

## Cold War develops...

Aim: **To understand how USA used financial aid to fight Communism in post-war Europe (Marshall Plan)**



Imagine you were reading this at the breakfast table, have a conversation with your neighbour, what might have been said? How does this headline make you feel? What is it trying to say?

## Key terms:



### Before WW2

#### Isolationism:

US policy before WW2 was Isolationism, basically staying out of other countries affairs, especially Europe's as it is "so far away" anyway!

### After WW2

#### Containment:

US policy after WW2 was Containment (limiting the spread of something), basically stopping the spread of Communism outside a small number of countries

# What was the impact of the Truman Doctrine?

Kennan's 'Long Telegram' confirmed Truman's worst fears

Stalin *intended* to spread Communism across Europe



Truman's military advisors told Truman the Soviets weren't strong enough to fight the USA. Truman said they didn't need to fight to increase their territories and power.



What would you do if you were Truman at this stage?



What can you see here, and why might this help Stalin out?



## Post war damage in Europe



- Many European countries were in ruins
- Homes, factories, infrastructure (roads, railways)
- Poverty increases with anger and desperation

**Communism is actually quite attractive right now, the wealth of the rich will be redistributed (shared) to help us all, not just the few at the top!**

**I see what Stalin is offering us!**





So, you see, Stalin doesn't need to go to war, he has a perfect scenario, the people are already discontented, he just needs to slightly influence them and they fall to the evil Red!

What is Truman's problem?



When you put it like that!  
So, what can we do about this then?

Truman doct vid 1

**The bottom line is, war is not an option, so the Soviets and Communism MUST be contained (Containment)**



# *Doctrine:*

A belief / set of beliefs (ideas) held  
by a political party / leader



# Truman Doctrine

**12 March 1947**

Truman hoped the wealthier countries of Europe could influence and support post war Europe and show the Capitalism was good and make Communism seem less attractive, but Britain and France were nearly bankrupt



## Chain of events:

Revolutions in Greece and Turkey, supported by Communists



Britain announced it could no longer support the Greeks against Communist guerrillas

**12 March 1947**



Truman decided enough was enough and it was time the USA took action

Hint: Remember the narrative Q, what connectives could you use here?

# Truman Doctrine

**12 March 1947**

There are two ways of life which every nation must choose. The first way offers **MAJORITY** rule and freedom from political oppression.

The second is for the will of the **MINORITY** to be forced upon it's majority – Communism!

It's simple, its choosing Good or Evil. The evil of Communism should not be allowed to grow, we are prepared to send troops and aid to support those fighting to resist it!



**Summarise into your own words what Truman is saying here.**



# Truman Doctrine

**12 March 1947**



That second way of life relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio; fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes.

It is our **DUTY** to interfere here.

What else is he saying?

What is he asking Congress to allow?



# Truman Doctrine

**12 March 1947**



Truman announced he would send an economic aid package to Greece & Turkey. The USA would provide American civilian and military personnel to the region and give **\$400 million in aid**

Why do you think USA can afford this?



**A Russian cartoon about American involvement in Greece.**

**What is this source's message?**



**This 'American duty' is just a smokescreen for a plan of expansion ... They try to take control of Greece by shouting about 'totalitarianism'.**



# Marshall Plan

## June 1947



Fighting  
Communism with  
**financial aid**







# Marshall Plan **June 1947**

In **June 1947**, the American general George Marshall went to Europe. He said *every* country in Europe was so poor that it was in danger of turning Communist! Europe was 'a breeding ground of hate'. Marshall said that America should give **\$17 billion** of aid to get Europe's economy going and stop Communism.

Marshall said that it was up to the countries of Europe to decide what they needed. In July 1947, led by Britain and France, the countries of western Europe met in Paris, and asked for substantial economic aid.



Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.

How might this speech have been accepted by Western Europe and Stalin?

