

THE COLD WAR *and* CONTAINMENT

The Cold War

Although the United States and the Soviet Union had been allies during World War II, these two Superpowers soon became rivals in the Cold War. This war was “cold” only in the sense that, because of nuclear weapons, the two Superpowers never confronted each other directly in open warfare. However, their global competition led to frequent conflicts on every continent.

Questions:

1. What were the U.S. and Soviet Union during WW2?

2. Why was the war called the “cold” war?

Different Ideologies

The roots of the Cold War lay in the competing ideological systems of the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States wanted to spread its system of democracy and free enterprise. The Soviet Union wanted to see other countries adopt Communism. It was inevitable that these Superpowers would clash.

Questions:

1. What were the roots of the Cold War?

2. What did the United States want to spread?

3. What did the Soviet Union want to see other countries adopt? _____

4. What was inevitable?



What U.S. president is in this picture (right): _____

What are both men sitting on? _____

What would happen if the men press the button?



Which event of 1948-1949 is illustrated by the cartoon?

- A. The Berlin Airlift
- B. The collapse of the Berlin Wall
- C. The reunification of Germany
- D. The Allied invasion of Germany

The Origins of the U.S. Containment Policy

American leaders responded to the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe by developing a policy of containment.

Under this policy, they did not attempt to overturn Communism where it existed, but they resolved to prevent it from spreading further.

Questions:

1. What policy did the U.S. create in response to Soviet domination? _____

2. What was containment?

The Truman Doctrine

When Communist rebels threatened Greece and Stalin pressured Turkey, Harry Truman decided to offer these countries military aid. He felt it was important to stand up to Stalin, unlike how appeasers did with Hitler in 1938. The goal was to stop Soviet influence & Communism in Greece and Turkey.

Questions:

1. What two locations were being threatened?

2. What was the goal of the Truman Doctrine?

The Marshall Plan

After WW2, much of Europe was destroyed. George C. Marshall proposed that massive aid be sent to areas of war-torn European countries. This in turn increased trade between the U.S. and Europe.

Questions:

1. What did George C. Marshall propose?

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A Divided Germany

After World War 2, Germany was divided into four sectors each occupied by a different Allied power. Berlin, the old capital of Germany was located in a Soviet zone. The Soviets reacted by putting a blockade on West Berlin and closed off all highway and roadway links to the West. An "Iron Curtain" separated the Soviet side of Berlin from the West (*the Capitalist side*).

Questions:

- How many parts was Germany divided into? _____
- Where was Berlin located?

- What did the Soviets put on West Berlin?

- What separated the Soviet side of Berlin from the west? _____

The Berlin Airlift, 1948

The Western allies would not retreat and refused to abandon West Berlin. Western allies began a massive airlift to feed and supply the city. Within a year, Stalin lifted the Soviet blockade. This showed that the allies would not back down. The Berlin Airlift was able to bypass a Soviet blockade without provoking a military conflict (*due to flying over and not going by foot*).

Questions:

- What did Western allies begin doing in 1948?

- Within a year, what did Stalin lift?

- What did this show?

- Allies bypassed a blockade without provoking what?

- The Truman Doctrine was originally designed to –
 - Stop the use of nuclear weapons
 - Contain Communism by giving aid to Greece and Turkey
 - It was the first-time martial law had been declared in the United States
 - Rebuild Korea by extending economic aid

- During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union -
 - Broke all diplomatic ties
 - Refused to trade with each other
 - Formed competing military alliances
 - Clashed over control of the Mediterranean Sea

- The primary goal of U.S. containment policy after World War 2 was to -
 - Limit the use of atomic bombs and other nuclear weapons
 - End colonialism in Africa and Asia
 - Stop the spread of Soviet influence
 - Bring German and Japanese war criminals to justice

- Immediately after World War 2, the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union became strained because -
 - The United States used military force in Korea
 - The United States blocked the Soviet Union from joining the United Nations
 - Each country believed that the other one was a threat to its security
 - Both nations were competing for supremacy in space exploration

- Which phrase describes a goal of U.S. foreign policy after World War 2?
 - Ending colonial empires
 - Containing the spread of communism
 - Revitalizing the Soviet economy
 - Reducing aid to the British

- Which proposal provided massive aid to rebuild Europe?
 - Marshall Plan
 - Warsaw Pact
 - Truman Doctrine
 - Common Market

The Domino Theory

The Domino Theory was prominent from 1950s to the 1980s. The theory states that if one country fell under the influence of Communism, then surrounding countries would soon follow. The Domino Theory was applied mainly to stop the communist threat growing in Southeast Asia. This was how the United States justified the need for intervention in Southeast Asia.

Questions:

- What does the Domino Theory state?

- What did it try to prevent/stop from spreading?

- The U.S. justified the need for intervention where?

China Falls to Communism, 1949

Since the 1920s, Chinese Communists had sought to overthrow the Nationalist government in China. They were helped by the Soviets after 1945. Led by Mao Zedong, they finally defeated the Nationalists in 1949. Mao Zedong proceeded to create the world's largest Communist state. The fall of China to Communism was seen as a crushing blow to the U.S. The United States prevented the admission of "Red China" into the United Nations.

Questions:

- Who helped Chinese Communists overthrow the Nationalist government? _____
- Who were they led by? _____
- What year did China fall to Communism? _____
- How was China's fall to Communism seen by the United States?

- What did the United States prevent "Red China" from joining?