

PPT: Post WWII Tensions

The Cold War



WWII ends
Cold War begins

USSR collapses
Cold War ends

1945

1991

The Cold War:

The U.S. and USSR never directly declare war on each other, but “fight” by other means...and through other countries.

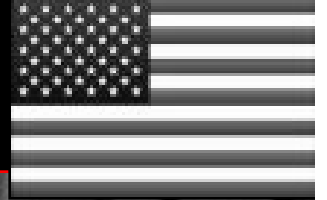


Cold War

- The US and the Soviet Union disagreed about what postwar Europe should look like, and their suspicion of each other led to the Cold War.
- Soviet were concerned with security; Germany had invaded the USSR 2 times within 30 years. The Soviets wanted to keep Germany weak and make sure that the counties between them were under Soviet control.
- Americans believed that the depression in Germany and Japan were the causes of the war. Without that economic desperation, people would have not been eager to follow Hitler and Japan would not have wanted to expand its empire. The US believed that economic growth was key to world peace.



1945: THE YALTA CONFERENCE



Yalta Conference

Feb, 1945

- Poland – In 1944, as the Soviet troops liberated Poland, the Soviets pushed Polish Communists to set up a new government. Roosevelt and Churchill argued that the Polish should have the right to choose their own governments. Stalin promised to hold free elections as soon as possible.



- Declaration of Liberated Europe – declared that “the right of all people to choose the form of government under which they live.”

- Two weeks after Yalta, the Soviets pressured the King of Romania to appoint a Communist government.
- Furthermore, there was no indication that free elections would be held.

Potsdam



- Consequences for Germany
- divided into 4 zones. Britain, the US, France and the Soviet Union would each control each zone.
- Stalin demanded that Germany pay heavy reparations. Roosevelt agreed but argued those reparation should be based on Germany's ability to pay and suggested that Germany pay with goods and products instead of cash

Speech by Winston Churchill
Westminster College in Missouri
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...

THE USSR

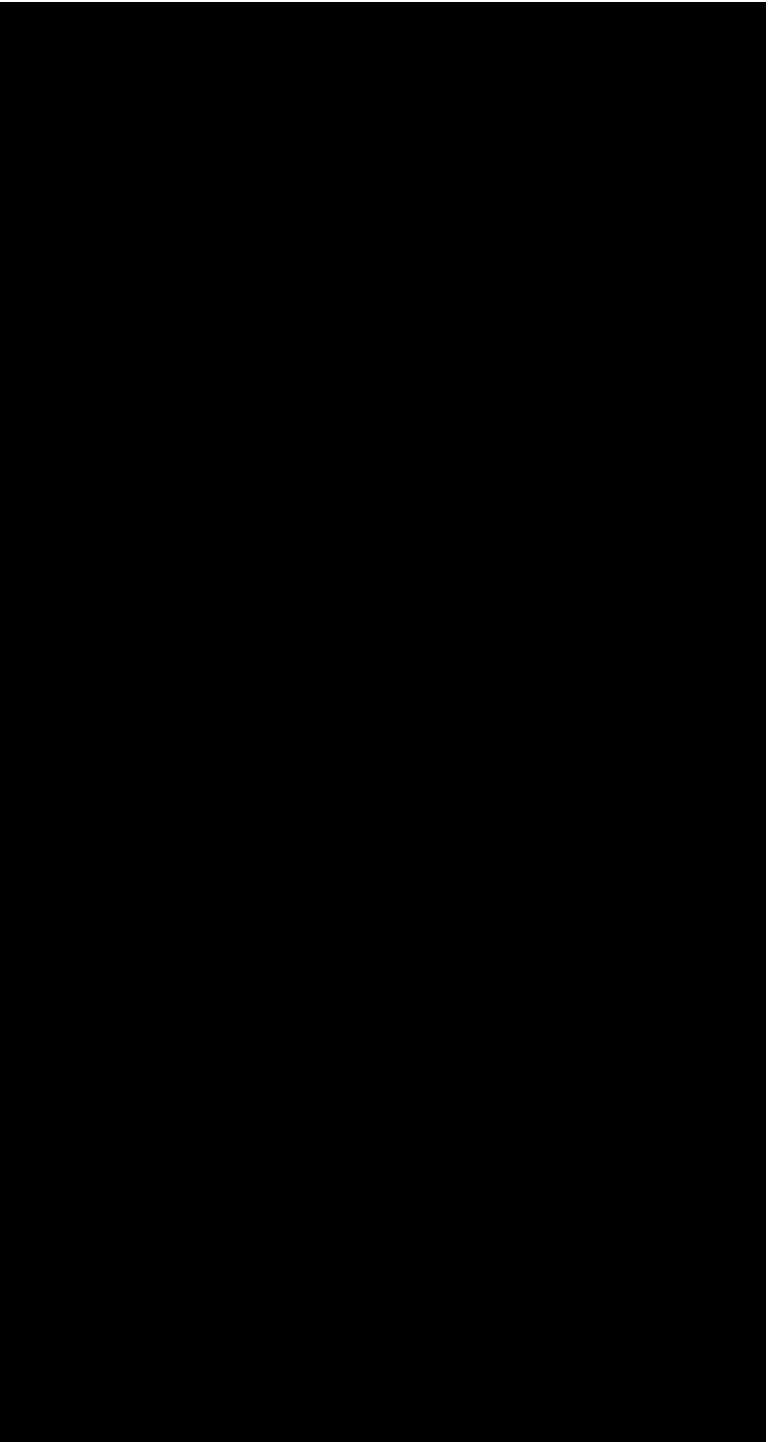
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS



