



# Cold war

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American History

# 1945—A Critical Year

- As the end of World War II approached, relations between the Communist Soviet Union and its wartime allies, the United States and Great Britain, grew increasingly tense.
- At a meeting at Yalta in February, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin agreed on the postwar division of Germany but disagreed on the future of Poland.





# 1945—A Critical Year

- In April, representatives of 50 countries, including the United States, adopted the charter for the United Nations, an organization dedicated to cooperation in solving international problems.
- On April 12, Roosevelt died unexpectedly, making Vice President Truman the new President. Truman continued Roosevelt's negotiations with Stalin at the Potsdam Conference in July.



# Conflicting Postwar Goals

## American and Soviet Goals

### American Goals

- Wanted conquered European nations to experience the democracy and economic opportunity that the United States had fought for during the war
- Wanted to develop strong capitalist economies, which would provide good markets for American products





# Conflicting Postwar Goals

## American and Soviet Goals

- **Soviet Goals**
- Wanted to rebuild Europe in ways that would help the Soviet Union recover from the huge losses it suffered during the war
- Wanted to establish Soviet satellite nations, countries subject to Soviet domination and sympathetic to Soviet goals
- Wanted to promote the spread of communism throughout the world



# Soviets Tighten Their Hold

## Communist Expansion in Eastern Europe

- **Albania and Bulgaria:** Communists secure control by silencing opposition in Albania; Soviet troops seize Bulgaria.
- **Czechoslovakia:** Although it desperately tried to remain democratic, Czechoslovakia became a Soviet satellite nation in 1948.
- **Hungary and Romania:** By arresting anti-Communist leaders in Hungary and forcing the appointment of a Communist prime minister in Romania, Communists achieved power in both nations.
- **East Germany:** To make sure Germany could not threaten his nation again, Stalin established a totalitarian government, naming the state the German Democratic Republic.
- **Finland and Yugoslavia:** Both countries maintained their independence from Soviet control – Finland, by signing a treaty of cooperation, and Yugoslavia, by following the leadership of Tito.

# The Iron Curtain

Churchill coined the phrase iron curtain to describe the geographic and political divisions between Communist and capitalist nations in Europe.



# Containment

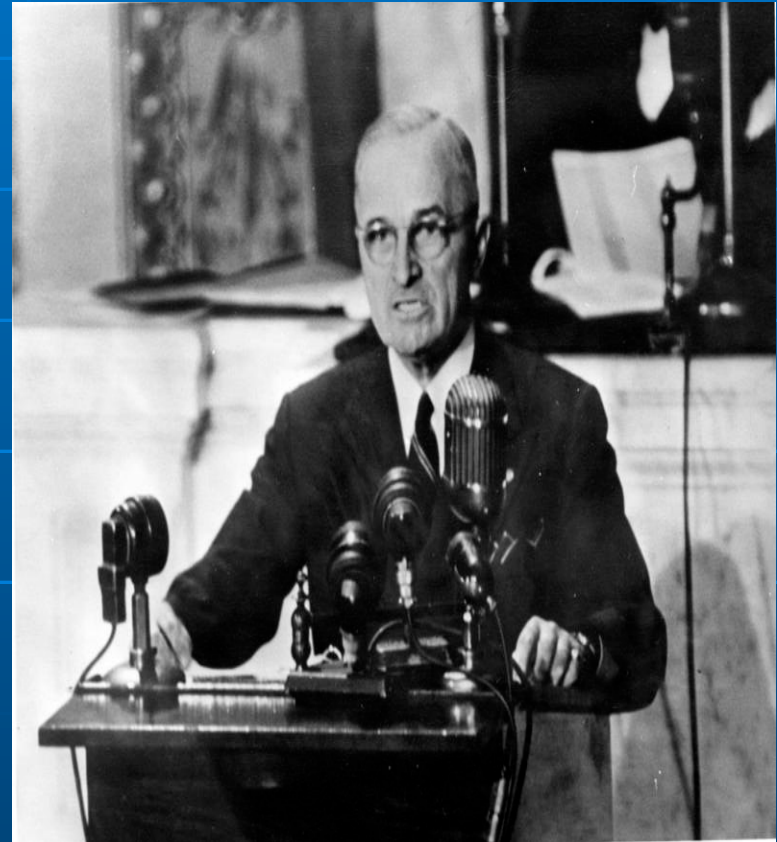


- The competition between the United States and the Soviet Union for world influence came to be known as the Cold War.
- The American policy of containment accepted the fact that Eastern Europe was under Communist control, but sought to prevent Communist governments from forming elsewhere in the world.



# Truman doctrine

- The Truman Doctrine, which applied the principles of containment, keeping the Soviets out of other countries. He stated that the United States would support free peoples who resist attempted conquest. The Truman Doctrine was first applied in the cases of Greece and Turkey.



# The Marshall Plan

- The United States wanted to help European nations recover from the war and become economically strong democracies. It also wanted to prevent Communists from continuing to gain power in Europe.
- The Marshall Plan was created in 1947 by U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall as a means to achieve these goals. According to the Marshall Plan, participating nations would design recovery programs and would receive financial aid from the United States.
- Seventeen Western European nations joined the plan, receiving a total of \$13 billion in aid.



# The Berlin Airlift

- As part of the postwar division of Germany, the city of Berlin, located in Communist East Germany, was divided into West Berlin (capitalist) and **East Berlin (Communist)**.
- In June 1948, Stalin banned all shipments to West Berlin through East Germany, creating a blockade which threatened to cut off supplies to the city.
- In response, Allied nations began the **Berlin airlift**, which delivered thousands of tons of food and other supplies to West Berlin via air.
- Although the Soviet blockade ended in May 1949, Berlin remained a focal point of Cold War conflict.







Candy bombers





# NATO

## Why create a treaty organization?

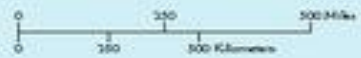
- Soviet vetoes prevented the United Nations from resolving a number of postwar problems.
- The United States sought to avoid the problems of post-World War I isolationism.
- The United States did not want to be the only nation in the Western Hemisphere committed to fighting communism. A Canadian role in the treaty organization would be vital.

## What was NATO?

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed in April 1949.
- In joining NATO, the United States, Canada, and ten Western European nations pledged to support one another against attack, a principle known as collective security.
- In response, the Soviet Union created the Warsaw Pact, a military alliance between the Soviet Union and its satellite nations.

# NATO





U.S. and Canada are also part of NATO

<span style="color: green;">■</span>	NATO
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Warsaw Pact
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Neutral
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	U.S. Marshall aid recipient