

# The Artios Home Companion Series

## Unit 21: Postwar Challenges

### Teacher Overview

Euphoria.

When Japan surrendered to the Allies at the end of the long summer of 1945, Americans were ecstatic. Ticker tape parades were staged in nearly every town to welcome America's returning heroes.

Unquestionably, the United States' entry in World War II made the difference for the Allied cause. The American army and navy were now the most powerful in the world. Even those who did not fight could feel proud of the work Americans did in the factories to build the war machine.

The youth of America would never forget the sacrifices of wartime. From rationing food to collecting scrap to buying bonds to fighting in battle, the efforts to defeat the Axis were a product of the collective American will. News anchor Tom Brokaw later labeled the Americans who came of age in World War II the "greatest generation."

Unfortunately, the euphoria could not last long. Although the Soviet Union and the United States were allied in their struggle against Hitler's Germany, Americans distrusted Josef Stalin's Communist government and abhorred his takeover of Eastern European countries immediately after the war. More Soviet citizens were killed in World War II than any other nation, and Josef Stalin was determined to receive compensation for damages and guarantees that such a slaughter could never again plague the Soviet people.

For its part, the United States was unwilling to sit idle while another form of totalitarianism spread westward from Moscow. One war immediately begat another—the Cold War.

No theater of the globe was free from Cold War struggle. From Eastern Europe to China and Korea, the Truman Administration was beset with the challenge of halting the advance of Communism. As the wave of decolonization washed through the southern part of the globe, each new nation would be courted by the superpowers. The Independence of Israel in 1948 had Cold War implications in the Middle East. Within five years of the end of World War II, American troops were summoned to South Korea to halt the advancing Communist forces of the North.

No single foreign policy issue mattered more to the United States for the next 50 years than the Cold War. President Truman set the direction for the next eight presidents with the announcement of the Containment Policy. Crises in Berlin, China, and Korea forced Truman to back his words with actions. The Cold War kept defense industries humming and ultimately proved the limits of American power in Vietnam. Democracy was tested with outbreaks of Communist witch hunts.

Although the United States would emerge triumphant in the Cold War, the last half of the 1940s was marked by an uncertainty that soured the sweet taste of victory in World War II.



When he became President upon Franklin D. Roosevelt's death in 1945, few believed in Harry Truman's ability to govern. But it was Truman's common sense approach that helped the U.S. end World War II and move on to tackle postwar challenges.



The euphoria that swept the nation in 1945 was captured on film by *Life* magazine photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt.

This memorable image of a sailor kissing a nurse in Times Square continues to be a defining image of WWII.

## Reading and Assignments

In this unit, students will:

- Complete six lessons in which they will learn about **Postwar Challenges**, journaling and answering discussion questions as they read.
- Define vocabulary words.
- Conduct research on **the election between Truman and Dewey**.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

## Leading Ideas

**At the root of many wars and conflicts of various kinds, is a greed for power.**

*The greedy stir up conflict, but those who trust in the Lord will prosper.*

— Proverbs 28:25

**Deceit is used by those who have evil and greedy motivation.**

*Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.*

— Proverbs 12:20

## Vocabulary

<b>Lesson 1:</b>	<b>Lesson 2:</b>	<b>Lesson 3:</b>	<b>Lesson 4:</b>	<b>Lesson 5:</b>	<b>Lesson 6:</b>
antagonist reneged	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	enclave	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>

## Key People, Places, and Events

Premier Josef Stalin	Yalta Conference	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt
The United Nations	President Harry Truman	Prime Minister Winston Churchill
Containment Policy	The Marshall Plan	Secretary of State George Marshall
The Truman Doctrine	“Operation Vittles”	European Recovery Program
Mao Zedong	Syngman Rhee	General Douglas MacArthur
Taft-Hartley Act	Senator Joe McCarthy	Atomic Energy Act
Atomic Energy Commission	The National Security Council	
Central Intelligence Agency	Serviceman’s Readjustment Act of 1944/ GI Bill of Rights	

# Lesson One

## History Overview and Assignments The Cold War Erupts

Although the Soviet Union and the United States were allied in their struggle against Hitler's Germany, Americans distrusted Josef Stalin's Communist government and abhorred his takeover of Eastern European countries immediately after the war. The United States was unwilling to sit idle while another form of totalitarianism spread westward from Moscow. One war immediately begat another—the Cold War.



