

3. HOW did the Bomb help to cause the Cold War?

Historians *have offered two suggestions:*

Possibility ONE:

The atomic bomb changed STALIN'S attitude.

Historians have suggested a number of ways in which the atomic bomb might have alienated Stalin:

1. The traditional argument was that **Stalin was angry because Truman did not tell him about the Atomic Bomb**. Truman, the story goes, was deliberately vague when he mentioned the Bomb to Stalin on 24 July — he just quickly mentioned in passing that the USA had 'a new weapon of unusual destructive force.' Truman didn't specifically call it an atomic bomb, and he certainly didn't say he was going to use it against Japan. Stalin merely nodded, and witnesses were convinced he hadn't realised the implication of what he had just been told. When the Americans dropped the bomb, the argument goes, **Stalin was furious that he had been duped and this was how the Bomb caused the Cold War (see Source C)**.

2. It is almost certain, however, that this thesis is not true in such a simplistic way - **all the evidence shows that Stalin knew the Americans were working on the atomic bomb**.

Soviet sources DO suggest, however, that straight after Truman told him about the 'new weapon', **Stalin gave orders for Soviet scientists to develop their own nuclear weapon — so news of the atomic bomb DID provoke a nuclear arms race (see Source D)**.

3. There is no doubt that Stalin saw the dropping of the Bomb as directed more at Russia than Japan: 'They are killing the Japanese and intimidating us' he told Molotov. (To be fair, western politicians were hopeful it would have this effect.)

Stalin's reaction, argues historian David Holloway, was to play 'hard ball', and he instructed his diplomats to take a tougher position against the west. **Then in February 1946, he gave the famous 'Bolshoi speech' accusing America of using its**

atomic advantage for imperialism. In this way, it is claimed the atomic bomb directly caused the entrenched positions of the Cold War.

Source C

After the bomb was dropped, Stalin was furious. The place Russia had earned as a world power by its victory in the war had been snatched away. "Hiroshima has shaken the whole world," he is said to have told Kurchatov. "The balance has been destroyed."

Priscilla McMillan, *Science and Secrecy* (2004).

From a review in the *New York Times* of David Holloway's book: *Stalin and the Bomb*

Source D

Truman informed Stalin that the United States now possessed a bomb of exceptional power, without, however, naming it the atomic bomb... Stalin did not betray his feelings and pretended that he saw nothing special in what Truman had imparted to him. Both Churchill and many other Anglo-American authors subsequently assumed that Stalin had really failed to fathom the significance of what he had heard.

In actual fact, on returning to his quarters after this meeting Stalin, in my presence, told Molotov about his conversation with Truman. The latter reacted almost immediately. 'Let them. We'll have to speed things up.' I realized that they were talking about research on the atomic bomb.

It was clear already then that the US Government intended to use the atomic weapon for the purpose of achieving its Imperialist goals from a position of strength in 'the cold war'.

Georgii Konstantinovich Zhukov, *The Memoirs of Marshal Zhukov*(1971). Zhukov was remembering the day (24 July 1945) when Truman told Stalin that he had 'a new weapon of unusual destructive force'. Zhukov suggests that, not only did Stalin realise that this was the atomic bomb, but that he also realised it was directed at the Soviet Union. If Zhukov is right, the Cold War started on 24 July 1945.

Source E

On 27 October 1945, Truman made a speech about US foreign policy, which outlined twelve key points. These included a promise that the US did not want any territory, and did not intend to go to War with any country, small or large,'

However, he also announced that the USA would be seeking defensive military bases, and that he did not intend to share the secrets of the atomic bomb with anybody. The speech alarmed the British, who saw it as increasing the tension between America and the Soviet Union, and also as an affront to the close diplomatic relationship between Britain and the United States.



Possibility TWO:

The atomic bomb changed TRUMAN'S attitude.

There are historians who think that the atomic bomb caused the Cold War not because it provoked Stalin to seek confrontation, but because it encouraged Truman seek confrontation.

