

Part One:

The origins of the Cold War 1941–58

Early tension between East and West

The ideological differences between the superpowers

In a hot war, countries fight each other directly. However, for almost 50 years the USA and the Soviet Union were locked in a tense standoff known as the Cold War. They competed with each other in almost every area of life. At the heart of this cold conflict were two very different ways of looking at the world:

	Communism (Soviet Union)	Capitalism (USA)
Political parties	Only the Communist Party is allowed.	Numerous political parties compete with each other.
Elections	No democratic elections. Communist rule cannot be changed.	Governments are chosen in regular democratic elections.
Economy	The state directs the running of the economy. All businesses and factories are state-owned.	People can freely set up businesses and make money. The state does not interfere.
Employment	Everybody is provided with a job.	Employment varies depending on economic performance. It is not for the state to provide.
Equality	Everyone is considered equal. Living standards are broadly similar, with no extremes.	Equality of opportunity, not outcome. There are big differences in wealth.
Rights	Obedience to the state is more important than individual rights. Strict controls exist over what people can say or write.	Individual rights such as freedom of speech and the press are protected.

DO IT!

- 1 Sum up communist ideology in one sentence. Do the same for capitalism.
- 2 Highlight two policies you agree with and two you oppose.