

November



3 Cold War Crises

Lesson 4: The Crisis in Berlin:  
Attempts at Solving the Crisis.



**Learning Gain - by the end of this lesson I will be able to add to my knowledge of the refugee crisis in Berlin through an examination of the diplomatic efforts to solve the issue.**



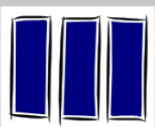
**Learning Steps:**



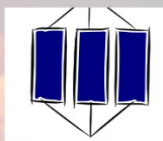
- Explore the international conferences that tried to solve the Berlin Crisis.
- Explore the problem with Ultimatums.
- Think about why no solution was found to the crisis.

By the early 1950s, the Soviet approach to controlling national movement, restricting emigration, was emulated by most of the rest of the Eastern Bloc, including East Germany. Up until 1953, the lines between East Germany and the western occupied zones could be easily crossed in most places. Consequently, the Inner German border between the two German states was closed, and a barbed-wire fence erected. In 1955, the Soviets passed a law transferring control over civilian access in Berlin to East Germany, a government not recognized in the US-allied West. When large numbers of East Germans then defected under the guise of "visits", the new East German state essentially eliminated all travel between the west and east in 1956. With the closing of the Inner German border officially in 1952, the border in Berlin remained considerably more accessible than the rest of the border because it was administered by all four occupying powers. Accordingly, Berlin became the main route by which East Germans left for the West. The Berlin sector border was essentially a "loophole" through which East Bloc citizens could still escape. The 3.5 million East Germans that had left by 1961 totaled approximately 20% of the entire East German population. The loss was disproportionately heavy among professionals—engineers, technicians, physicians, teachers, lawyers and skilled workers. The brain drain of professionals had become so damaging to the political credibility and economic viability of East Germany that closing this loophole and securing the Soviet-imposed East-West-Berlin frontier was imperative.

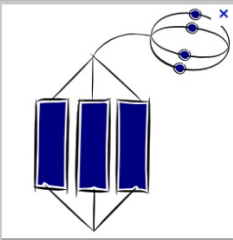
Task:



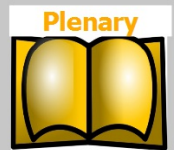
Create a timeline of events between 1950 and 1961.



Complete the Force Field Analysis sheet examining the crisis.

