- To divide Berlin into 4 zones
- Hunt down Nazi criminals & put them on trial
- Allow liberated countries to have free elections
- Soviet’s to have a sphere of influence in Eastern Europe
- All to participate in the UN

Disagreements (over Eastern Europe):
- USSR forces in control – Stalin set up a Communist government in Poland
- Stalin wanted recognition of his power in Eastern Europe
- Churchill & FDR didn’t like this, forced to accept Stalin’s demands & could only secure Stalin’s promise to hold free elections
- Stalin wanted large sum of reparations from Germany, others didn’t
- Stalin wanted polish border to be nearer west
- Mutual suspicions developing

**THE POTSDAM CONFERENCE, July 1945**  
*(Following conclusion of WWII, Stalin and Truman)*

Changes that occurred since Yalta:
- Soviet troops liberated in eastern Europe
- Stalin set up communist gov in Poland
- Red army became greatest
- Roosevelt died in 1945, Truman replaced him

Agreements:
- Germany & Berlin was divided into 4 zones of occupation
- The USSR gained land from Finland
- Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became parts of USSR
- Parts of Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia were given to the USSR
- Germany to be demilitarised
- Re-establish democracy in Germany
- Germany to pay reparations to Allies in equipment & materials, Most of it to go to the Soviet Union
- Ban the Nazi party
- Poland’s border to be moved westwards
- All agreed to participate fully in the UN

Disagreements:
- Treatment of Germany, The Soviet’s wanted to crush her whereas UK & USA didn’t, wanted to ensure a stable strong capitalist democracy in Europe
- They also disagreed over the lack of free elections in Eastern Europe
- Germans hated the treaty of Brest Litovsk

*(During the next few months Stalin made his intentions clear as Communists took over the running of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland & Romania, Truman was determined to ‘get tough’ with the Communists)*
embarrassed by contrast between prosperous West Berlin and poverty in East Berlin & Germany
As a result, USSR closed all road, rail, canal links to West Berlin
to force west to withdraw by bringing West Berlin to starvation point
cut off entire aid supply
western powers flew supplies in – airlift
Next 10 months, 2m tons of supplies were airdropped by GB & US planes (approx 4,000 tons per day)
Kept 2.5m West Berliners fed & warm
May 1949, USSR lifted blockade realising they had failed.
  - Psychological boost for west
  - brought about formation of NATO
  - Germany had to remain divided
  - Cold War very chilly, increased tensions

**NATO, 1949**
- Defensive alliance of western countries against soviet expansionism
- Provided European countries with support of USA
- Confirmed policy of containmient
- Consisted of 12 countries
- West Germany joined in 1955
- Seen as an aggressive alliance by Stalin

**SU discovery of atomic bomb, 1949**
- kick started the arms race in earnest
- Both the USSR and USA spent money on building bigger bombs
- Each side feared that the other aimed to build up enough weapons to be able to make a first strike, preventing the other side retaliating – MUD

**Death of Stalin, rise of Khrushchev, 1953**
- Died of old age
- Khrushchev arose to take his place
- Opposed Stalin

**COEXISTANCE** – idea of two things existing at once (capitalism and communism)
**DESTALINISATION** – revering of Stalin’s work and what he imposed

**Warsaw pact, 1955**
- USSR response to West Germany being allowed into NATO
- secured, defensive alliance based in Mosco
- consisted of 8 countries
- Military supported to protect one another if necessary
- In 1949, USSR had also developed an atomic bomb
JFK’S reaction –

- Solution rather than problem
- Indicated east had no intention of occupying west
- Mutually assured destruction
- “Ich Bin Ein Berliner” – I am a Berliner, provided support for all those who feared East invasion – seen as highest point in cold war

Consequences –

- Berlin families were split
- German families paid the price of superpower tension
- Peace kept as JFK not prepared to go to war over this issue
- Wall became a symbol of division – the iron curtain in reality
- Soviet Union presented in the Western world as inhumane

CUBA: A KEY TURNING POINT IN SUPERPOWER RELATIONS

Crisis over Cuba in the late 1950s -

- The tension of the Cold war had increased in the 1950s
- The Arms Race was accelerating
- Tension in Berlin was growing
- JFK came to power in 1959 & wants to make an impression
- He also hated communism and was determined to stop its spreading
- America had influence over Cuba – backyard
- Vast sums of Western money invested in it
- Cuban government corrupt

 Castro's takeover, 1959 –

- In 1959, Fidel Castro seized power from corrupt US backed dictator, Batista
- Communist, socialist, left-wing leader
- Changing whelm of politics, causing uncertainty
- He annoyed the USA by nationalising all the US owned estates & factories
- Cuba's relationship with the US worsened
- But relations with the USSR improved - Jan. 1961, USA broke off diplomatic relations & the USSR increased their economic aid

Build up towards crisis –

- **1959**, Castro takes over, communist regime enforced, Americans don’t react straight away, wait to see him as new leader
- **1960**, government take over all American properties and companies (nationalise), capitalists and Americans expelled, US retaliate by refusing to buy good from cuba, heavily reliant on USA’s economic contribution
- **1960**, Castro turns to Russia, asking them to buy sugar and sell them oil, formed alliance, adapts sphere of influence