# THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER POST WWII

## Background Information

The Cold War was effectively a state of conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States as well as their respective allies that lasted from 1947 to 1991. It was a war that was waged on political, economic and propaganda fronts as well as ideological differences. Whilst the Cold War didn't officially commence until 1947, tension was present between the two nations as early as the Second World War.

The Cold War, the domino effect, and a burgeoning security relationship with the United States influenced Australia's decisions to participate in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Although both wars involved Australian troops fighting communist forces, the circumstances surrounding the conflicts were different.

The United Nations supported the involvement of international forces in the Korean War but not in the Vietnam conflict. Although the reasons countries go to war are never clear cut, North Korea's incursion into South Korea on 25 June 1950 was regarded as hostile by the international community. The fact that North Korea had Soviet backing meant that the Korean Peninsula became the front line of the Cold War. The origins of the Vietnam War are far more complicated, with international intervention in domestic affairs intensifying conflict between supporters and opponents of communism.

The pictures in the image gallery and timeline address several key concepts, including the domino effect, Australia- US relations and the Cold War.

## ANALYSE: CHURCHILL, TRUMAN AND STALIN

### Setting the Scene

Churchill, Truman and Stalin were 3 unlikely allies tasked with reshaping post-war Germany and the revision of its frontiers including Poland. These 3 unlikely allies met at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945 just outside of Berlin.

This meeting was significant not just for the decisions made regarding Post-war Germany but also as it was President Truman's first major appearance as US president on the world stage.



Australian War Memorial 304804

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A picture is worth 1,000 words and the picture of Churchill, Truman and Stalin speaks volumes about the time and relationships of the era. Analyse this picture and then answer the following questions.

| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| What does the body language tell you about these three men and their relationship with each other? What are their facial expressions telling you? | |
| What do you think of the furniture placement and overall setting/ environment? What conclusions can be drawn from this? | |
| How do you feel looking at this picture? | |
| What conclusions can you come to by looking at this picture? | |

The Yalta conference in February 1945, was another event where the leaders of Great Britain, USA and the Soviet Union came together to discuss important matters relating to the war effort. On your device search for an image of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at the Yalta conference. Compare and analyse the differences between the images from Yalta to the image taken at Potsdam.

| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| What are the differences between the two images? Consider the following points in your answer.<br><br>▪ Body Language<br>▪ Furniture placement/ environment/ overall setting<br>▪ How the participants felt and what they felt about each other<br>▪ Any other noticeable differences | |
| Does the same tension appear in the Yalta conference images? Why/ why not? | |

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## RESEARCH - THE COLD WAR, ARMS RACE AND SECURITY

Research the Cold War and Arms Race, then answer the following questions.

| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| What was the Cold War? | |
| What were some of the Cold War's defining characteristics? List at least 8. | |
| What effects did the Cold War have on Australian society? | |

The development, testing and possible use of Nuclear Weapons dominated the second half of the 20th Century and is still an issue today as countries continue with nuclear disarmament and the decommissioning of facilities

| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| What effects did the use of atomic weapons have on the ways in which countries sought to defend themselves? | |
| How might countries without nuclear arsenals seek to protect themselves against potential aggressors? | |
| What was Australia's involvement in the development of nuclear weapons? | |

The US became a critical security partner for Australia at the signing of the ANZUS Treaty in 1951. This treaty was originally signed by Australia, the United States and New Zealand. In the 1980's New Zealand introduced an antinuclear policy including the banning of nuclear armed vessels from their ports and as a result the US formally suspended its treaty obligations to New Zealand and reduced its military ties.

| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| What obligations did both countries have towards each other in terms of the security partnership? | |

