



**HARTFORD**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Knowledge Organiser





## How did Hitler become Dictator in 1934?



### 1. The Reichstag Fire

On February 27th 1933, the Reichstag (German parliament) was burnt down with a communist Van Der Lubbe arrested at the scene (There are rumours the Nazis did it.) As Hitler had been warning of a communist plot to overthrow the government, the fire was the 'proof' he needed to show that communists want to destroy Germany.

This led to

Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to sign 'The Reichstag Decree', also called the Emergency Decree, which gave Hitler many powers.

1. The laws allow the Nazi controlled police to arrest anyone suspected of opposing the government, ban meetings, close newspapers and hold people without trial.
2. Germany had now become a police state

This gave Hitler more power because

### Results

- The Nazis arrest over 4000 communists and ban the communist party.
- They shut down political opponents meetings and newspapers, whilst thousands are sent to concentration camps
- This reduces Nazi political opposition.

### The March 1933 Election

In the March 1933 election, the Nazis get their best ever result (44%) However, it still failed to give the Nazis an overall majority.

This persuaded Hitler to pass the Enabling Act, as he wanted to end democracy.

### 3. The Night of the Long Knives, 1934

Hitler begins to fear from threats in his own party, the SA (Brownshirts) The SA are a force of 3 million men under ex soldier Ernst Rohm. They were originally used to intimidate Nazi opposition and were important in Hitler coming to power in 1933. Hitler believed Rohm wants to overthrow him, whilst the army despised the power the SA had and Himmler and the SS hated Rohm and wanted to replace the SA with the SS. In 1934, after encouragement from the Army and SS, Hitler orders the arrest of SA 'traitors' On the night of 30th June 1934, the SS arrest 400 SA leaders, some are imprisoned and others are executed including Ernst Rohm. Hitler also uses the opportunity to take out old political opponents, such as exchancellor Von Papen. Hitler had now eradicated all threats within his party, the army were now more supportive and it showed Hitler agreed to murder to keep power.

### 2. The Enabling Act

On 23rd March 1933, the Reichstag passes Enabling Act which gives Hitler power to pass any law without approval of the Reichstag. He immediately begins to use these powers to gain more control over Germany.

### May 1933, Trade Unions banned

The banning of Trade Unions removed workers rights and brings them under his control.

### July 1933, Political parties banned

Hitler bans all political parties except the Nazis, the leaders of the other parties are imprisoned. This gives Hitler total control. Democracy is over

### Results

Hitler has been given complete power over the government and laws, which effectively makes Germany a dictatorship under Hitler. **The Enabling Act ends all democracy in Germany**

### 4. The Death of Hindenburg

On 2nd August 1934, President Hindenburg dies Within hours, Hitler combines the role of President with Chancellor to create a new title 'Führer of the Third Reich' He also forced the army to swear a unconditional oath of loyalty and obedience to him. This bring them under Hitlers control.

**Hitler is now the complete ruler of Germany**



**HARTFORD**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Knowledge Organiser

Year 9 HT2



# World War II



| Key Events in World War 2      |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 1 <sup>st</sup> 1939 | Germany invades Poland.                                                                                                                                                 |
| September 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1939 | Britain and France declare war on Germany (Start of WW2).                                                                                                               |
| January, 1940                  | Rationing introduced across the UK.                                                                                                                                     |
| May – June, 1940               | Dunkirk evacuated and France surrenders to Germany. Germany uses blitzkrieg to take over much of Western Europe.                                                        |
| July, 1940                     | Germany launches air attacks on Great Britain (The Battle of Britain and the Blitz begin) Germany, Italy and Japan sign the Tripartite Pact creating the axis alliance. |
| December 7 <sup>th</sup> 1941  | The Japanese attack the US navy in Pearl Harbour. The next day, the USA enters the war fighting with the allies                                                         |
| June 6 <sup>th</sup> 1944      | D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans.                                                                                 |
| April 30 <sup>th</sup> 1945    | Adolf Hitler commits suicide                                                                                                                                            |
| May 7 <sup>th</sup> 1945       | Germany surrenders and Victory in Europe is declared the next day.                                                                                                      |
| August 1945                    | Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan by the USA killing approximately 226,000 people.                                                                  |
| September 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1945 | Japan surrenders signalling the end of WW2                                                                                                                              |
| July 1954                      | Rationing ends in the UK                                                                                                                                                |

| Leaders                                                                            |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| United Kingdom                                                                     | Germany                                                                             |
|  |  |
| Born: 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1874<br>Died: 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1965                 | Born: 20 <sup>th</sup> April 1889<br>Died: 30 <sup>th</sup> April 1945              |
| "I am easily satisfied with the very best."<br><b>Winston Churchill</b>            | "Strength lies not in defence but in attack."<br><b>Adolf Hitler</b>                |

| Countries involved in WW2                                                                                                                                                         |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allies                                                                                                                                                                            | Axis                                                       |
| USA, Britain, France, USSR, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, India, South Africa | Germany, Italy, Japan, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Finland |

