



General Certificate of Secondary Education
2013

History

Unit 2: The Cold War 1945–1991

Foundation and Higher Tiers

[GHY21] [GHY22]

MONDAY 10 JUNE, MORNING

RESOURCE BOOKLET

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The Berlin Blockade, 1948–1949

Source A: A modern historian, writing in 1996, explains the attitude of Stalin to West Berlin

Stalin felt that he could stamp his authority on West Berlin. It was deep in the Soviet zone and was linked to West Germany by vital roads, railways and canals. Stalin decided to block all these supply lines from West Germany, cutting off the two million people of West Berlin from western help. The Berlin Blockade began in June 1948. Stalin believed that this would force the Allies out of West Berlin and make its people completely dependent on the USSR.

Source B: President Truman, speaking in a radio broadcast to the American people in 1948

The Berlin Blockade is a move to test our ability and will to resist. This sudden action and previous attempts by the USSR to take over Greece and Turkey are part of a plan by the USSR to find the weak spots in the western alliance and extend their control. The USSR wants to force us out of the city of Berlin. We will not be moved. We must act to protect the freedom of the people there.

Source C: Major Anatoly Semiriaga, a USSR soldier stationed in Berlin from 1945 to 1949, interviewed in 1997

The Blockade was prepared for weeks in advance. It did not happen overnight. We did everything we could to make the Allies leave West Berlin willingly, because the western part of Berlin felt like a thorn in our side. Their economic reforms were damaging the East German economy. Our people were becoming discontented. But the Allies did not want to leave. We had to take action so we decided to force the Allies out by making life unbearable for West Berliners.

Source A: Ben Walsh, Modern World History, John Murray, 1996 (adapted)

Source B: Ben Walsh, Modern World History, John Murray, 1996 (adapted)

Source C: Brave New World, The People's Century, BBC, 1997 (adapted)

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