

CHAPTER
12
SECTION 1

Section Summary
THE COLD WAR BEGINS

In February 1945, Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill met at Yalta. The postwar goal of the United States and Great Britain was to create a united Germany and independent nations in Eastern Europe. The Soviet dictator Stalin wanted a weak, divided Germany and an Eastern Europe under communist control. He also took steps to make Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria **satellite states** of the Soviet Union. He did the same with the eastern part of Germany. The Allies met again at Potsdam. It was then that President Harry S. Truman became certain that Stalin aspired to dominate the world. Thus began the 46-year-long Cold War.

Churchill agreed with President Truman. Churchill spoke about an **iron curtain** that had divided Europe. East of the curtain, Stalin was increasing his control of some countries and trying to spread communism to others. Truman asked Congress for money to help Turkey and Greece fight communism. His promise of aid became known as the **Truman Doctrine**. It set a new course for American foreign policy.

Another American policy, called **containment**, also used financial aid to help nations fight communism. The **Marshall Plan** sent about \$13 billion to Western European nations.

In 1948, Stalin tried to fold West Berlin into communist East Germany by blockading supplies to the city. The United States and Britain saved West Berlin by airlifting supplies to the city.

The **Berlin airlift** showed that communism could be contained. In 1949, the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO**, was formed. Twelve Western European and North American nations joined and agreed to act together to defend Western Europe. In 1955, West Germany joined NATO. The Soviet Union formed the **Warsaw Pact** as a response to NATO. All communist states of Eastern Europe except Yugoslavia promised to defend one another if attacked.

Review Questions

1. What was Truman’s promise of aid to countries fighting communism called?

2. Which event proved that the policy of containment worked?

READING CHECK

President Truman asked Congress for aid for which two countries?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *aspired* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle the words in the underlined sentence that could help you learn what *aspired* means.

READING SKILL

Contrast What were the differences in goals between Stalin and the Soviets and Truman and the United States after World War II?
