



Knowledge Organiser: Yr 9 History;

Why are international relations the way they are today?

Why did European powers of WWII decline in international status after 1945?

- **Damage from WWII:** Much of Europe was destroyed, 39% of buildings in Germany were destroyed and needed repairing.
- **WWII too costly:** It is estimated to cost European countries a combined trillion dollars meaning that countries could not afford to keep their Empires.
- **Inward focus of countries:** Countries needed to recover from WWI, Britain opened the NHS in 1948.
- **European nations lost their Empires:** The British Empire collapsed, for example India and Pakistan 1947; Ghana and Malaysia 1957; South Africa 1961; Hong Kong 1997.



Why are Russia and the USA dominant superpowers in the modern world?

America

- The USA is part of NATO
- The USA accounts for 39% of the world's military expenditure.
- The USA has the second largest stockpile of nuclear weapons.
- Loans to Europe have helped make America rich.



Russia

- Russia is an important supplier of oil and gas
- Russia has the 4th highest military expenditure
- Russia retained control of the USSR's stockpile of nuclear weapons.



Both countries have enough nuclear warheads to ensure mutually assured destruction. This means that to attack Russia or America is to ensure that you would be killed yourself through a nuclear strike.



What other countries are powerful in the 21st Century?

The Independents top 10:

1. USA
2. Russia
3. China
4. Germany
5. UK
6. France
7. Japan
8. Israel
9. Saudi Arabia
10. The United Arab Emirates

How has the world become more interconnected since World War II?

- **The Commonwealth:** This is a group of 54 countries who fight for international peace, fighting racism, opposing colonial domination, and reducing inequities in wealth.
- **NATO:** Is a military alliance between 30 countries who agree to defend each other in times of war.
- **World Trade Organisation:** This organisation helps facilitate world wide trade and establish fair rules around trading.
- **World Bank:** This organisation gives out loans to poorer countries to help build capital projects.
- **European Union:** The 27 member countries agree to share the same laws in certain areas meaning there are European standard laws around things like additives that can be in food and laws around how long people can work for.

The United Nations?

- 193 member states
- Russia, China, USA, France, UK have the right to Veto
- Created the Human Rights Declaration of 1948 which outlines fundamental rights all humans have.
- Has a peacekeeping force of 100,000 men helping to maintain peace around the world.
- The UN has assisted more than 34 million refugees.
- The UN has Provided food to 90 million people in over 75 countries.
- The UN helped eradicate Small Pox.



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