

EQ: How were the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union different?

Although the Soviet Union and the United States had been allies during World War II, the superpowers had little in common. A communist government controlled the Soviet Union. Communism is a political and economic system in which the government owns all the businesses and land. Individuals have little personal freedom. The United States and the nations of Western Europe had democratic governments that promoted personal freedoms and free enterprise. You may remember the free enterprise is a system in which people are free to start their own businesses and own their own property.

There were other important differences between the Soviet Union and the West. The West valued human rights and wanted to work for peace. The Soviet Union did not share these ideals. The differences in ideology, or beliefs, between the Soviets and the West caused problems from the beginning.

Democracy

- People can start their own businesses.
- The government values human rights.
- Individuals are guaranteed personal freedoms.
- The government values free enterprise.
- People are free to own land and property.

Communism

- The government owns all the businesses.
- The government does not value human rights.
- Individuals have little personal freedoms.
- The government controls the economy.
- The government owns all the land.

Answer the EQ: How were the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union different? Answer it at least three sentences.

You will answer this question on your own.