

The Cold War**Lesson 1**

The Origins of the Cold War

Key Terms and People

Harry S. Truman 33rd president of the United States

satellite nation Country dominated by the Soviet Union

iron curtain The division of Europe between free and Communist countries

Cold War State of hostility between the Soviet Union and the United States but without military action

containment taking measures to prevent the spread of Communist rule to other countries

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Agency created to compile intelligence from the military and state department and to perform secret operations in foreign countries

Truman Doctrine U.S. policy of sending aid to any nation trying to prevent a Communist takeover

Marshall Plan Program under which the United States gave economic aid to rebuild postwar Western Europe

Berlin Airlift Resupply of West Berlin by U.S. and British planes during Soviet blockade of 1948

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Defensive military alliance of the United States, Canada, and ten European nations

Before You Read

In the last lesson you saw the social and economic changes that would reshape postwar America. In this lesson you will see how the Allied coalition that won the war fell apart and how the United States and the Soviet Union came into conflict.

As You Read

Use a diagram to take notes on U.S. actions and Soviet actions that contributed to the beginning of the Cold War.

Lesson 1, *continued*

FORMER ALLIES CLASH**What caused Soviet-American problems?**

The end of World War II saw many countries in Europe devastated economically and militarily. The United States and the Soviet Union were the world's leading nations. They were superpowers, and as such had the strength and influence to shape events. But they had different goals, and these differences made for tension between the two powers.

A major reason for their differences was that the United States followed democratic principles, while the Soviet Union was a totalitarian government. The Soviets were angry that the United States had not recognized their Communist government. Economically, the countries were at odds as well. Under Soviet communism, the state controlled all property and economic activity. In the United States, citizens and corporations controlled economic activity.

The United States was also angry that the Soviet leader, Stalin, had once been an ally of Hitler. Stalin was annoyed that the United States had taken so long to launch an attack against Hitler in Europe. Stalin also did not like that the United States had kept the development of the atomic bomb a secret. Also adding to the tensions was the fact that Stalin refused to allow democracy in Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe. President **Harry S. Truman** reminded Stalin of his promise at Yalta to allow free elections in Eastern Europe. But Stalin would not listen to Truman. He set up Communist governments in the European nations occupied by Soviet troops. They became **satellite nations**, countries that depended on and were dominated by the Soviet Union.

In 1946 Winston Churchill described “an **iron curtain**” coming down across Europe. It separated the nations in the “Soviet sphere” from the capitalist democracies of the West.

1. What were three issues that led to hard feelings between the Soviet Union and the United States?

NEW FOREIGN POLICIES**What did Stalin and Truman want for postwar Europe?**

The conflicting aims of the United States and the Soviet Union led to the **Cold War**. This was a state of hostility between these superpowers, but one without military action. Each tried to spread its political and economic influence worldwide.

The United States began to follow a policy of **containment**. This was an effort to block Soviet influence by making alliances and supporting weaker nations. Containment began to guide Truman's foreign policy, which placed the United States in direct opposition to the Soviet Union. The United States provided diplomatic and financial help to countries so they could fight Soviet influence. Later, the United States used military intervention to keep communism out of countries.

To deal with the complex foreign relations of the Cold War, the United States created new intelligence gathering organizations. One agency was the **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**. It would compile intelligence from the military and state department and perform secret operations in foreign countries.

Lesson 1, *continued*

2. What methods were used to implement the policy of containment?

EFFORTS TO REBUILD EUROPE
What were the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan?

Truman's first test of containment was when Greece and Turkey needed economic and military aid in 1947. In the **Truman Doctrine**, the president argued that aid should be sent to any nation trying to stop Communists from taking over. Congress agreed. Aid was sent to Turkey and Greece.

Western Europe was also in terrible economic shape. A terrible winter in 1946–1947 increased hardship. Crops were damaged, water transportation was cut off, and there was a fuel shortage. Secretary of State George Marshall wanted to send aid to nations that cooperated with American economic goals. The **Marshall Plan** provided aid to 16 countries and was a great success in rebuilding Western Europe and halting the spread of communism.

3. How did the United States begin to send aid to nations fighting communism?

SUPERPOWERS STRUGGLE OVER GERMANY

How did the Soviets and the West disagree over Germany?

The United States and its allies disagreed with the Soviet Union over

German reunification. Allied leaders had originally agreed to leave Germany divided into four zones occupied by the United States, Great Britain, and France in the west and the Soviet Union in the east. The west decided to combine their zones into one nation. Berlin, however, was surrounded by Soviet-occupied territory. The United States, Great Britain, and France, however, had no agreement with the Soviets that would allow them free access to Berlin.

Stalin cut off all transportation to West Berlin. No food or fuel could reach that part of the city.

The United States and Britain started the **Berlin Airlift**. For 327 days, planes brought food and supplies to West Berlin. Finally, the Soviets gave up the blockade.

The western part of Germany became a new nation, the Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany. It included West Berlin. The Soviet Union then created the German Democratic Republic, called East Germany, and it included East Berlin.

The Berlin blockade made the West worry about Soviet aggression. The United States and Canada joined with ten European nations in a defensive military alliance called the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**. Members agreed that an attack on one was an attack on all.

4. What led to the Berlin blockade?

Lesson 1, *continued*

Complete the cause-and-effect diagram with the specific U.S. actions made in response to Soviet actions. Use the following terms in filling out the diagram:

containment Truman Doctrine Berlin airlift NATO

