

Ideological differences - Stalin vs Truman

During the Second World War, the USA and the USSR had co-operated because they **needed** each other to defeat Hitler. President Roosevelt of America had got on well with Joseph Stalin of Russia. However, Roosevelt died in 1945. He was replaced by Truman who was strongly anti-Communist and, as the war came to an end, the relationship between America and Russia fell apart.

By 1948, a **Cold War** had developed - a war without fighting. After 1949, it **had** to be a war without fighting because both superpowers had the atomic bomb, and a war with nuclear arms would destroy the Earth.

1. Ideological differences - Stalin versus Truman
2. Ideological differences between America and Russia

Ideological differences - Stalin versus Truman

In 1945, Harry S Truman became president of the USA, determined to confront Communism. He is reported to have told his advisers:

"The Russians only understand one language - how many armies have you got? I'm tired of babying the Soviets."

But this was not the only cause of trouble. Historians believed that the wartime alliance between the Soviet Union and America was also wrecked by the **huge differences** between the two countries in:

- **Politics** - America was capitalist, Russia was communist.
- **Lifestyle** - America had freedom and a two-party democracy; Russia had secret police and a one-party state.
- **Aims** - America wanted Germany to recover as a trading partner; Russia wanted to weaken Germany and create a buffer zone of friendly states around Russia.

The collapse of the wartime alliance led to a Cold War between the two superpowers.

Ideological differences between America and Russia

It will help in your exam if you are able to describe the huge differences between America and Russia:

America	Russia
1. The richest country in the world.	1. The biggest country in the world.
2. A democracy with free elections, led by an elected president.	2. A one-party state led by a dictator . There were elections, but you could only vote for the Communist Party.
3. Freedom of speech and belief.	3. State control : censorship, secret police, terror and purges.
4. Capitalism - private ownership and the right to make money.	4. Communism - state ownership of the means of production, and the belief that wealth should be shared.
5. Led by Truman , who believed that Communism was evil.	5. Led by Stalin , who believed that capitalism was evil.
6. Had the atomic bomb - but was scared of Russia's conventional army.	6. Had the biggest army in the world - but was angry that Truman had not warned that he was going to drop the atomic bomb.
7. Fear ed the spread of communism throughout the world.	7. Was angry because America and Britain had invaded Russia in 1918-19 to try to destroy communism.
8. Angry about the Nazi-Soviet Pact that was a major factor in starting the Second World War.	8. Believed that America and Britain had delayed opening the second front (attacking France) to let Germany and Russia destroy each other on the eastern front.
9. Wanted reconstruction - to make Germany a prosperous democracy and a trading partner.	9. Wanted to wreck Germany, take huge reparations for the damage done during the war, and set up a buffer of friendly states around Russia to prevent another invasion in the future.