| Key Vocabulary          |                                                                                                       |                   |                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Allies</b>           | Countries which fought on Britain's side.                                                             | <b>Axis</b>       | Countries which fought on Germany's side.                                                          |
| <b>Evacuee</b>          | Someone who was evacuated. Moved from a dangerous place to be safer.                                  | <b>Nazi</b>       | Member of a fascist German political party. They came to power in 1933.                            |
| <b>Black out</b>        | Ensuring no lights were visible after dark so buildings can't be spotted.                             | <b>Blitz</b>      | Aerial bombings on the UK, mainly cities including London, by Germany.                             |
| <b>Rationing</b>        | The controlled distribution of limited resources such as food and clothing.                           | <b>Holocaust</b>  | Mass murder of Jewish people and other groups by the Nazis.                                        |
| <b>Air raid shelter</b> | A building to protect people from bombs. Made from corrugated iron usually found in people's gardens. | <b>Fascism</b>    | Right wing political view associated with not allowing opposition and total control by a dictator. |
| <b>Trenches</b>         | A long narrow ditch used for troops to shelter from enemy attack.                                     | <b>Blitzkrieg</b> | Translates to 'lightning war'. Germany's quick strike invasion of Western Europe.                  |

|                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Enigma, machine used by Nazis to communicate                                         | Children being evacuated out of London                                                | Swastika, the Nazi party symbol                                                       | Supermarine Spitfire Mk 1, British fighter plane                                      |



**HARTFORD**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Knowledge Organiser

History - Year 9 HT3





## Why was D-Day important?

On 6 June 1944 – 'D-Day' – **Allied forces launched the largest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare.** Codenamed Operation 'Overlord', the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy marked the start of a long and costly campaign to liberate north-west Europe from Nazi occupation.

Early on 6 June, Allied airborne forces parachuted into drop zones across northern France. Ground troops then landed across [five assault beaches](#) - Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. By the end of the day, the Allies had established a foothold along the coast and could begin their advance into France.

Germany tried to defend the northern coast of France with a series of fortifications known as the 'Atlantic Wall'. However, [German defences](#) were often incomplete and insufficiently manned.

Members of the French Resistance and the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) provided intelligence and helped weaken defences through sabotage. The [Allied deception campaigns](#) succeeded in convincing the Germans as late as July 1944 that the main invasion force would still land elsewhere. The threat of this larger, second invasion kept German reinforcements tied down away from Normandy.





# How did WWII end? YR9 – HT3



## Stalingrad

On June 22, 1941, despite the terms of the [Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939](#), Nazi Germany launched a massive invasion against the USSR. Aided by its greatly superior air force, the German army raced across the Russian plains, inflicting terrible casualties on the Red Army and the Soviet population. With the assistance of troops from their Axis allies, the Germans conquered vast territory, and by mid-October the great Russian cities of Leningrad and Moscow were under siege. However, the Soviets held on, and the coming of winter forced a pause to the German offensive.

For the 1942 summer offensive, [Adolf Hitler](#) ordered the Sixth Army, under General Friedrich von Paulus, to take Stalingrad in the south, an industrial center and obstacle to Nazi control of the precious Caucasian oil wells. In August, the German Sixth Army made advances across the Volga River while the German Fourth Air Fleet reduced Stalingrad to a burning rubble, killing over 40,000 civilians. In early September, General Paulus ordered the first offensives into Stalingrad, estimating that it would take his army about 10 days to capture the city. Thus began one of the most horrific battles of World War II and arguably the most important because it was the turning point in the war between Germany and the USSR.



In their attempt to take Stalingrad, the German Sixth Army faced a bitter Red Army under General Vasily Zhukov employing the ruined city to their advantage, transforming destroyed buildings and rubble into natural defensive fortifications. In a method of fighting the Germans began to call the *Rattenkrieg*, or “Rat’s War,” the opposing forces broke into squads eight or 10 strong and fought each other for every house and yard of territory. The battle saw rapid advances in street-fighting technology, such as a German machine gun that shot around corners and a light Russian plane that glided silently over German positions at night, dropping lethal bombs without warning. However, both sides lacked necessary food, water, or medical supplies, and tens of thousands perished every week.

Soviet leader [Joseph Stalin](#) was determined to liberate the city named after him, and in November he ordered massive reinforcements to the area. On November 19, General Zhukov launched a great Soviet counteroffensive. German command underestimated the scale of the counterattack, and the Sixth Army was quickly overwhelmed by the offensive, which involved 500,000 Soviet troops, 900 tanks, and 1,400 aircraft. Within three days, the entire German force of more than 200,000 men was encircled.

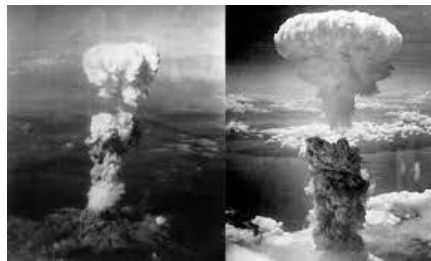
Italian and Romanian troops at Stalingrad surrendered, but the Germans hung on, receiving limited supplies by air and waiting for reinforcements. Hitler ordered Von Paulus to remain in place and promoted him to field marshal, as no Nazi field marshal had ever surrendered. Starvation and the bitter Russian winter took as many lives as the merciless Soviet troops, and on January 21, 1943, the last of the airports held by the Germans fell to the Soviets, completely cutting the Germans off from supplies. On January 31, Von Paulus surrendered German forces in the southern sector, and on February 2 the remaining German troops surrendered. Only 90,000 German soldiers were still alive, and of these only 5,000 troops would survive the Soviet prisoner-of-war camps and make it back to Germany.



## Atomic Bomb

At 8.15 on the morning of 6th August 1945, the Japanese city of Hiroshima was devastated by the first atomic bomb to be used as a weapon of war. The bomb, nicknamed '[Little Boy](#)', was dropped from the USAAF [B29 bomber 'Enola Gay'](#) and exploded some 1,800 feet above the city. Delivering the equivalent of around 12.5 kilotons of TNT, the bomb reduced 5 square miles of the city centre to ashes and caused the deaths of an estimated 120,000 people within the first four days following the blast. Many were instantly vaporised by the explosion, others died afterwards from the effects of burns and radiation.

