1940s - Fact Sheet				
1. Cold War – Introduction	2. Yalta Conference, Feb 1945	3. Potsdam Conference, July 1945		
 What was it? Conflict between the USA and USSR (1945 – 72) No direct conflict – more rivalry and suspicion What happened? After fighting WW2 together against Germany, the USA and USSR began to become suspicious of each other They began competing for influence around the world Why did it happen? The superpowers had different ideologies (beliefs) on how countries should be run USA = capitalist USSR = communism 	 What happened? The Big Three (Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill) met at a conference They agreed on lots of things e.g. Dividing Germany into 4 + that the USSR could have influence over Eastern Europe Why did it happen? To decide on the future of Europe after WW2 How did it increase tension? On the surface it didn't, but it did foreshadow future disagreements e.g. Germany + E. Europe 	 What happened? The Big Three (Truman, Stalin and Attlee) met at another conference They disagreed on lots of things e.g. how much money Germany should pay in reparations + the USSR's actions in Eastern Europe Why did it happen? Truman (new US president) was anti-communist so clashed with Stalin How did it increase tension? Showed the cracks in the alliance – relationship became more hostile. 		
4. Atomic Bomb, July 1945	5. Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe, 1945-48	6. Iron Curtain Speech, 1946		
 What happened? USA developed an atomic bomb in secret Then dropped it on Japan (Nagasaki and Hiroshima) August 1945 Caused massive destruction and killed 226,000 	 What happened? Between 1945-48 the USSR took control over the countries of Eastern Europe This became 'satellite states' and part of the USSR's 'sphere of influence' 	 What happened? Winston Churchill made a speech describing an 'Iron Curtain' between East and West This was a metaphor for the line between capitalist and communism 		
 Why did it happen? USA wanted to end WW2 How did it increase tension? USSR felt the USA dropped the bomb to scare them Led to USSR creating their own A-bomb in 1949 	 Why did it happen? After WW2 Stalin's Red Army already occupied most of Eastern Europe He wanted a buffer zone to protect the USSR from any invasions How did it increase tension? Increased suspicion – USA felt USSR was trying to spread communism to Western Europe 	 Why did it happen? Stalin had taken over countries in E. Europe How did it increase tension? Increased division – labelled the USSR as the enemy of the West in public for the 1st time 		

7. Truman Doctrine, March 1947	8. Marshall Plan , 1948	9. Berlin Blockade and Airlift, 1948-49		
 What happened? USA pledged to support any nation threatened by communism E.g. gave \$400 million to Greece to stop communism spreading Why did it happen? USA wanted to contain communism in E. Europe Belief in Domino Theory How did it increase tension? Meant USA and USSR would come into conflict as the USA was acting against USSR's aims 	 What happened? USA economic aid to Europe Promised \$17 billion to European countries Why did it happen? USA wanted to rebuild Europe after WW2 to prevent the spread of communism How did it increase tension? Stalin told satellite states to reject the plan – called it dollar imperialism USSR created Cominform and Comecon in 1949, meant Europe was divided economically 	 What happened? Stalin blocked all land routes into Berlin - allies responded with an airlift to supply the city 1,000 tonnes per day, 275,000 planes, 1.5 million tonnes of supplies Why did it happen? Allies merged their zones of Berlin to form Trizonia + introduced the Deutschmark to their zones – Stalin felt ganged up on How did it increase tension? If Stalin had shot a plane down → WW3 Failure of the blockade embarrassed Stalin – prompted him to support N. Korea to invade S.Korea 		
1950s - Fact Sheet				
10. China turns communist, 1949	11. Korean War, 1950	12. Vietnam War		
 What happened? China becomes communist Oct 1949 1950 China allies with USSR Signs the Treaty of Friendship – get \$300 mil in aid + Soviet advisors to help develop China Why did it happen? Mao leads the communists to victory in Chinese civil war How did it increase tension? Makes Truman look weak on communism as it undermines the Truman Doctrine USA worried about domino theory pass NSC-68 – government bill to increase spending + be tougher on communism 	 What happened? N. Korea (communist) invades S. Korea (anticommunist) by crossing the 38th parallel – push down to the southern tip of Korea UN send in troops led by US General MacArthur Pushes the North back up towards China China send in 250,000 troops, war stabilises around 38th parallel Why did it happen? Stalin encouraged the North to invade after the failure of the Berlin Blockade How did it increase tension? Proxy war – indirect conflict between USA and USSR + gets China involved in conflict Could have led to nuclear war when MacArthur suggests using nuclear weapons 	 What happened? USA supports Southern Vietnam (anticommunist) against North Vietnam (communist) North led by Ho Chi Minh, leader of Vietcong USA send aid and advisors, by 1968 500,000 American troops in Vietnam Why did it happen? US wanted to stop spread of communism in Asia How did it increase tension? Proxy war – indirect conflict between USA and USSR USA spending huge amount of money on Vietnam war by 1970s – leads to détente between East and West as they can't afford the Cold War + Vietnam 		

