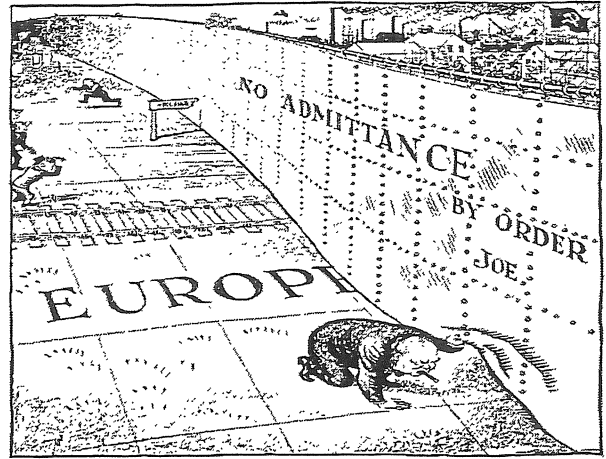


The Origins of the Cold War

Cold War Tensions Rise The United States and the Soviet Union were wartime allies. But there had been trouble between them for some time. A major reason was that they had opposing political and economic systems. In addition, the Soviets were angry 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. Americans were upset that Stalin had signed a treaty with Hitler before World War II. Still, at the end of the war, people hoped that the United Nations (UN) would help bring a time of peace. Instead, the UN became a place where the two superpowers competed and tried to influence other nations.

Harry Truman had become president. Truman was a plain, self-educated man. But he had honesty, self-confidence, and a willingness to make tough decisions. Truman met with the British and Soviet leaders at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945. He reminded Stalin of his promise at Yalta to allow free elections in Eastern Europe. The presence of the Soviet army in Eastern Europe ensured that pro-Soviet Communist governments would eventually be established in Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.

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.



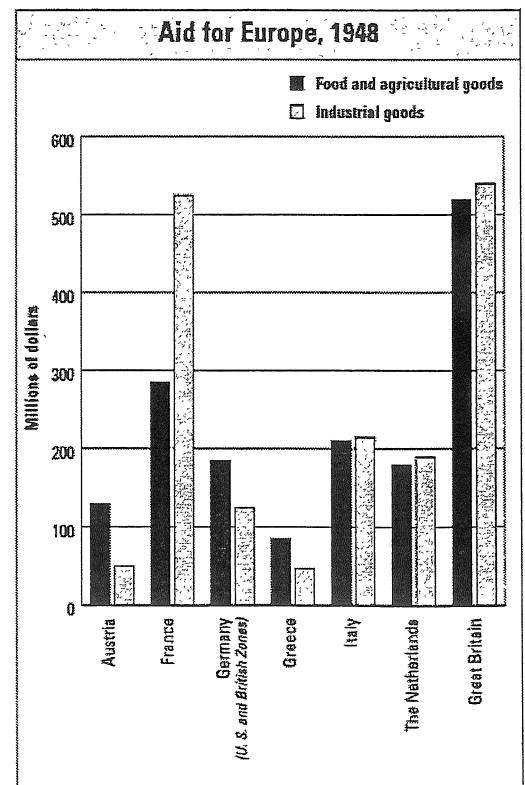
U.S. and Soviet War Experiences The Soviet Union suffered more casualties in World War II than all the other Allies combined. The Soviet Red Army lost approximately 7.5 million soldiers, more than twice Germany's loss of about 3.5 million. Moreover, there were about 19 million Soviet civilians killed during the war and another 25 million refugees left homeless. Much of Russia, Poland, and the Ukraine lay in ruins, having been overrun and scorched several times during the fighting.

Although 405,000 U.S. soldiers died in the war, there were no civilian casualties, and the continental United States was never invaded or bombed. The industrial production necessitated by the war helped the country out of the Depression and revitalized its capitalist economy. By 1945, almost half of all the goods and services produced in the world came from the United States.

U.S. and Soviet Goals It was clear even before the end of the war that the United States and the Soviet Union had different goals for Europe. The United States wanted to rebuild Europe, especially Germany, so that the burden of feeding so many refugees would not fall on American taxpayers. It was also in U.S. interests to have economically strong European countries that were able to buy U.S. products. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, wanted to rebuild itself. Stalin thought Germany should pay \$20 million in machinery and raw material as reparations for the wrongs the Soviets had suffered during the war.

After the Soviet experience in the war, Stalin feared invasion from the West. Gaining military and political control of Eastern Europe was his way of creating a buffer from further attack. Since the Red Army occupied the countries it liberated from the Germans, Stalin quickly set up or supported similar Communist governments. According to Stalin, "In this war, each side imposes its system as far as its armies can reach. It cannot be otherwise." For its part, the United States feared totalitarian regimes that imposed their own systems on otherwise free and independent nations. Stalin in his desire for absolute control, Truman argued, was every bit as ruthless and dangerous as Hitler. Truman's efforts to contain communism was a diplomatic compromise between going to war again and stopping the Soviets from gaining any more power in the world than they already had.

