Superpower Relations and the Cold War





Consequence:

* The Federal Republic of Germany was created (West Germany)
* In April 1949 NATO was created to counter the Soviet military threat – it worked on the principle of collective security.
* In October 1949 East Germany (GDR) was created
* The Blockade made the Soviet Union appear aggressive and threatening

Narrative:

* The Soviet Union had 1.5 million troops in its zone whereas the Americans had much fewer, but they did have the atomic bomb. This meant that the Soviet Union would be scared to attack the American sphere of influence.
* Berlin was deep into East Germany, which is Soviet controlled and used special air, road and rail links to get into West Berlin
* In June 1948 the Soviets closed all road, rail and canal links into West Berlin to force out the British, French and US troops
* West Berlin could not survive without supplies, but the USA could not look weak and so had to act to show support for West Berlin
* The Americans airlifted thousands of tonnes of food into West Berlin
* The blockade lasted 318 days (11 months).
* In the winter of 1948–49 Berliners lived on dried potatoes, powdered eggs and cans of meat.  They had four hours of electricity a day.
* The airlift was codenamed 'operation Vittles'; the first flight was on 26 June 1948.
* 275,000 flights carried in 1½ million tons of supplies.  A plane landed every 3 mins.
* On 16 April 1949, 1400 flights brought in 13,000 tons of supplies in one day – Berlin only needed 6,000 tons a day to survive.
* In May 1949 Stalin ended the blockade = he realised that he could not win and he was being humiliated by the airlift
* The airlift continued until 30 September 1949, in order to build up a reserve of supplies.
* attack.

Cause:

* The USA introduced the Truman Doctrine and then Marshall Aid which upset the Soviets
* In return the Soviet Union established Cominform and Comecon
* The Americans and British then combined their zones of Germany and called it Bizonia. France soon joined them and then a new currency was introduced into the three zones. There was no discussion with Stalin about this.
* Britain and America in

People: Truman, Stalin

Event: Berlin Blockade Date: June 1948-Septbember 1949

Question:

Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Berlin Blockade 1948-1948

You may use the following in your answer:

* Stalin’s fears
* The airlift

You must use information of your own (8)

Importance:

* The division of Europe was finalised with Germany on the front line.
* It showed Stalin that the USA would not back down or face humiliation over Soviet bullying
* It showed that although both sides wanted to undermine the other, they would not risk all out war if the conflict stayed within their own spheres of influence.