Three days later, just after 11 on the morning of 9th August, a second [atomic bomb nicknamed 'Fat Man'](#) exploded above the city of Nagasaki. Although it was even more powerful than 'Little Boy', the destruction caused by this bomb was less than at Hiroshima due to the nature of the terrain (the original target had been the city of Kokura, but the B29 carrying the bomb had been diverted to Nagasaki because of heavy cloud cover). Nonetheless, over 2 square miles of the city were pulverised and some 73,000 people killed.



The two atomic explosions had the effects desired by the Allies. On 10th August the Japanese government indicated its readiness to accept defeat, subject to certain conditions. On 14th August it finally accepted the demand for unconditional surrender. The following day was declared '[Victory over Japan' or VJ Day](#)', although it was not until 2nd September that the final Japanese surrender was signed, thereby bringing the Second World War to a formal close.

Why had the Allied powers considered it necessary to inflict such unprecedented destruction on Japanese civilians in order to bring the war to an end?

At the [Potsdam Conference](#) (17th July – 2nd August 1945) the Allies formulated their terms for ending the war with Japan, which centred on that country's acceptance of unconditional surrender, as had been the case with Nazi Germany in May. However, the Allies were also aware that whilst the [Japanese Emperor Hirohito](#) desired an end to hostilities, and would probably accept the unconditional capitulation demanded, the 'hawks' of the Japanese military and civilian leadership were totally opposed to such a humiliating condition and were ready to fight to the finish – whatever that might look like.





**HARTFORD**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Knowledge Organiser

YR9 – HT4





## **Nazi Ideology:**

The success of Hitler and the Nazi party did not come from nowhere. The party developed and established itself in a Germany devastated by defeat in World War One and suffering an economic crisis. Antisemitism was present in societies across Europe, and there was a rise in pseudo-scientific ideas of eugenics and 'race theory'. Right-wing extremists blamed the country's defeat in World War One on a conspiracy between communists and Jews.

## **Nazi persecution of the Jews:**

Once the Nazis came to power they introduced laws that denied Jews many freedoms and restricted their rights. Boycotts of Jewish doctors, lawyers and shops began in 1933 and by 1935 Jews were not allowed to join the civil service or the army. The introduction of the Nuremberg laws in September 1935 meant Jews were banned from marrying non-Jews and their citizenship was removed, including their right to vote. On 9 November 1938 the Nazis initiated attacks against the Jews. 91 Jews were murdered, 30,000 were arrested and sent to concentration camps and 267 synagogues were destroyed. This night became known as Kristallnacht – the 'Night of Broken Glass'. These attacks sparked debate in the House of Commons which led to Britain supporting the Kindertransport – a programme that rescued 10,000 children, the majority of whom were Jewish.

## **Ghettos:**

Nazi Germany invaded Poland on 1 September 1939 and as a result, the UK and France declared war. In spring 1940, the Nazis established ghettos – segregated parts of the larger towns and cities across Poland where Jews were forced to live. The largest ghetto was in Warsaw, where 400,000 Jews were crowded into 1.3 square miles of the city. Jews responded to the ghetto restrictions with a variety of resistance efforts. Hundreds of thousands of people died in the ghettos, from starvation, disease and executions carried out by the Nazis.

## **The 'Final Solution':**

In 1941 the Nazis stepped up their persecution of the Jews through murder on an industrial scale. This began with mass shootings across eastern Europe, carried out by killing units called the Einsatzgruppen (task forces), after the Nazi invasion of the USSR in June 1941. By December 1941 over 1.5 million Jews had been killed by beatings, starvation or mass shootings. The Wannsee Conference was held in Berlin on 20 January 1942 and was attended by high-ranking Nazis. Here they planned the mass-deportation of European Jews to extermination camps in German-occupied Poland, where they would be murdered. This 'Final Solution' aimed to exterminate all Jews in Europe. Deportation on this scale required organisation and coordination from collaborators across Europe.

## **The camps:**

The Nazis created more than 40,000 camps throughout German-occupied countries. There, inmates were subjected to slave labour, overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions, starvation and cruel treatment, with a high death rate. After initial attempts to commit mass murder through shootings proved 'inefficient', the Nazis extended the camp system to include six extermination camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau. Their purpose was to carry out genocide using gas chambers.

## **Liberation:**

As Allied troops made progress across Nazi-occupied Europe, they discovered and liberated concentration and extermination camps. The camp of Majdanek in Poland was the first to be liberated, in the summer of 1944. On 8 May 1945, following the invasion of Germany and Hitler's suicide, Germany surrendered. Two thirds of Europe's Jews had been murdered.

## **Justice:**

Many senior Nazi war criminals were never sentenced for their roles during the Holocaust. After the war, the Allies brought 22 of the most senior Nazis to trial in Nuremberg, Germany between 1945 and 1946. The Nuremberg Trials were one of the most important innovations in the history of international law and helped lead to the establishment of the International Criminal Court over 50 years later, in 2002.



