- Worsened the lives of the people in the USSR and Eastern Europe due to their poor standard of living. Lack of faith in communism.

External economic burdens of the Soviet Union

- The USA's economy benefited from strong trading partners but the USSR had to bear the burden of supporting economically weaker allies.
- The Soviet-Afghan War took a great toll on Soviet resources.
- Made it difficult for the USSR to sustain its military competition with the USA.

Increasing resistance within the communist bloc

- According to the Brezhnev Doctrine, no country within the Warsaw Pact was allowed to leave the Pact or threaten the cohesiveness of the Soviet bloc. The Soviets intervened in revolutions.
- The harsh treatment led to strong criticism by the American governments.

Short-term developments

- Gorbachev's reforms
 - Glasnost
 - Perestroika
 - Foreign policy reforms

When answering essay questions regarding Gorbachev's reforms, it is important to understand his objectives and where necessary, determine if his reforms succeeded or failed.

Glasnost

- Meant 'openness', which called for greater freedom of speech. Relaxation of censorship.
- Those in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were exposed to information about the outside world. Made people lose confidence in the communist regimes. ***What is so good about the West?***
- Many in the communist bloc criticised Gorbachev for political and economic failures. Swept him from power. Many lost faith in communism and desired independence.

Perestroika

- Meant 'restructuring', which was a series of economic and political reforms. Allowed private ownership of businesses and the prices of goods and services were to be decided by enterprises, not the state.
- Poor and inadequate infrastructure and transport (provide examples) resulted in food not being transported in a timely manner and spoilage of food.
- Private enterprises had the freedom on the type and amount of goods to produce. Food shortage and lack of basic consumer goods.
- Many workers had their salaries and pensions reduced to make the company more profitable. ***Social impact?***
- Those in the satellite states did not believe in the communist way of life.

Foreign Policy Reforms (nuclear disarmament, de-ideologisation of Soviet foreign policy)

- Introduced 'New Thinking'. Global problems ought to be solved based on shared moral and ethical principles.
- Fostered peaceful relations with the west which helped to reduce mutual suspicion. No longer competing for military superiority.
- Nuclear disarmament talks with Reagan at the 1985 Geneva Summit.
- Encouraged people in the communist bloc to rise up and diverge from communism. Create their respective governments.
- Reduced the Soviet Union's support base. Unable to support itself as a superpower.