

# Y9 Revision: TOPIC 1 – Post War Dictatorships

## Democracy vs. Dictatorship:

After world war one, many countries had to make a choice about whether they would become democracies. What is the difference between a democracy and a dictatorship?

**Democracy:** The idea is that ordinary people have their say on how their country is run. There are several political parties to choose from and they hold regular elections where the people get to choose their leaders. The people who are elected then represent the people who voted for them in an organisation such as Parliament.

**Dictatorship:** Ordinary people have no say in how their country is run. There are no regular elections because the country is run by one party or person and so there is no one else to vote for! This person is usually supported by a close group of advisors and an army.



Spread of Democracy... ?



## Case Study 2: Italy

The Italians had been made a lot of promises during WW1 and they were almost all broken. The Government had failed to win the support of the people so they chose to become a fascist dictatorship.

### What did Benito Mussolini do?

- Wealth was encouraged and supported to get the economy going.
- A strong military was built up so that Italy could show off their strength in wars.
- Children were brainwashed in school and prepared to become future soldiers.
- Everyone was advised to inform on anyone who did not support fascism and Mussolini.
- Religion was allowed and the Pope even publically supported Mussolini and the fascists.

## Case Study 1: Russia

80% of the people in Russia were poor farmers and under the rule of Tsar Nicholas II, they had been ignored. The people eventually revolted and in 1917, the Tsar was overthrown and Russia became a Communist Dictatorship.

### What did Josef Stalin do?

- All private ownership was banned and the wealth was to be shared amongst the people equally. There should be no class system, just Russians.
- No religion. Stalin wanted Russians to obey him, not God.
- Not everyone in Russia was a fan of Communism, especially the rich. To ensure everyone obeyed, Stalin created a state of terror. People could be arrested for the crime of disliking the leaders and everyone was encouraged to spy on everyone else.
- All media and news was controlled by the state.



## Case Study 3: Germany

The people of Germany felt betrayed by their government for surrendering in WW1. To make it worse, the government signed the Treaty of Versailles that took money and land from Germany. The people turned to Hitler and became a fascist country.

### What did Adolf Hitler do?

- Hitler rebuilt the military and readied them for WW2.
- All children were brainwashed in school and prepared for being soldiers in the Hitler Youth groups.
- Many women were forced to give up work and become housewives.
- He set up spies and secret police to arrest and imprison anyone who opposed him.
- He encouraged wealth and businesses to create jobs.
- He promoted the "master race" or "Aryan race" and made all who did not fit, unwelcome or worse.



# Y9 Revision: TOPIC 2 – The Cold War

## What it is:

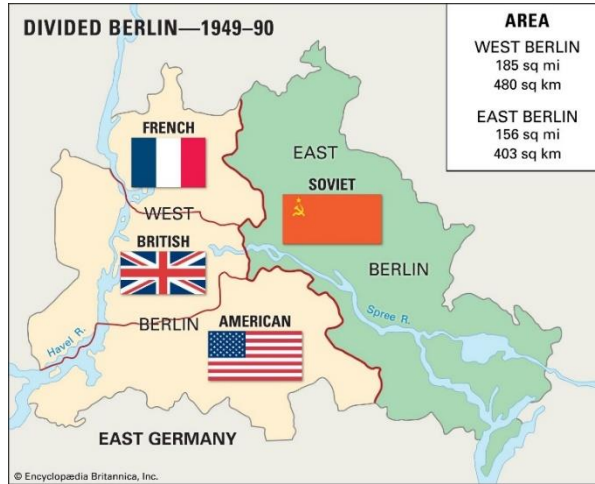
After WW2 ended, two super powers emerged; the USA and the Soviet Union (Russia). Both sides disliked one another and wanted to be the strongest country in the world. The USA was a capitalist democracy and the Soviet Union was a Communist Dictatorship.



The danger of this competition and fear of one another's growing influence was that both sides had developed nuclear weapons and if they ever actually went to war, they could use them against each other.

Both sides spied, competed with and supported each others enemies but never actually got in to a direct war. This is why it is called the Cold War; because it never heated up in to a full scale war.

The Cold War lasted from 1945-1989 and would define half a century for planet earth.