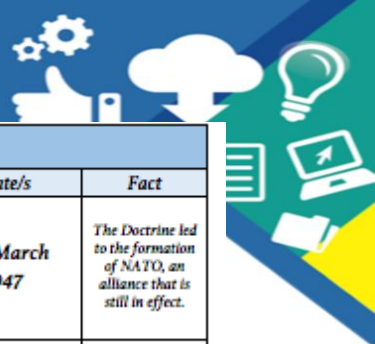
**HARTFORD**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Knowledge Organiser

YR9 HT5

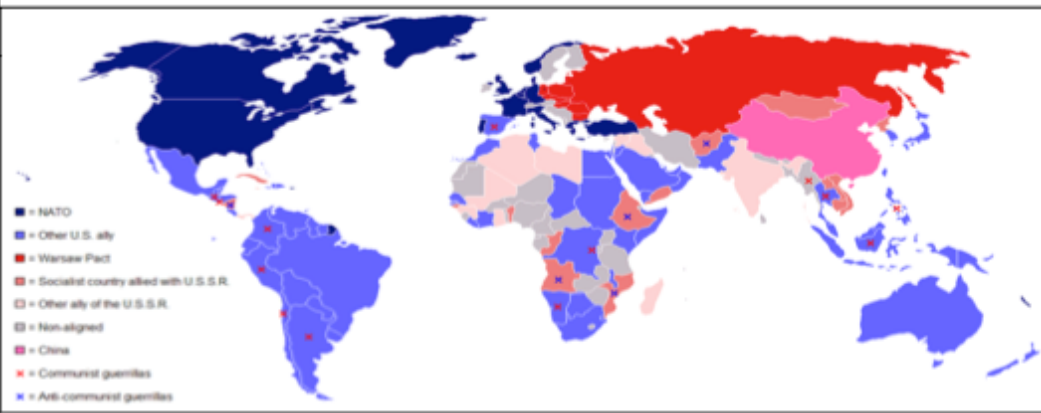


# Knowledge Organiser YR9 HT5 – Cold War (Rise of the USA)



## Overview and Map

The Cold War was a long period of open, yet restrained, tension between the democracies of the western world and the communist countries of the east. The democratic west was led by the United States, whilst the communist east was spear-headed by the Soviet Union – the two world superpowers at the time. Whilst the two superpowers never directly declared war on one another, they fought indirectly via proxy wars, an arms race, and the space race, in order to gain political and ideological dominance. The map below shows the extent of their alliances in 1980, towards the end of the Cold War.



## Key People

**Dwight Eisenhower** – (1890-1969) Dwight Eisenhower was a five star general of the US army and supreme commander of the Allied forces in western Europe, before becoming the 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. As President, he articulated his views on the 'Domino Theory', suggesting that Communism should be stopped before it spread. Whilst he ended the Korean War, he was the first President to send troops to Vietnam, and made preparations to make interventions in Cuba. He made efforts to limit nuclear weapons proliferation, but these were unsuccessful.



**John F. Kennedy** – (1917-1963) Commonly known as JFK, John F. Kennedy was the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, who served between 1961-1963 at the height of the Cold War. The majority of his presidency involved managing relations with the Soviet Union. He authorized the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, but subsequently helped to diffuse the Cuban Missile Crisis, and made a famous speech about the Berlin Wall as being symbolic of Communist failure. He also expanded the US space programme. He was assassinated in 1963.



**Sir Winston Churchill** – (1874-1965) was a British politician who served as the Prime Minister between 1940 and 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. He took over after a disastrous start to the war in which Nazi Germany conquered much of Europe. The manner in which he forged crucial alliances with countries like the US and Russia undoubtedly aided the Allies victory. After the war, he was one of the first public figures to hypothesise about the significant dangers of an 'Iron Curtain' descending across Europe.



**Joseph Stalin** – (1878-1953) was the Communist leader/dictator of the USSR during WWII. After the death of the Communist Leader Lenin, Stalin won a vicious grapple for power before eventually establishing himself as a totalitarian dictator. His own policies became known as 'Stalinism.' After World War II, Stalin became committed to taking both political and ideological control of eastern European states, believing this to be integral to creating a buffer between the democratic West. This quest for domination is seen as one of the predominant factors in starting the Cold War.



**Nikita Khrushchev** – (1894-1971) Nikita Khrushchev was the successor to Joseph Stalin, who led the Soviet Union between 1953 and 1964 – the tensest years of the Cold War. He was more liberal than his predecessor in domestic policy, and also cut Soviet forces. However, he built up the number of nuclear missiles. He was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, when nuclear war between the US and Soviet Union seemed to be imminent. In 1964, he was removed by his colleagues, replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.



**Fidel Castro** – (1926-2016) Fidel Castro was a Cuban communist, revolutionary, and politician, who helped to lead the Communist revolution in Cuba. He was allied with the Soviet Union, and caused grave concern to the US as communism was now in the Americas. The CIA took charge of trying to overthrow Castro's government, using Cuban exiles, but got their strategy disastrously wrong in the Bay of Pigs invasion. Castro became a hero for his victory, and stayed in power right up until 2011.



