THE IRON CURTAIN DESCENDS
ANALYZING THE EVENTS THAT BEGAN THE IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION
THE COLD WAR BEGINS

THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGICALLY ORDERED CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT ESCALATED TENSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION AT THE OUTSET OF THE COLD WAR. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS TO COMPLETE IT.

1945:
THE DIVISION OF GERMANY & BERLIN

- How was it divided?
- Why would Germany & Berlin become the frontline of the Cold War?

1946:
STALIN INSTALLS SATELLITE NATIONS IN EAST. EUROPE

- How did Stalin ensure that communist candidates won “free elections”?
- What was the purpose of the communist bloc in Eastern Europe?

1947:
AMERICA IMPLEMENTS THE MARSHALL PLAN

- What was the goal of the Marshall Plan?
- What were the effects of the Marshall Plan?

1947:
THE UNITED STATES ISSUES THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE

- Define the policy of “containment”.
- How did the Truman Doctrine pledge to prevent the spread of communism worldwide?
- In what two countries did the policy work?

1948:
STALIN BLOCKADES WEST BERLIN & THE AIRLIFT BEGINS

- Why did Stalin blockade West Berlin? What was his ultimate goal?
- How did the Berlin Airlift resolve the crisis?

1949:
THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION IS FORMED

- Why did the United States and its Western European allies form NATO?
- Describe how NATO was a defensive alliance.
POST-WAR EUROPE
On the map provided, correctly label each of the countries listed below. In addition, color in the Soviet Union and each of the Soviet satellite nations in red, and each of the western democracies in light blue.

West Germany

East Germany
Great Britain
France
Italy
Soviet Union
Poland
Turkey
Greece

TENSIONS IN GERMANY AND BERLIN
On the map above, correctly trace and label each military sector of West Germany. Color the American sector in light blue, the British sector in yellow, and the French sector in green. Color and label the Soviet sector of East Germany in red. Lastly, color democratic West Berlin in light blue and communist East Berlin in pink.
1. Why did Truman believe Greece needed American aid in 1947?

2. What does Truman mean when he claims, “Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West as well as to the East”?

3. Does Truman present American policy as offensive or defensive? What words or phrases does Truman use to present policy this way?
THE COLD WAR ESCALATES

USE DOCUMENTS A, B AND C PROVIDED TO ANSWER THE CORRESPONDING QUESTIONS.

B

1. According to Marshall, why is it logical for the United States to lead the way in world affairs after World War II?

2. What does Marshall imply will happen to nations who do not succeed in recovering economically from the war?

3. Essentially, what are the conditions that Marshall declares must be met in order for a country to receive aid from the United States? Who will NOT receive the much-needed aid?

C

1. Who was Nicholas Novikov? When did he write this telegram?

2. How does Novikov describe the United States? What evidence does he use to support his description?

3. What does Novikov claim the United States planned during the Second World War?
THE COLD WAR BEGINS

The following is a chronologically ordered chain of events that escalated tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union at the outset of the Cold War. Answer the questions to complete it.

1945:
THE DIVISION OF GERMANY & BERLIN

How was it divided?
4 zones of occupation held by the US, France, Britain and the Soviet Union. Berlin was the same way, within East Germany.

Why would Germany & Berlin become the frontline of the Cold War?
It was a microcosm of the two ideologies. People could see the two at work, and both sides were so close to each other.

1946:
STALIN INSTALLS SATELLITE NATIONS IN EAST. EUROPE

How did Stalin ensure that communist candidates won “free elections”?
He didn’t allow non-communist parties to run, meaning the elections were not free.

What was the purpose of the Communist Bloc in Eastern Europe?
It was a buffer zone between the Soviet Union and Western Europe.

1947:
AMERICA IMPLEMENTS THE MARSHALL PLAN

What was the goal of the Marshall Plan?
By sending aid to nations attempting to resist communism, the U.S. would boost the prestige of democracy and gain allies against the Soviet Union.

What were the effects of the Marshall Plan?
The US was able to prevent nations in Europe from falling to communism and boost American prestige in Europe.

1948:
STALIN BLOCKADES WEST BERLIN & THE AIRLIFT BEGINS

Why did Stalin blockade West Berlin? What was his ultimate goal?
He wanted to keep supplies from reaching West Berlin. His goal was to force the democracies to leave, and then take it.

How did the Berlin Airlift resolve the crisis?
The U.S. dropped supplies by plane in the Berlin Airlift, and the blockade was lifted.

1949:
The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is formed

Why did the United States and its Western European allies form NATO?
They needed a defensive alliance against the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Describe how NATO was a defensive alliance.
If the Soviets attacked any member nation, all other nations had to attack, deterring Soviet aggression against Western Europe.

1949:
The United States issues the Truman Doctrine

Define the policy of “containment”.
The policy of preventing communism from spreading beyond where it currently exists.

How did the Truman Doctrine pledge to prevent the spread of communism worldwide?
The US would defend nations threatened by communism.

In what two countries did the policy work?
Greece and Turkey
DIVISION IN EUROPE

FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS PROVIDED TO COMPLETE THE COLD WAR MAPS BELOW.

POST-WAR EUROPE
On the map provided, correctly label each of the countries listed below. In addition, color in the Soviet Union and each of the Soviet satellite nations in red, and each of the western democracies in light blue.

