

Containing Influence

How early Cold War policies responded to Soviet expansion

11.9a "After World War II, ideological differences led to political tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. In an attempt to halt the spread of Soviet influence, the United States pursued a policy of containment."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline differences in political and economic systems. Circle four containment actions. Mark how each action was intended to limit Soviet influence.

From Wartime Allies to Cold War Rivals

- ① After World War II, the United States and Soviet Union disagreed over Europe's future. U.S. leaders promoted representative government and private enterprise, though American practices did not always match democratic ideals. Soviet leaders maintained communist one-party rule and state-directed production. Soviet domination of Eastern Europe and disputes about Germany deepened Western fears. Moscow also sought security after devastating invasions. Ideology, power, and security concerns turned wartime cooperation into rivalry.
- ② Truman's containment policy aimed to limit further Soviet influence rather than launch a war to overthrow the Soviet government. In 1947, the Truman Doctrine supported aid to Greece, facing a communist insurgency, and Turkey, facing Soviet pressure. The Marshall Plan, funded from 1948, helped rebuild European economies. U.S. officials expected recovery to support political stability and weaken communist appeal. Economic aid was therefore also a foreign-policy tool.
- ③ In 1948, the Soviet Union blocked surface access to the Western sectors of Berlin. U.S. and allied aircraft supplied food and fuel rather than attempting to force a ground convoy through. The blockade ended in 1949. That year, the United States joined Canada and Western European states in NATO, a collective-defense alliance. This marked a major peacetime commitment to European security. Aid, air supply, and alliance commitments offered different ways to resist pressure, although all carried costs and risks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What two broad ideological differences separated the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II?

2 What was the goal of containment, and what was it not intended to do?

3 How did the Marshall Plan support containment, according to the passage?

4 What did the United States and its allies do during the Berlin blockade, and what more direct action did they avoid?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine that a European country faces economic hardship and pressure from a Soviet-backed communist movement. In 3 or 4 sentences, recommend one containment response from the passage, explain why it fits this situation, and state how it avoids a direct war.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline differences in political and economic systems. Circle four containment actions. Mark how each action was intended to limit Soviet influence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two broad ideological differences separated the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II?	U.S. leaders promoted representative government and private enterprise; Soviet leaders maintained communist one-party rule and state-directed production.
2	What was the goal of containment, and what was it not intended to do?	Containment aimed to limit further Soviet influence rather than start a war to overthrow the Soviet government.
3	How did the Marshall Plan support containment, according to the passage?	It gave economic aid to rebuild European countries. U.S. officials believed recovery and stable governments would make communist movements less appealing.
4	What did the United States and its allies do during the Berlin blockade, and what more direct action did they avoid?	They supplied the Western sectors by air and avoided attempting to force a ground convoy through the blockade.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States should offer Marshall Plan-style economic aid to help the country rebuild. Better economic conditions and a stable government could reduce support for the communist movement. This response would pursue containment without sending U.S. troops to fight in the country.

Accept accurate descriptions supported by the passage. For the hypothetical, economic aid directly fits hardship; other responses require a plausible explanation. Avoid claiming a policy guaranteed peace or that Greece and Turkey faced identical threats.