## Major Events

| Event                    | Image                                                                                 | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Date/s                                                      | Fact                                                                                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                          |    | The Truman Doctrine was an American foreign policy created with the aim of countering Soviet geopolitical expansion. Announced to congress by President Harry S. Truman, the doctrine alleged that communist totalitarian regimes represented a significant threat to international peace. As a result, American support would be provided to countries threatened by Soviet communism. | 12 <sup>th</sup> March 1947                                 | The Doctrine led to the formation of NATO, an alliance that is still in effect.       |
| Berlin Blockade          |    | During multinational occupation of post-World War II Germany, the Soviet Union blocked the Western Allies' railway, road and canal access to parts of Berlin under western control, in response to western introduction of the Deutsche mark. Via the 'Berlin Airlift', Allied planes were able to deliver vital supplies to Berliners.                                                 | 24 <sup>th</sup> June 1948 – 12 <sup>th</sup> May 1949      | It proved to be a PR disaster for Stalin, who had to remove the blockade in May 1949. |
| The Korean War           |    | As a result of the Cold War, Korea had split into two states, with both claiming to be the sole legitimate government of all of Korea. This broke into war when communist North Korea (aided by Russia and China) invaded the South (backed by USA). The war eventually ended in stalemate. The country remained divided.                                                               | 25 <sup>th</sup> June 1950 – 27 <sup>th</sup> July 1953     | As no peace treaty was signed, the countries are still technically at war!            |
| The Vietnam War          |    | Vietnam was split – the North (backed Soviet Union) and South (backed by USA) engaged in a war lasting over 19 years. It also sprouted the Laotian and Cambodian Civil Wars, and resulted in all 3 states becoming Communist. It was an extremely deadly war, with around 2 million innocent civilians believed to have perished.                                                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> November 1955 – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 1975 | Images of napalm-burnt villagers turned public opinion against the war in the USA.    |
|                          |    | The USA and USSR intensified competition for spaceflight superiority. The race had origins in the nuclear arms race, in that successes demonstrated technological strength. USSR completed the first manned spaceflight, whilst USA were the first to send man to the moon.                                                                                                             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 1955 – c.1975                        | USSR launched the first satellite into space on 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1957 – Sputnik 1. |
| U-2 Plane Incident       |    | A United States U-2 spy plane was shot down by the Soviet Air Defence Forces, whilst photographing targeted Soviet sites whilst deep into Soviet territory. Embarrassingly, the US was forced to admit this purpose after the USSR produced the pilot and evidence.                                                                                                                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> May 1960                                    | The pilot, Gary Powers, was captured and convicted of espionage.                      |
| The Bay of Pigs Invasion |   | The Bay of Pigs Invasion was a failed military invasion of Cuba. The CIA-sponsored Brigade 2506 intended to overthrow the increasingly communist government of Fidel Castro, but were defeated after only 3 days.                                                                                                                                                                       | 17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> April 1961               | The outcome made Castro a national hero.                                              |
| Cuban Missile Crisis     |  | The missile crisis was a 13-day confrontation between the USA and the USSR. The USA initiated ballistic missile deployment in Italy and Turkey, whilst the USSR deployed missiles in Cuba. It is often considered the point at which the Cold War came closest to all-out nuclear war. After tense negotiations, missiles were dismantled.                                              | 16 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> October 1962            | Soviet missiles in Cuba were only 90km from Florida in the USA.                       |
|                          |  | The treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, also known as the NPT, is an agreement to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology, and to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy. Both the US and the Soviet Union signed the treaty on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1968, alongside other nuclear-armed states, reducing tensions.                                            | 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1968                                   | Although it did not stop nuclear development, the NPT reduced US/ USSR tensions.      |
| Fall of the Berlin Wall  |  | The Berlin Wall had separated communist eastern section of Berlin Germany from west Berlin since 1961. However, the Soviet Union was beginning to collapse, and was struggling to hold onto East Germany. In November 1989, the Central Committee of East Germany opened up free movement across the wall. In doing so, one of the major symbols of the Cold War itself was abolished.  | 9 <sup>th</sup> November 1989                               | On October 3, 1990 Germany was officially reunified into a single country.            |



**HARTFORD**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Knowledge Organiser

YR9 HT6





## Assassination of JFK

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the youngest President of the USA. He was 43 when he was elected. JFK had fought in WWII and narrowly defeated his presidential opponent, Richard Nixon in 1960. JFK was tough on communism and wanted to contain its influence. This led to the Cuban Missile Crisis where the world came the closest ever to a full nuclear war.



In November 1963, JFK visited Dallas, Texas, with his wife. When he was travelling along Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas, several shots rang out. One of them fatally hit JFK leading to shock and horror throughout the world. Although the assassin was quickly captured, Lee Harvey Oswald, doubt has always surrounded the assassination. With many believing that a wider conspiracy was at work and a cover up had occurred.



## THE VIETNAM WAR KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

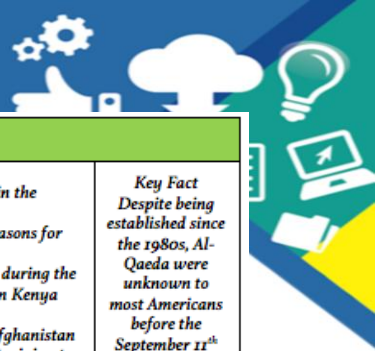


| Overview                                                                          |               |                                                                                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                   |               |    |                 |
| Main Combatants                                                                   |               |                                                                                     |                 |
|  | NORTH VIETNAM |    | SOVIET UNION    |
|  | VIET CONG     |    | CHINA           |
|  | SOUTH VIETNAM |  | SOUTH KOREA     |
|  | UNITED STATES |  | KINGDOM OF LAOS |

