

## II. American Responses to USSR (pp. 840-843).

### A. Containment

1. Stop the Soviet Union from gaining control of any more territory, stop their expansion to the Mediterranean.
  - uses military, economic and diplomatic strategies.
  - becomes the linchpin of US foreign policy.
  - needed to be backed up with US military might, easy as long as monopoly on A-bomb.
  - By 1950, "the US had a stockpile capable of...reproducing WWII in a single day." (490).
  - August, 1949 USSR tests A-bomb: nuclear arms race begins.
2. The Truman Doctrine.
  - Comes about as civil war erupts in Greece/Turkey - Britain does not have the money to support anti-communist forces. Truman insisted that if Greece went communist that the entire Middle East may *oil*.
  - Stated that World peace and the welfare of all Americans depended on containing communism.
  - US pledged to assist any nation that fears it is being challenged by Communism either from within or without, both militarily and economically.
  - US had never committed itself or assumed so much responsibility for other nation.
  - Served as cornerstone of US policy until the late 80s and required endless supply of economic and military resources.

### B. The Marshall Plan.

1. "European Recovery Program".
  - Build up the economies of Europe in order to turn back communism (Europe in chaos).
  - Aid pumped into economy to undermine the appeal of Communism. "Look what Capitalism did".
2. Brought the recipients of aid into an agreement with the United States.
3. Considered by many historians as the most successful postwar venture.
  - Created a climate for a viable capitalist economy.
4. Further strained relations between US and USSR.
  - Stalin denounced it as a "American scheme to rebuild Germany and incorporate it into an anti-Soviet bloc." (*Out of Many*, 488).
  - Stalin sees it as a means to destroy USSR.

### C. The Berlin Airlift

1. June, 1948, Western Allies (France, US, GB) announced they would incorporate their spheres into The Federal Republic of West Germany.
2. Stalin sees it as a threat to Russian security, closes all traffic to West Berlin on June 24, 1948 (map).
3. US airlifts supplies for almost a year. May 1949, USSR lifts the blockade.
4. Weeks later, East and West Germany established as separate countries.

## D. NATO

1. Airlift success made a US led military alliance against the USSR attractive to other countries.
  - Strengthened economic ties among members, US bases and American troops abroad.
2. Membership extended to West Germany.
  - They are re-arming the enemy!
  - What does this look like to USSR? (US building up Germany to attack).
3. Membership extended to Greece and Turkey.
  - USSR sees this as encirclement ("North Atlantic" a bit of a stretch).
  - USSR forms Warsaw Pact (including E. Germany).
  - 1949: USSR w/bomb, let the games begin.
4. An attack on one is an attack on all.
  - \*first peacetime alliance in US history.
  - Required US involvement in Europe.
  - Ike has sole responsibility of Atomic weapons - yeow!

## E. IMF AND the World Bank.

1. Created single monetary system for the world, tied other currency to the dollar, tied to gold.
2. Channeled money from rich countries to those in need, regulated interest rates.
  - United States controlled most loans, therefore controlled world economy.
  - USSR sees this as a threat, refuses to join either (US had made moves to combat the Bolshevik takeover and was seen as trying to destroy communism where they had left off).