

# Part Two:

## The development of the Cold War

### The significance of events in Asia for superpower relations

#### China

1949 was a key year: Mao Tse-tung declared a Communist People's Republic in China. This meant the Communists, with the support of the USSR, had won the Chinese Civil War, which had raged since 1927. The Americans had supported the defeated Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek. The Nationalists fled to Taiwan, where they continued to be recognised as the government of China by the West.

#### Significance for superpower relations

- 1 The USSR had helped a massive nation become communist and seemed to have gained a very important ally. This support continued in 1950 with the Treaty of Friendship.
- 2 Western containment had failed and there was now another huge communist state for the USA to be worried about, as China had a seat on the UN Security Council. The US government secretly issued NSC-68, which funded planning and development for a possible war against communist states if containment failed to stop the communist advance around the world. It involved a massive build-up of atomic weapons and ground forces.
- 3 The USA and other Western countries claimed Chiang should represent China at the UN, but the USSR insisted on Mao. The USSR boycotted the UN Security Council in protest. This created a deadlock at the UN which would have an impact on other areas of the world, especially Korea (see page 24).
- 4 Many ordinary people in the West, and particularly in the USA, were very concerned as a huge country had seemingly 'joined' the opposing side. Fear was also heightened because in the same year, the USSR had developed its own atom bomb.



Chinese postage stamp commemorating the Treaty of Friendship, February 1950: Stalin (left) and Mao (right) shake hands.

#### Details of the Treaty of Friendship:

- \$300m aid to China from USSR, to be spent on Soviet materials
- 95 per cent to be repaid at high interest
- 8000 students allowed to study Science, Technology and Maths in the USSR
- 20,000 Soviet 'experts' deployed at China's cost
- Mining rights and port facilities given to the USSR

**DO IT!**



Photograph the detail of the Treaty of Friendship. Create cartoon frames to sum it up in images and numbers. Who benefitted?