The American military prepared for the Cold War by conducting tests with new atomic and nuclear technology. Here, troops watch radioactive smoke during the "Desert Rock" exercise in 1951.

### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *The Cold War Erupts*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Vocabulary

antagonist

reneged

### Key People, Places, and Events

Premier Josef Stalin

Yalta Conference

### Discussion Questions

1. How long did the Cold War last?
2. Who were the two main antagonists in the Cold War?
3. What does it mean when the text says, "The United States became the leader of the free-market capitalist world"?
4. What were the long-term causes of the Cold War?
5. Why was Stalin bitter toward the Americans and British?
6. What agreement was reached at the Yalta Conference?

7. What was decided as a postwar outcome for Nazi Germany?
8. How did the Soviet Union succeed in gaining permanent control of their portion of occupied Germany?
9. How did the term “Iron Curtain” come to refer to the Soviet Union?

*Adapted for High School from the book:*

## ***U.S. History Online Textbook***

*source: ushistory.org*

### ***The Cold War Erupts***

In 1945, one major war ended and another began.

The Cold War lasted about 45 years. There were no direct military campaigns between the two main antagonists, the United States and the Soviet Union. Yet billions of dollars and millions of lives were lost in the fight.

The United States became the leader of the free-market capitalist world. America and its allies struggled to keep the Communist, totalitarian Soviet Union from expanding into Europe, Asia, and Africa. Theaters as remote as Korea and Vietnam, Cuba and Grenada, Afghanistan and Angola, became battlegrounds between the two ideologies. One postwar pattern quickly became clear. The United States would not retreat into its former isolationist stance as long as there was a Cold War to wage.

The long-term causes of the Cold War are clear. Western democracies had always been fundamentally opposed to the idea of a Communist state, and the United States had refused recognition to the USSR for 16 years after the Bolshevik takeover. Domestic fears of communism had also erupted in a Red Scare in America in the early Twenties. American business leaders had long feared the consequences of a politically driven workers' organization.

There was hostility on the Soviet side as well. Twenty million Russian citizens perished during World War II. Stalin was enraged that the Americans and British had waited so long to open a front in France. This would have relieved pressure on the Soviet Union from the attacking Germans. Further, The United States terminated Lend-Lease aid to the Soviet Union before the war was complete.

Stalin had made promises during the war about the freedom of Eastern Europe on which he blatantly reneged. At the Yalta Conference in February, the USSR had pledged to enter the war against Japan no later than three months after the conclusion of the European war. In return, the United States awarded the Soviets territorial concessions from Japan and special rights in Chinese Manchuria.

When the Soviet Union entered the war between the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the United States no longer needed their aid, but Stalin was there to collect on Western promises. All these factors contributed to a climate of mistrust that heightened tensions at the outbreak of the Cold War.

At a conference in Potsdam, Germany in the summer of 1945, the Allies agreed on the postwar outcome for Nazi Germany. After

territorial adjustments, Germany was divided into four Occupation Zones with the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union each administering one. Germany was to be democratized and de-Nazified. Once the Nazi leaders were arrested and war crimes trials began, a date would be agreed upon for the election of a new German government and the withdrawal of Allied troops.



This map depicts the situation in Europe around the time of V-E Day. Soviet troops (in red) were able to secure Eastern Europe, while the other Allies worked to win the West.



Winston Churchill’s 1946 speech to Westminster University in Missouri contained the first reference to the communism of Eastern Europe as an “iron curtain.”