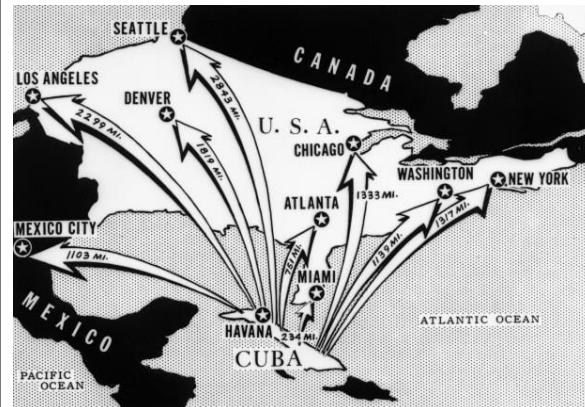
## The Berlin Wall:

Berlin, the capital of Germany, was very important in the Cold War. After WW2 ended, Germany was divided up amongst the winning countries and Berlin was also divided in a similar way. As relations between the Soviets and the USA worsened, the Soviets decided to isolate their part of Berlin from their enemies. In 1961, the Soviet Union built a wall that stretched across Berlin. Families were cut off from one another and no one was allowed to cross the divide. The wall remained standing for the next 28 years and was finally torn down in 1989. The collapse of the Berlin Wall is considered to be the end of the Cold War. In the end, the USA were the victors and Communism in Russia came to an end, as did their Soviet Empire.

## The Cuban Missile Crisis:

The Cuban Missile Crisis took place in October 1962. The USA had been putting nuclear weapons in Turkey which angered the Soviets as this was close to their capital in Moscow. In retaliation, the Soviets decided to put nuclear weapons in Cuba; an island only 90 miles from Miami and a Communist ally of the Soviets.

A US spy plane spotted the ships carrying the weapons and the US Navy was mobilised to stop the ships. This led to 13 days where the world waited to see if the US and the Soviets would finally begin shooting at one another. There was a genuine fear that nuclear weapons were about to be used. The US navy blocked the Soviet Navy from reaching Cuba and after 13 days of negotiations, President Kennedy and Soviet leader Khrushchev came to an agreement to stand down. Both navies retreated and both removed their nuclear weapons from close territories. Whilst this came to nothing in the end, it is seen as the closest this world has come to nuclear war.





## Y9 Revision: TOPIC 3 – USA Civil Rights



### **Rosa Parks:**

Rosa Parks famously refused to move seats to allow white passengers to sit down on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Parks was arrested but it sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This was when the Black community in Montgomery refused to use the buses and was led by Martin Luther King Jr. Black passengers were the main users of the city buses and it lasted for 381 days, almost bankrupting the bus company. In the end this became a court case that went all the way to the highest court in America; the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court argued that the segregation on the buses was illegal. The bus company was forced to change its rules and the Black community had a first victory over cruel desegregation laws.



### **Malcolm X:**

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little. He was the descendent of former slaves who had been forced to take the surname of their white master; Little. Malcolm refused to use it and instead took the surname X.

Like Martin Luther King Jr, X was an outspoken and crucial figure in the fight for Civil Rights. However, he did not agree with King's methods. X called for violent rebellion and that Blacks and Whites should live totally separate lives on different continents. X was gunned down by 3 members of the Nation of Islam religious group.



### **Martin Luther King Jr:**

Martin Luther King Jr was an American Baptist Minister and Civil Rights leader. He rose to fame in 1955 in the Montgomery Bus Boycott and remained a central figure in the fight for Civil Rights until his assassination in 1968. In 1963, King famously led a march through the streets of Washington DC (the capital of the USA) and gave a speech on the steps in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Over 250,000 people from all backgrounds attended to show their support for the Civil Rights movement. This speech is one of the most famous in history as King famously said "I have a dream...".

On the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1968, King was shot and killed by white gunman, James Earl Ray, an outspoken racist who hated black people and their fight for equality. Ray was sent to prison for 99 years for the crime, which he confessed to once he was caught.



### **School Desegregation:**

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that, just like the bus rules, segregation in schools was unlawful. In 1957, 9 very brave black students enrolled at the previously all white Little Rock High School in Arkansas; a very racist area. These 9 students were racially abused and physically threatened by the students and parents of the white students.

It became so dangerous that President Eisenhower had to send in US soldiers to protect the students as they travelled to and from school and also during their lessons. This was the first time that black students had entered a previously all white school in the deep south and was a symbol of resistance and equality for many to come. All 9 students were given the Congressional Gold Medal (highest civilian medal in the USA) in 1999 by President Clinton to honour their bravery.