

Enduring Understanding: You should understand that the events that occurred during the Cold War affected the world politically, socially and economically.

Cold War

Policies & Organizations



The Truman Doctrine & Marshall Plan

At the end of World War II, there were tensions between the United States and other Western nations and the Soviet Union. The tensions were caused by conflicting goals and ideologies. At the end of the World War II, the Soviet Union wanted to spread communism, while the United States wanted to contain communism and promote democracy. This means that the United States did not want communism to spread. This is in direct competition with the goal of the USSR to spread communism.

Because the United States was concerned about the spread of communism throughout Eastern Europe, President Harry Truman instituted a foreign policy based on the containment of communism by giving economic assistance to countries of Eastern Europe. This policy is called the **Truman Doctrine**. It provided economic assistance (\$400 million) to the nations of Eastern Europe so they wouldn't turn to communism to fix their economic problems.



President Harry Truman

Countries in Western Europe also needed economic assistance after World War II. **The Marshall Plan** provided Western Europe with \$12.5 billion to reconstruct. The Marshall Plan helped to revive Western Europe after World War II and prevent the spread of communism there.

Section Review

1. **What was the goal of the Soviet Union after World War II?**
2. **What was the goal of the United States and other western nations after World War II?**
3. **What is containment?**
4. **What was the goal of the Truman Doctrine?**
5. **What was the goal of the Marshall Plan?**

The United Nations

Because the League of Nations had failed to prevent another world war, it was replaced in 1945 by the United Nations (UN). The purpose of the UN was the same as the League of Nations, which was to serve as an international organization to prevent future wars and settle global conflicts. The United Nations and the League of Nations have a few major differences. The United Nations, unlike the League of Nations, has the ability to use military force when necessary. The United States, which did not join the League of Nations, joined the United Nations. The United Nations became instrumental in getting involved in some of the issues of the Cold War, such as the division of Germany into two nations and the Korean War.

Section Review

1. **What was the purpose of the United Nations?**
2. **How does the United Nations differ from the League of Nations?**

The Berlin Airlift

The Cold War always had the potential to turn “hot.” This means that the two world superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, always had the potential to use atomic/nuclear weapons with the capability of worldwide destruction.

In 1948 the Soviets blocked access to West Berlin, which was the sector of the city occupied by the Americans, British, and French. The people of West Berlin could not get supplies. The Americans, British, and French airlifted supplies and food to the people of West Berlin for about 11 months. Finally the Soviets were forced to lift the blockade.



Section Review

1. **What did the two superpowers always have the potential to do?**
2. **How did the people of West Berlin get supplies when the Soviets blocked access into the city?**

NATO and the Warsaw Pact

After the Berlin Airlift, the United States decided it needed to protect itself and other democratic nations. The United States, Canada, and ten western European nations formed a military alliance called the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** (NATO).

The Soviet Union felt threatened by the creation of NATO, so they formed their own military alliance called the **Warsaw Pact**. The Warsaw Pact included Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania.



Section Review

1. **Why was NATO created?**
2. **What countries were members of NATO?**
3. **Why was the Warsaw Pact created?**
4. **What countries were members of the Warsaw Pact?**

Sources

Image 1: "The Cold War's Costs and Consequences." *Boundless*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 June 2014.
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