



**KZN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**EFFINGHAM SECONDARY SCHOOL**



**GRADE 9**

**HISTORY**

**THE COLD WAR AND THE NUCLEAR AGE**

**1. INCREASING TENSION BETWEEN THE ALLIES AT THE END OF WORLD WAR 2**

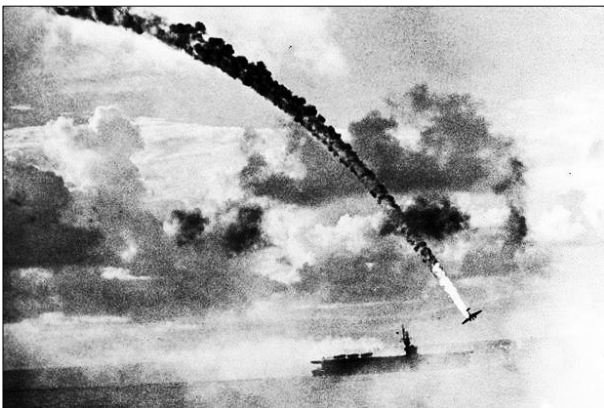
During World War II, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR/Russia) and the United States of America (USA) were allies. The two countries had little in common except and mutual dislike of Nazism/Fascism. As long as Nazi Germany existed, they had a common enemy to keep them unified.

Once Nazi Germany had been defeated, the reason for their alliance was gone. Both of them wanted more power and influence in the world and both appear to be threatened by the other. They had very different views about how the world should be governed and how economies should run. The USA was democratic and followed a capitalist economic system, while the USSR followed a communist system both politically and economically.

**Tensions increased between them when:**

- The USA developed the atomic bomb. This new weapon was created during World War II and kept a secret from the USSR - despite the fact the USA and Russia were allies.
- The USA believed that the USSR wanted to spread communism all over Europe and the USSR believed that the USA wanted to end communism and dominate Europe.

**2. THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC:**



Although the war in Europe ended in **May 1945**, the war in the Pacific between the USA and Japan continued. Japan relied on her strong navy to protect her and the Japanese appeared to be unstoppable. The turningpoint came when the Japanese were beaten at the Battle of Midway. Japan's naval power was broken, but they refused to surrender. Instead, pilots volunteered to become

'**Kamikaze**' – suicide pilots (see picture on the left). They began flying their planes directly into US warships, killing themselves and the

By **July 1945**, the Americans decided to use

sailors on the US ships.

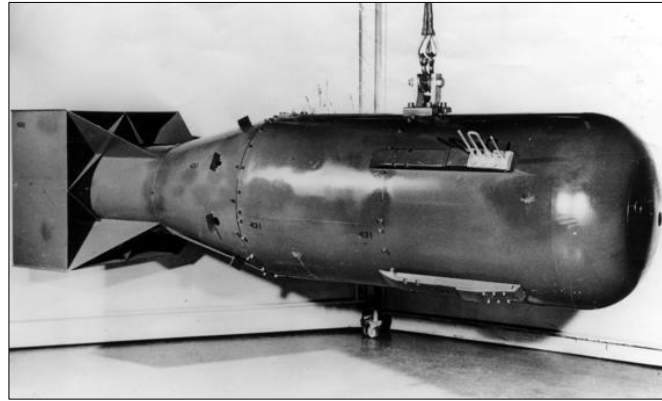
their new weapon, the Atom Bomb, in an effort to end the war with Japan. While bombs had been used right through World War II, this bomb was bigger than any other weapon previously used. It was decided to target Japanese cities that had not yet been under serious attack. This way the destructive power of the bombs could be clearly seen.

The cities of Kyoto and Hiroshima were selected at first, but Kyoto was an ancient city, full of history, so it was decided to target Hiroshima instead. Hiroshima was an industrial city with a population of about 300 000 people.

On **6 August 1945**, a **B-29 bomber** plane named the '**Enola Gay**' took off for Japan. On board was the first atomic bomb to ever be used in combat. The bomb was named '**Little Boy**'. At **8:16 a.m.**, the bomb was detonated above the Aioi Bridge in the centre of Hiroshima. It was slightly off target and exploded over a hospital in the city. Moments after the explosion, all that was left of the hospital were a few concrete pillars. Thousands of people within a 500 metre radius were killed instantly. People up to two kilometres away were burned by the searing heat that followed the explosion. The shock wave flattened houses up to 24 kilometres away. No one had ever seen such destruction. There was little the Japanese government could do to help.



Pilot Paul Tibbets and the Enola Gay



Little Boy

Many reasons were given for the decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan and to this day, historians remain divided as to whether it was justified (the right thing to do) or not. The most commonly accepted reason is that it would result in fewer deaths, both military and civilian, than if the war had carried on indefinitely. In western countries, most people felt that it was necessary to end the war, but the Japanese issued a public criticism on the bombing. They called the USA the 'destroyer of mankind' and they still refused to surrender. However, the USA did not give Japan much time to reconsider its decision.

