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SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE
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SECTION A

QUESTION 1: HOW DID THE DIVISION OF BERLIN INTENSIFY TENSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR?

SOURCE 1A

The source below is an extract taken from an article: 'How Germany was divided after World War II' compiled by Dave Roos in April 2022. It was aired by A&T Television Networks and explains the reason behind the division of Germany after the Second World War.

Months before Germany's unconditional surrender in World War II, the 'Big Three', Allied Powers – the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union – met at the Yalta Conference to discuss Germany's future. They all wanted to avoid a repeat of what happened after World War I, when a post-war economic collapse in Germany fueled nationalistic resentment and the rise of the Nazi Party.

The situation in Germany after World War II was dire. Millions of Germans were homeless from Allied bombing campaign that razed entire cities. And millions more Germans living in Poland and East Prussia became refugees when the Soviet Union expelled them. With the German economy and the government in shambles, the Allies concluded that Germany had to be occupied after the war to assure a peaceful transition to a post-Nazi state.

What the Allies never intended, though was that their temporary solution to organise Germany into four occupation zones, each administered by a different Allied army, would ultimately lead to a divided Germany.

"Only over time, as the Cold War eroded trust between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies, did this occupation zones coalesce (reduce) into two different German nations".

In July of 1945, the 'Big Three' met again at Potsdam Conference. At Yalta, the Allies had agreed to a broad framework that included the demilitarisation, democratisation and denazification of Germany. With the war officially over, it was time to initiate a 'nuts and bolts' action plan for Allied occupation in Germany.

[Source: <https://www.history.com/news/germany-divided-world-war-ii>. Accessed on 8 November 2024]



SOURCE 1B

The extract below comes from an article: 'The Berlin Crisis, 1958–1961', published in 1978 by The Office of the Historian for the United States Government.

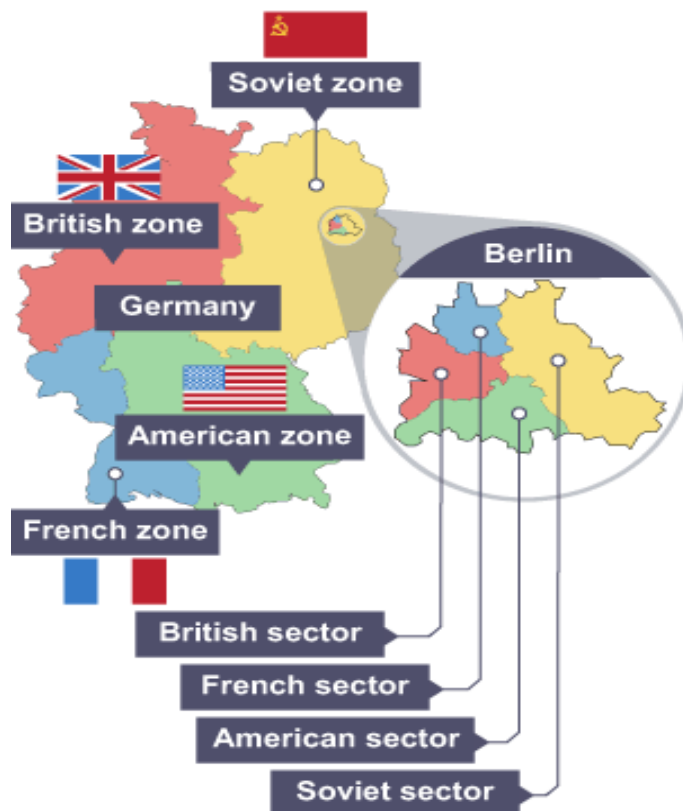
On November 10, 1958, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev delivered a speech in which he demanded that the Western Powers of the United States, Great Britain and France pull their forces out of West Berlin within six months. The ultimatum (final demand) sparked a three-year crisis over the future of the city of Berlin that culminated in 1961 with the building of the Berlin Wall. Germany and its capital city Berlin were divided among the four victors of the Second World War despite the post-war agreements to unify the zones. West Berlin remained under Western control. But it was located deep inside East German territory, and that made its protection from communist takeover a constant challenge for the Western Powers in 1948. The Soviet Union sparked a crisis in the city by cutting off land access between West Germany and West Berlin, necessitating a year-long airlift of supplies to the stranded citizens before the Soviets opened the passageways. By 1958, however, a similar situation would have doomed the city, it was already too populous (having a large population) and too prosperous to be supplied via air. The United States heralded the economic success and political freedom of West Berlin as a symbol of the success of the capitalist system, and it was deeply committed to its security, so a Soviet decision to cut off land access again had the potential to lead to a more serious conflict between the two powers. At the same time, the existence of West Berlin was increasingly becoming a liability for the Soviet Union and the East German government. The divided city highlighted the sharp contrast between the communist and the capitalist systems.