The Marshall Plan When World War II ended and the countries of Europe needed emergency relief and economic aid, the United States, Canada, and other nations contributed to the effort. Despite their efforts, necessities were still in short supply. In some countries, food was even scarcer than it had been during the war. To determine the full extent of the problem, President Truman sent former President Herbert Hoover on a fact-finding mission to 22 European nations. On his return, Hoover reported the stark reality to Truman. People were starving in Europe, and stopgap aid would not solve the problem. A long-term plan was needed.



During a Harvard College commencement address in June 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall offered the aid of the United States to all European nations in need. He asked the nations of Europe to agree on a plan of recovery and to tell the United States what aid was needed. In return for the aid of the United States, Marshall proposed that European nations would have to agree to cooperate and remove trade barriers. Although invited to participate, the Soviet Union refused Marshall's offer. In addition, the Soviets prevented their satellite nations in Eastern Europe from applying for aid.

In all, 16 Western European countries applied for assistance under what was known as the European Recovery Program, or the Marshall Plan. Congress heatedly debated the plan for ten months. The loudest and most insistent criticism concerned the estimated cost—about \$12.5 billion. For a time, it looked as if Congress would reject the plan. However, in February 1948, a Soviet-backed uprising put Communists in control of Czechoslovakia. Alarmed by this Soviet aggression, Congress promptly approved the Marshall Plan by large majorities in both houses.

The Marshall Plan proved to be a great success, both politically and economically. The spread of communism was halted, and Western European economies quickly revived. Within three years, the production of goods in Western Europe surpassed prewar levels. The Marshall Plan also proved beneficial to the American economy, for an economically revitalized Western Europe provided a ready market for American goods and services.

Berlin After World War II In February 1945 with the Allies nearing their goal of defeating Germany, the leaders of the Allied nations met at Yalta, a Soviet resort on the Black Sea, to discuss the shape of postwar Europe. The leaders agreed to divide Germany into four zones. Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and France would each control one zone. The same four countries would also divide the German capital city of Berlin into four zones, even though Berlin was located in the Soviet zone. The Soviet Union also wanted Germany to pay heavy reparations for the war damage it had caused. After some negotiation, the Allies agreed that Germany would pay reparations with trade goods and products instead of cash, and that the Allies would be allowed to remove industrial machinery, railroad cars, and other equipment as their armies advanced into German territory. After the war, tensions developed between the Soviet Union and the United States, Britain, and France. U.S. officials accepted that Western Europe's prosperity depended on Germany's recovery, but the Soviet Union still wanted Germany to pay war reparations. By early 1948 U.S. officials were convinced that the Soviets were trying to undermine Germany's economy. In response, the United States, Great Britain, and France announced that they were merging their zones in Germany into a single country, West Germany. They also agreed to merge their zones in Berlin and to make West Berlin part of West Germany.

The decision to create West Germany convinced the Soviets that they would never get the reparations they wanted. In late June 1948 the Soviet Union put in place a blockade of West Berlin, cutting all road and rail traffic to West Berlin. President Truman responded by ordering the air force to fly supplies into Berlin. The Berlin airlift began in June 1948 and continued through the spring of 1949, bringing more than two million tons of supplies into West Berlin from air bases in West Germany. The Soviet Union, having failed to starve West Berlin, lifted the blockade in May 1949, almost a year after putting it into effect.

The blockade made the West worry about Soviet aggression. The United States and Canada joined with ten European nations

(Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom) in a defensive military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Members agreed that an attack on one was an attack on all. In response to NATO, the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania for the rival alliance known as the Warsaw Pact in 1955.



Cold War Tensions Rise

What were three issues that led to hard feelings between the Soviets and the US?	_____	_____	_____
Use specific details to describe the main ideas of the cartoon:	_____		
What did Churchill describe as an "Iron curtain"?	_____		
What five Eastern European countries would pro-Soviet Communist governments be established in?	_____		

Experiences During War

Emotions After War

Needs After War

	Experiences During War	Emotions After War	Needs After War
Soviet Union	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
United States	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

The Marshall Plan

What commodity was particularly scarce in Europe after the war?	_____
Which 2 countries on the graph received the most total aid in 1948, the first year of the Marshall Plan? Why do you suppose this was true?	_____
Why do you think the Soviet Union opposed the Marshall Plan?	_____
How much worth of food/agricultural aid did Italy receive in 1948?	_____
Which country received the most total aid in 1948? How much?	_____
What event final moved Congress to approve the Marshall Plan?	_____

Berlin After World War II

What challenges do you think would face a city divided like Berlin was?	_____
What convinced the Soviets it would not receive the reparations it wanted?	_____
Why do you think Berlin was divided into 4 zones despite being in the middle of East Germany?	_____
What do you think the Soviets hoped to gain from the blockade of West Berlin?	_____
Why do you think the Soviet blockade failed its goal?	_____
What was NATO? Why was it formed? What did the nations agree to do?	_____
Who were the 12 members of NATO?	_____
What was the Warsaw Pact?	_____
Who were the 7 members of the Warsaw Pact?	_____