Khrushchev set up the **Warsaw Pact** in 1955 - a military alliance of communist countries - to rival NATO. America responded by increasing the number of NATO troops in Germany.

- Russia and America **competed in every way possible** - eg in sport, space and arms race. This was not just a propaganda war, it was a **clash of ideologies** as both sides tried to prove that their way was best.
- America responded **aggressively**. Senator McCarthy led a series of **public trials of suspected Communists** - the so-called witch-hunts.
- Both sides **spied** on each other. Keen to know what the other one was up to. The USSR tended to use human spies. The USA used hi-tech spying equipment such as the **U2 spy planes** to spy on Russia.
- In August 1961 the Communist built the Berlin Wall dividing East and West Berlin. The Soviet Union wanted to stop people from leaving East Germany. Border guards shot anyone trying to cross the wall illegally.

**Explain how America influenced Cuba under Batista**

American **backed dictator**

America controlled most of the **industries** including railways and telephones. Most of Cuba's **best farming land** was owned by Americans. Followed USA segregation of blacks and whites. Had **casinos and hotels** used for US vacations. American dominated **industry and politics**

**Cuban missile crisis 1962**

Cuba is larger island just 160km from Florida. It had been a long American ally. **In 1959**, a rebel named Fidel Castro took power in Cuba. Before Castro took over, the government - led by Batista - had been a corrupt and right wing military dictatorship, but the Americans had many business interests in Cuba. This was very **threatening to the USA** because it was right next to America.

For two years Cuba and the USA maintained a **frosty relationship** without any direct confrontation. In 1960 the Americans **stopped all aid** to Cuba, and **all imports** of Cuban sugar. This was a blow to Castro as sugar was the **mainstay** of the Cuban economy. He **nationalize** American companies in Cuba, but allowed the USA to keep its naval base. **1961** – US **broke off diplomatic relations**, the Americans **stopped all aid** to Cuba, and **all imports** of Cuban sugar. This was a blow to Castro as sugar was the **mainstay** of the Cuban economy.
Castro was forced to look to the USSR for help, and, in 1960, the USSR signed an agreement to buy 1 million tones of Cuban sugar every year. Castro, who had not been a Communist when he took power, became a Communist. This was very threatening to the US as they saw Cuba as in their own ‘sphere of influence’ and now she was communist

**Castro reforms**
Key industry nationalised
Land was redistributed among peasants
Separate facilities for blacks and whites was abolished
Many casinos and hotels closed down, mafia were forced to leave

**How did the USA react to Batista's government being overthrown?**
- Initially, there was a frosty relationship but with no direct confrontation.
- In 1960, the USA banned buying of Cuban sugar (July) and then banned all trade with Cuba (October).
- In January 1961 the USA broke off diplomatic relations.
- After the takeover, Castro took over American businesses, but let them keep the naval base.
- In April 1961 the USA supported an invasion of Cuba by exiles (the Bay of Pigs). It failed.

From the summer of 1960 Castro was receiving arms from the SU and American spies knew this

**The Bay of Pigs**
America was alarmed. In April 1961, with Kennedy's knowledge, the CIA funded, trained, armed and transported 1,400 Cuban exiles to invade Cuba. They landed at the Bay of Pigs and made an attempt to overthrow Castro. They were met by 20,000 Cuban troops armed. The invasion was a disaster, and President Kennedy was humiliated.
- In September 1961, Castro asked for - and Russia publicly promised - weapons to defend Cuba against future American attack.

**Problems for USA that Bay of Pigs caused**
- Force of 1400 exiles landed in Cuba and were killed/captured by 20 000 Cuban troops.
- Bay of pigs further encouraged spreading of communism.
- Showed more people in Cuba supported Communist than American regime.
- The Cubans did not rise to support the invasion.
- Suggested to USSR that Kennedy was weak.