Rise of the Superpowers

* + The U.S. and the Soviet Union began getting allies on their side and were able to increase their influence in the world.
  + All the world took sides, you were either communist or democracy, and socialist or free market.
  + The soviets had a permanent seat on the U.N security council and controlled all other communist countries and dictatorships around the world. They had the largest country in the world, the third largest population, and the second largest economy. The soviets had military and space technology, a worldwide spy network (KGB), and one of the largest stockpiles of nuclear weapons in the world.

The U.S. also had a permanent seat on the U.N. security council, was the third largest country in the world, the 4th largest populated country, powerful military support from NATO, the largest Navy in the world, bases all over the world, the CIA, a large reserve of nuclear weapons, the support of Western Europe and Latin America, and supported underdeveloped countries and developing democratic countries.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and German Reunification

* + The Soviet Union was having problems within its own country that was using up its funds (revolts within, protecting its borders, keeping up in the arms race).
  + In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev (head of Soviet Union) reduced government control of business and offered more freedom for its citizens.
  + Eastern Bloc countries began demanding freedom from communist control.
  + In November, 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down and the reunification of Germany began taking place.
  + By 1990, Germany was unified and the cold war was over.
  + Soviet republics began seeking their independence.
  + The Soviet Union collapsed and was no more.

Russia is the largest of the former countries in the Soviet Union