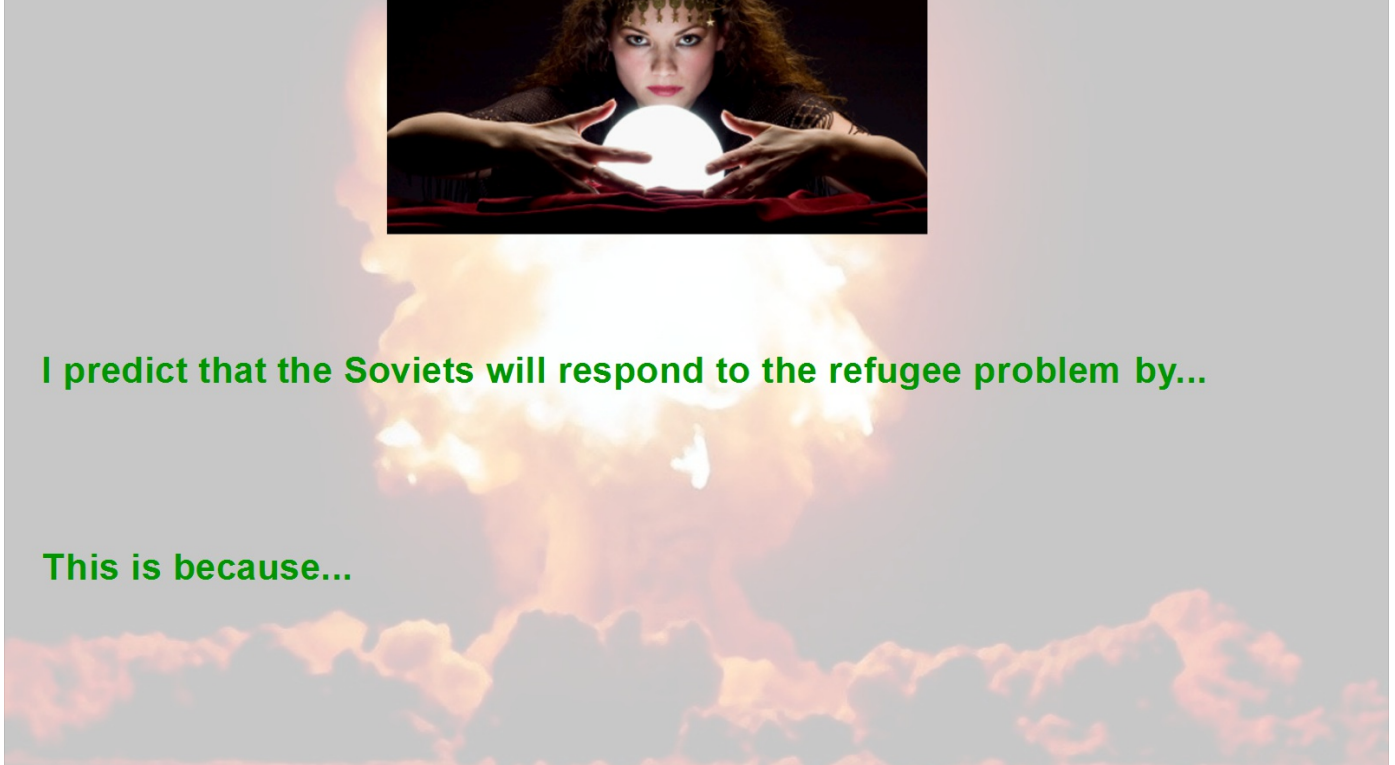


The Fortune Teller of History...woaaaahhh!!



I predict that the Soviets will respond to the refugee problem by...

This is because...







**MAY 1959**

**BIG FOUR  
FORIEGN MINISTERS  
MEETING**

A meeting took place to try and solve the Berlin problem after the USSR withdrew their ultimatum.

The meeting lasted three months and although nothing was decided it left the door open for further discussion.





### September 1959:

Khrushchev is first communist leader to visit USA.

At the end of the visit Eisenhower and Khrushchev make a joint statement -

"that the most important issue facing the world is general disarmament and that the problem of Berlin should be solved by peaceful negotiations."



### Camp David:

The two leaders met privately and spoke frankly with each other.

They agreed that the use of ultimatums was inadvisable as both sides knew what they could lead to.

Khrushchev came away from the meeting optimistic that an agreement could be reached regarding Berlin.



A further conference was agreed should take place in Paris in July 1960.

Oops!

A U2 Spy plane piloted by Gary Powers was shot down over the USSR whilst he was taking photographs of Soviet nuclear missile bases.

The Four Power Summit collapsed, in large part because Eisenhower refused to agree to Khrushchev's demands that he apologize for the incident. Khrushchev left the talks on May 16.

The incident resulted in great humiliation for Eisenhower as he was caught in a lie.





**Main**



## **A new President - John Fitzgerald Kennedy elected President in November 1960.**

**KENNEDY  
FOR PRESIDENT**



**LEADERSHIP FOR THE 60's**

4President.org

**"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." He also asked the nations of the world to join together to fight what he called the "common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself".**



## Old Problems - Vienna Summit June 4th 1961:

Kennedy and Khrushchev met in Vienna to try and solve the continuing crisis of Berlin.

Khrushchev saw Kennedy as young and inexperienced and attempted to bully him. He reissued his threat to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany which would end France, UK, and USA's access to Berlin.

Ultimatum given - Dec 31st 1961.



## West's Response -

Three powers stated that no ultimatum would end their access to West Berlin.

## Kennedy's TV Address - July 25th 1961

In a live broadcast to the US people Kennedy stated that:

- The US not looking for a fight.
- They recognised the Soviet's concern over their security.
- Willingness to renew talks on Berlin.
- Asked Congress for \$3.25 billion increase in spending.
- Increased the size of the US Army.

Broadcast was shown live in West Berlin.







Khrushchev was angered and irritated by Kennedy's speech.

He instructed the East Germans to build a barrier to stop refugees escaping into the West.

This of course was the Berlin Wall.

13 Aug 1961

East Germans erected a border of barbed wire and machine guns.

Kennedy protested but was not ready to risk war over Berlin at this stage.

3 days later work began on the construction of a 45km concrete wall - anyone attempting to get over it would be shot.



America used the construction of the wall for propaganda purposes:

1962 Kennedy:

***"Democracy may not be perfect but we never had to put up walls to keep people in."***

In 1963 Kennedy visited Berlin and made his famous speech "Ich Bin Ein Berliner" - he suggested that the USA would never desert West Berliners. This further angered the communists.







Think about the work you have studied on Berlin.

Think about a question...



- It could be about something you haven't quite understood.
- It could be a question you would like to ask any of the leaders from this period about why they acted they way they did.

Your homework is to go to the Padlet Wall that has been set up for this task and add your question to the wall.