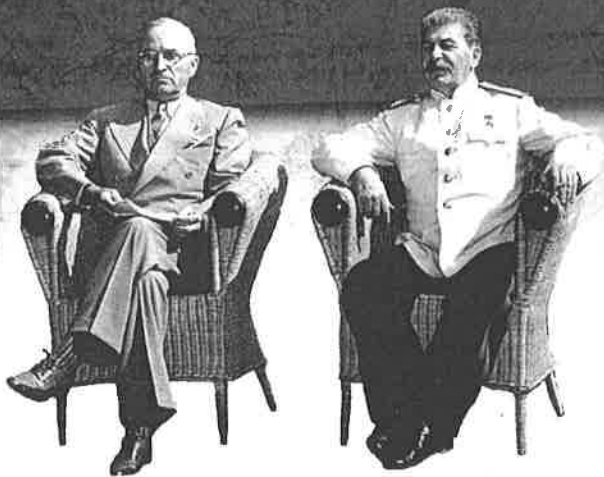


SECTION 1



▲ U.S. President Harry Truman (left) and Soviet dictator Josef Stalin (right)

The Threat of Communism

“The American people desire, and are determined to work for, a world in which all nations and all peoples are free to govern themselves as they see fit. . . . In the pursuit of these aims, the United States and other like-minded nations find themselves directly opposed by a regime with . . . a false philosophy. . . . That false philosophy is communism.”

—Harry S. Truman, inaugural address
January 20, 1947

Roots of the Cold War

Objectives

- Explain how the friendships among the Allies broke down after the war.
- Discover how the United States tried to limit the spread of communism.
- Learn about three new international organizations.
- Understand how the events of 1949 shook America’s confidence.

Reading Skill

Analyze Underlying Causes An event is the effect of a previous cause. However, some causes are not directly stated in the text. To identify these causes, you may need to collect information about how people’s emotions affected their actions. For example, think of how the Cold War affected the attitude and actions of the nation.

Key Terms

iron curtain
satellite
containment

airlift
veto

Why It Matters Shortly after the Allies defeated the Axis powers in World War II, the Allies’ wartime alliance broke down. The alliance was replaced by a struggle between Communist and non-Communist nations. This struggle, known as the Cold War, would impact American life for nearly half a century.

Section Focus Question: How did the United States respond to the early stages of the Cold War?

Growing Distrust

Differences arose among the wartime Allies even before the war had ended. In the final months of the war, Winston Churchill, Josef Stalin, and Franklin Roosevelt had met at Yalta, a resort in the Soviet Union. There, Stalin promised to hold free elections in the parts of Eastern Europe under Soviet control. At the time, Soviet troops were occupying most of Eastern Europe. Instead, Stalin proceeded to establish Communist governments in these nations. He realized that free elections would result in non-Communist governments. Stalin wanted to construct a ring of friendly countries to protect the western borders of the Soviet Union. After this ring had been built, Stalin hoped to make the Soviet Union the world’s dominant power.

Churchill expressed the fears of many in the West. Speaking at a college in Fulton, Missouri, he warned of the Soviet threat:

“[A]n iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe . . . all these famous cities and populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere.”

—Winston Churchill, speech, Westminster College,
March 5, 1946

The term **iron curtain** is a way of referring to a barrier to understanding and information. Churchill's use of the term became a popular way of describing the conflict between the democratic nations of the West and the Soviet Union and the Communist-controlled nations of Eastern Europe.

By 1948, most of the nations of Eastern Europe had become satellites of the Soviet Union. A **satellite** is a nation that is dominated politically or economically by a more powerful nation. In addition, **hostile** Communist threats loomed in Southern and Western Europe. The wartime alliance among the Allies was no more.

Checkpoint Why did nations of the West consider Stalin's actions a threat?

Containing Soviet Expansion

The Cold War began at a time when many Americans worried about the nation's leadership. Harry S Truman had become President after the sudden death of Franklin Roosevelt in April 1945. Truman was not well known; and, as Vice President, his leadership had not been tested. However, President Truman wasted little time in showing his leadership qualities. The first Cold War challenges he faced were in Greece, Iran, and Turkey. After the war, a Communist-led revolt broke out in Greece. Greek Communists threatened to take over the government. At the same time, the Soviet government began to threaten two nations on its southern border, Turkey and Iran.