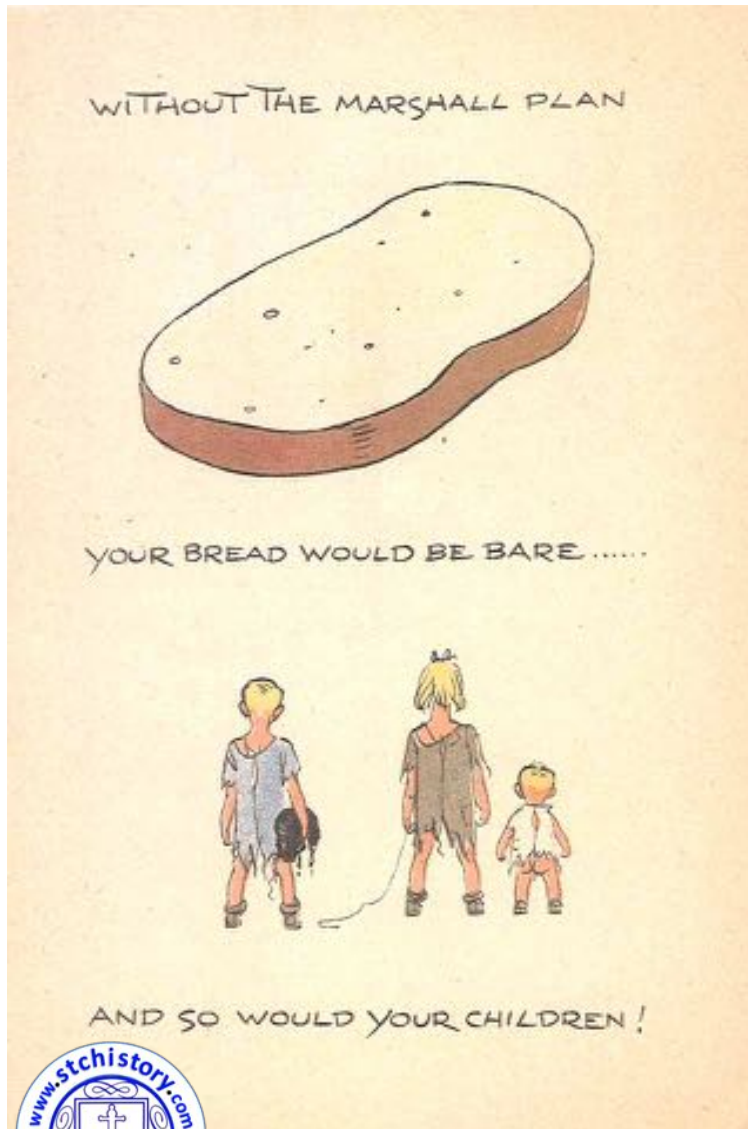


Stick your source in and annotate it

What is the message of this US source?

Source credit: to The Atlantic Atlantic, 1984.  
"It's finally getting the hang of it."

# Truman Doctrine Effective?



- Congress did not want to pass the Marshall Plan.
- In Feb 1948 the Communists took over Czechoslovakia – Congress was **scared** and voted for the Plan in March 1948.
- Marshall aid was open to all European countries, including the Soviet 'satellite' states.
- 16 nations asked for help including UK and Germany.
- By 1950, industrial production in W. Europe had increased by 25%.
- Industrial unrest in France and Italy ended and communist interest decreased.
- Between 1948 and 1952, \$12.7 Billion had been provided added to \$13 Billion before the plan even started!

# Truman Doctrine Effective?

Impact was enormous although it took until the 1950s for the full effects to be seen. British foreign secretary (Ernest Bevin) called it “a lifeline to sinking men, giving hope where there was none”.



Other types  
of aid, not  
just money



Truman doct vid 2



# Soviet Response:



**GM Malenkov, a Soviet politician, speaking in 1947 about the Marshall Plan.**

*"The ruling gang of American imperialists has taken the path of open expansion, of enslaving weakened capitalist countries.*

*It has hatched new war plans against the Soviet Union. Imitating Hitler, the new aggressors are using blackmail."*

# Soviet Response:



Like I've said all along, this Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid is proof they are trying to influence and dominate the world.

Surely this is undermining the United Nations that we agreed on at Tehran, it's mean to be the UN, all of us working together, not the duty of the USA to protect the world.

They are simply using economic power to divide Europe in two with an American Empire to the west! **Dollar imperialism** this is! It is a disgrace!

