

WW2 HISTORY.COM

To what extent was Stalin to blame for the start of the Cold War?

Activity One: Cut out all the cards (Resource One). As you watch the films be ready to place the cards on the leaders chart (Resource Two). For example, if you think that Stalin was to blame for the event on the card then place it in his column on the chart.

Activity Two: After the film has finished look at the cards in each column. Arrange them in order of importance i.e. place the most important cause of hostility between the USSR and USA / UK at the top of the column. Discuss your findings with your class.

Activity Three: Write an answer to the question 'To what extent was Stalin to blame for the start of the Cold War?' Make sure that you use as much of the specific evidence contained in the cards as possible.

Resource One

<p>In Spring 1946 Churchill made a speech at Fulton, Missouri where he said that an 'Iron Curtain' had descended across Europe</p>	<p>Stalin was full of resentment towards the west because his Red Army had suffered so much more in the war than the British and Americans</p>	<p>Churchill said in his speech in Missouri that the Iron Curtain that the Soviets had drawn across Europe would not bring peace or democracy and should be resisted</p>
<p>Stalin didn't believe that a close partnership was possible with the western powers after World War Two.</p>	<p>Stalin didn't see why the west should interfere in Eastern Europe – the Red Army had conquered</p>	<p>The USA launched the Marshall Plan in 1947. Any European country could receive aid so long as they agreed to principles set out by the Americans e.g. freedom of speech</p>
<p>Stalin was only allies with the western powers during the war because he thought it was necessary to defeat Hitler</p>	<p>In 1945-6 Stalin wanted Eastern Europe to be influenced but not completely controlled by Communism.</p>	<p>Stalin responded to the Marshall Plan in 1947 by completely taking over Eastern European countries and making them fully communist</p>
<p>At the Potsdam Conference, July 1945, the western leaders struggled to do deals with a difficult Stalin</p>	<p>When Stalin seizes complete control of Eastern European countries after the introduction of Marshall Aid the USA do nothing</p>	

Resource Two

To what extent was Stalin to blame for the start of the Cold War?

UK (Leader: Churchill, then Attlee)	USA (Leader: Roosevelt, then Truman)	USSR (Leader: Stalin)