When Truman knew that he had the bomb:

1. His attitude at the Conference became more aggressive,
2. He switched from pro-Soviet advisors (such as Davies) to anti-communist advisors such as Stimson and Byrnes.
3. He dropped the Bomb on Hiroshima to get the Japanese to surrender quickly, before Stalin had a chance to enter the war in the Pacific.
4. He developed an attitude of confrontation - 'I'm sick of babying the Soviets'.

Did you know?

At Yalta, the USA was desperate for the Russians to join the war in the Pacific, and promised Stalin spheres of influence in Manchuria and North Korea to do so.

News of the successful test allowed Truman to renege on this agreement. On 7 August, the day after Hiroshima, Stalin brought forward his plans and ordered the Soviet forces to attack Japan immediately — he knew he had been upstaged.

Activity:

1. Do Sources **A** and **B** prove that Truman dropped the bomb to save American soldiers' lives?
2. Do you trust Source D? Why?
3. Did Hiroshima cause the Cold War ... and if so, how? Discuss which of the two possibilities you think most closely fits the facts.
4. Explain how far the deployment of the atomic bomb may help world peace and security?
5. Explain how far the deployment of the atomic bomb may hinder world peace and security?

IV. COMPARE POST-WAR FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE USA’S CAPITALIST AND USSR’S COMMUNIST IDEOLOGIES.

Capitalism: an economic and political system in which a country’s trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit rather than by the state.

“An era of free-market capitalism”

Synonyms: private enterprise, free enterprise, private ownership, privatized industries, the free market, individualism;

Laissez-faire

Communism: a theory or system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receive according to their ability and needs.

Synonyms: collective, state ownership, socialism, radical socialism;

Sovietism, Bolshevism, Marxism, Leninism, Marxism-Leninism, Trotskyism, Maoism

“The social and economic principle of communism”

USA AND THE SOVIET FOREIGN POLICIES AFTER THE WAR

USA’s Capitalist (Capitalism)	USSR’s Communist (Communism)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals are free to develop, own and control resources ▪ Each individual knows what is best for himself or herself ▪ The right of a person to own property is also a basic premise of a capitalist economy. It operates without an overall central control ▪ Market determines prices through a process of demand and supply. The focus is to make profit ▪ Competition helps to regulate the market-employment conditions and quality of goods produced are regulated by means of competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone is equal ▪ No social class ▪ No property ownership ▪ Communist governments controlled all aspects of the economy-production, distribution, costs and wages. ▪ Everything is belonged to the state

<u>USA viewpoint</u>	<u>USSR viewpoint</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very fearful of Communism and any kind of government- controlled industry and agriculture • Disliked control economy • Americans believed that Communists wanted a world domination which mean the loss of their own freedom and way of life • Huge Soviet armies in Europe were seen as real threat • Believed in private ownership • Living in a democratic government they prided themselves upon the freedom of people to elect their leaders • Advocate free trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faced with the technological advancement of the USA and the strong anti-communist of the West, Stalin ordered that the large Red Army be left in Eastern Europe as a deterrent to possible threats from the West. • Stalin wanted to keep Eastern Europe under his control to protect the Soviet Union from future invasion from the West • Stalin supported pro-communist

Postwar Foreign policies

1. Communism
2. Capitalism

1. Communism

- It is a system where all property is public and people work and are given things by the government according to their needs.

Example: Cuba; where the government controls everything and doles out benefits such as money, health care and food.

- Communism is an economic system which the distribution of property and resources is primarily controlled by the government.

Benefits of Communism

- It has a centrally planned economy. It can quickly mobilize economic resources on a large scale, execute massive projects and creates industrial power. It can move so effectively because it overrides individual self-interest and subjugates the welfare of the general population to achieve critical social goals.

How does it help the economy?

- Communism, political and economic doctrine that aims to replace private property and profit-base economy, with public ownership and communal control of at least the major means of production. Examples, mines, mills, factories....

2. Capitalism

- It is an economic system based on private ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit. Characteristics central to capitalism include private property, wage labor, voluntary exchange, price system and competitive markets.

Benefits of Capitalism

- Consumer choice – individual choose what to consume, and this choice leads to more competition and better products and services. Efficiency of economics – goods and services produced or demand create incentives to cut costs and avoid wastes.

How does it help the economy?