1950s - Fact Sheet (continued)			
 13. Space Race What happened? 1957 USSR sent sputnik into space (1st satellite) Nov 1957 USSR send Laika the dog USA sent Explorer 1 satellite into space 1958 1961 Yuri Gagarin = 1st man in space 1969 Apollo 11 = 1st men on the moon (USA) Why did it happen? USA + USSR in competition to reach the moon first – battling for global prestige How did it increase tension? Fuelled competition between the two powers Better technology increased fears of a nuclear attack – rockets that can reach the moon can reach USA/USSR 	 14. Arms Race What happened? 1945 USA creates A-bomb, USSR get it 1949 USA 1st H-bomb 1952 (500x more powerful than A-bomb), USSR in 1955 1957 USSR invented ICMBs 1960 USA Polaris Missiles (submarines) Why did it happen? USA + USSR in competition to create the most and most powerful weapons – battling for strategic dominance How did it increase tension? Intense fear – by 150 both sides had enough weapons to destroy each other multiple times Decreased tension due to idea of mutually assured destruction (MAD) 	 15. NATO, 1949 What happened? West formed NATO – military alliance 12 initial members All agreed to support if 1 was attacked Why did it happen? Wanted protection after Berlin Blockade and airlift had shown how unprepared West was if Stalin attacked How did it increase tension? USSR responded to W. Germany joining NATO by making Warsaw pact 1955 – Europe was now divided militarily 	
 16. The Thaw What happened? Stalin died 1953 Khruschev does a 'secret speech' where he criticises Stalin (de-Stalinisation) Khrushchev calls for 'peaceful coexistence' between East and West – a relax in tension Why did it happen? Khrushchev still wanted rivalry with the USA but thought the best way to do this was competition not war How did it increase tension? Some satellite states think they are going to get more freedom – become disappointed when this doesn't happen 	 17. Hungarian Uprising, 1956 What happened? Hungarians revolted against Rakosi (Stalinist) due to his use of secret police and lack of freedoms Nagy becomes new leader – makes liberal reforms e.g. free speech + political parties USSR invade 500,000 men, 35,000 tanks thousands killed including Nagy Why did it happen? Nagy announced Hungary was going to leave the Warsaw Pact How did it increase tension? Undermined Khrushchev's idea of peaceful coexistence West shocked by USSR's lack of respect for Human Rights but did not intervene 	 18. Presidents vs Premiers US Presidents Roosevelt (FDR) 1945 Truman 1945-53 Eisenhower 1953-61 Kennedy 1961-3 Johnson 1963-1969 Nixon 1969-74 USSR Premiers Stalin, 1945-53 Khrushchev , 1953-64 Brezhnev, 1964-82 	

1960s - Fact Sheet				
 19. U2 Crisis, 1960 What happened? USA spying on USSR using U2 spy planes – high altitude planes with powerful cameras Gary Powers' U2 was shot down over USSR 1960 Eisenhower lied and said it was a weather plane Why did it happen? USA wanted to know about the USSR's military capabilities How did it increase tension? Eisenhower was proved to be lying about the weather plane – damaged relations Led to Khrushchev leaving the Paris Peace Conference (a meeting to discuss reducing tension) 	 20. Bay of Pigs, 1961 What happened? U.S. backed 1,500 Cuban Exiles to invade Cuba Failed as they did not have US military support Why did it happen? USA wanted overthrow Castro as he had taken over Cuba and turned communist in 1959 How did it increase tension? Following the invasion, Castro sought Soviet military assistance, escalating tensions 	 21. Berlin Wall, 1961 What happened? Khrushchev ordered construction of a wall between East and West Berlin 27 miles long, barbed wire, machine gun posts, attempted to cross you were shot (140 died) Why did it happen? Skilled workers had been leaving the East for the West – 3 million left by 1961 – known as the 'Brain Drain' Hurt East's economy + bad look for communism How did it increase tension? Nearly led to armed conflict – 24hr tank stand-off at Checkpoint Charlie Oct 1961 Propaganda victory for USA – JFK visit + speech 1963 'Ich bin ein Berliner' – became symbol of freedom against communism 		
 22. Cuban Missile Crisis (Oct 16 – 29, 1962) What happened? Khrushchev placed nuclear missiles in Cuba, discovered by U.S. spy planes in Oct 1962 Kennedy imposed a naval blockade on Cuba Khrushchev said USSR ships would not stop at the quarantine – war would break out Secret deal done Oct 27th USSR remove missiles in Cuba if USA removes missiles in Turkey Why did it happen? Cuba only 90 miles away from USA – missiles there could destroy major US cities e.g. NYC How did it increase tension? Closest the war came to nuclear war – DEFCON2 Reduce tension in long run – hotline between Moscow and Washington 1963 + led to Test Ban Treaty 1963 	 23. Prague Spring, 1968 What happened? Czechoslovakians started protesting against Novotny (their leader) Wanted more freedom and a better economy Novotny was replaced by Dubcek (a liberal reformer) called for 'socialism with a human face' e.g. decentralise the economy USSR invaded – peaceful this time Why did it happen? USSR wanted to crush invasion and stop other E. European countries doing the same How did it increase tension? Led to Brezhnev doctrine – USSR would use force to stop countries leaving communism Strained relations between USA and USSR 	 24. Détente 1969-72 What happened? Relaxing of tension between USA and USSR Nixon visited China Feb 1972 'ping pong diplomacy' Visited Moscow 1972 – signed SALT 1 Limited number of ABMs (missiles) + ICBMs Why did it happen? USA and USSR struggling financially – USA spending too much on Vietnam, USSR falling living standards due to spending on arms race How did it increase tension? Reduced tension in short term Didn't end Cold War though – lasted until 1991 		