On **9 August 1945**, a second US bombing mission was sent to Japan, headed for the town of **Nagasaki**. A bomb called '**Fat Man**' was used this time. It is estimated that 77 000 people died during this second nuclear attack.

**Below is a table explaining the different opinions regarding the dropping of the atom bomb:**

<b>Those who argue that it was <u>justifiable</u> (right) claim that:</b>	<b>Those who think it was <u>unjustifiable</u> (wrong) argue:</b>
It was impossible to tell how long the war would last and how many people would have died.	Japan's military was so devastated by August 1945 that the war would have ended in a matter of weeks.
It was a way of ending the suffering and hardships that had been experienced during the war.	The Japanese were ready to surrender but were not given enough time.
The war had gone on too long and it needed to end.	The bombing was a war crime as it targeted civilians.
The USA needed to show other countries that it was not afraid of them.	The USA knew of the tremendous damage it would cause.

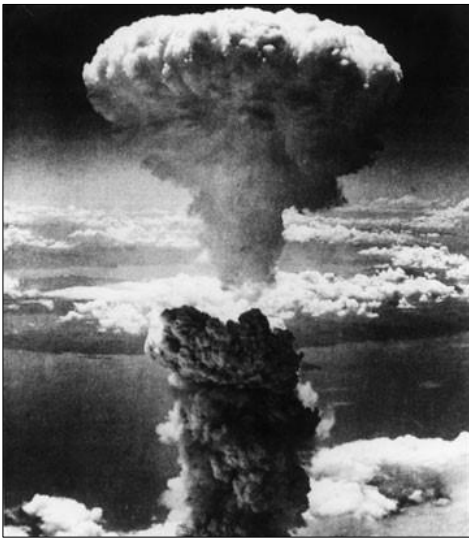
## Which opinion do you agree with?

### Activity 1:

Read pages 3 and 4 of your notes, study the sources below and then answer the following questions:

#### Source A:

This photograph shows the infamous 'mushroom cloud' that appeared after the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.



#### Source B:

This photograph shows Hiroshima after the bomb blast. More people were killed in air raids on other Japanese cities, but what made the Atom Bomb so terrifying was that it took only one bomb to destroy a whole city.



#### Source C:

A Journalist's account of the effects of the bomb on Hiroshima.

Many were killed instantly. Others lay twisting their bodies on the ground screaming in agony from the unbearable pain of their burns. Everything standing upright in the way of the blast – walls, houses, factories and other buildings – was completely destroyed. Horses, dogs and cattle suffered the same fate as human beings.

#### Source D:

A father remembers his daughter's death from radiation sickness.

My daughter had no burns and only minor external wounds, but on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September she suddenly became sick. She had spots all over her body. Her hair began to fall out. She vomited small clumps of blood many times. After 10 days of agony, she died.

### Questions:

1. Use the sources and your notes to explain the physical and emotional damages caused by the dropping of the atom bombs. (6x1) (6)
2. The selection of these sources is one-sided (biased). Why do you think they were chosen? (1x2) (2)
3. Which two sources are the most powerful? Give a reason for your answer. (1x2) (2)

### 3. DEFINITION OF THE SUPER POWERS AND THE MEANING OF 'COLD WAR':

#### 3.1 The Super Powers:

After World War II, the **USA and the USSR** emerged as **world leaders**. The old colonial powers (Britain and France) were economically damaged after the war and their Empires were crumbling. The USA and USSR filled the gap and they became **known as the 'Super Powers'** because they were the most powerful countries in the west and the east respectively.

Both were leading **industrial** countries and had the **strongest military forces** in the world. Both wanted to **increase their power and control**. Distrust and tension grew between them. The main reason for this tension was their differing economic and political systems: **capitalism and democracy versus communism**. Each super power tried to influence other countries to support its policies and way of life. As a result, after 1945, the world became divided into two blocs, each led by one of the super powers:

- The **capitalist West**: followed democratic political systems and was **led by the USA** and the western European countries.
- The **communist Bloc**: was **led by the USSR** and the eastern European nations and followed a communist political and economic system.

#### 4.2 What was the Cold War?

The beginning of the Nuclear Age with the dropping of the atom bombs on Japan created a problem for the Super Powers. In the past, when countries competed for power and influence, they went to war. The winner of the war determined who was stronger and who would dominate world affairs. Nuclear power changed this. At first only the USA had the atom bomb, but eventually the USSR had it too. Because the bomb was such a devastating weapon, a new form of competition had to be found.

The destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki proved the **atomic bomb was too dangerous** a weapon so the **super powers could never actually fight each other** in a 'hot war' in which they used these weapons. Instead, **they fought a 'cold war' from 1945-1991**. It was called the Cold War as they never actually fought each other on a battlefield. **It was a war of ideologies (ideas) and beliefs and was fought with words and propaganda in the media.**

<b>The Capitalist West led by the USA</b>	<b>The Communist East led by the USSR</b>
Capitalist economic system.	Communism – state control over economy.
Free to trade with whom so ever you want.	State handles international trade.
Encouraged to make as much money as possible.	People paid by the state according to their needs.
Property is privately owned.	No private ownership.
Multiple political parties.	One party state – the Communist Party.
Freedom of speech, religion, movement, etc.	Basic human freedoms are limited.
Democracy – one person, one vote.	Dictatorship.

#### 4.3 HOW IT BEGAN:

At the end of World War II, the **Nazi government** in Germany led by Hitler **was destroyed**. The war was lost and the Nazi leadership was either dead, in jail or in exile. Hitler had

destroyed all opposition to the Nazis so there was **no one to replace them**. As a result, the Allies took control of Germany to ensure that Nazism had been stamped out and that the Germans would not wage another war.

At a conference held in February 1945, the Allied leaders, Roosevelt (USA), Churchill (Britain) and Stalin (USSR) – **the Big Three** – realised they were going to win the war and **decided that Germany needed to be divided into four zones**. Each zone would be controlled by one of the Allies, including France. The idea was that they **would administer** these zones **until** they were running smoothly again and ready to hold **elections**. The Allies would then leave and Germany would be an independent country again.



Map of Germany Divided

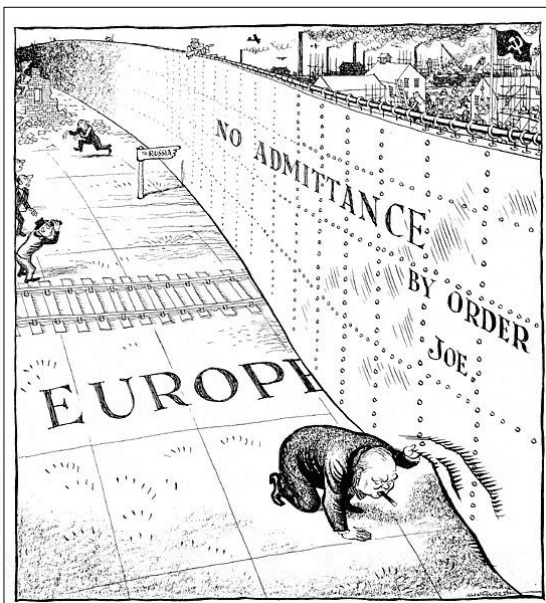


Map of Berlin under Allied Occupation

The capital of Germany, **Berlin**, would lie **in the Russian zone** and this was **not acceptable** to the USA and Britain, so it was decided that Berlin would **also be divided** into four zones of occupation. This was to cause problems later.

After the war in Europe was over, another meeting of the Big Three took place in Potsdam, a suburb of Berlin in **July 1945**, and there had been some changes. Roosevelt had died in **April 1945**, and the new US President, **Harry S. Truman**, did not like Stalin. While at the Potsdam Conference, **Churchill** was called home when he lost a general election and he was **replaced by Clement Atlee**. Atlee had not expected to win the election and was totally unprepared for the rivalry between Truman and Stalin.

It was at this conference that Truman may have warned Stalin about the new weapon that America had created – the nuclear bomb – but Stalin did not seem to be too concerned about it. The next month, August, Truman ordered the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



In **March 1946**, **Churchill** travelled to the USA and expressed his concerns to Truman in a speech at Fulton College Missouri on **5 March**. This became known as the '**Iron Curtain**' Speech. Churchill claimed that Stalin had taken over most of Eastern Europe as a result of World War II and only the USA was financially (and militarily) strong enough to prevent Communism spreading further.

On **12 March 1947**, Truman announced his intention to stop the spread of Communism any further in Europe. This is known as the **Truman Doctrine**. He also believed that communism spread where there was poverty and he was afraid that if the USA did not give financial aid to Europe, communism would take

over.

**Financial aid was given to Europe in the form of the Marshall Plan.** Western European countries took full advantage of America's generosity, but **Stalin** would not allow the Eastern European countries to get money from the USA as he **said it was just a propaganda exercise** by the USA to gain support.

As a result of the Marshall Plan, Western Europe and the three western zones of Germany began to recover quickly. Britain, France and the USA decided it was time to reunify Germany, but Stalin refused to allow this zone to join the other three. As a result, two Germanys began to develop.

