

## Unit 10 # 2

“The Cold War hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union was inevitable.”

Assess the validity of this statement.

*Bryce, Ruel, Liam*

# Thesis

- The Cold War between the United States and the Soviet union was inevitable because both countries were world powers, the clashing forms of government, and the U.S.-Russian confrontation in Europe.

# Forms of Government



- America is democratic and capitalistic.
- America had multiple political parties and ideologies.
- Believed in four fundamental freedoms.
- The Soviet Union was a communist dictatorship
- The Soviets believed in total authoritarian government. Total state control over all forms of life.

# Forms of Government cont.

- For two such superpowers that had control over two different sectors of the globe, and that practiced two such different forms of government, conflict was of course going to be inevitable.
- Even though we had been mutual allies against Germany, the goals of both nations were too different to provide anything other than at best mutual animosity from both of us.

# US-Russia Confrontation in Europe

- After the division of Germany and the capital of Berlin into a communist east and democratic west was the beginning of tensions that would eventually boil to a breaking point.
- The basic differences that are rooted in the two systems would eventually lead to the breaking point even if the Cold War did not happen when it did, because both of the ideologies wanted to expand their system world wide.
- The confrontations that in Eastern Europe that lead to the Cold War was the Berlin Wall and America not being allowed access into Berlin.

# US-Russia Confrontation in Europe

- The goals that were accomplished in Eastern Europe were the democratic nations being able to hold the Soviets to their post war territories in Europe and the accomplishments for the Soviet Union were their ability to expand their communist ideals around the world like into Cuba and China.

# Superpower Status

- Both America and the USSR used their superpower status to prop up puppet governments in Europe and Asia, while supporting those who wanted aid in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Examples of this are North and South Korea, West and East Germany, and Israel and the surrounding Arab countries.
- They both built up massive reserves of bombs to take each other out and keep the peace, by not fighting themselves but through puppet regimes, through mutual fear of each other's retaliation.

# Conclusion

- The United States and the Soviet Union were inevitably going to be hostile toward one another, once they were the only significant powers in the globe, polarizing it slowly into pro-American and pro-socialist. The reasons for this are because America was capitalistic and democratic, while the USSR was a communist dictatorship and socialist, and their different goals and achievements in Europe. They accomplished the Cold War and sustained it so long without actual war through their mutual Superpower Status.