

From Allies to Rivals

Tracing how postwar peace plans gave way to Cold War competition

10.6a "The Cold War originated from tensions near the end of World War II as plans for peace were made and implemented. The Cold War was characterized by competition for power and ideological differences between the United States and the Soviet..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements about plans for peace at Yalta or Potsdam. Circle evidence that cooperation broke down and rivalry developed after World War II.

Peace Plans, Rising Tensions

- ① At Yalta in February 1945, U.S., British, and Soviet leaders promised free elections in liberated Europe and agreed on occupation arrangements for Germany, including a French zone. At Potsdam in July and August, after Germany surrendered, they agreed to disarm Germany and remove Nazi influence. Yet they disagreed over reparations and Soviet influence in Eastern Europe. Without their common European enemy, competing postwar goals became harder to reconcile.
- ② Soviet forces remained in much of Eastern Europe. Stalin wanted friendly neighboring governments for protection against another invasion. However, Soviet-backed communist parties restricted opposition and consolidated control, contradicting promises of free elections. U.S. leaders saw a threat to political freedom and American influence. In 1947, the Truman Doctrine promised support against armed minorities or outside pressure, initially through aid to Greece and Turkey. It became part of containment: limiting communist expansion.
- ③ In 1948, amid disputes over Germany's future and Western currency reform, the Soviet Union blocked surface access to West Berlin. Western allies supplied the city by air until the blockade ended in 1949. That year, the United States, Canada, and Western European countries formed NATO for collective defense. The United States generally favored multiparty government and capitalism; the Soviet Union maintained one-party communist rule and a state-directed economy. These differences deepened a Cold War of political, economic, and military competition without an open, full-scale U.S.–Soviet war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What agreement at Yalta was not carried out in much of Eastern Europe after the war?

2 Identify one agreement and one disagreement at Potsdam.

3 How did the Truman Doctrine become part of containment?

4 How did the Berlin blockade and the formation of NATO show competition between former allies?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write three sentences connecting one wartime peace plan to two postwar developments. Explain how these developments show growing rivalry.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline statements about plans for peace at Yalta or Potsdam. Circle evidence that cooperation broke down and rivalry developed after World War II. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What agreement at Yalta was not carried out in much of Eastern Europe after the war?	The agreement that liberated European nations should hold free elections was not carried out.
2	Identify one agreement and one disagreement at Potsdam.	Agreement: disarm Germany or remove Nazi influence. Disagreement: German reparations or Soviet influence in Eastern Europe.
3	How did the Truman Doctrine become part of containment?	It offered support against armed minorities or outside pressure, initially aiding Greece and Turkey, as part of limiting communist expansion.
4	How did the Berlin blockade and the formation of NATO show competition between former allies?	The blockade created a conflict over Berlin, while the United States and its allies supplied West Berlin by air and formed a military alliance. These actions showed competition for power and security.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Yalta promised free elections, but Soviet-backed communist parties restricted opposition and consolidated control in much of Eastern Europe. The Truman Doctrine offered support against outside pressure and became part of containment. These developments show competing visions of security and government replacing wartime cooperation.

Accept responses that accurately connect a peace plan, especially free elections or occupation zones, to postwar rivalry. Strong responses use at least two passage details and explain competition for power, security, influence, or rival systems.