| Key People                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Ho Chi Minh</b> – (1890-1969) was a Vietnamese Communist revolutionary leader who was President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) between 1945 and 1969. He led the Viet Minh independence movement from 1941 onwards, establishing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, before defeating the French Union in 1954. Knowing that Minh would likely win the elections (resulting from the Geneva Accord) to unify Vietnam, the south refused to participate, triggering the events leading to the war. Minh died in 1969 after several health problems. After the war, Saigon was renamed as Ho Chi Minh City.</p>  | <p><b>Ngo Dinh Diem</b> – (1901-1963) was a strongly anti-communist Vietnamese politician, who refused to ally with Ho Chi Minh after the defeat of the French imperialists. With the support of the United States government, Diem led the South Vietnamese government between 1954 and 1963. He refused to hold the unification elections as stipulated in the Geneva Accords, as he would have almost certainly have lost power to Ho Chi Minh. He was an unpopular leader – owing to his (minority) Catholic stance and his ruthlessness – which contributed to the rise of the Viet Cong. Diem was executed by his own generals in November 1963.</p>  |
| <p><b>Vo Nguyen Giap</b> – (1912-2013) was a Vietnamese military commander who is particularly known for his leading role in liberating Vietnam from French colonial rule, and for leading the armies of North Vietnam against the south and their allies. After the Fall of Saigon, he served as Vietnam's Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister. Some of his most notable battles include the crushing of the French colonial forces at Dien Bien Phu, The 1972 Easter Offensive (gaining considerable territory) and the final Ho Chi Minh campaign – leading to the Fall of Saigon.</p>                                       | <p><b>Dwight D. Eisenhower</b> – (1890-1969) Eisenhower was a popular American President, who served between 1953 and 1961. Prior to becoming President, he had been a military man, who led the D-Day invasions in France in World War II. In February 1954, he refused to commit American troops to aiding France in Vietnam, instead authorizing military aid such as training the Vietnamese troops. After France surrendered to the Viet Minh, the Eisenhower administration provided aid to Ngo Dinh Diem's anti-communist regime, as he attempted to secure power in Saigon.</p>                                                                   |
| <p><b>John F. Kennedy</b> – (1917-1963) John F. Kennedy (often known as JFK) was the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. During his years as President, JFK tripled American military and economic aid to South Vietnam, however he only marginally increased the number of US troops physically sent to the region. In return, he requested that the Diem government liberalised their regime, in order to win more popular approval. Many have suggested that if Kennedy not been assassinated in November 1963, he would have pulled US troops out of Vietnam subsequent to the 1964 elections.</p>                        | <p><b>Lyndon B. Johnson</b> – (1908-1973) Lyndon B. Johnson assumed the White House office after the assassination of John F. Kennedy – he had previously been JFK's Vice President. He inherited the escalating crisis in Vietnam, and sought to bring a swift end to American involvement. He increased US forces in an attempt to quickly win the war before withdrawing troops. However, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong proved far more resolute than foreseen, leading to increasing American deaths and Johnson's plummeting approval rating. He did not seek re-election.</p>                                                                     |

| Major Events              |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                |                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Event                     | Image                                                                                 | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Date/s                                                         | Fact                                                                                                                  |
|                           |    | The Battle of Dien Bien Phu signalled the climax of the First Indochina War, in which the Viet Minh communist revolutionary nationalists comprehensively defeated forces from Imperial France. Led by General Vo Nguyen Giap, the Vietnamese forces surrounded and besieged the French, using the mountainous terrain to their advantage. The Battle was over within 2 months.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 13 <sup>th</sup> March – 7 <sup>th</sup> May 1954              | Frueless against the Vietnamese, the French commander, Charles Piroth, committed suicide.                             |
|                           |    | The Geneva Accords served to temporarily split Vietnam along the 17 <sup>th</sup> parallel, with North Vietnam being governed by Ho Chi Minh's rebels, and South Vietnam governed by the state of Vietnam. General elections were agreed, to be held by July 1956, to unify the country.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 26 <sup>th</sup> April – July 20 <sup>th</sup> 1954            | Despite helping to create the pacts, neither south Vietnam nor USA signed them.                                       |
| Ho Chi Minh Trail         |    | The Ho Chi Minh trail was a logistical system that provided manpower and materials from North Vietnam to the Viet Cong in South Vietnam, via Laos and Cambodia. The trail effectively supplied troops in the south – a great feat considering the bombing campaign.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | From May 1959 onwards                                          | The trail is considered one of the greatest feats of engineering of the 20 <sup>th</sup> C.                           |
|                           |    | Guerilla Warfare is an unconventional form of warfare in which combatants use the element of surprise in order to gain an advantage over the opponent. The Viet Cong, more familiar and adapted to the terrain and climate of the vast forests, were able to use this understanding to their advantage. The forests were a perfect environment for them to camouflage themselves, and their anonymity also allowed them to pose as farmers and citizens, before attacking. Attacks were often quick and precise, with before they escaped amongst the forest, evading capture. | Throughout the war (although particularly in the early parts). | The Viet Cong were skilled in scavenging American mines and arms, in order to create their own bombs and booby traps. |
| The use of Agent Orange   |    | Frustrated with the covert tactics of the Viet Cong amongst the forests of Vietnam, the USA began to drop defoliants to strip vegetation – Agent Orange was principal amongst these. It also starved the Viet Cong of food and left many veterans with horrific scarring.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | From 12 <sup>th</sup> January 1962 onwards                     | The chemical, a carcinogen, caused cancer to thousands involved.                                                      |
| Operation Rolling Thunder |   | This was the title given to a gradual, sustained aerial bombardment campaign conducted by the US and South Vietnam air forces against North Vietnam. It was the most difficult air campaign the US faced since WWII.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 1965 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 1968          | Foreign aid made the NV air defences extremely tough.                                                                 |
|                           |  | The Tet Offensive was one of the largest military attacks of the war. It was a campaign of surprise attacks against military and civilian control centres across South Vietnam. Although South Vietnam recovered, the Offensive turned the tide of opinion against the war in the US.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 30 <sup>th</sup> January – 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 1968     | More than 80,000 troops struck more than 100 targets.                                                                 |
| American Withdrawal       |  | Extensive casualties and the involvement of US soldiers in war crimes created discord amongst Americans in relation to the war effort. As protests mounted, the US signed the Paris Peace Treaty and removed all forces from Vietnam.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 12 <sup>th</sup> February 1972 onwards                         | North Vietnam violated the ceasefire almost immediately.                                                              |
|                           |  | The Easter Offensive was a major North Vietnamese campaign that aimed to gain as much territory and destroy as many units as possible, in order to gain the best negotiating position in the Paris Peace Accords. The size of the offensive caught the opposition off guard.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 30 <sup>th</sup> March – 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 1972         | The attack took place on 5 fronts, using the bulk of the N. Vietnam army.                                             |
| Fall of Saigon            |  | The Fall of Saigon was the capture of the Southern Vietnamese capital, Saigon, by the People's Army of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the Viet Cong. The event marked the end of the Vietnam War, and the start of the Vietnamese reunification process. Led by General Nguyen Van Toan, the PAVN launched a heavy bombardment on 29 <sup>th</sup> April, and by the afternoon of the next day had raised their flag over the Presidential Palace.                                                                                                                                | 30 <sup>th</sup> April 1975                                    | After the Fall of Saigon, the city was renamed Ho Chi Minh city, after the late Vietnamese President.                 |

