

15.1

The Beginning of the Cold War



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Trace the reasons that the wartime alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union unraveled.
- Explain how President Truman responded to Soviet aggression in Eastern Europe.
- Describe the causes and results of Stalin's blockade of Berlin.

Background of the Cold War

After the death of Roosevelt, relations with the Soviet Union began to break down

The United States was a capitalist democracy promoting freedom & private property

The Soviet Union was a dictatorship with Joseph Stalin as the head of the Communist Party

Soviet Union people couldn't own property or express private views or face imprisonment or death

Control over the Region

After the war, the Soviet Union kept control over the eastern parts of Europe

Satellite States- Countries or states controlled by a bigger nation, namely the Soviet Union

Stalin refused free elections in the region & the Truman believed he was after world conquest

The Cold War- High tension between The U.S. & Soviet Union that never resulted in “hot” military conflict

Responding to the Soviet Challenge

Winston Churchill famous gave his “**Iron Curtain**” speech stating that an iron curtain split Europe

Stalin was gaining control of Eastern Europe & Britain & U.S. remained firm to stop the spread of communism

Truman believed in hard work “The Buck Stops Here” & helped give countries the resources to resist communism

Truman Doctrine- U.S. policy to aid struggling nations against communist movements

U.S. Contains Soviet Expansion

George F. Kennan (X)- Wrote about policies to keep the Soviet Union in check

Containment- American Policy to keep communism contained in its existing borders

Kennan believed the Soviet Union would not expand if it put itself in risk of war with U.S.

Marshall Plan- \$13 billion in grants & loans to help rebuild Western Europe

Soviet Aggression Drives Cold War

Front line of the cold war was in Germany where it was split between the Soviet Union & Western Allies

Stalin blockades Western Berlin stopping all traffic & supplies

Berlin Airlift- U.S. & Britain began to fly items into the city to support people living there

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)- formed as a military alliance to counter Soviet expansion

Warsaw Pact- Soviet Union & satellite states form to counter NATO