

Containment

It is clear that the main element of any United States policy towards the Soviet Union must be that of a long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies. It is clear that the United States cannot expect in the foreseeable future to enjoy political intimacy with the Soviet regime. It must continue to regard the Soviet Union as a rival, not a partner, in the political arena. It must continue to expect that Soviet policies will reflect no abstract love of peace and stability, no real faith in the possibility of a permanent happy coexistence of the socialist and capitalist worlds, but rather a cautious, persistent pressure towards the disruption and weakening of all rival influence and rival power.

—George Kennan, State Department Official
Article published in Foreign Affairs Magazine, July 1947



George Kennan

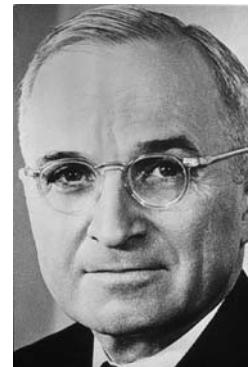
According to Kennan, what will happen to U.S.-Soviet relations?

How does Kennan believe the U.S. should treat the Soviet Union?

_____: The idea that the United States should limit the expansion of Communism and Soviet influence to the areas where it already exists.

"I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation [domination] by armed minorities or by outside pressure. Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far-reaching to the West. The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. They spread and grow in the evil soil of poverty and strife. They reach their full growth when the hope of a people for a better life has died. Therefore, I propose giving Greece and Turkey \$400 million in aid."

—President Harry S. Truman, March 12, 1947



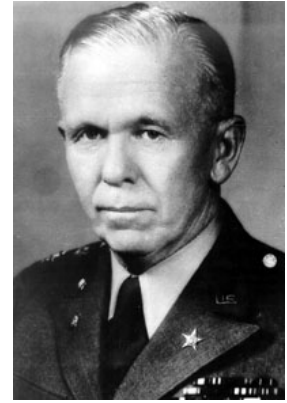
President Truman

Why does President Truman believe the United States should aid Greece and Turkey?

_____: President Truman's pledge that the United States would provide military and/or economic aid to any nation trying to resist a Communist takeover; the first countries to receive such aid were Greece and Turkey.

I need to say that the world situation is very serious... Europe must have a great deal of additional help, or they face heavy economic, social, and political damage. This would have a harmful effect on the world at large. There are also possibilities of disturbances because of the desperation of the people concerned. The effect on the economy of the United States should be clear to all. So the United States should do whatever it can to help restore normal economic health to the world. Without this there can be no political stability or peace. Our policy is directed... against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos... Its purpose is to revive a working economy in the world.

-Secretary of State Marshall
Excerpt from a Speech, June 5, 1947



George C. Marshall

What factors does Secretary Marshall believe are disturbing Europe?

What benefits would the Marshall Plan bring to the United States?

_____ : An American economic aid package, giving \$12.4 billion to Western Europe to help rebuild after World War II; it was also designed to discourage the spread of Communism, and create demand for American exports.

It is obvious that the United States gains much by declaring now, in this written pact, the course of action we would follow even if the treaty did not exist. Without a treaty, we were drawn into two world wars to preserve the security of the North Atlantic community. Can anyone doubt that we would become involved in a third world conflict if it should ever come?... From now on, no one will misread our motives or underestimate our determination to stand in defense of our freedom...

-Senator Tom Connally (D-Texas)
Address to U.S. Senate, 1949

Why does Senator Connally support joining an alliance with other North Atlantic countries?

How would such an alliance differ from previous American foreign policies?
(Hint: Think back to George Washington)

_____ : The first major peacetime alliance in U.S. history; the U.S. joined with Canada and Western Europe as a method of resisting a Soviet attack.