EASTERN EUROPE

(controlled by the Soviets,
but not part of the USSR)





Albania

East Germany

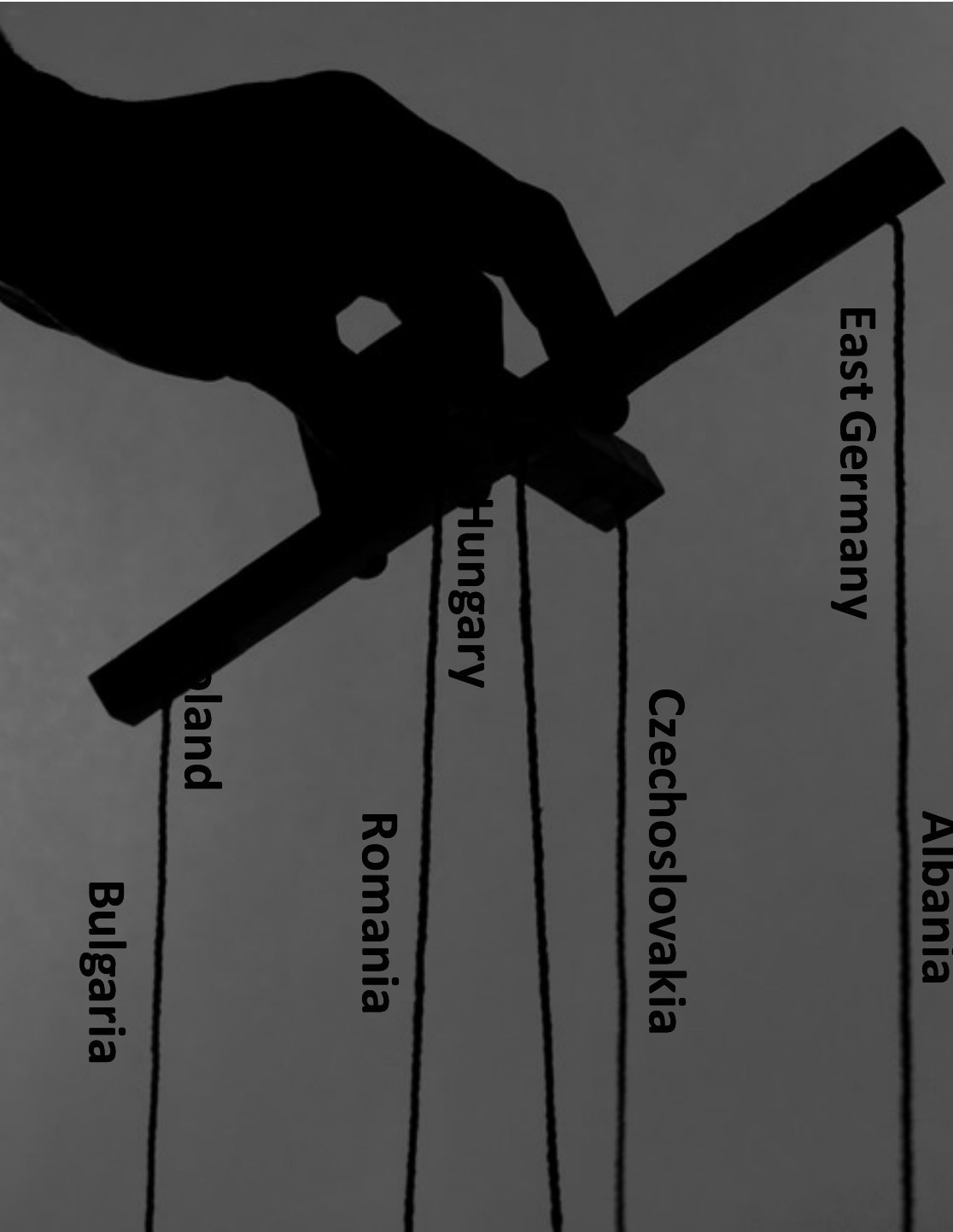