[Source: <http://history.state.gov.berlin-crisis>. Accessed on 2 November 2024]



SOURCE 1C

The source below is a map of Germany titled: 'The Yalta Conference: Outcome'. It shows how Germany and Berlin were divided among the Allied Powers after the Second World War in 1945, published on 4 February 2020.



[Source: bbc.co.uk, Accessed on 12 November 2024]



SOURCE 1D

The source below is an extract from an article by Donald P. Steury, a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent, called 'Bitter Measure: Intelligence and Action in the Berlin Crisis, 1961', published in 2011. The article is his personal view of the events as they unfolded between 1958 and 1961, regarding the Berlin Crisis.

Just after midnight on the morning of 13 August 1961, East German soldiers pulled up in trucks at numerous locations in the center of Berlin. Working quickly, they pulled out rolls of barbed wire and, within a few hours, had established a barrier clean across the center of the city. Guards were posted every few yards, as necessary, and, within a matter of hours, Berlin was cut in two. The Berlin Wall had come into being.

Looking back, it is possible to see this as the turning point in the Cold War. No nation, no system, which can survive only by walling in its citizens can possibly hope to achieve credibility or permanency. The building of the Berlin Wall ensured that the German Democratic Republic would last only so long as the wall remained. Its construction was an admission of defeat by the communist leadership. Once built, it was doomed, sooner or later, to come down.

It did not seem so at the time. The Berlin Wall was built in a period of soaring tension between the US and the USSR. It was a climax of nearly three years of crisis, precipitated in November 1958, when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev threatened to sign a separate peace treaty with communist East Germany, thereby putting an end to a four-power regime in the city. In the end, no such treaty was signed and Khrushchev moderated his tone over 1959, even taking time off from the Cold War to engage in a triumphal tour of the United States. But in May 1960, he walked out of the Paris summit, following the shootout of Francis Gary Powers'* U-2, and later that year conducted stormy appearance at the United Nations, which produced his famous shoe-pounding episode. The spectre of a peace treaty was raised again and Soviet-American tensions increased even as Khrushchev prepared to deal with the newly-elected President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

[Source: *Bitter Measure: Intelligence and Action in the Berlin Crisis, 1961*, by Donald P. Steury.
Accessed on 12 November 2024]

*Gary Powers U2 incident – Gary Powers was an American pilot who was shot down while spying over the Soviet Union. He survived and was captured and sentenced to 10 years in Soviet prison. He only served 21 months and was released in a prisoner swap.



QUESTION 2: DID SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE ANGOLAN WAR PREVENT THE MPLA TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AFTER INDEPENDENCE FROM PORTUGAL IN 1975?

SOURCE 2A

This is an extract from an article: 'The South Africa Angola Talks' which was published by Christopher Saunders and compiled in January 2011. It was compiled for the Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town.

Relations between South Africa and Angola changed dramatically as a result of the Lisbon coup of the late April 1974, for though the Portuguese remained in nominal (sole/alone) control of Angola until 11 November 1975, the country was soon riven (torn apart) by civil war and external intervention. The South African government no longer had a friendly neighbour there and was now faced with a prospect of a hostile government in Luanda once the country became independent, one that would give succor (assistance) and support to SWAPO and would provide bases at which MK cadres (small group of people trained for a particular purpose) could be trained before returning to fight in South Africa.

