

East and West 1945-1990

The Cold War period, from the late 1940s to the early 1990s, was characterised by the emergence of two major power blocs: the Western states led by the USA and the Eastern communist states led by the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). This era is characterised by the term "bipolar world order". Building the Berlin Wall in 1961 was an example of the escalating tensions between the Western and Eastern blocs. The construction of the wall was a shocking move that not only physically divided Berlin, but also symbolised the ideological divide between the capitalist West and the communist East.

There were no open or direct military conflicts between the superpowers during the Cold War, but a number of proxy wars and crises often brought the world to the brink of World War III. The Korean War (1950–1953) is a prime example of such a proxy war, meaning that the conflict between North and South Korea represented the larger struggle between communist and capitalist ideologies of the USA and the USSR.

Iron curtain

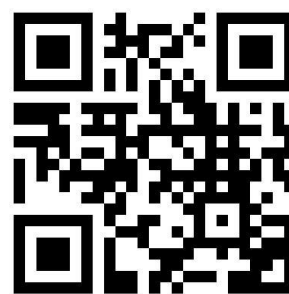
- What do you associate with the term "iron curtain"? Write down your thoughts in a Word File.
- Then get together in pairs and discuss your notes with your partner. When you have finished, switch partners. Do this at least twice.

Rise and fall of the Berlin Wall

- Watch the following short video: "[Rise and fall of the Berlin Wall](#)" (6:25). If you have difficulties understanding the speaker, switch on the subtitles.
- Create a vocabulary list (for example using an Excel file) with the words you don't know and look them up in the [online dictionary](#). If you have any questions, your teacher will help you.



Rise and fall of the Berlin Wall



online dictionary

The Berlin Wall

Write a short blog entry for a scientific online youth blog in which you sum up the most important facts about the Berlin Wall and the iron curtain. Write about 200 words and use a Word file. Remember the layout of a blog entry!

Eyewitness of a building the Berlin Wall

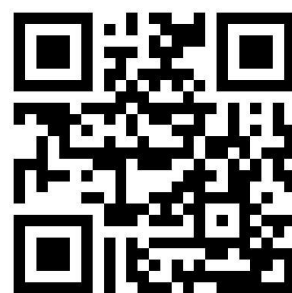
- Imagine you are an eyewitness to the building of the Berlin Wall. A historian wants to interview you about your experiences during this process. Prepare some interesting insights to the construction of the Berlin Wall, as well as some interview questions. That way you can either be the interviewer or the interviewee.
- Then get into pairs (find a new partner) and practice the interview. After 10 minutes swap roles.

The Korean War

- Watch the following short video: "[The Korean War \(1950–53\)](#)" (4:30). If you have difficulties understanding the speaker, switch on the subtitles. Some of the more difficult vocabulary can also be found in the glossary.
- Afterwards create a [mind map](#) with the most important facts mentioned in the video. When you are done, get together in pairs (find a new partner) and discuss your results.



The Korean War (1950–53)



mind map

Glossary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| – Armistice – Waffenstillstand | – proxy war – Stellvertreterkrieg |
| – containment – Eindämmung | – retaliate – Vergeltung |
| – insubordination – Ungehorsam | – stalemate – Pattsituation |