

The Cold War

Document Based Question Project



Using your own background knowledge and the following documents, please evaluate the following statement:

How did Berlin symbolize the global struggle between the free world and the communist world during the Cold War?

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DBQ BACKGROUND:

Cold War Timeline:

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| 1945 | WWII Ends with the Defeat of both Germany and Japan – Cold War Begins |
| February 4-11 | Yalta Conference – FDR, Churchill & Stalin, the Soviet Union has control of Eastern Europe |
| May 8 | VE Day – Victory in Europe. Germany surrenders to Russia’s Red Army in Berlin |
| July | Potsdam Conference – Germany is officially divided into four zones of occupation |
| August 6-9 | United States drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Japan |
| August 14 | VJ Day – Japan surrenders ending WWII |
| 1946 | February 9 Stalin gives hostile speech declaring communism & capitalism incompatible |
| March 5 | “Sinews of Peace” Iron Curtain Speech delivered by Winston Churchill |
| 1947 | March 12 Truman Doctrine is declared – the West will contain communism |
| June | United States announces the Marshall Plan to rebuild Western Europe |
| 1948 | February 25 Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia |
| June 24 | Berlin Blockade Begins |
| 1949 | April NATO is formed to contain communism |
| May 12 | Berlin Blockade Ends |
| October 1 | Communist Mao Zedong takes control of China establishing People’s Republic of China |
| 1950 | June 24 Korean War begins. Stalin supports North Korea who invade South Korea with Soviet weapons |
| 1953 | July Korean War ends |

Cold War Timeline:

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| 1961 | April | Bay of Pigs invasion of Soviet aligned Cuba |
| | August 13 | Berlin border is closed |
| | August 17 | Construction of Berlin Wall Begins |
| 1962 | October | Cuban Missile Crisis |
| 1963 | June 26 | U.S. President John F. Kennedy delivers his "I am a Berliner" speech in West Berlin. |
| 1965 | July | U.S Troops sent to fight communism in Vietnam |
| 1969 | July 20 | U.S. Astronauts of Apollo 11 lands on the moon |
| 1975 | April 17 | North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam, Vietnam is under communist control |
| 1979 | December | Soviet forces invade Afghanistan |
| 1985 | | Mikhail Gorbachev becomes the leader of the Soviet Union bringing a campaign of openness called "glasnost" and restructuring called "perestroika" |
| 1987 | October | United States President Ronald Reagan and Russian Leader Gorbachev agree to remove all medium and short-range missiles |
| 1989 | January | Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan |
| | June | Poland becomes independent |
| | September | Hungary becomes independent |
| | November | Berlin Wall is demolished and East Germany allows unrestricted migration to West Germany |
| | December | Communist government fall in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania |
| 1990 | October | Germany is reunited into one country |
| 1991 | August | End of the Soviet Union. Cold War Ends. |

Source: *History Timelines* © 2006 - www.historytimelines.org/uk

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