The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan In March 1947, President Truman made an urgent request to Congress to aid Greece and Turkey. He declared that the United States would oppose the spread of communism. He stated a principle that became known as the Truman Doctrine:

“[I]t must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.”

—Harry S Truman, message to Congress,
March 12, 1947

Truman's policy of blocking Communist expansion was known as **containment**. The goal of **containment** was to contain, or limit, Soviet expansion.



Analyze Underlying Causes

Why was the West worried about Soviet actions? Use the heading on page 836 to help you infer the underlying cause.

Vocabulary Builder

hostile (HAHS tihl) **adj.** unfriendly; opposing

Biography Quest



Harry S Truman
1884–1972

Harry S Truman became President upon the death of Franklin Roosevelt in 1945. During Truman's time in office, he acted decisively against the growing threat of communism in Eastern and Southern Europe. His policy of containment was adopted and expanded upon by the next presidential administrations. Truman served as President until 1953, then remained active in politics.

Biography Quest online

Why did Truman dismiss MacArthur from his East Asian command in 1951?

For: The answer to the question about Truman and MacArthur

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Military aid alone could not contain communism. After World War II, much of Europe lay in ruins. Communists said the capitalist system was powerless to repair the damaged economies. Many desperate Europeans believed them. Communist parties gained strength in both Italy and France.

To meet this crisis, Secretary of State George Marshall proposed a plan in June 1947 that called for the United States to provide economic assistance to European nations. Between 1948 and 1951, the United States loaned 16 Western European countries more than \$12 billion.

The Marshall Plan was a huge success. It helped countries such as France, West Germany, and Italy recover from the war. American dollars built new factories, schools, hospitals, railroads, and bridges.

The Berlin Airlift The focus of Cold War hostility now shifted to Germany. At the Yalta Conference, the Allies had agreed to divide Germany into four zones. American, British, French, and Soviet troops would each control one of the zones. Germany's capital city, Berlin, which lay inside Soviet-controlled territory, was also divided into four zones.

By 1948, the Western powers believed that it was time to reunite Germany. Stalin was bitterly opposed to this move. In June 1948, the Soviets set up a blockade around Berlin. They prevented delivery of food supplies to West Berlin's two million residents. Stalin gambled that the Western Allies would accept the Communist takeover of West Berlin. However, the Allies responded with a massive airlift—sending cargo planes to deliver tons of supplies to the people. For almost a year, Western planes delivered supplies to West Berlin.

The Soviets finally called off the blockade in May 1949. In October, France, Britain, and the United States combined their zones into one country, called the Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany. The Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic, or East Germany.

Cold War Crisis A divided Germany and Berlin remained a focus of Cold War tensions. Between 1949 and 1961, thousands of East Germans fled to West Berlin. From there, they went to West Germany. Suddenly, in August 1961, the East German government began building a wall between East and West Germany. For 28 years, the wall stood as a symbol of a divided Germany and a divided Europe.

 **Checkpoint** How did Harry Truman respond to attempts by Greek Communists to seize control of Greece?

International Organizations

After World War II, the United States played a leading role in creating the United Nations (UN). This move signaled a turn away from isolationism.

Vocabulary Builder

respond (rih SPAHND) *v.* to act in return, as if in answer



Analyze Underlying Causes

What was the stated cause of the Berlin blockade? What was the underlying, or overall, cause?

● INFOGRAPHIC

THE BERLIN AIRLIFT

During the Berlin Airlift, British and U.S. forces made more than 200,000 flights to deliver goods to the people in West Berlin. **Critical Thinking: Draw Conclusions**
Why do you think Stalin chose not to prevent the airlift?

History Interactive

Learn More About
the Berlin Airlift

Visit: PHSchool.com
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▲ Medal worn by Berlin Airlift workers



▲ A delivery of fresh milk

Residents of West Berlin watch an approaching cargo plane loaded with food and other goods. At one point, nearly 13,000 tons of goods arrived in West Berlin each day. ▼

Division of Berlin, 1949



Divided City of Berlin



The Cold War in Europe

0 km 400
0 miles 400
Albers Conic Equal-Area Projection

MAP MASTER®

Skills Activity

By 1955, the Cold War divided Europe into two camps: those nations belonging to NATO and those nations belonging to the Warsaw Pact.

- (a) **Read a Map** Which NATO nations bordered Warsaw Pact nations?
- (b) **Apply Information** Do you think it would be difficult for Yugoslavia to remain neutral? Explain.