This process was executed in the zones held by the western Allies. In the eastern Soviet occupation zone, a puppet Communist regime was elected. There was no promise of repatriation with the West. Soon such governments, aided by the Soviet Red Army, came to power all across Eastern Europe. Stalin was determined to create a buffer zone to prevent any future invasion of the Russian heartland.

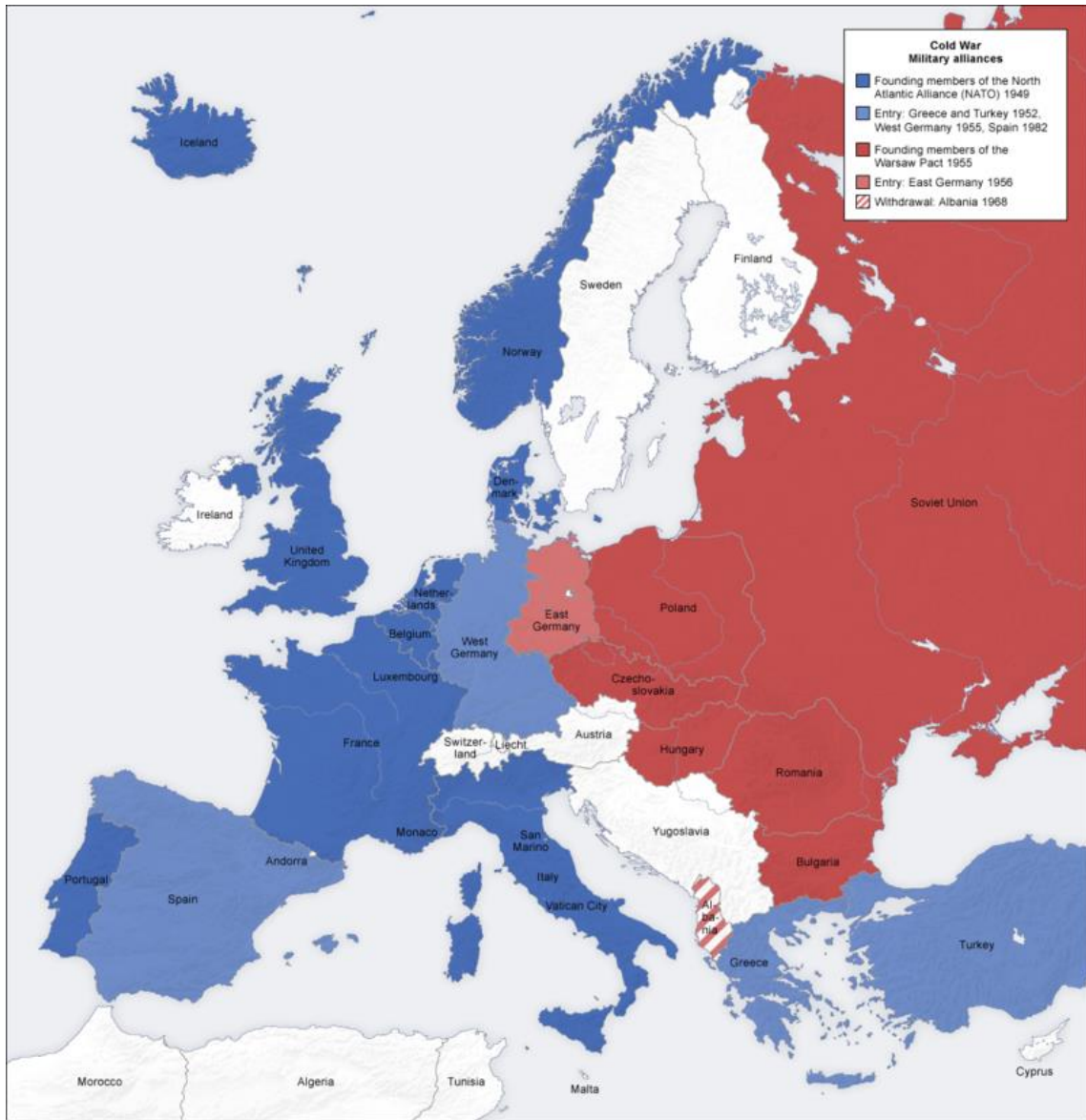
Winston Churchill remarked in 1946 that an “iron curtain had descended across the continent.”



