

How and why did the Cold War develop, 1945 – 1991

The history of many conflicts can be explained by describing and explaining the relationship between the countries involved, and how this relationship broke down to the point of war. So, if we ask why a conflict happened we are asking 'why did their relationship become so tense / broken that eventually war broke out?' The story of the Cold War is the story of the relationship between the USA and USSR – how and why their relationship changed over time...

Reasons why the Cold War started:

Reasons why détente happened:

Reasons why the Second Cold War started:

Reasons for the end of the Cold War by 1991:

Key events in the Cold War, 1945 – 1962:

Key events in Détente, mid 1960s – 1979:

Key events in the Second Cold War, 1979 – mid 1980s:

Key events leading to the end of the Cold War, mid 1980s – 1991