Britain's role in the Cold War

Existing tension and distrust by the Soviet union- US and Britain gave support to the White army during the Russian revolution.

During the WWII, the US and UK allegiance with the Soviet Union only existed from having a mutual enemy.

Post war, in 1946, Stalin made a speech drawing on Marxist belief that 'the capitalist system [...] contains the elements of a general crisis and military conflicts, that, in view of that, the development of world capitalism in our times does not proceed smoothly and evenly, but through crises and catastrophic wars'. He also attributes the success of the Red Army to the organisational triumphs of The Communist Party.

Also in this year, Winston Churchill warns of an 'Iron Curtain' forming, a divide in ideologies.

Basically after this, the Soviet Union do things to pee Britain and America off, for example The Communist Party tries to expand itself and tries to starve out British (and other) presence in West Germany.

From this NATO (of which Britain is a member) is founded in 1949, the same year that Russia tests it's first atomic bomb, at the height of the 'Red Scare', solidifying this 'Iron Curtain' in it's aim to resist this Communist expansion.

Post-WWII-Labour government under Clement Atlee. Britain’s Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, planned for Britain to be at the head of a new European block, aiming for “extensive political, economic and military co-operation throughout Western Europe, with an Anglo-French alliance as a corner-stone.” (1945)

This was thwarted by growing post-war anxiety about Soviet strength over the west, and Britain could not ensure European stability due to it's dire economical situation.

The rivalry between US and USSR included Britain and East Germany. There was a fear that communism would become a global movement, it was a battle of ideologies; capitalism vs communism, east vs west, which as the third strongest of the allied powers was a very real threat for Britain.

Controversies surrounding Britain's foreign policy

In the same way that the US Republicans used anti-communism to their advantage, the UK Conservative party did the same.

Establishment of NATO (a Western alliance) heightened the rivalry.