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Opening extract from

The Story of Spying

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Chapter 5

Deceit and double-cross

After the Second World War ended in 1945, a new rivalry emerged between the Soviet Union and the USA. The two countries had very different political and economic systems, known as communism and capitalism. Neither side trusted the other, and they built powerful nuclear weapons to protect themselves.

After the Second World War, the city of Berlin, in Germany, was divided into capitalist and communist sections by this long guarded wall.

This period of hostility, which lasted for over fifty years, became known as the Cold War, because there was little actual fighting between the two sides. Instead, the soldiers of the Cold War were spies.

During the Cold War, both the United States and the Soviet Union built vast spy networks to keep watch on each other. In America, the Central Intelligence Agency, or CIA, ran secret, or covert, operations to overthrow enemy communist leaders.