# Knowledge Organiser YR9 HT6 – Post 1945



## Wider Context

**Introduction - Conflict and Tension in the Gulf and Afghanistan, 1990-2009**  
A series of complex and diverse conflicts and tensions unsettled life in areas of the Middle East before, between and since 1990 and 2009, particularly the areas north of the Persian Gulf (including Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan). Wars in the region had left dangerous power vacuums. Furthermore, the rise of anti-west regimes, such as Saddam Hussein's Iraq, the Taliban in Afghanistan, coupled with attacks by the militant Al-Qaeda group, deeply alarmed those in the west. Major events include the Gulf War 1990, the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack, the 'War on Terror', and the Iraq War of 2003.



### 1. Tensions in the Gulf

-Instability in the Gulf region as a result of the Iran-Iraq War and western/Russian interests in the area;

-The threat to oil supplies and the effect of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict on tension and terrorism;

-Gulf War 1990 – reasons for Iraqi invasion of Kuwait/ Saddam Hussein

### 2. THE WAR ON AL-QAEDA

-The rise of Al-Qaeda and the role of the group/ Osama bin Laden in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks;

-Afghanistan the 'rogue state', the Taliban regime, and western/ Muslim attitudes to its policies;

-Bush and Blair's 'War on Terror' - the overthrow of the Taliban.

### 3. The Iraq War

-Saddam Hussein's regime and the treatment of different Muslims, suspected links to Al-Qaeda, etc;

-Invasion of Iraq 2003 – debate over WMDs, interests in oil, opposition to war and Saddam Hussein's downfall;

-The impact of war on Iraq and people around the world.

## Key People

### Osama bin Laden (1957-2011)



Osama bin Laden was a founder of the pan-Islamic military organisation al-Qaeda. Under his leadership, the Al-Qaeda group were responsible for the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks in the United States, and many other mass-casualty attacks worldwide (including the suicide bombing of the US warship *Cole* off the port of Yemen on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2000). Bin Laden was born in Saudi Arabia to a wealthy and well-known family – his father was the founder of the construction company the Saudi Binladin Group. In 1979, he joined Pakistani Mujahideen forces fighting against the USSR in Afghanistan, helping to funnel money, arms, and fighters from the Arab world to aid the effort. He formed Al-Qaeda in 1988, and was banished from both Saudi Arabia (in 1992) and Sudan (in 1996). He then declared war on the USA from his new base in Afghanistan, initiating a spate of bombings and related attacks. He was placed on the FBI's 'Most Wanted' list after organising the 1998 US Embassy bombings. After the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, bin Laden became a major global target. On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011, he was shot and killed inside a private residential compound in Abbottabad by US Navy Seals, during a covert operation under the orders of Barack Obama.



### George W. Bush (1946-)

George W. Bush is an American politician and businessman, who served as the 43<sup>rd</sup> President of the USA between 2001 and 2009. The September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks occurred only 8 months into Bush's first term as President. His reaction became known as the 'Bush Doctrine': he launched a 'War on Terror' including in Afghanistan from 2001 and Iraq from 2003. Bush's immediate reaction to the September 11<sup>th</sup> crisis saw him receive record-high ratings. However by the start of his second term in 2004, public opinion had turned against the actions that Bush's administration deemed necessary to fight terrorism – described as immoral, illegal, or both (particularly the handling of the Iraq War).



### Barack Obama (1961-)

Barack Obama is an American attorney and politician, who served as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the USA, between 2009 and 2017. He was the first African American to serve as President. Obama inherited the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (the latter of which he was a known critic of). He gradually removed troops from Iraq, but sent extra troops to Afghanistan, to prevent the Taliban from regaining power. He also authorised the May 2011 covert mission that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden.

### Mohammed Omar (c.1959-2013)

Mullah Mohammed Omar, widely known as Mullah Omar, was the leader of the Taliban, and Emir of Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001. His refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden after the September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 attacks prompted the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, which resulted in the removal of the Taliban from power. Details about Omar's life are sparse and inconsistent, but he is known to have fought with the Mujahideen against the USSR in the Afghan War (1978-92). He lost his right eye in an explosion during the conflict. Under his leadership in Afghanistan, strict Islamic laws were enforced, capital punishment was rife, and many sacred sites were destroyed. He is believed to have died in hiding in 2013.



