

Why did tension between the superpowers increase between 1960-62?

TASK: List down 3 facts you already know about the Berlin wall and why it was built. And 1 fact that you have stolen from someone else.

TASK: Read p79-83 and answer the following questions.

By 1958, why had the city of Berlin, and in particular West Berlin, become such a problem for Nikita Khrushchev?	
What were the key features of the Nov 27, 1958 Berlin Ultimatum? What was the US response?	
What was the Hallstein Doctrine?	
What was the impact of the U-2 crisis in 1960 on Soviet US relations and the arms race?	
Why had the Soviet Union resisted Walter Ulbricht's calls for a wall prior to 1961?	
What were the causes of the erection of the Berlin Wall in August 1961? (political, economic, cultural, military, social)	
What were the consequences of the Berlin Wall for the US, USSR and Germany? Think positive and negative.	

Causes of the Berlin Wall

TASK: Read the statements. You need to think of a factor that each of them apply to in the box below the statement. Then. Colour the thermometer to show how significant the reasons is. Once you have done that, explain which cause was the most important and which was the least.

HOT Explain any links that you can make between the causes.

From 1955 there were increasing emigration from East Germany to the West; most of this migration went through West Berlin. GDR leaders pressured the USSR to do something to prevent West Germany from 'stealing' the East's skilled workers and educated youth.



West German membership of NATO might lead to placement of nuclear weapons there, threatening Soviet security.



Although Poland and Hungary remained part of the Soviet Bloc, their revolts against soviet authority in 1956 demonstrated that control was tenuous.



The scarcity of consumer goods across Eastern Europe was undermining confidence in the communist system.



Mao Zedong's China was beginning to challenge Soviet dominance of the communist bloc. Khrushchev wanted to use Berlin to assert strong leadership.



I think the most significant reason was ...

Western investments in West Berlin demonstrated the high living standards of the capitalist West to East Germans on a daily basis.



The USSR was spending vast sums on the defence of the USSR and its satellite states; although the USSR was winning the space race, this was also very expensive.



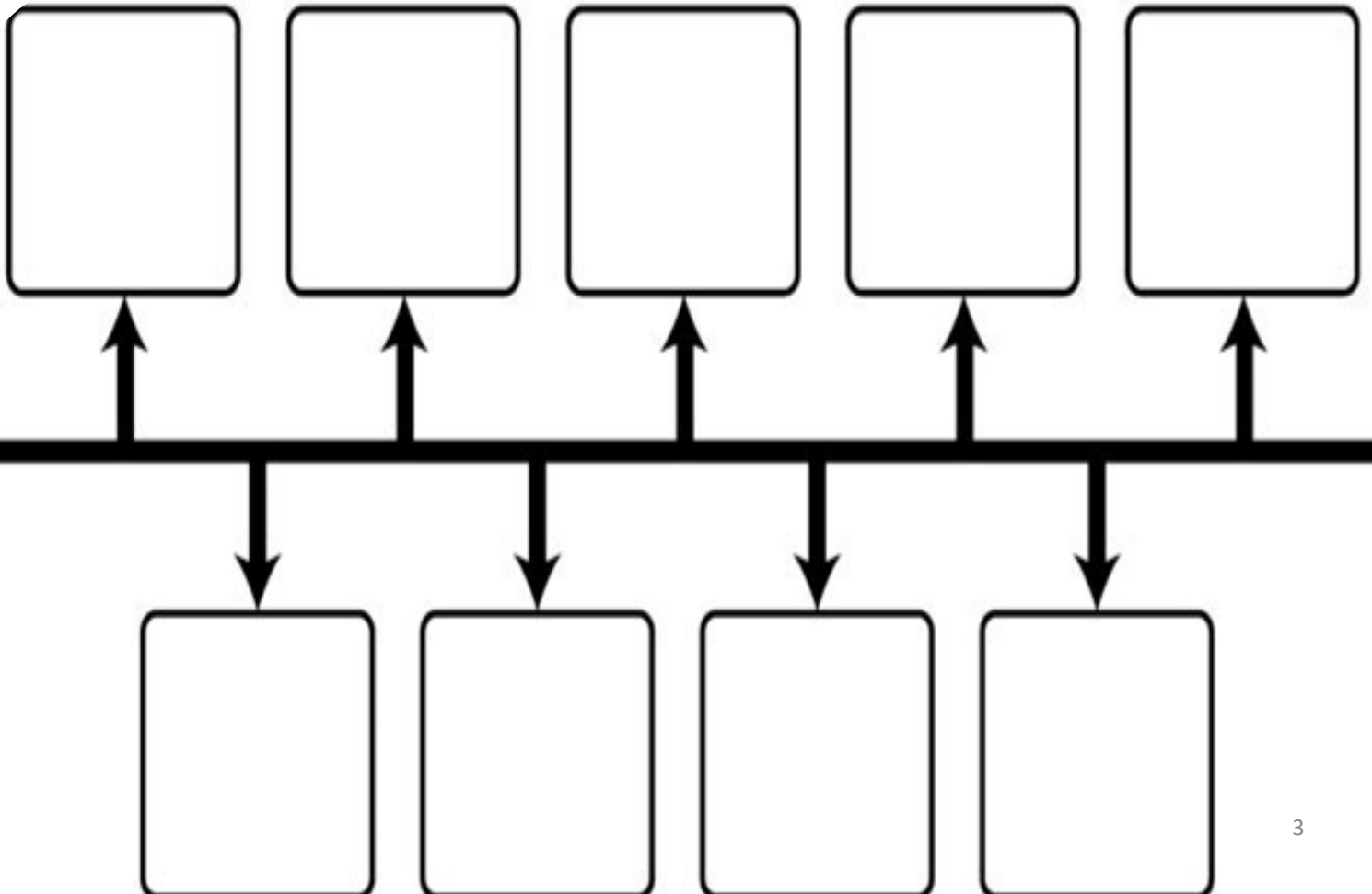
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HOT: Can you explain any links between the factors/evidence?