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE
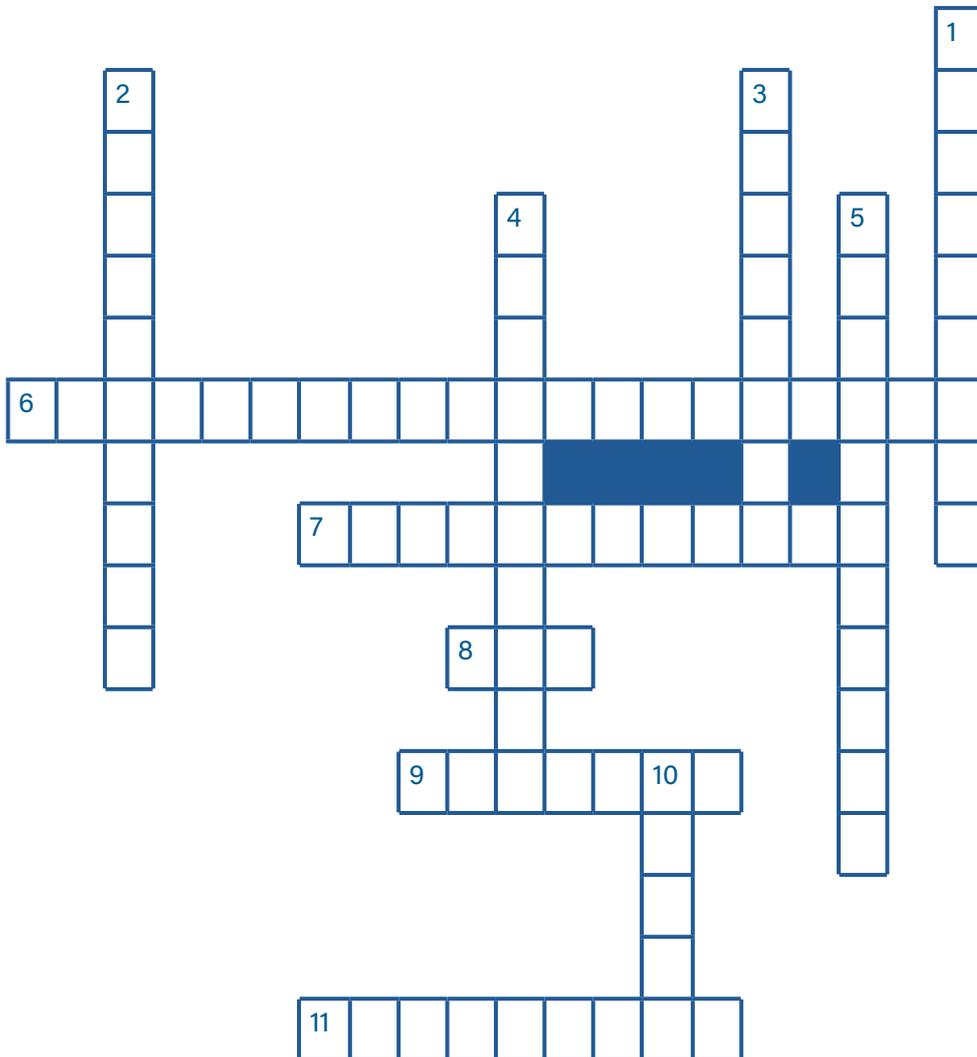
## CLUES

### Across

6. The spread of nuclear weapons, material and technology

7. A term used to describe communist takeovers in neighbouring countries

8. Acronym for the term 'Mutually Assured Destruction'

9. This war is known as the battle of supremacy between the communist east and democratic west

11. Political ideology where all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their needs. Hint: founded in the Soviet Union.

### Down

1. The location of nuclear testing conducted by Great Britain.

2. The name of the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which ended WWII.

3. The term used to describe the competitive development and acquisition of military capability.

4. This was built in 1961 and fell in 1989.

5. The fall of this superpower in 1991 led to the end of the Cold War and the independence of other states

10. The name of the security treaty between the Us, Australia and NZ.

## WORD SEARCH

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N  E  O  C  H  U  R  C  H  I  L  L  Y  S  N  V  I  E  T  C
U  N  I  T  E  D  S  T  A  T  E  S  K  J  I  L  A  T  E  M
C  B  O  A  U  T  H  D  R  E  D  U  N  O  L  W  A  R  T  H
L  J  M  I  N  O  P  W  A  C  O  Z  R  E  A  U  G  U  P  D
E  C  S  X  T  M  H  G  J  A  M  N  E  A  T  Y  N  M  O  K
A  U  T  H  O  R  I  T  A  R  I  A  N  I  S  M  I  A  W  I
R  T  P  V  C  D  I  J  R  S  N  O  W  G  F  M  L  N  E  Y
P  L  O  V  E  E  R  W  K  M  O  N  N  E  I  F  A  H  R  N
R  P  L  M  C  M  C  H  U  R  E  V  O  K  Y  C  R  A  Q  S
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I  P  I  L  U  R  B  D  F  E  E  T  N  N  T  I  S  R  A  T
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E  O  S  W  A  C  A  P  M  A  T  A  T  V  E  S  N  T  L  L
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I  M  A  A  C  E  I  N  O  E  F  R  E  C  T  N  O  A  A  Z
O  A  E  M  A  R  M  M  S  I  L  A  T  I  P  A  C  T  D  W
N  N  W  E  A  B  O  B  D  E  M  O  M  A  R  T  R  U  M  C
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## WORD LIST

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Atomic Bomb | Tension | Power |
| Domino Effect | Cold War | Capitalism | Churchill |
| Soviet Union | Vietnam War | MAD | Stalin |
| Democracy | Korean War | Politics | Truman |
| ANZUS | Maralinga | Arms Race | Weapons |
| Berlin Wall | Communism | Authoritarianism | Nuclear Proliferation |