

4.1.1 Terms (k)

Cold War: The period following WWII, 1945 to 1990, when increasing diplomatic and political tension between the West/United States and the East /Soviet Union created the constant threat of war.

Containment: The defensive American foreign policy developed in 1947 to contain the spread of communism through economic and technical assistance to threatened countries. The policy later included military force.

4.1.2 ORIGINS (Causes) OF THE COLD WAR (a)

1. Russian Civil War: 1917 – 1922 (Unit II – 2.1.6)
2. Yalta and Potsdam (Unit III – 3.3.2 – 3.3.5)
3. Two speeches in 1946 alerted the world to the deteriorating relationship between the Soviet Union and Western World:

A. Stalin's "Two Hostile Camps Speech":

- In Feb. 1946, Stalin gave a speech to voters in Moscow.
- In it he predicted that the unevenness of development in capitalist countries would result in a split of two hostile camps with war the inevitable result.
- He also warned that the future would not bring internal or external peace.
- In Washington Stalin's words were interpreted to mean that war with the West was inevitable.



B. Churchill's "Iron Curtain Speech":



- Churchill had always distrusted Stalin and in March 1946 accepted an invitation from President Truman to visit the U.S.
- In his speech Churchill warned Americans of the Soviet threat and the need for "association of English speaking peoples" acting outside of the U.N. to re-order the world.

4.1.3 EXAMPLES OF CONTAINMENT (a)

- The policy of containment was put into action in the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Berlin Airlift and formation of NATO.

1. Truman Doctrine:

- In March 1947, President Truman called on the U.S to resist communism throughout the world.
- He stated; "... it must be the policy of the U.S to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation ... our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid... free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms..."
- Truman's speech was designed to get support for an American pledge of hundreds of millions of dollars to prevent the spread of communism in Europe.
- Greece was in the middle of a civil war in which rebel forces, including communists were attempting to overthrow the pro-western government.
- The policy of fighting communism around the world became known as the **TRUMAN DOCTRINE**.
- American aid would be given to a number of regimes, including right wing dictatorships, in an effort to **BLOCK** communism.
- Thus the U.S. committed itself to sacrificing money and lives to stop the spread of communism.

2. Marshall Plan:

- In 1947, Western Europe was in the midst of a postwar depression.
- Unemployment and social unrest were a concern to the U.S.
- If western European countries were to remain free of Soviet influence they would have to regain their economic and political strength.
- In June 1947, the **MARSHALL PLAN** was announced.
- The plan offered aid to all countries (even those in the Soviet bloc) **DEVASTATED** by the war.
- Countries accepting aid would have to **OPEN** their economic records to the U.S.
- The Soviets even explored it till they concluded it was an extension of the Truman Doctrine.
- Between 1948-1952, 16 European countries accepted over 13 billion in aid.
- As a result industrial growth flourished in Western Europe which resulted in economic and political stability.
- **One other benefit/goal was that the U.S. economy enjoyed unprecedented growth in the 1950's.**
- Wealthy European countries would not turn to communism.

3. Berlin Airlift:

- Until 1948, the Cold War had not drawn the two superpowers into open conflict.
- The continued division of Germany would test each superpowers will.
- Britain, France and the U.S. were preparing to establish an independent West German state.
- The Soviets wanted to block the establishment West Germany; in fact they wanted a united Germany under Soviet control.
- To accomplish this, the Soviet Union blocked all rail, canal, and road links into West Berlin.
- To the Western powers this was a test of their commitment to West Germany, if they backed down here it would weaken their position worldwide.
- Britain and the U.S. responded to the blockade with a massive airlift.
- 24 hours a day for 11 months thousands of tonnes of supplies were flown into West Germany until the Soviets lifted the Blockade.
- **West Germany** was created in **May 1948** while **East Germany** was created in **October 1948**.
- By standing up to the Soviets during the Blockade the West demonstrated their resolve to stand up to the Soviets.
- The blockade strengthened the West's ties to West Germany.

4. NATO:

- In April 1949, was established, led by the United States it brought 12 countries together to counter the perceived threat from the Soviet bloc countries.
- An attack on one country would be an attack against all.
- NATO indicated the West's intent to meet Soviet expansion with collective resistance.

4.1.4 SOVIET UNION RESPONSE TO CONTAINMENT (i)

- The Soviet Union responded to the American policy of containment.
- They responded to the **Marshall Plan** → **MOLOTOV PLAN**
- They responded to the Plan to establish West Germany with the..... **BERLIN BLOCKADE**
- They responded to the Formation of **NATO** → **WARSAW PACT (1955)**

4.1.5 Map of NATO and Warsaw Pact Members in 1955 (k)

- Look to front of booklet.