

Chapter 4 revision checklist

You will need to be able to:

- Describe the main features of the Yalta and Potsdam agreements, and analyse how much each of the “Big Three” gained from them.
- Explain why disagreements emerged at Potsdam.
- Understand the influence of the “Long Telegram” and Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech on President Truman’s approach to the USSR after the Second World War.
- Explain why the future of Germany caused tension between the USA and USSR.
- Describe how Stalin took control of eastern Europe.
- Explain why Stalin wanted to build an empire in eastern Europe.
- Explain why relations between the superpowers broke down between 1944 and 1950. You should understand how ideological differences, mutual suspicions, the creation of the eastern bloc, and American plans for post-war Europe all contributed to the start of the Cold War.
- Describe the main features of Truman’s containment policy, the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, and explain why they were introduced.
- Explain Stalin’s reaction to the Marshall Plan.
- Describe the post-war arrangements for Germany.
- Explain why Stalin viewed the actions of the western powers with suspicion, and why he decided to blockade West Berlin.
- Describe the main features of the Berlin airlift and the effect this had on the people of West Berlin.
- Explain the effects of the blockade: the formal division of Germany, the creation of NATO.
- Argue a case that Stalin and Truman were both to blame for supporting the Cold War, and present an argument defending each of their roles.