- The Western side, including West Berlin, began to develop democratic and capitalist institutions. Economically, it recovered rapidly.
- The Eastern side, including the rest of Berlin, began leaning towards Communism and had little economic or political freedom. Economically, it began to stagnate.

The clear economic division between West and East Germany could be seen most clearly in Berlin. East Germans and those living in East Berlin could see how well the Western side of the capital was doing financially. They started to become dissatisfied and began leaving to go to the West, especially those with skills. They wanted to be paid for their skills and enjoy the freedoms the West Berliners seemed to have.



### The Berlin Blockade:

In **June 1948**, Stalin tried to force the three western Allies out of West Berlin by blocking off all land routes into West Berlin – no road, rail or canal transport at all. This meant food and other essential supplies could not be obtained. West Berliners believed they were going to be attacked by the East Germans and there was a feeling of

panic.

### The Berlin Airlift:

If the West was forced to abandon West Berlin, it would look as though the democratic states could not protect it and Stalin would win a propaganda victory. The Western democracies response was to organise an airlift and bring supplies to West Berlin through the airports. Stalin would never shoot down a civilian plane as this was an act of war – and he does not have the Atom bomb like the USA – yet!

The Allies flew 277 264 flights to bring in daily supplies to West Berlin for almost 11 months. In May 1949, Stalin lifted the blockade and goods could move freely overland again. It was a propaganda victory for the USA and the West.



### Results:

In 1949, it was realised that Germany was not going to be reunited.

- The **Western** side became the *German Federal Republic* and was a democracy.

- The **Eastern** side became the *German Democratic Republic* and was a communist state. Do not let the names confuse you!
- They remained two separate countries **until 1989**.
- The Berlin Blockade made the Western Democracies realise how vulnerable they would be to an attack should the USSR ever decide to become aggressive. The **Western democracies formed NATO in 1949** – the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation – as a defence system against such an attack.

**This was not the end of the story with regards to Germany and Berlin, but it will be returned to later in the notes.**

**Activity 2:**

Read pages 6-9 of your notes and answer the following questions:

- 1. Match the terms in Column A with the definitions in Column B. Write the numbers 1.1 to 1.4 next to the margin in your exercise book and write only the letter of the correct answer.**

<b>COLUMN A</b>	<b>COLUMN B</b>
1.1 Communism	A. A propaganda war between the two super powers, the USA and the USSR. B. A political system that allows for freedom of choice during elections. C. An economic system that encourages competition and the ability to make profits. D. An economic and political system in which the state controls everything.
1.2 Capitalism	
1.3 Cold War	
1.4 Democracy	

(4x1) (4)

- 2. Of which countries were the following men the leaders?**

2.1 Winston Churchill:

2.2 Harry Truman:

2.3 Joseph Stalin:

2.4 Clement Atlee:

2.5 F.D. Roosevelt:

(5x1) (5)

- 3. In no more than two sentences, explain why Germany and its capital city, Berlin, were divided into four zones of occupation. (2x2) (4)**

- 4. Study the British cartoon at the top of page 8 and answer the following questions in your exercise book.**

4.1 Identify the figure kneeling on the ground peering under the curtain. (1x1)  
(1)

4.2 What is the curtain he is peering under made of? (1x1)  
(1)

4.3 The writing on the curtain says, "No admittance by order Joe". Who is "Joe"? (1x1) (1)

4.4 Do you think that the person who drew the cartoon (cartoonist) is in favour or against the USSR? Give a reason for your answer. (1x2) (2)

**5. Study the cartoon at the bottom of page 8 and answer the following questions.**

- 5.1 What kind of animal is shown in the cartoon and which country does it represent? (2x1) (2)
- 5.2 Look carefully. There are three small flags shown in the area surrounded by the animal's arms. Name two of the countries they represent. (2x1) (2)
- 5.3 What event is being portrayed in this cartoon? (1x1)  
(1)

**6. Study the cartoon at the top of page 9 and answer the following questions.**

- 6.1 Who is the man standing in the chimney on the roof top? (1x1)  
(1)
- 6.2 What is he holding in his hands? (1x1)  
(1)
- 6.3 Why did he not use the item in his hands? (1x1)  
(1)
- 6.4 What are the storks (birds) carrying in their beaks? (1x1)  
(1)
- 6.5 Who do the storks represent? (1x1)  
(1)
- 6.6 Whose side do you think the cartoonist is on, the man's or the storks? Give a reason for your answer. (1x2) (2)
- [30]**

***Refer to your Our World Our Society to answer the following questions***

- USSR (Communism) vs USA and The West (Capitalism)
- Read through pages 175-176 and answer activity 6.2
- End of world war 2 in the pacific: Atomic bombs and the beginning of Nuclear Age
- Read pages 178 to 179 and answer activity 6.4
- Read pages 180 to 183 –answer activity 6.5