On 11 November 1975 in Luanda the MPLA proclaimed itself to be a government of an independent Angola. The US not only failed to prevent what it saw as a puppet of the Soviet Union coming to power, the large Cuban military force now stationed in Angola was seen by both the US and the South Africans as working under the order of Moscow and as an agent of Soviet expansionism (occupation of other countries).

To the South African government, the arrival of the Cubans, more than the advent (start) of the MPLA regime, meant a major new threat had developed in a country in the region in which it saw itself as hegemonic (dominant). It was feared in both Pretoria and Washington that the Cubans might intervene elsewhere in the region. Politicians and bureaucrats in Pretoria, much influenced by right-wingers in the US administration, saw Moscow's aim as the take-over of all southern Africa. In such context, there was no question of either the US or South Africa opening diplomatic relations with newly independent Angola, and the South Africans continued to give active support to Jonas Savimbi's rebel UNITA.

The SADF did not forget the reverse it suffered in Angola in late 1975 early 1976, and from 1978 made constant raids into southern Angola, while from 1971 South African forces ... occupied a strip of territory along Angola's southern border.

[Source: scielo.org.za. Accessed on 7 November 2024]



SOURCE 2B

The source below is from an article titled: '*South African Intervention in the Angolan Civil War, 1975 – 1976: Motivations and Implications*' by Nerys John and published in 2002. It explains reasons for South Africa's involvement in the Angolan Civil War.

On 8 August 1975, the *Windhoek Advertiser* reported clashes between the MPLA and UNITA at Ruacana and the intimidation of workers on the scheme. The following day a South African infantry platoon (ground military forces) supported by two armoured cars, crossed the border and headed to Calueque. They intended 'to hold talks to ensure that order was restored', but instead they were fired upon, the result was that they fired back, and in the process occupied Calueque.

The presence of South African troops occupation of the Calueque Dam, was first reported in the Lisbon left-wing daily *Diário de Notícias* on 11 August 1975. The *Economist's* response was to suggest that South Africa might use the civil war to encourage 'balkanization' (division) of the country: a 'Katanga-type' solution in which Angola would be dismembered between the three rival liberation movements. The news was not reported in South Africa.

On 11 August, Defense Minister Botha banned reports of speculation concerning South African military movements and activities on the Southwest Africa/Angola border or at any border posts, in particular at Ruacana.

Botha later claimed that South African troops had been sent to the area with the prior knowledge and approval of the Portuguese government. However, it was nearly a month before the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented on the South African action, in a communique which appeared in the Lisbon press on 5 September 1975.

[Source: <https://open.uct.ac.za/>. Accessed on 8 November 2024]



SOURCE 2C

Below is a photograph taken on 1 July 1976 at Silva Porto which depicts UNITA soldiers keeping a watchful eye as they exercise three Cuban mercenaries. The Cubans were fighting for the Soviet-backed MPLA and were captured between September and November. The prisoners were identified as Private Joe Durudi, 21; Lt. Selso Caldez, 22, and Dusentes Rodriguez Garcia, 18.



[Source: [gettyimages.com](https://www.gettyimages.com). Accessed on 8 November 2024]



SOURCE 2D

The source is an extract from an interview conducted by Clarence Rhodes of UPITN-TV (United Press International Television News) on 13 February 1976 with the former South African Prime Minister, BJ Vorster. Rhodes questioned Vorster about the South African Defense Force's involvement in the Angolan Civil War.

Rhodes: When you say that South Africa was not involved in the Civil War in Angola which have heavy Cuban support – would you care to amplify (explain) that, Sir?

Prime Minister Vorster: ... South African involvement in Angola came about as I tried to explain to you, because they (Cubans) occupied the Calueque dam site ... this dam is of no benefit to South Africa whatsoever; the dam supplies water to the Ovambo people ... I want to make it perfectly plain that South Africa's involvement was the effect of Russian and Cuban intervention and not the cause of Russian and Cuban intervention – that was also made plain by Kissinger and his Assistant Secretary of State.