### Tony Blair (1953-)

Tony Blair is a British politician who served as the Prime Minister of the UK from 1997 until 2007. Under the Blair administration, the UK was the main partner of the USA in the 'War on Terror', initiating conflicts alongside the USA in Afghanistan and Iraq. This helped to drive the Taliban from power and set up a provisional government in Afghanistan. Particularly since leaving his role as PM, Blair has been criticised for his role in the Iraq War – the Chilcot Report deemed the Iraq War 'not justified.'



## Important Events and Information

### The Rise of Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda (1998 onwards)



- The Soviet Union withdrew from their ten-year battle to control Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden brought together the Mujahideen in the country to create Al-Qaeda. He led operations from Sudan.  
- Bin Laden identified the USA as his prime target. Amongst the reasons for this was their support of Israel and involvement in the Gulf War.  
- Al-Qaeda took credit for the attack on two black hawk helicopters during the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993, as well as 1998 US embassy attacks in Kenya and Tanzania, and the suicide bombing of *USS Cole*.  
- After being expelled from Sudan in 1996, bin Laden returned to Afghanistan under the protection of the Taliban, where he was able to provide training to thousands of Muslim insurgents.

**Key Fact**  
Despite being established since the 1980s, Al-Qaeda were unknown to most Americans before the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks in 2001.

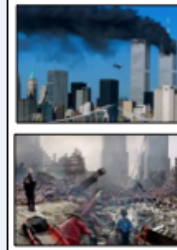
### Afghanistan the 'rogue state' and the Taliban (from 1970s onwards)



- When the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan, there was a power vacuum that was capitalised on by the ISI of Pakistan, who supported the Taliban in rising to power. They eventually did so around 1994.  
- Weary from the war which had torn the country apart, the citizens of Afghanistan were largely supportive of the Taliban initially, who promised order, and to rid Afghanistan of the 'criminals of war.'  
- A radically strict interpretation of Sharia Law was implemented.  
- Religious police were employed to enforce law (including through widespread beatings and capital punishment).  
- When Osama bin-Laden was expelled from Sudan, the Taliban protected him and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

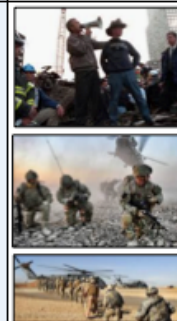
**Key Fact**  
The Taliban banned employment, education and sports for women. Movies, TV, dancing and beard-trimming were also banned.

## 9/11



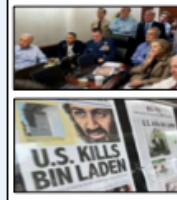
- The September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks against the USA on the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.  
- Four passenger airlines were hijacked by 19 Al-Qaeda militants.  
- Two of the planes were crashed into the North and South towers of the World Trade Centre complex in Manhattan – causing them to collapse.  
- A third plane was crashed into the Pentagon (the headquarters of US Defense) in Virginia, causing the collapse of the west wing.  
- The fourth plane was flown towards Washington DC, but crashed in fields in Pennsylvania after passengers overpowered the hijackers.  
- It is the single deadliest terrorist attack in history, with 2,996 people being killed and 6,000 others injured. 415 firefighters and police died.  
- Al-Qaeda were immediately suspected. Despite initially denying involvement, bin Laden claimed responsibility for the attacks in 2004.

**Key Fact**  
The attacks caused at least \$10 billion of damage. In the years following the attacks, thousands more people died of illnesses and diseases related to the attacks.



- Immediately after the 9/11 attacks, US officials requested that the Taliban hand over Osama bin Laden. They declined to do so.  
- On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2001, Bush announced the 'War on Terror', stating that "our war begins with Al-Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group...has been found, stopped and defeated."  
- On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2001, the USA and UK launched airstrikes at Taliban/ Al-Qaeda targets. By 20<sup>th</sup> October, the ground war had also begun, with many American allies declaring that they would be committing troops.  
- In November and December of 2001, the Taliban was rapidly defeated. On 13<sup>th</sup> November, the Afghanistan capital of Kabul fell. The last Taliban stronghold, Kandahar, was overtaken by US troops on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.  
- By June of the next year, Hamid Karzai (a favoured candidate of the USA) is selected to become Afghanistan's transitional Head of State. He is elected as the first democratically-elected President in 2004.  
- On June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011, Barack Obama announced the US would withdraw troops from Afghanistan, to be enacted by 2014.

**Key Fact**  
Shortly after Barack Obama announced the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, the deadliest month for US troops followed – there were 66 fatalities, including 38 in a helicopter fire.



- On May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by US Special Forces in an early morning raid on a compound in Abbottabad in Pakistan.  
- The house was 1km from a Pakistani military base, and was much larger than other houses in the area. Bin Laden was tracked through his courier.  
- The house had a 12-foot privacy wall, and residents burned their trash.  
- When intelligence was deemed strong enough to proceed, Barack Obama chaired 5 Security Council meetings to plan the raid.  
- A group of 25 Navy Seals arrived in 2 helicopters, fighting up 3 floors of security before shooting bin Laden above the left eye.  
- He was buried at sea, within 24-hours of death (in line with Islamic law).

**Key Fact**  
The operation took about 40 minutes. Three men, including bin Laden's son, and one woman, are killed in the attack.