TASK: Retell the story of the Berlin Wall. Place these events on a timeline and add a one sentence summary.



- JFK becomes president
- Camp David
- Berlin Ultimatum
- Berlin Wall built
- Paris Summit
- U2 Spy Plane
- Harold Macmillan visiting Moscow
- Paris Summit



TASK What was the Significance/Impact of the Berlin Wall? Pg 81

Read pages 81-83 of the textbook and place factual information under the followings headings to assess the significance of the event.

Remarkable :The event was remarked on by people at the time or since

Remembered: The event/development was important at some stage within the collective memory of a group or groups

Resonant: People like to make analogies with it; it is possible to connect with experiences, beliefs or attitudes across time and place

Resulting in Change: It had consequences for the future.

Revealing: of some other aspects of the past.

Remarkable

Remembered

Resonant

Resulting in Change

Revealing

With reference to source 3 and 4 and your own understanding of the historical context, assess the value of theses sources to a historian studying why the Berlin Wall was erected in August 1961.

SOURCE 3

From a diplomatic note sent by the US government, on 17 August 1961, to the Soviet government:

The United States government has never accepted that limitations can be imposed on freedom of movement within Berlin. The boundary between the Soviet Zone and the Western zones of Berlin is not a state frontier. The United States government considers that the measures which the East German authorities have taken are illegal. It reiterates that it does not accept the pretension that the Soviet Zone of Berlin forms a part of the so-called 'German Democratic Republic'. The measures that have just been taken are motivated by the fact that an ever-increasing number of inhabitants of East Germany wish to leave this territory. The reasons for this exodus are known.

	What is it?	Value
Nature		
Origin		
Purpose		
Tone		
Content		

SOURCE 4

From a diplomatic note sent by the Soviet Union in response to the USA's protests, on 18 August 1961:

The actions of the German Democratic Republic established effective control on the border with West Berlin, in order to bar the way for subversive activity being carried out against the GDR and other countries of the socialist community. Any state establishes on its borders with other states such regime as it deems necessary and responsive to its legitimate interests. West Berlin has been transformed into a centre of political and economic provocations against the GDR. West Berlin leaders have cynically called West Berlin the 'cheapest atom bomb put in the centre of a socialist state'.

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End of the era of 'Peaceful Coexistence'? 1955-63

TASK: Read the scans of the Collins book p38-41 and complete the table below.