Rhodes: President Kaunda of Zambia described the Soviet and the Cuban intervention in Angola. I think the quote is 'a plundering (stealing) tiger and its deadly cub'. ... Would you say that this then poses a bigger threat than the emergence of yet another independent black African nation on South African borders?

Prime Minister Vorster: Yes, because here you haven't got an independent black African country coming into existence on South African borders. You have a Cuban force of thousands – estimated at this stage between 10 and 13 thousand – taking part in a civil war in Southern Africa and if that was the end of it, one could have shrugged one's shoulders and said, okay, they will go back tomorrow. But knowing the communists, knowing the Cubans, there is nobody who can tell you at this stage that they are going home, once they have put the MPLA in the saddle. I think it must be accepted that they are here to stay.

Because make no mistake about it ... world domination has always been and to this very day, is still the aim of the communists.

[Source: <http://www.sahistory.org.za/archive/interview-south-african-prime-minister-mr-bj-vorstermrclarence-rhodes-upitn-tv-13-february>. Accessed on 9 July 2024]



QUESTION 3: HOW DID THE SELMA-MONTGOMERY MARCHES CHALLENGE THE DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICANS DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE 1960s IN THE UNITED STATES?

SOURCE 3A

The extract below was taken from an article: 'Selma Movement Established: 1963–1964', edited by Randy Kryn for Wikipedia and published on 10 December 2014. It explains the reasons behind the establishment of the Selma Movement.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Alabama state legislature passed a new constitution that effectively disenfranchised (not allow to vote) most blacks and many poor whites by requirement for payment of a poll tax and passing a literacy test and comprehension of the constitution. Subjective application of the laws effectively closed most blacks out of politics. Selma is a major town and the seat of Dallas County, part of the Alabama Black Belt with a majority-black population. In 1961, the population of Dallas County was 57% black, but of the 15 000 blacks old enough to vote, only 130 were registered (fewer than 1%). At that time, more than 80% of Dallas County blacks lived below the poverty line, most of them working as sharecroppers, farmhands, maids, janitors, and day laborers, but there were also teachers and business owners. With the literacy test administered subjectively by white registrars, even educated blacks were prevented from registering to vote.

Led by the Boynton family (Amelia, Sam, and son Bruce), JL Chestnut, and Marie Foster, the Dallas County Voters League (DCVL) tried to register black citizens during the late 1950s and the early 1960s. Their efforts were blocked by state and local officials, the white Citizen Council and the Ku Klux Klan. By 1960 county officials and the Citizen Council used such tactics as restricted registration hours, economic pressure, including threatening people's jobs, firing them, evicting (forced out of their homes) people from leased (rental agreement) homes, and economic boycotts of black owned businesses, and violence against blacks who tried to register.

The Society of Saint Edmund, an order of Catholics committed to alleviating poverty and promoting civil rights, were the only whites in Selma who openly supported the voting rights campaign. SNCC staff member Don Jelinek later described the order as unsung heroes of the Selma march ... who provided the only integrated Catholic Church in Selma, and perhaps in the entire Deep South.

[Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org>. Accessed on 12 November 2024]



SOURCE 3B

The extract below is from an article: 'Civil Rights' Bloody Sunday' in the *National Geographic*, February 2000, by C. Stone. It highlights how the marches of Selma to Montgomery eventually ended in the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Thirty-five years ago, civil rights activists marched from Selma to Montgomery in a protest that led to the passing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Back then Selma was a small southern town of 20 000 people with segregated schools, housing, jobs, theaters, swimming pools. Like millions of African-Americans, those in Selma were denied the right to vote by poll taxes, literacy tests and other intimidation tactics.

The Voters League appealed to Martin Luther King Jr. to add his charismatic cloud (charming personality). In January 1965, King launched a series of demonstrations in Alabama. 'We must be willing to go to jail by the thousands', ... 'We are not on our knees begging for the ballot, we are demanding the ballot ...'

On Sunday 7 March, hundreds of demonstrators led by John Lewis and Hosea Williams of the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) set out on a 54-mile (86 kilometre) trek. At the Edmond Pettus Bridge they confronted the Alabama state troopers sent by Governor George Wallace, along with Sheriff Jim Clark and his 'posse' (sheriff's assistance). Ordered to disperse, the marchers stood fast.

