

# PROJECT: COLD WAR



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For forty-five years of heightened anxiety, two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—clashed on the world stage because of their competing ideologies. Each superpower stockpiled nuclear weapons and attempted to control strategic parts of the world by means of economic support, military backing, and political maneuvering. The end result was a crippling resource drain, encumbering both sides.

The most obvious example of impact on individuals during the Cold War was the Berlin Wall—a large, concrete wall separating East Berlin and West Berlin. Look at the events that led to the division of Berlin and the construction of the wall.

After World War II, Berlin, like Germany as a whole, had been divided into four separate zones, each occupied by a different Allied nation (United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union). This division, which was intended to be very temporary, remained in place with the American, British and French zones being collectively referred to as West Berlin and the Soviet zone becoming East Berlin. Further complicating matters was the fact that Berlin itself was located deep inside the part of Germany that was occupied by the Soviets.

By 1961, Berlin remained divided; however, by this time, West Berlin was affiliated with the Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany, which had been created in 1949 by the formal merging of the British, French, and American occupation zones. East Berlin had been made the capital of the German Democratic Republic, or East Germany, which had been created from the Soviet-occupied zone.

The economic prosperity of West Germany caused many desperate citizens in East Germany to want to escape to West Germany. Thousands of people were able to do so by crossing into West Berlin and then making arrangements to go to West Germany or other Western European nations. Facing a massive loss of workers, especially educated people, the Soviet Union moved to stop the flood of refugees in August of 1961. In that month, the Soviets literally built a wall around West Berlin to keep East Germans from escaping to freedom. To most of the world, it was the Berlin Wall, the most infamous symbol of the Cold War.

Today, you will begin to analyze the key elements in two important speeches given by two different presidents of the United States. Each speech is a response to the Berlin Wall and its symbolism. President Kennedy's speech was given during the height of the Cold War and only two years after the construction of the Berlin Wall began. President Reagan's speech, on the other hand, was given toward the end of the Cold War, two years before the wall was dismantled and the movement of people became legal again. Although each speech has the same subject, careful listening or reading will help you identify the differing points of view, as well as differing evidence and support for your claim. You will be determining the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how the speaker uses and refines the meaning of key terms over the course of his speech.

## Part 1

	Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall"	Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner"
central claim of the speech		
specific words or phrases that support the central claim		
tone		
any word or idea that is repeated		

## **Part 2**

Answer the following questions:

What was Kennedy's approach?

What was Reagan's approach?

How are the speeches similar?

How are they different?

Which speech do you think was most effective? Why?

Why would other listeners disagree?