Czechoslovakia

Hungary

Romania

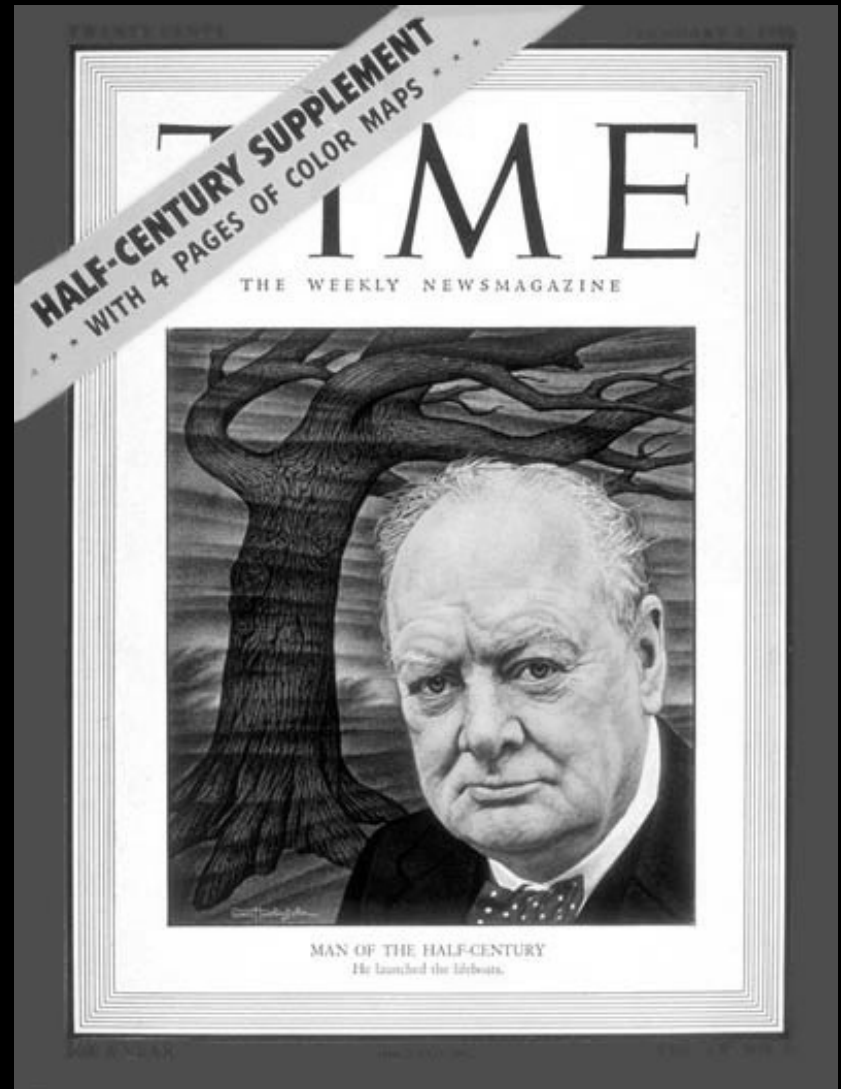
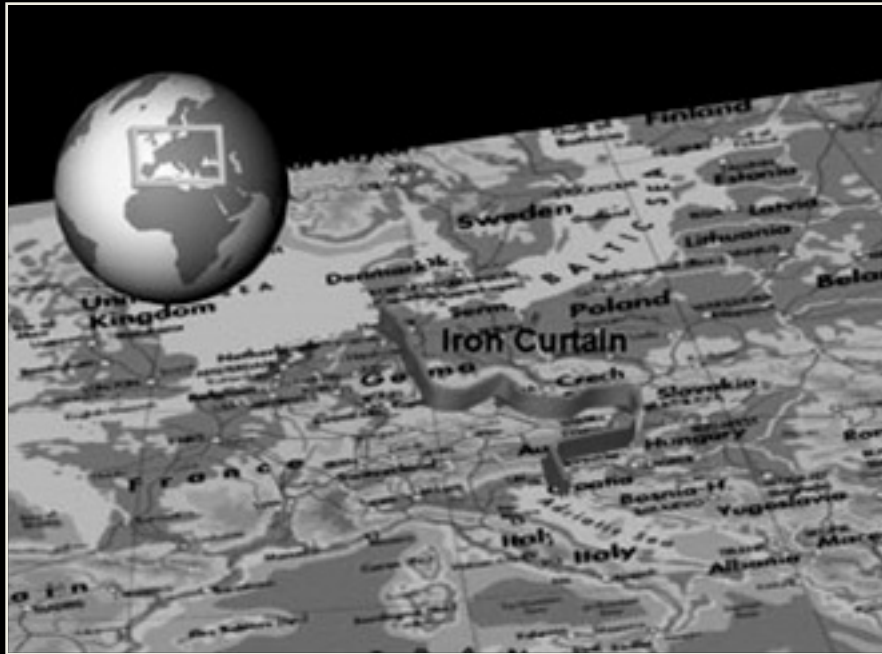
Poland