... Clark's men, some on horseback, charged in. A chaos of teargassing, whipping and clubbing left several demonstrators unconscious ... Televised images of flailing (swinging) clubs spilled into living rooms across the country. Americans were horrified. Ironically, a non-violent march ended violently in 'Bloody Sunday'.

... Momentum began building for another march. On Tuesday 9 March, Martin Luther King Jr. led 2 000 people across Pettus Bridge. Once again state troopers blocked the way. King turned the marchers around, and no one was injured. The following week President Lyndon went on television to call for legislation banning restrictions that denied blacks the right to vote.

... Five days, from March 21 to 25, the road between Selma and Montgomery was lined with marchers. Led by King, more than 3 000 people set out from Selma. At the march's end the crowd that King addressed live on national television from the foot of the State Capital steps had swelled beyond 25 000. Another speaker was Rosa Parks whose refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus had helped to set off the modern Civil Rights Movement. "The march was a turning point in the movement," said John Lewis. That August, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act.

[Source: *Civil Rights' Bloody Sunday*, C. Stone. *National Geographic*. Accessed on 12 November 2024]



SOURCE 3C

The source below is an excerpt from John Lewis' testimony, a hearing resulting from the march from Selma to Montgomery on 7 March 1965, in support of voting rights. It was taken from the *Eyewitness*, an American original from the national archives.

- Lewis:** ... a state trooper made announcement on a bullhorn or megaphone, and he said, "This march will not continue."
- Hall:** What happened then; did the line stop?
- Lewis:** The line stopped at that time.
- Hall:** You stopped still.
- Lewis:** Yes, sir.
- Hall:** You did not advance any further?
- Lewis:** We stopped right then.
- Hall:** Then what happened?
- He said, "I am Major Cloud, and this is an unlawful assembly. This demonstration will not continue. You have been banned by the Governor. I am going to order you to disperse".
- Lewis:**
- Hall:** What did you do then?
- Lewis:** Mr. Williams said, "Mr. Major, I would like to have a word?" And he said, "No, I will give you ten minutes to live." And again Mr. Williams said, "Can I have a word?" He said, "There will be no word". And about a minute or more Major Cloud ordered the troopers to advance, and at that time the troopers took their position, I guess, and they moved forward with their clubs up over – near their shoulder, the top part of their body, they came rushing us down and pushing us.
- Hall:** And were you hit at that time?
- Lewis:** At that time, I was hit and knocked down.
- Hall:** Where were you hit?
- Lewis:** I was hit on my head right here.

[Source: <http://www.archives.gov>. *Eyewitness*. Accessed on 12 November 2024]



SOURCE 3D

The source shows the African-American Demonstrations outside the White House. It depicts signs such as 'We demand the right to vote everywhere'; 'Negroes are Americans too'; 'Stop brutality in Alabama'. These signs protest about civil rights in Selma, Alabama, Washington D.C., USA. Warren K. Leffler, *US News & World Report Magazine Collection*, 12 March 1965. (Photo by: Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group via Getty Images)



[Source: Gettyimages, Universal history archive. Accessed on 12 November 2024]



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Visual sources and other historical evidence were taken from the following:

- Gettyimages, Universal History Archive
- <http://history.state.gov.berlin-crisis>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org>
- <http://www.archives.gov>
- <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/silva-porto-angola-soldiers-of-the-national-union-for-the-news-photo/515218940>
- <https://www.history.com/news/germany-divided-world-war-II>
- <https://open.uct.ac.za/beatstream/11427/7928/1/theses-hum-2002-john-n.pdf>
- Scielo.org.za
- South African Intervention in the Angolan Civil War, 1975–1976: Motivations and Implications. 2002 University of Cape Town p. 16
- Steury, DP, 'Bitter Measure: Intelligence and Action in the Berlin Crisis', 1961. p. 1
- Stone, C., 'Civil Rights' Bloody Sunday', *National Geographic Society*, February 2000.