MapMaster Online

For: Interactive map
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ATLANTIC OCEAN

KEY

- NATO nations, 1955
- Warsaw Pact, 1955
- Neutral nations
- Areas added to the Soviet Union after World War II

The United Nations The main goals of the UN were to maintain peace and settle international disputes. Under the UN Charter, member nations agreed to bring disputes before the UN.

At the core of the United Nations are the General Assembly and the Security Council. Every nation, large or small, has a single vote in the General Assembly. However, the General Assembly has no way to enforce its decisions. The Security Council has far more power. Its decisions are supposed to be followed by all UN nations. The Security Council has 15 members. Five of them are permanent members—the United States, Russia, China, Britain, and France. Each permanent member has the power to **veto**, or reject, any proposal before the Security Council. If only one permanent member votes no, the Security Council cannot act.

The UN's greatest successes have been in fighting hunger and disease and improving education. Through relief programs, the UN has provided tons of goods, clothing, and medicine to victims of disaster.

NATO and the Warsaw Alliance In April 1949, as Cold War tensions rose, the United States and other Western nations established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a formal military alliance to guard against a Soviet attack. Members of NATO agreed that an attack on one member would be considered an attack against the entire group.

In response, the Soviet Union and the satellite nations of Eastern Europe formed their own alliance, the Warsaw Pact, in 1955.

Checkpoint How does the Security Council help the UN meet its goals?

The Shocks of 1949

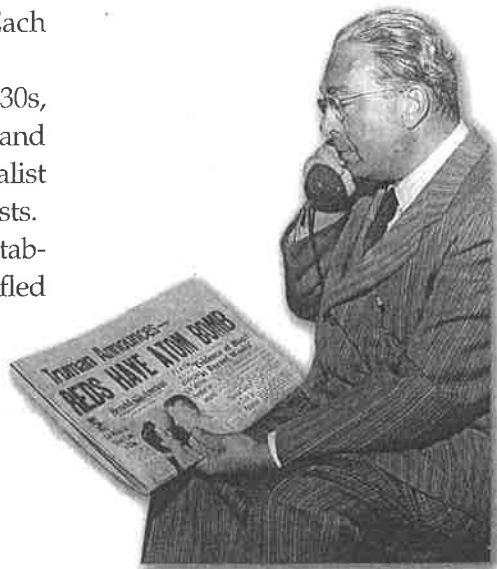
Until 1949, most Americans were confident that the United States was safe because it alone knew how to build the atomic bomb. However, in September 1949, the Soviet Union exploded its own atomic bomb. Now, the Cold War seemed much more deadly. Each nation had within its reach the power to destroy the other.

Shortly after, Americans received a second shock. Since the 1930s, China had been a battleground between the Chinese Nationalists and the Chinese Communists. In the final months of 1949, the Nationalist government collapsed. China fell under the control of the Communists.

Under their leader, Mao Zedong, the Chinese Communists established the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan. The United States insisted that the Taiwan government was the legal government of China. It refused to recognize the People's Republic and kept the UN from admitting Communist China to China's seat on the Security Council.

Checkpoint How did events in the Soviet Union and China in 1949 affect the Cold War?

★ Looking Back and Ahead The United States faced a world in which the world's largest nation, the Soviet Union, and the world's most populous nation, China, were under Communist rule. While fears stemming from the Cold War haunted Americans, they still held hopes for a better life after 15 years of depression and war.



Dr. Leo Szilard, who participated in the development of the atomic bomb, reads about the Soviet Union's test bomb.

Section 1 | Check Your Progress

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Recall** What were Stalin's goals for the Soviet Union after World War II?
(b) Apply Information How did Stalin's goals affect the goals of U.S. foreign policy?
- (a) Recall** What is the purpose of the United Nations?
(b) Evaluate Information Does the organization of the UN make it possible for it to be successful? Explain.



Reading Skill

- Analyze Underlying Causes**
Reread the text under the heading "International Organizations." Identify the underlying causes for the U.S. decision to join the UN and participate in NATO.

Key Terms

- Answer the following questions in complete sentences that show your understanding of the key terms.
- What was the goal of the American policy of containment of the Soviet Union after World War II?

- What happens when one country becomes a satellite of another?

Writing

- Organize the following elements for a multimedia presentation about the UN. Explain the reasons for your choices:
 - Audiotape of opening ceremonies at the UN in 1945
 - Current photograph of the UN
 - Film clip of the Yalta Conference in 1945
 - Audiotape of translators at a General Assembly session

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