Bulgaria





“... an iron curtain has descended across the continent.”
Winston Churchill, 1946

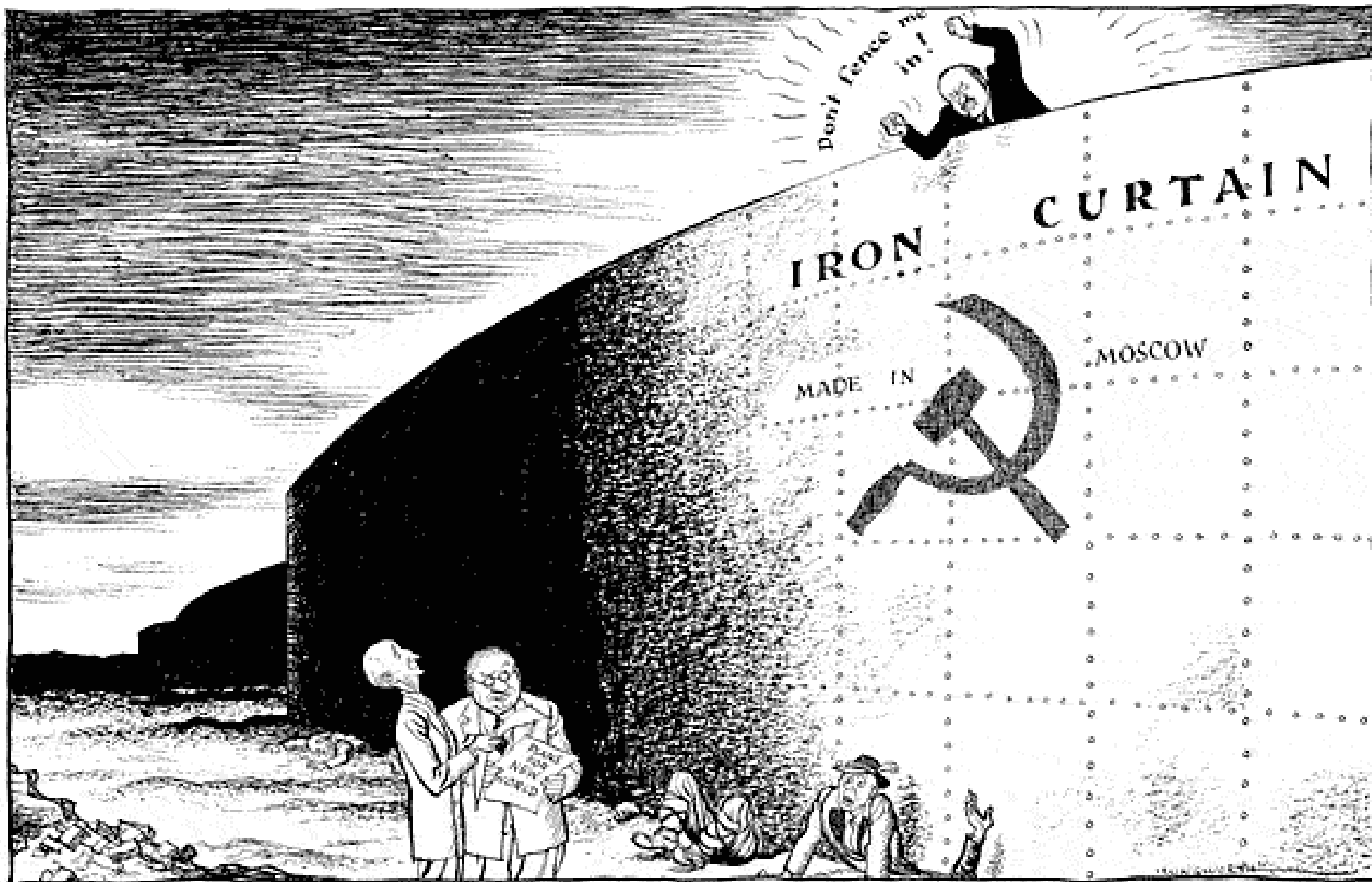


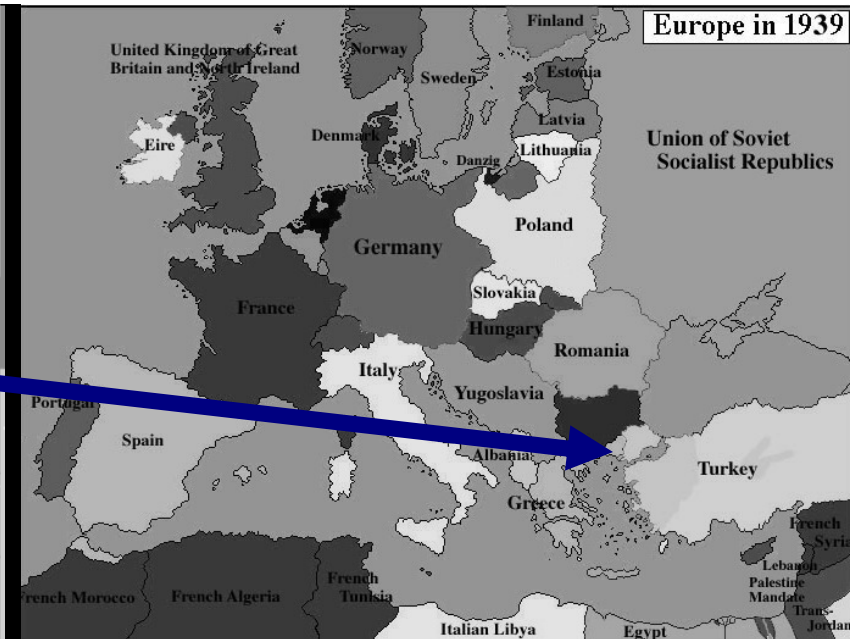
The Iron Curtain



The Long Telegram Feb 22, 1946

- The presence of the Soviet army in Eastern Europe eventually led to pro-Soviet Communist governments Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. These Communist countries came to be satellite nations. An iron curtain now separated Communist nations from the west.
- George Kennan argued that if the US could keep the Soviets from expanding their power, it would only be a matter of time before the Soviet system fell apart. This telegram gave rise to the policy of containment—keeping communism within its present territory through the use of diplomatic, economic, and military action.





