Superpower Relations and the Cold War





FLASHPOINT REVISION

Importance:

* The fact that the USA did not help Hungary with troops (it didn’t want to risk a nuclear war) showed Khrushchev that he could get away with invading satellite states
* Satellite states saw that the USA would not defend them against the Soviet Union. Soviet control retightened across Eastern Europe

Consequence:

* Over 5000 Hungarians were killed and around 1000 Soviet troops. Many Hungarians stayed loyal to Nagy and fought
* Nagy and his government were deposed
* Nagy was arrested, tried and executed. Khrushchev wanted to prevent rebellions in other countries such as Poland and wanted to make an example out of Nagy
* A new leader, Janos Kadar was appointed. He introduced the 15 point programme which aimed to re-establish communist rule in Hungary. Kadar’s policies were more moderate than those of other satellite states and resulted in Hungary having better living standards than other Eastern European states
* Hungarians aware that the US was not prepared to help them, grudgingly accepted this modified form of communist rule
* The USA did aid Hungary with medical aid and money, they also accepted 80000 Hungarian
* The UN condemned Soviet actions but did nothing
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Narrative:

* When Stalin died Khrushchev took over and in his ‘secret speech’ he hinted Soviet control would be relaxed
* October 1956 poor harvests meant that Hungarians started demonstrating against communist control
* Statues of Stalin were pulled down and communists attached
* Khrushchev appointed a more liberal Prime Minister – Nagy
* Nagy wanted reforms that involved free elections, UN protection from the Soviet Union and to leave the Warsaw Pact
* Khrushchev disapproved, he was concerned if Hungary left the Warsaw Pact other countries would follow. He feared the violent unrest would spread to other satellite states
* 1956 Soviet troops invaded Hungary. 200,000 troops were sent to depose Nagy and restore order

Cause: Hungary suffered a lot under Soviet control

Food and industrial produce shipped off to Russia, opposition ruthlessly wiped out, Rakosi a ruthless leaser known as the ‘Bald Butcher’. As a result of this communism became very unpopular

People: Khrushchev, Rakosi, Nagy, Kadar

Event: Hungarian Uprising Date: 1956

Exemplar question/ answer: Explain two consequences of the Hungarian Uprising in 1956