- West Germany
- East Germany
- Great Britain
- France
- Italy
- Soviet Union
- Poland
- Turkey
- Greece

TENSIONS IN GERMANY AND BERLIN
On the map above, correctly trace and label each military sector of West Germany. Color the American sector in light blue, the British sector in yellow, and the French sector in green. Color and label the Soviet sector of East Germany in red. Lastly, color democratic West Berlin in light blue and communist East Berlin in pink.
1. Why did Truman believe Greece needed American aid in 1947?

The U.S. received an urgent appeal for financial and economic assistance from Greece. He says the Greek state is threatened by terrorists led by the communists.

2. What does Truman mean when he claims, “Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West as well as to the East”?

It is his belief that if one nation falls to communism, others will fall as well. He believed that if they contained it where it was at this moment, they would be able to contain it from there on out.

3. Does Truman present American policy as offensive or defensive? What words or phrases does Truman use to present policy this way?

It is described as a defensive action that the United States could take to prevent the Soviet Union from growing and possibly creating a bigger war in the future. He describes it this way because the U.S. just finished fighting two world wars, and he knows public opinion would be against instigating a war. Also, it makes the Soviets the aggressors, and the world looks negatively on aggressors.
1. According to Marshall, why is it logical for the United States to lead the way in world affairs after World War II?
   Europe is so broken down that they won’t be able to rebuild without the help of the United States. Without the United States helping Europe rebuild, the world economy would struggle, and peace wouldn’t be certain.

2. What does Marshall imply will happen to nations who do not succeed in recovering economically from the war?
   They will break down and disappear.

3. Essentially, what are the conditions that Marshall declares must be met in order for a country to receive aid from the United States? Who will NOT receive the much-needed aid?
   They must cooperate with the U.S. in its democracy-building strategy. Those committing acts that bring misery on their people will not receive much needed aid.

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1. Who was Nicholas Novikov? When did he write this telegram?
   He is the Soviet Ambassador. This telegram was written in September of 1946.

2. How does Novikov describe the United States? What evidence does he use to support his description?
   He describes the U.S. as imperialists looking for world supremacy. He claims it is evident because every business of the U.S. is focused on the establishment of a military build-up.

3. What does Novikov claim the United States planned during the Second World War?
   He claims the U.S. planned to wait as long as possible to enter the war as to have the greatest impact and change the direction of the war in their direction. This way, they could come out on top to get what they wanted after the victory was won.
The United States has received from the Greek Government an urgent appeal for financial and economic assistance...Greece is in desperate need of financial and economic assistance to enable it to resume purchases of food, clothing, fuel, and seeds.

The very existence of the Greek state is today threatened by the terrorist activities of several thousand armed men, led by Communists, who defy the government's authority. . . . Greece must have assistance if it is to become a self-supporting and self-respecting democracy. The United States must supply this assistance. . . . No other nation is willing and able to provide the necessary support for a democratic Greek government.

One of the primary objectives of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which we and other nations will be able to work out a way of life free from coercion. It is necessary only to glance at a map to realize that the survival and integrity of the Greek nation are of grave importance in a much wider situation. If Greece should fall under the control of an armed minority, the effect upon its neighbor, Turkey, would be immediate and serious. Confusion and disorder might well spread throughout the entire Middle East. . . . Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West as well as to the East.

The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world. And we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation. Great responsibilities have been placed upon us by the swift movement of events.

Sec. of State George Marshall
Excerpt from the “Marshall Plan Speech,” delivered at Harvard University on June 5, 1947

The truth of the matter is that Europe's requirements for the next three or four years of foreign food and other essential products - principally from America - are so much greater than her present ability to pay that she must have substantial additional help or face economic, social, and political deterioration of a very grave character. It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. 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. Such assistance, I am convinced, must not be on a piecemeal basis as various crises develop. Any assistance that this Government may render in the future should provide a cure rather than a mere palliative. Any government that is willing to assist in the task of recovery will find full co-operation I am sure, on the part of the United States Government. Any government which maneuvers to block the recovery of other countries cannot expect help from us. Furthermore, governments, political parties, or groups which seek to perpetuate human misery in order to profit therefrom politically or otherwise will encounter the opposition of the United States.
The foreign policy of the United States, which reflects the imperialist tendencies of American monopolistic capital, is characterized in the postwar period by a striving for world supremacy. This is the real meaning of the many statements by President Truman and other representatives of American ruling circles; that the United States has the right to lead the world. All the forces of American diplomacy -- the army, the air force, the navy, industry, and science -- are enlisted in the service of this foreign policy. For this purpose broad plans for expansion have been developed and are being implemented through diplomacy and the establishment of a system of naval and air bases stretching far beyond the boundaries of the United States, through the arms race, and through the creation of ever newer types of weapons.

During the Second World War... [American leaders] calculated that the United States of America, if it could avoid direct participation in the war, would enter it only at the last minute, when it could easily affect the outcome of the war, completely ensuring its interests.

In this regard, it was thought that the main competitors of the United States would be crushed or greatly weakened in the war, and the United States by virtue of this circumstance would assume the role of the most powerful factor in resolving the fundamental questions of the postwar world.