38-41	What was it? (specifics, facts, evidence)	Why was it a threat to PC?	How far of a threat was it?
Space Race 1957-69			
Nuclear Arms Race, 1949			
Emerging Sino-Soviet Split 1956 onwards			
Berlin Ultimatu ms, 1958 + 1961			
U2 incident, 1960			
President Kennedy's policies, 1960-63			
Bay of Pigs invasion, April 1961			

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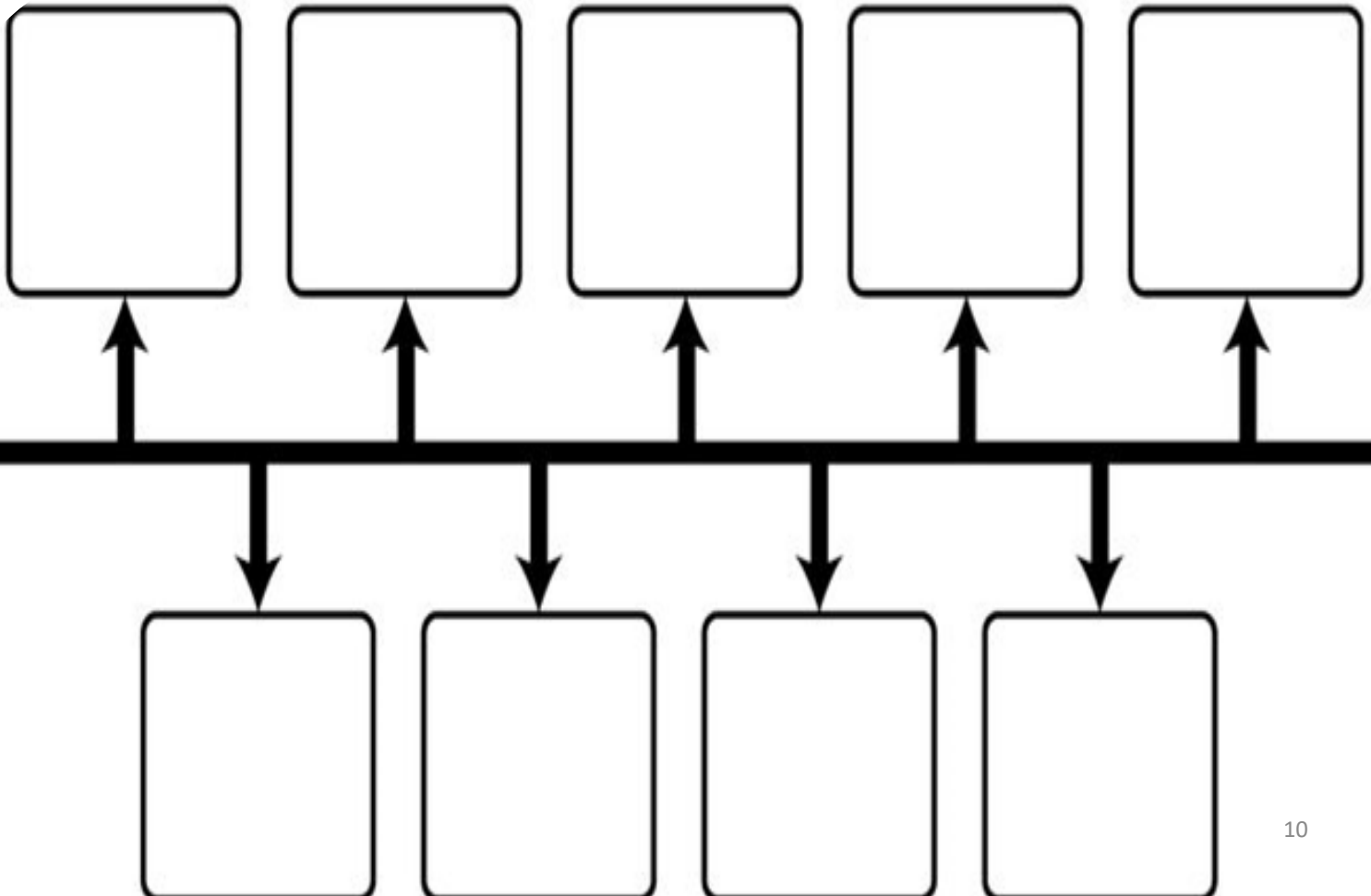
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