



# Unit 10

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*Analyze the influence of TWO of the following on American-Soviet relations in the decade following the Second World War .*

*Yalta Conference*

*Communist Revolution in China*

*Korean War*

*McCarthyism*



# Thesis

- During the decade following the Second World War, tensions escalated between the US and the Soviet Union due to failed negotiations and different agendas at the Yalta conference, as well as the advent of McCarthyism and its anti-communist fanaticism, both ultimately leading to an era of mistrust between the two world powers.

# Yalta Conference

- After the defeat of Germany, the Allies had the task of determining what to do with Germany. It was decided at the Yalta Conference (1945) that Germany and the city of Berlin would be divided into four zones - one for France, Britain, the U.S. and the Soviet Union. It was also decided that the Soviets would allow for free elections in countries like Poland and offer help to the U.S. with the war with Japan. Although they somewhat helped with Japan, they did not allow for free elections in Eastern Europe. Instead, the Warsaw Pact set up communist satellite countries to act as a military buffer zone for the Soviet Union. Tensions rose after the Soviets blatantly disregarded agreements made at the Yalta Conference.

# Yalta Conference

- Tensions were even further increased when the Soviets cut off the railroads to Berlin - which would have allowed communism to take over Germany and the rest of Europe- Truman called for the Berlin Airlift. In short, the Yalta Conference and a few other developments in the decade following the war escalated tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States.

# McCarthyism

- McCarthyism sparked the post-war mistrust and hostility between the US and Soviet Union which escalated into the Cold War.
- Republican senator Joseph McCarthy claimed that he held a list of 205 State Department employees who were "known Communists".
- Joseph McCarthy became the leader of anti-communist crusade and ruined the lives and reputations of thousands of Americans (in the Federal Government, Hollywood, schools, etc.)

# McCarthyism

- McCarthy and other Republicans used these charges to hammer the Truman administration, and the "communists in government" which gave way for the landslide victory enjoyed by the Republican Party in the 1952 election.
- Republican control of Congress in 1953 and 1954 gave McCarthy access to more power than ever, but increasingly he became a liability both to his party and to Dwight Eisenhower's administration. McCarthy's antics, particularly his targeting of the U.S. Army, would lead to his official condemnation by the Senate in 1954.
- The McCarthyism movement fueled the US' anticommunist sentiment. This fear of communism spreading intensified tensions between the Soviet Union and US.
- Over the next five years after WW2 relations between the United States and the Soviet Union went from alliance to Cold War.

# McCarthyism

- McCarthy's crusade against communism grew the US' fear of communism through led to McCarthy's bombshell pronouncements in 1950 despite his ultimate censure and disgrace in 1954. These fears sparked the post-war mistrust and hostility between the US and Soviet Union which escalated into the Cold War.