- Self-driven
- Competition
- Tongan proverb “takitaha uku ‘e ne fonu”

THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE AND MARSHALL PLAN

Key Questions

What problems did postwar Europe face?

What were the aims of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan?

How did the communist world respond to these policies?

The German problem

The war had left Europe exhausted. Peace brought the German people poverty, hunger and homelessness, and even the victorious Allied powers were close to economic ruin. In Eastern Europe Stalin had firmly established communist rule and the Americans feared that a devastated Europe was vulnerable to communist expansion.

Politicians and statesmen had debated over the future of Germany, the Soviets were adamant that Germany should be severely punished, so that she would never again pose a threat to the security of Russia. The Western powers disagreed. They wished to **denazify** the Germans, but believed that everlasting punishment would lead to a sense of grievance and that this would ignite trouble. Germany and Berlin were divided among the Allied forces (see map). These zones of occupation were to be administered by the Allied control council.

In accordance with decisions reached at Yalta and the Soviet Union was permitted to dismantle German industry in her sector and transport machinery to Russia. The Soviets also seized goods produced in Germany as part of the reparations for which they were entitled. The Western zones were faced with starvation for they depended on food supplies from the East. To solve this problem the Western powers set about restoring the economy in their zones. They merged British, French and American zones and promoted industrial and expansion. It became clear that the recovery of Western Europe as a whole depended on that of Germany. Stalin watched these events with mistrust.

The Cold War declared

After the First World War America had followed a policy of 'absolute isolation'. She was determined to leave Europe to find solutions to her own problems. There now seemed a danger that she might adopt a similar line, leaving the way open to communist infiltration. The Truman Doctrine informed the world of American intention.

In 1947 Europe was not free from war. In Greece, a bitter civil war was raging between the communist-backed national liberation front and the supporter of the Greek king. Britain provided manpower and financial assistance, but due to hard economic times could not sustain such a commitment and sought American help. President Truman took up the challenge. In March 1947 he addressed the United States Congress: 'I believe that it must be the policy of the United States .to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that our help should be through economic and financial aid. In helping free and independent nations to maintain their freedom, the United States will be giving effect to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.' President Truman's speech became known as the Truman Doctrine. America was determined to combat the spread of communism and this principle of '**containment**' has been the focus of American foreign policy since. The year 1947 heralded the rise of the bipolar World.

Rebuilding Europe: the Marshall Plan

'Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos.'

General George Marshall visited Europe in April 1947, and what he saw astonished him: 'People crying for help, for food and for most of the necessities of life. The patient [Europe] is sinking: wanted to restore Western Europe to some measure of prosperity. His programme for direct action, which offered massive American aid, became known as the Marshall Plan. In 1948 the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was established to co-ordinate and distribute American aid under the Plan.

Truman wrote: 'The Marshall Plan will go down in history as America's greatest contributions to the peace of the world ... without it, it have been difficult for Western Europe to remain free from communism:

Soviet suspicions

'Any country that is willing to assist in the task of recovery will find full cooperation from the US government.' Stalin rejected offers of American aid and forbade all Eastern European countries from accepting it. The dictator was suspicious of the Marshall Plan and feared that it would lead to economic and political interference in the 'Eastern Bloc'. He criticised Western reconstruction of Germany, believing that it would result in renewed German militarism. Tighter communist controls were imposed in Eastern Europe and Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) was established to co-ordinate the work of European Communist and enforce ideological conformity.

KEY TERMS

DENAZIFY: the aim is to destroy the influence of the Nazi party and promote free thought.

REPARATIONS: the money a defeated nation is forced to pay for damage it caused in the war.

SUBJUGATION: being under complete control, brought about by force.

CONTAINMENT: the policy of confining communism to the areas it already occupied while preventing any further expansion. It was viewed as a defensive policy, and its main instrument was the Truman Doctrine and military alliances.

BIPOLAR: the world divided into two armed camps.

DICTATOR: a person exercising absolute power, often by forceful and repressive means.

MILITARISM: the principle of having a large military capability.

SUPERPOWER: a country of immense power and prestige.

