**COLD WAR DIPLOMACY**

**Goals of each side during the Cold War:**

**American goals:** American leaders wanted to keep the nation’s economy strong, so they wanted to see nations with capitalist economies and representative governments established in Europe. Although this foreign policy met American economic needs, Americans saw these goals not as self-interest but as a crusade to bring freedom, democracy, and capitalism to the world. They therefore tried to “contain” the spread of communism all over the world.

**Soviet goals:** The Soviet Union suffered huge losses—including 20 million deaths and heavy damage to industry and agriculture—during World War II. Joseph Stalin wanted to protect the USSR from further attack by establishing “satellite nations”—that is, nations that were sympathetic to communism—along its western borders. Stalin said that he was protecting Soviet interests in Europe, just as the United States was protecting its interests. Suspicious of the United States, Stalin did not let the USSR join agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which helped the capitalist economies in Western

Europe.

**Documents to consider:**

**Doc 1 - Speech by Winston Churchill - Winston Churchill delivered this famous speech at Westminster College in Missouri on March 5, 1946.**

…From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has ***descended***across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia; all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet ***sphere***, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow…

Source: Internet Modern History Sourcebook

**Doc 2 - Joseph Stalin’s response to Churchill Printed in the New York Times (p.4) on March 14, 1946 (interview with Pravda)**

... Mr. Churchill now stands in the position of a ***firebrand***of war. And Mr. Churchill is not alone here. He has friends not only in England but also in the United States of America. In this respect, one is reminded remarkably of Hitler and his friends. Hitler began to set war loose by announcing his racial theory, declaring that only people speaking the German language represent a fully valuable nation. Mr. Churchill begins to set war loose, also by a racial theory, maintaining that only nations speaking the English language are fully valuable nations, called upon to decide the destinies of the entire world. The German racial theory brought Hitler and his friends to the conclusion that the Germans, as the only fully valuable nation, must rule over other nations. The English racial theory brings Mr. Churchill and his friends to the conclusion that nations speaking the English language, being the only fully valuable nations, should rule over the remaining nations of the world.... As a result of the German invasion, the Soviet Union has ***irrevocably***lost in battles with the Germans, and also during the German occupation and through the expulsion of Soviet citizens to German slave labor camps, about 7,000,000 people. In other words, the Soviet Union has lost in men several times more than Britain and the United States together. It may be that some quarters are trying to push into ***oblivion***these sacrifices of the Soviet people which insured the liberation of Europe from the Hitlerite yoke.

But the Soviet Union cannot forget them. One can ask therefore, what can be surprising in the fact that the Soviet Union, in a desire to ensure its security for the future, tries to achieve that these countries should have governments whose relations to the Soviet Union are loyal? How can one, without having lost one’s reason, qualify these peaceful aspirations of the Soviet Union as **“*expansionist* *tendencies*”** of our Government?. . .

**Doc 3 - Truman Doctrine (March 12, 1947). *This excerpted speech, given by President Harry* *Truman before a joint session of Congress,* *outlined the president’s plans for economic aid to* *Greece and Turkey.***

I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted ***subjugation***by ***armed minorities***or by outside pressures…I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes… 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. Moreover, the disappearance of Greece as an independent state would have a ***profound***effect upon those countries in Europe whose peoples are struggling against great difficulties to maintain their freedoms and their independence while they repair the damages of war.

Source: Internet Modern History Sourcebook

**Doc 4 - Marshall Plan (June 5, 1947) *This excerpted speech, given by Secretary of State* *George C. Marshall, outlined the need for American economic aid to western Europe.***

…The truth of the matter is that Europe’s requirements for the next 3 or 4 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 help or face economic, social, and political deterioration of a very grave character…

Aside from the demoralizing effect on the world at large and the possibilities of disturbances arising as a result of the desperation of the people concerned, the consequences to the economy of the United States should be apparent to all. 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 exist.

**Doc 5 - National Security Council Paper 68**

**(April 7, 1950)**

This top-secret document, an internal memo of the newly formed National Security Council, argued that only the United States could stop Soviet expansion. It advocates the policy of “containment.”

As for the policy of “*containment*,” it is one which seeks by all means short of war to (1) block further *expansion* of Soviet power, (2) expose the *falsities* of Soviet *pretensions*, (3) induce a *retraction* of the Kremlin’s control and influence, and (4) in general, so *foster* the seeds of destruction within the Soviet system that the

Kremlin is brought at least to the point of *modifying* its behavior to conform to generally acceptedinternational standards.

…It is quite clear from Soviet theory and practice that the Kremlin seeks to bring the free world under its *dominion* by the methods of the cold war. The preferred technique is to *subvert* by *infiltration* and *intimidation*. Every institution of our society is an instrument which it is sought to *stultify* and turn against our purposes. Those that touch most closely our material and moral strength are obviously the prime targets, labor unions, civic enterprises, schools, churches, and all media for influencing opinion. The effort is not so much to make them serve obvious Soviet ends as to prevent them from serving our ends, and thus to make them sources of confusion in our economy, our culture, and our body politic…

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Date

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**Cold War Diplomacy - Document Questions**

1. What phrase does Churchill use to describe Soviet power in Eastern Europe? Why might this scare an American audience in 1946?
2. Why would an American care about Soviet power in Europe?
3. How does Stalin defend the Soviet Union’s post-World War II actions in Europe? Were Stalin’s goals military goals, national security goals, or economic goals?
4. Given the world political situation in 1947, who do you think are the “armed minorities” and “outside pressures” who are trying to take over Greece and Turkey? Provide evidence to support your claim.
5. Truman’s foreign policy has often been described as the “domino theory.” Here’s the concept: if dominoes are stacked one slightly behind the other, a slight push on one will knock down all of the pieces in a row. Why do you think it has been described in this way?
6. Were Truman’s plans in Greece and Turkey military goals, national security goals, political goals, or economic goals?
7. What kind of aid did Europe need from the United States? Why would the United States want to help Europe?
8. What does Marshall mean when he says, “Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos”?
9. Was Marshall’s plan a military goal, a national security goal, a political goal, or an economic goal?
10. How did the United States plan to stop Soviet expansion? Does the document argue that the United States should go to war with the USSR?
11. According to this document, what were the key parts of “containment”? What does the phrase “by all means short of war” mean?
12. According to the document, how is the Soviet Union trying to increase its influence over the free world? Is the Soviet Union using armed confrontation or another method? How does this threaten American institutions, and how might this threat differ from other wars, like WWI or WWII?

**PERSPECTIVES ON THE COLD WAR**

*Now that you have read the documents, please describe the objectives of the United States and the Soviet Union as each nation’s leaders (or allies) explained them. Are there any similarities?*

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| **United States** | **Soviet Union** |
| Economic Goals1)2) | Economic Goals1)2) |
| Political Goals1)2) | Political Goals1)2) |
| Military/National Security Goals1)2) | Military/National Security Goals1)2) |

Did you note any similarities between the two nations? If so, explain. If not, why do you think there are no similarities?