

# The Cold War



**AMERICA  
AND THE  
COLD WAR**

**Cold War** – period of **extreme** tension between the US and the USSR (1945 – 1989) – no actual fighting

United despite differences during WW2 –  
**didn't trust each other**

# Causes of the Cold War: **BEAR**

**B** – beliefs

**E** – events (turned  
mistrust into war)

**A** – aims

**R** – resentment  
(about history)



# B – Beliefs

USSR – communist country ruled by a **totalitarian** dictatorship - **Joseph Stalin**  
-government ruled with absolute power

US – capitalist democracy

**\*\*Capitalism and Communism are  
opposite\*\***

# E – Events (turned mistrust into war)

Yalta Conference 1945 – Allies decide what to do about Germany and Poland after war

- Germany divided into zones

- Poland's government would have communists and some non-communists

- plans for United Nations

# The Big Three – Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin



# **E – Events (turned mistrust into war)**

**Potsdam Conference 1945 – Allies discussed ending war with Japan, argued about Germany**

- Non-communists arrested in Poland
- US did not tell USSR about atomic bomb





# A – Aims

USSR wanted reparations from Germany;  
US wanted to help them recover

USSR wanted to rebuild on their terms (lost  
20 mil in WW2) - wanted a “buffer of  
friendly states”  
*-protection*

# A – Aims

Stalin refused free elections in eastern Europe

By 1948:

*Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany*

**Soviet Satellites** – heavily influenced by USSR

# A – Aims

Yugoslavia became communist  
Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania became part  
of Soviet Union

*“an iron curtain has descended across the  
Continent.”* – Winston Churchill, 1946

[Brief Iron Curtain Speech - YouTube](#)



# **R – Resentment (about History)**

Stalin felt abandoned during WW2 –  
hoped for D-Day invasion sooner  
-Stalingrad/invasion of Italy

Other Allies upset USSR signed  
agreement with Germany