# Soviet Response:



- Stalin forced his soviet satellites to withdraw application for Marshall Plan funding therefore stopping USA influencing Eastern Europe.
- Set up **COMINFORM** in 1947 – A political body used by Stalin to control the Soviet Satellite states
- **COMECON** in 1949 to counter the Marshall Plan and provide financial help for his satellite states and Communist supporting countries.

# COMINFORM 1947

Communist Information Bureau

**Stalin could direct and control the governments of the satellite states with Cominform. They would not only follow communism but take orders from Moscow.**

- Political organisation set up by Stalin 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1947
- 9 Members (Soviet Union, *Communist parties* of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, France and Italy.
- Yugoslav Communists led by Tito was strongest support.
- Members were encouraged to trade with other Cominform members and contact with non-communists was discouraged.
- First meeting saw Propaganda being spread comparing USA to Nazi Germany
- Tensions soon grew between Yugoslavia and Soviet Union and Tito was expelled from Cominform.







**Council for Mutual  
Economic Assistance**



# COMECON 1949

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

**Alternative to Marshall Aid for Communist countries, so Stalin could then control and influence the East.**

- Set up 25 January 1949, 2 years after the Marshall Plan as announced.
- Members were: Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and East Germany. Albania joined in 1950.
- Supported economic developments in its member states, initially arranging trade and credit agreements.
- 1953 saw Comecon being used to organise industrial planning across all satellite states - Nationalised industry and Collectivised agriculture.
- Trade with USA & Western Europe was discouraged.



# Impact on international relations:

- **End of the 'Grand Alliance'**: Any lingering belief there was still the 'Grand Alliance' was gone as USA had set itself up directly against Stalin and invited other nations to join them against Communism.
- **USA officially working against the Soviet Union**: Stalin's suspicions were reinforced, he was now sure the USA were trying to destroy the Soviet Union.
- **Two clear camps**: **Marshall Plan** successfully tied Western Europe to USA – Western Europe was in total support of the USA. **Comecon** tied Eastern Europe to Soviet Union; there was now two economic and political camps.
- Stalin's setting up of **Comecon** and **Cominform** led to the creation of **NATO**...
- ...Which in turn led to the creation of the Soviet equivalent, the **Warsaw Pact**.
- Europe was now an **intense** East Vs. West rivalry between countries trying to win diplomatic and political victories over their opponents.

***Consequence,  
Importance***



The Russian newspaper *Izvestia*, March 1947.

This 'American duty' is just a smokescreen for a plan of expansion ... They try to take control of Greece by shouting about 'totalitarianism'.

GM Malenkov, a Soviet politician, speaking in 1947 about the Marshall Plan.

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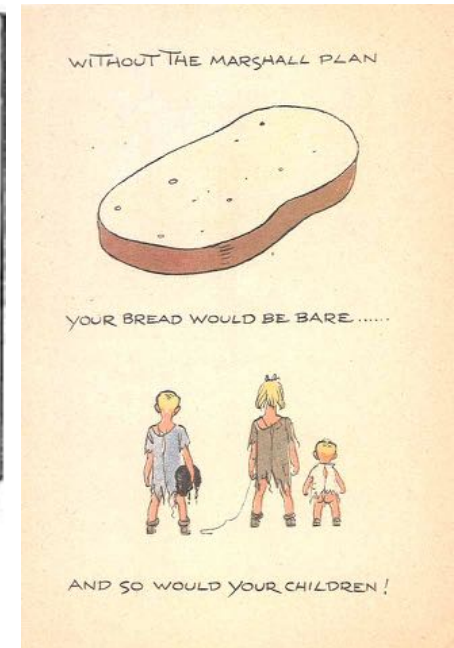


President Truman, speaking in March 1947.

Every nation must choose between different ways of life ... We must help free peoples to work out their own destiny in their own way.



Screened from the New Orleans Graphic, NOLA.  
"He's finally getting the hang of it."



Describe the events of 1947-49 as though you were a communist.

Describe the events of 1947-49 as though you were American

# Homework

Using your notes and [www.stchistory.com](http://www.stchistory.com)