

THE UNITED STATES is a CAPITALIST DEMOCRACY.



CAPITALIST means that it believes in the freedom to make money. It provides freedom and opportunity but also leads to great inequality

DEMOCRACY is when people are given the choice to elect representatives at election times.

FREEDOMS

Basic freedoms are guaranteed.



1) DIFFERENCES

THE USSR (or Soviet Union) was a COMMUNIST COUNTRY.



Russia became the first Communist country in 1917

COMMUNISM

Communists believed wealth should be shared and inequality should not exist. There is no rich and poor as everyone is supposed to be equal

AUTHORITARIAN

However, it also led to strong authoritarian rule. There was only one Party- the Communist party.

RESTRICTIONS

Freedoms were restricted. The press and freedom of speech were restricted.



HOWEVER, WORLD WAR TWO UNITED THE POWERS (USSR, USA, UK) AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY : HITLER

There was a lot of war time cooperation.

- 1) There were frequent meetings between the BIG THREE (US; UK; USSR) to discuss tactics and future goals
- 2) U.S./UK gave the USSR huge amounts of supplies and weaponry to fight with

HOWEVER, SUSPICIONS REMAINED:

- 1) Stalin thought the U.S./ UK were deliberately delaying their invasion of Europe in order to wear down the USSR - who were doing most of the fighting
- 2) There was suspicions and fear about the shape of the post war world. It was recognised there would be TWO SUPERPOWERS - US and USSR .. both were therefore concerned about each other's moves and intentions . Things were good when they had a common enemy- Hitler but what would happen when this link was broken?
- 3) Despite being ALLIES there were still SECRETS. The USA deliberately kept the USSR unaware of the ATOMIC BOMB. The soviets knew about it through their spies and were very angry. They set about developing their own bomb.



COLD WAR BEGINNINGS

2) ROCKY RELATIONSHIPS 1917-1945



BAD EAST WEST RELATIONSHIPS

The relationship between the west and communist Russia was never easy:

- 1) The West was opposed to the ideas of communism and tried to stop it.
- 2) It had tried to defeat the Communists in Russia in 1918
- 3) The USSR was not invited to Versailles conference after the First World War and wasn't allowed to join the League of Nations
- 4) It wasn't officially 'recognised' as a real country by the west until the mid 1920's by the UK and even into the 1930s for the USA

THIS CREATED MUTUAL SUSPICION AND ANGER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