Europe in 1946 was becoming increasingly divided by the “Iron Curtain” seen in this map. Countries to the east of the orange line remained—or became Communist following World War II.



For most of the second half of the 20th century, the USSR and the United States were engaged in a Cold War of economic and diplomatic struggles. The Communist bloc, as it appeared in 1950, included countries to the west and southeast of the Soviet Union.



European military alliances

## Lesson Two

# History Overview and Assignments

## The United Nations

The old League of Nations proved too weak in structure to fill this void. Perhaps a stronger international body, as envisioned by Woodrow Wilson, was necessary to keep the world powers from tearing each other apart. It was in this spirit that Franklin Roosevelt championed the creation of the United Nations.



Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt, and Premier Stalin meet at Yalta to discuss post-war Europe. It was at both the Yalta and Dumbarton Oaks conferences that the framework for the United Nations was devised.

### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions then read the article: *The United Nations*.
  - Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Key People, Places, and Events

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
Prime Minister Winston Churchill

Premier Josef Stalin  
The United Nations

### Discussion Questions

1. Who were the “big three” that devoted hours of dialogue to the nature of the United Nations?
2. What do you think the article means when it refers to a “global spirit”?
3. Describe how the United Nations operates? Be specific.
4. What does the article say are solid accomplishments of the United Nations?
5. What do critics believe is true of the United Nations and its purpose?



## ***U.S. History Online Textbook***

source: ushistory.org

### ***The United Nations***

The Allies had won the war, but would they be able to keep the peace?

An examination of the period between WWI and WWII showed a lack of commitment to the spirit of internationalism. The old League of Nations proved too weak in structure to fill this void. Perhaps a stronger international body, as envisioned by Woodrow Wilson, was necessary to keep the world powers from tearing each other apart. It was in this spirit that Franklin Roosevelt championed the creation of a United Nations.

The Big Three of Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin had devoted hours of dialogue to the nature of a United Nations. After agreeing on the general principles at the Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta Conferences, delegates from around the world met in San Francisco to write a charter. With the nation still mourning the recent death of Franklin Roosevelt, his wife Eleanor addressed the delegates. Despite considerable enmity and conflicts of interest among the attending nations, a charter was ultimately approved by unanimous consent.

Despite the ideological animosity spawned by the Cold War, an idealistic spirit of globalism was born after WWII. It was based, in part, on the widespread recognition of the failures of isolationism. The incarnation of this global spirit came to life with the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, with its headquarters in New York City.

How does the UN work?



The United Nations headquarters complex, consisting of four buildings, occupies 18 acres in New York City.

The UN charter called for the establishment of a Security Council, or “upper house.” The Security Council serves as the executive branch of the United Nations. The Security Council must authorize any actions, such as economic sanctions, the use of force, or the deployment of peacekeeping troops.

Each of the “Great Powers” — the United States, Great Britain, France, China, and the Soviet Union — holds a permanent seat on the Security Council. The remaining ten

seats are elected to two-year terms by the General Assembly. Each permanent member holds the power of veto. No action can go forth if any one of the five objects. As the Cold War crystallized, the countervailing veto powers of the United States and the Soviet Union served often to inhibit the Security Council from taking any forceful or meaningful action.



Eleanor Roosevelt became head of the UN's Commission on Human Rights in 1946. Here she holds a copy of the "Declaration of Human Rights," which she considered to be her greatest achievement.