Greece & Turkey

- Crisis in Greece: An insurgency backed by the communist leader of Yugoslavia were battling Greece's monarchy. In February 1947, Britain had restored Greece's monarchy but no longer could financially support Greece.
- Crisis in Turkey: Soviets were pressuring Turkey to share the Dardanelles (waterway linking the Black Sea to the Mediterranean)

The Iron Curtain, 1946



Not long ago, the Iron Curtain descended on Europe, dividing the Soviet-controlled communist nations from the rest of the world. Now Greece is embroiled in a civil war. Communist rebels threaten to take over the country, and they may attempt to take over Turkey next. Where will they stop? As foreign policy advisers, you must recommend how the United States should respond to this dire situation.

Critical Thinking Question B: How should the United States respond to the communist threat in Greece?

Option 1: Do nothing—the Soviet Union is not directly supporting communist rebels in Greece.

Option 2: Give financial aid to the Greek government to boost the nation's economy and stop the spread of communism.

Option 3: Send troops to defeat the communists, and train the Greek military on how to keep order.

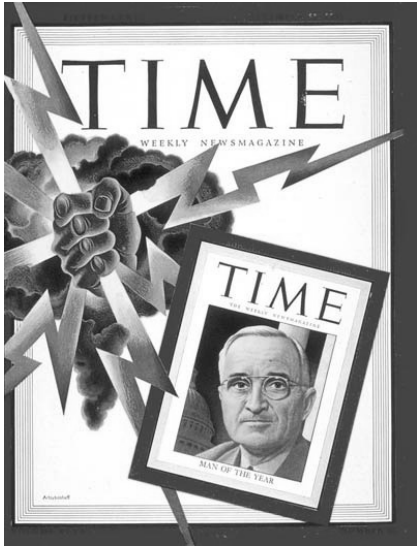
Option 4: Take control of the Greek government to expel the communists and install a democracy.

The Truman Doctrine

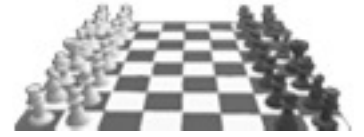
March, 1947

- Pres. Truman ordered the aircraft carrier USS Freedom (DD-535) to protect Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean.
- Truman asked Congress for \$400 million to fight communism aggression in Turkey and Greece.





The Truman Doctrine



containment





World War II left Europe devastated. Millions were dead, cities were destroyed, and homes were lost. Such destruction causes poverty and discontent, making the countries of Europe perfect breeding grounds for communist movements. Greece could be only the beginning. As foreign policy advisers, you must recommend how the United States should respond to the dire conditions in postwar Europe.

Critical Thinking Question C: How should the United States respond to postwar conditions in Europe?

Option 1: Do nothing—we already spent a lot helping Europe during World War II.

Option 2: Supply loans on a case-by-case basis to European countries that have been longtime allies.

Option 3: Generously fund any European country as long as the money is spent on goods made in the United States.

Option 4: Send military troops and advisers to be in charge of postwar rebuilding in devastated European countries.

Truman Doctrine

He pronounced that the world must choose between two “alternatives ways of life:” democracy and freedom or totalitarianism, terror and oppression. He further stated that America must, “support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.”

subjugation—control

armed minorities—
group that
takes over through
force

The Marshal Plan

June 1947

- Secretary of State George Marshal proposed this plan to give European countries 13 billion to rebuild their economies. The Soviet Union and its satellite nations in Eastern Europe rejected the offer. Supplies, machinery and food were given to Western Europe.
- “Our plan 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.”

ICELAND

DVD: 20th Century Turning Points: The Marshall Plan for Europe

*MARSHALL AID DISTRIBUTION

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YUGOSLAVIA

ITALY

BULGARIA

ALBANIA

GREECE

TURKEY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BI9UrckM-B0>

Start @ 25:00

Video CNN Cold War Documentary Part 1 24 Comrades 1917 1945

2:54 / 46:31