The Early Cold War: 1947-1961
KGB = abbreviation of Committee for State Security - an organization with a military hierarchy aimed at providing national defense, and the defense of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Command Economy - supply and price are regulated by the government rather than market forces (i.e. market economy). Government planners decide which goods and services are produced and how they are distributed.

In this bipolar world, countries were prompted to align themselves with one or the other of the superpower blocs (a Non-Aligned Movement would emerge later, during the 1960s).

NAM – founded by India and Yugoslavia - Members have, at various times, included: Yugoslavia, India, Ghana, Pakistan, Algeria, Libya, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Indonesia, Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, post-1994 South Africa, Iran, Malaysia, ----It was founded in April 1955; as of 2007, it has 118 members

to ensure "the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries" in their "struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, interference or hegemony

They represent nearly two-thirds of the United Nations's members and comprise 55 percent of the world population, particularly countries considered to be developing or part of the third world

A proxy war is a war that results when two powers use third parties as substitutes for fighting each other directly.
Focus on Berlin

- After World War II, Germany was divided into four zones, occupied by French, British, American, and Soviet troops.

*Occupation zones after 1945. Berlin is the multinational area within the Soviet zone.*
June 1947 – USSR announces “Molotov Plan” – to economically revitalize eastern bloc nations

Stalin also sought to:
• squash any political dissent – show trials, coerced confessions, executions
• Forced anti-communists from Hungarian gov’t, and rigged elections to create a pro-Soviet gov’t

• US/UK saw the revival of Germany economy as a counter to Russia, and an alternative to provide in Western Europe.
• 1948 – united their zones – formed western germany (inc. western zone of Berlin) – integrate Germany into European economy
• This angered Russians who wanted a weak Germany for security reasons
• June 1947 – USSR cut off the flow of supplies by rail and truck from the western zones into Berlin.
• Stalin’s aim – to force the western zones either to give up on their plans for west Germany or to abandon Berlin.
After Stalin had died in March 1953, he was succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Georgi Malenkov as Premier of the Soviet Union.

The new leadership declared an amnesty for:
- some serving prison sentences for criminal offences,
- relaxed the restrictions on private plots.

De-Stalinization also spelled an end to the role of large-scale forced labor in the economy.

**De-Stalinization** refers to the process of eliminating the cult of personality and Stalinist political system created by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.

The process of freeing Gulag prisoners was started.

Khrushchev shocked his listeners by denouncing Stalin's dictatorial rule and cult of personality.
Due to the closure of the East-West sector boundary in Berlin many families were split, while East Berliners employed in the West were cut off from their jobs; West Berlin became an isolated enclave in a hostile land. West Berliners demonstrated against the wall and strongly criticized the United States for failing to respond with anything other than denouncing the wall.