

Superpower Relations – The Berlin Ultimatum - Recall Quiz Answers

<https://youtu.be/y6l8bboOJBk>



Recall the Facts

1. Why was the location of Berlin important to the Cold War?
It was located in the USSR's section of Germany and was divided into East and West, with the West being controlled by the US and the East being controlled by the USSR so gave the West a foothold in the East.
2. Why did West Germany prosper in the 1950s?
It received Marshall aid from the USA and the introduction of the new currency.
3. How did economic policies affect East Germany in the 1950s?
It led to shortages of basics such as food and medicines.
4. Why were people unhappy with the Soviet control in Germany?
The Soviet forces committed atrocities at the end of WW2 and the government placed strict restrictions on what people could say and do, using secret police to monitor people's behaviour.
5. What was the brain drain?
The mass emigration of skilled workers and professionals from East Germany to the West due to the higher quality of life in the West.
6. What was Khrushchev's plan to stop the brain drain?
To make West Berlin part of East Germany, shutting down the route to the West and stopping the flood of people.
7. What was Khrushchev's Berlin Ultimatum?
Khrushchev demanded that the West demilitarize and withdraw from Berlin and declare it a free city, with its own independent government..
8. Why was this a clever plan?
It would force the West to work with the East German government and acknowledge its existence.
9. Why did talks between the US and USSR fail to resolve the Berlin problem?
Talks failed due to issues such as the U2 spy plane incident and disagreements over concessions.
10. What was the outcome of the talks between Kennedy and Khrushchev in Vienna?
The talks ended without a decision, with Kennedy refusing to negotiate and Khrushchev preparing to build the Berlin Wall.