Building Cold War Blocs

Compare how two powers gained and kept allies

9-12.US2.25 "Compare various ways the United States and the Soviet Union built and strengthened economic, political, and military alliances with countries during this period..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one economic step taken by each power, circle one political step taken by each power, and number the two military alliances so you can compare how the blocs were built.

Aid, Occupation, and Alliances

1 In 1947, civil war in Greece and pressure on Turkey raised fears in Washington that Soviet influence would spread. Under the Truman Doctrine, the United States sent money and supplies to help both governments resist that pressure. The next year, the Marshall Plan began offering funds to European countries for recovery after World War II. Western European nations used this aid to rebuild factories, transportation, and trade. The plan also made cooperation with the United States attractive. In 1949, the United States and Western European partners formed NATO. Its members pledged to treat an attack on one member as a threat to all.

2 Control over defeated countries offered another path to partnership. In its occupation zone of Germany, the United States worked with Britain and France to support economic recovery and democratic government. Their western zones became West Germany in 1949; it joined NATO in 1955. In Japan, a US-led occupation oversaw political reforms and economic recovery after the war. The occupation ended in 1952, but a security treaty allowed US forces to remain in Japan. In both countries, rebuilding helped turn former enemies into partners, while military agreements helped keep those relationships close after occupation ended.

3 The Soviet Union used the presence of its troops in Eastern Europe after the war to shape governments there. Soviet-backed communist parties took power, often limiting political opposition. Moscow directed economic ties toward the Soviet bloc through trade arrangements and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, formed in 1949. Eastern European countries rebuilt, but Soviet demands for resources and political control narrowed their choices. In 1955, the Soviet Union and several Eastern European states formed the Warsaw Pact, a military alliance that placed their armed forces under a shared command dominated by Moscow. The pact followed West Germany's entry into NATO that same year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the immediate goals of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan differ, even though both used US aid?

2. How did the United States use rebuilding and security agreements to maintain ties with both West Germany and Japan? Identify one difference in their agreements.

3. Compare how US aid in Western Europe and Soviet economic policies in Eastern Europe affected each power's relationships with other countries.

4. What did NATO and the Warsaw Pact each do militarily, and what difference does the passage show in how their leading powers worked with members?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise a small European country in 1955 that is choosing whether to join a US-led or Soviet-led bloc. Write a four- to five-sentence note comparing the blocs' economic methods and military alliances, then recommend a choice based on security and political independence.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.US2.25

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one economic step taken by each power, circle one political step taken by each power, and number the two military alliances so you can compare how the blocs were built. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the immediate goals of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan differ, even though both used US aid?	**The Truman Doctrine aided Greece and Turkey in resisting pressure and feared Soviet influence. The Marshall Plan funded European recovery and made cooperation with the United States attractive.**
2	How did the United States use rebuilding and security agreements to maintain ties with both West Germany and Japan? Identify one difference in their agreements.	**The United States supported recovery in both countries, then maintained military ties. West Germany joined NATO, while Japan had a security treaty that allowed US forces to remain.**
3	Compare how US aid in Western Europe and Soviet economic policies in Eastern Europe affected each power's relationships with other countries.	**US recovery funds made cooperation attractive to Western European countries. Soviet-directed trade and demands for resources tied Eastern European countries to the Soviet bloc while narrowing their choices.**
4	What did NATO and the Warsaw Pact each do militarily, and what difference does the passage show in how their leading powers worked with members?	**NATO members pledged to treat an attack on one as a threat to all. The Warsaw Pact placed members' armed forces under a command dominated by Moscow; the passage describes NATO as a partnership but shows Soviet political control limiting Eastern European countries' choices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both blocs could offer economic ties, but the Marshall Plan used recovery funds to attract cooperation while Soviet policies directed trade and demanded resources from Eastern Europe. NATO promised that members would treat an attack on one as a threat to all. The Warsaw Pact offered a military alliance, but Moscow dominated its shared command. I recommend the US-led bloc because NATO would provide a security commitment without the political controls the passage describes in Eastern Europe.

Accept recommendations for either bloc if students accurately compare economic methods and military alliances and support their choice with evidence about security and political independence.