TRUMAN DOCTRINE

V. Explain the purposes of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan

AIM/PURPOSE

American policy in 1947 of providing economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey because they were threatened by communism. It was the start of the containment policy to stop Soviet expansion; it was also a major step in beginning the Cold War.

- 1946 - The Communists seemed to be winning a civil war for Britain (Greece protector) was in such financial difficulties and could not afford to aid/help the Royalist (anti-communist) forces.
- 1947 - President Truman announced that America would *'support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures..'*
- Truman depicted events in Greece as a **symbol** of the growing **struggle between freedom and totalitarianism**
- The Truman Doctrine was also known as a **'Containment Policy'**- attempting to stop communism from being spreading and they started by helping the Greek government to defend itself in the civil war against the **communist aided revolutionaries**.

Activity 5- Cartoon Interpretation



1. Describe a suitable caption for this contemporary British Cartoon

2. Briefly explain what is depicted in this cartoon

MARSHALL PLAN (Economic Recovery Program)-ERP

AIM/PURPOSE- (officially the European Recovery Program, ERP) was an American initiative to aid Western Europe, in which the United States gave \$13 billion (approximately \$130 billion in current dollar value as of March 2016) in economic support to help rebuild Western European economies after the end of World War.

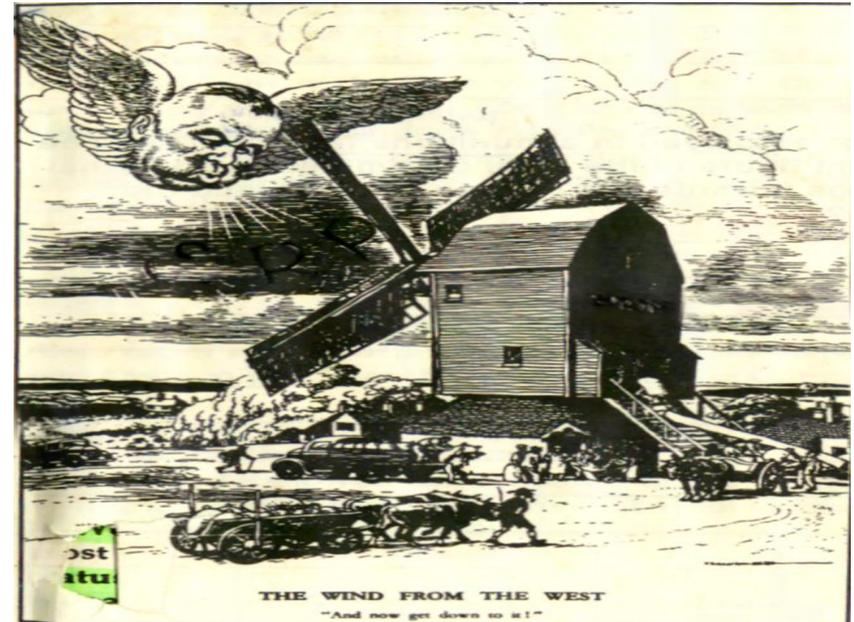
- This was a plan made by the US Secretary of State George Marshall when he visited Europe in 1947.
- He stated that the *'people are crying for food and the necessities of life. The patient (Europe) is sinking'*.
- **PLAN-** offered an aid of US 17 billions for four years for economic recovery
- 24 European countries agreed to participate.
- Over US 12 million was invested in Europe by the US in the mid 1950's through the Marshall Plan.
- This program made Communism a less attractive option

VI. Describe Russia's reaction to the Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine

REACTION OF THE USSR

- The Soviet and its Eastern European Communist satellite countries were put in a difficult position. Their communist-style controlled command economy was under threat and they have to refuse the aid
- The Soviet believed the 'Marshall Plan' was an **imperialistic** attempt to enslave Europe with American dollars and make the European countries the puppets of the US.
- In response the Soviet Union set up the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance **COMECON** uniting the eastern countries politically and economically but they had little money to lend

ACTIVITY 6: CARTOON INTERPRETATION



1. Name the angel pictured in the cartoon?

2. Identify the meaning of the acronym E R P in the cartoon

3. Explain the meaning of this cartoon in relation to the purpose of the Marshall Plan