The main body of the United Nations is called the General Assembly. Every member nation holds a seat in the General Assembly, which is often described as a town meeting for the world. The General Assembly has standing committees to address ongoing issues such as economics and finance, social, cultural and humanitarian concerns, and legal problems. The General Assembly passes resolutions and has the power to make recommendations to the Security Council, but it has no power to require any action. In addition to the General Assembly,

an Economic and Social Council has committees designed to address a wide array of topics from the status of women to the environment.



World leaders met at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C., in August 1944 to formulate plans for a new organization to promote international cooperation. The general principles established there provided the foundation for the United Nations charter.

A Trusteeship Council was designed to oversee the transition of states from colonies to independent nations.

The Secretariat manages the day-to-day operations of the United Nations. An International Court of Justice was also created.

The UN can point to many solid accomplishments. Among them: sending peacekeepers to war-stricken areas, making recommendations on how to raise literacy and health rates in the Third World, and even authorizing the use of force against aggressor nations.

Critics, however, argue that the UN tends to promote socialistic and anti-American propaganda. They point out that the UN's ability to act is limited by the power of any member of the Security Council to veto an action, and that its actual performance in preserving peace has been poor.

## Lesson Three

# History Overview and Assignments

## Containment and the Marshall Plan

No single foreign policy issue mattered more to the United States for the next 50 years than the Cold War. President Truman set the direction for the next eight presidents with the announcement of the Containment Policy. Crises in Berlin, China, and Korea forced Truman to back his words with actions.



This illustration from the July 16, 1948 *U.S. News* magazine shows the beginnings of American Containment Policy. The U.S. is seen sending troops, advisors and weapons to Turkey in hopes that the country will resist communism and remain democratic.

### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions then read the article: *Containment and the Marshall Plan*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Continue to work on your presentation for you interview with a WWII veteran.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Key People, Places, and Events

President Harry Truman  
The Marshall Plan  
Secretary of State George Marshall

Containment Policy  
The Truman Doctrine  
European Recovery Program

Premier Josef Stalin

### Discussion Questions

1. Why was the United States worried about the Soviet Union getting all of Germany?
2. Did the United States wish to take over Soviet held territory? Why or why not?
3. What did the U.S. hope to accomplish with the Containment Policy?
4. What did the European Recovery Program hope to accomplish?
5. Was the European Recovery Program, also known as The Marshall Plan, successful? Be specific.

Adapted for High School from the book:

## U.S. History Online Textbook

source: ushistory.org

### Containment and the Marshall Plan

Communism was on the march.

When the Red Army marched on Germany, it quickly absorbed the nearby nations Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union. Soon Communist forces dominated the governments of Romania and Bulgaria. By the fall of 1945, it was clear that the Soviet-backed Lublin Regime had complete control of Poland, violating the Yalta promise of free and unfettered elections there. It was only a matter of time before Hungary and Czechoslovakia fell into the Soviet orbit. Yugoslavia had an independent Communist leader named Tito.

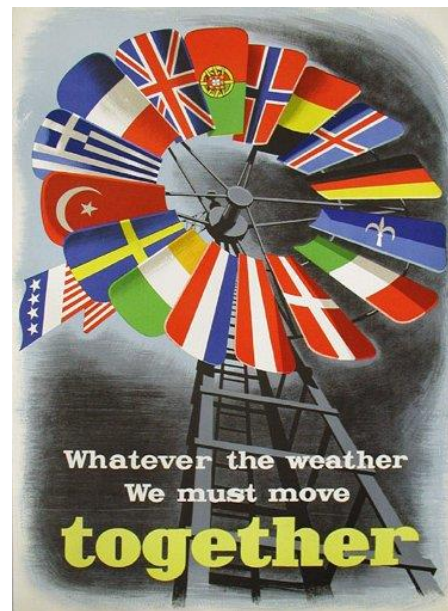
And now Stalin was ordering the creation of a communist puppet regime in the Soviet sector of occupied Germany. How many dominoes would fall? United States diplomats saw a continent ravaged by war looking for strong leadership and aid of any sort, providing a climate ripe for revolution. Would the Soviets get all of Germany? Or Italy and France? President Truman was determined to reverse this trend.

