

Opening Stages of the Cold War

Background

The Allies had hardly finished defeating Germany when the next conflict loomed in Europe.

An American stationed in Moscow was asked to write an analysis of the Soviet position in Europe, and then make recommendations on America's response.

George F. Kennan's report to the State Department would go a long way to defining American foreign policy throughout the entire Cold War.

Kennan warned against America slipping back into isolation.

He considered Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe to be aggressive, and argued that all available force should be used to prevent further expansion.

This would become the famous American policy of containment!

Stalin definitely had some imperial and economic interests in Eastern Europe, but national security was his obsession.

Eastern Europe was a buffer zone.

Stalin maintained his conventional forces after defeating Germany.

When measuring conventional forces in Europe, Stalin remained superior in numbers to the United States.

This threatened the United States, and threats matter the real world of international affairs.

Until the conclusion of the Cold War, it is important to remember that both Americans and Soviets were pathologically afraid of the other guy.

Assignment

1) Complete the following charts on Germany during the Cold War.

1945	<p><i>Germany was divided into four zones that were occupied by . . .</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Berlin was also divided into . . .</i></p>
August 30, 1945	<p><i>The Allies announced the creation of the . . .</i></p>

1948	<i>The Western Allies announced . . .</i>
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1949	<i>The Western Allies announced the unification of . . .</i>
	<i>The first chancellor of the new republic was . . .</i>
	<i>Stalin matched the Western Allies by creating . . .</i>
	<i>While this state was called a democracy, it was really just another . . .</i>

2) Describe the methods of competition used by the superpowers during the Cold War.

3) Define . . . Iron Curtain.

4) Discuss the broader significance of the Iron Curtain.

5) Complete the following chart on the Truman Doctrine.

<i>What</i>	
<i>When</i>	
<i>Why</i>	
<i>Significance</i>	

6) Complete the following chart on the Marshall Plan.

<i>What</i>	
<i>When</i>	
<i>Why</i>	
<i>Significance</i>	

7) Why didn't the Soviet Union participate in the Marshall Plan?

8) What event convinced the Congress to approve the Marshall Plan?

9) Assess the following statement . . . The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan were two halves of the same walnut.

10) Fill in the missing information on the Berlin Blockade.

- Berlin lay within the _____ sector of Germany.
- At the time, western nations were only permitted access through East Germany on specified _____.
- In 1948, the Western Allies announced the creation of _____, and the introduction of _____ in West Germany.
- Stalin responded by _____.
- America responded by sending a squadron of _____ to _____.
- The Western Allies decided to counter Stalin’s blockade by _____.
- The Berlin Airlift was ended when the UN Security Council _____.

11) Discuss the significance of the Berlin Blockade.

12) Complete the following chart on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

<i>Who</i>	
<i>What</i>	
<i>When</i>	
<i>Why</i>	

13) What were the main resolutions of NATO?

14) How was the concept of containment first introduced?

15) Define . . . containment.

16) Discuss the significance of the American policy of containment.

17) Complete the following chart describing and explaining the factors that contributed to increased global tensions during the 1950s.

<i>THREAT</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION / EXPLANATION</i>
<i>Atomic Bomb</i>	
<i>People's Republic of China</i>	
<i>Alger Hiss</i>	
<i>McCarthyism</i>	
<i>Klaus Fuchs</i>	
<i>Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance</i> <i>USSR & China</i>	