Greece and Turkey were the first nations spiraling into crisis that had not been directly occupied by the Soviet Army. Both countries were on the verge of being taken over by Soviet-backed guerrilla movements. Truman decided to draw a line in the sand. In March 1947, he asked Congress to appropriate \$400 million to send to these two nations in the form of military and economic assistance. Within two years the Communist threat had passed, and both

nations were comfortably in the Western sphere of influence.



When Harry Truman approved the Marshall Plan in 1948, his official statement said, "Few presidents have had the opportunity to sign legislation of such importance."



One of a number of posters created to promote the Marshall Plan in Europe. Note the pivotal position of the American flag. The blue and white flag between those of Germany and Italy is a version of the Trieste flag with the UN blue rather than the traditional red.

A mid-level diplomat in the State Department named George Kennan proposed the policy of Containment. Since the American people were weary from war and had no desire to send United States troops into Eastern Europe, rolling back the gains of the Red Army would have been impossible.

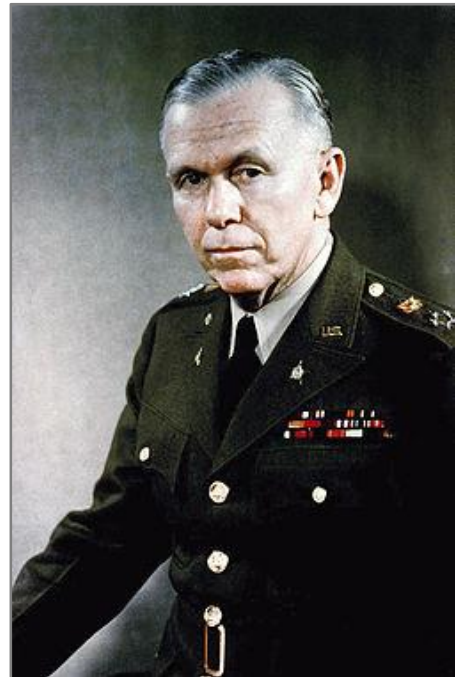
But in places where communism threatened to expand, American aid might prevent a takeover. By vigorously pursuing this policy, the United States might be able to contain communism within its current borders. The policy became known as the Truman Doctrine, as the president outlined these intentions with his request for monetary aid for Greece and Turkey.



In July 1947 a majority of the American public had never even heard of the Marshall Plan. But to win passage in Congress, the Truman administration needed strong public support, so it launched a massive public relations campaign.

In the aftermath of WWII, Western Europe lay devastated. The war had ruined crop fields and destroyed infrastructure, leaving most of Europe in dire need. On June 5, 1947, Secretary of State George Marshall announced the European Recovery Program. To avoid antagonizing the Soviet Union, Marshall announced that

the purpose of sending aid to Western Europe was completely humanitarian, and even offered aid to the Communist states in the east. They refused. Congress approved Truman's request of \$17 billion over four years to be sent to Great Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium.



In a speech to Harvard University in 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall proposed that a post-war European aid program be initiated. Less than a year later, the Marshall Plan was a reality.

The Marshall Plan revived the economy in Western Europe. By the target date of the program four years later, Western European industries were producing twice as much as they had been the year before war broke out. The aid also produced record levels of trade with American firms, fueling a postwar economic boom in the United States.

Lastly and much to Truman's delight, none of these nations of Western Europe faced a serious threat of Communist takeover for the duration of the Cold War.

## Lesson Four

# History Overview and Assignments

## The Berlin Airlift and NATO

President Truman was faced with tough choices in Germany. Relinquishing Berlin to the Soviets would seriously undermine the new doctrine of Containment. If Berlin were compromised, the whole of West Germany might question the American commitment to German democracy. In the president's mind, there was no question. America was staying. Together, with Britain, the United States began moving massive amounts of food and supplies into West Berlin by the only path still open—the air.



Many gather to watch a C-54 loaded with supplies land at Tempelhof airfield in the U.S. sector of Berlin. Over the 11 month course of the Airlift, nearly 4,000 tons of goods were delivered every day.

### Key People, Places, and Events

President Harry Truman  
Premier Josef Stalin  
“Operation Vittles”

### Vocabulary

enclave

### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *The Berlin Airlift and NATO*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary word in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Discussion Questions

1. Describe the crisis that led to the Berlin Airlift.
2. What is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and how did it play a part in the Berlin Airlift and the years following?
3. How do you think George Washington would have reacted to the proposal of NATO?

## U.S. History Online Textbook

source: ushistory.org

### The Berlin Airlift and NATO

Berlin, Germany's wartime capital, was the prickliest of all issues that separated the United States and Soviet Union during the late 1940s. The city was divided into four zones of occupation like the rest of Germany. However, the entire city lay within the Soviet zone of occupation. Once the nation of East Germany was established, the Allied sections of the capital known as West Berlin became an island of democracy and capitalism behind the Iron Curtain.

In June 1948, tensions within Berlin touched off a crisis.

The Soviets decided to seal all land routes going into West Berlin. Stalin gambled that the Western powers were not willing to risk another war to protect half of Berlin. The Allies were tired, and their populations were unlikely to support a new war. A withdrawal by the United States would eliminate this democratic enclave in the Soviet zone.

Truman was faced with tough choices. Relinquishing Berlin to the Soviets would seriously undermine the new doctrine of Containment. Any negotiated settlement would suggest that the USSR could engineer a crisis at any time to exact concessions. If Berlin were compromised, the whole of West Germany might question the American commitment to German democracy. To Harry Truman, there was no question. "We are going to stay, period," he declared. Together with Britain, the United States began moving massive amounts of food and supplies into West Berlin by the only path still open—the air.



Flying from occupied Germany and landing a supply plane in Berlin at the rate of one every 3 minutes, the Berlin Airlift managed to supply the city with the materials needed for survival.

Truman had thrown the gauntlet at Stalin's feet. The USSR had to now choose between war and peace. Stalin refused to give the order to shoot down the American planes. Over the next eleven months, British and American planes flew over 4,000 tons of supplies daily into West Berlin. As the American public cheered "Operation Vittles," Stalin began to look bad in the eyes of the world. He was clearly willing to use innocent civilians as pawns to quench his expansionist thirst. In May 1949, the Soviets ended the blockade. The United States and Britain had flown over 250,000 supply missions.

Stalin miscalculated when he estimated the strength of Western unity. To cement the cooperation that the Western allies had shown during the war and immediate postwar years, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was created in April 1949. The pact operated on the basis of collective security. If any one of the

member states were attacked, all would retaliate together. The original NATO included Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, and the United States.



C-47 Skytrains unloading at Tempelhof Airport during the Berlin Airlift

NATO was the very sort of permanent alliance George Washington warned against in his Farewell Address, and represented the first such agreement since the Franco-American Alliance that helped secure victory in the American Revolution.



The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has existed since 1949 as a symbol of the solidarity of Western nations.

The United States formally shed its isolationist past and thrust itself forward as a determined superpower fighting its new rival.



## Lesson Five

# History Overview and Assignments

## The Korean War

No theater of the globe was free from Cold War struggle, and the policy of Containment did not work very well in Asia. Within five years of the end of World War II, American troops were summoned to South Korea to halt the advancing Communist forces of the North.



Hundreds of thousands of South Koreans fled south in mid-1950 after the North Korean army invaded.

### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions then read the article: *The Korean War*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Key People, Places, and Events

President Harry Truman  
General Douglas MacArthur  
Mao Zedong  
Syngman Rhee

### Discussion Questions

1. What did the United Nations recommend to settle the dispute of control of Korea?
2. What was the North's response?
3. What country's army played a significant role in advancing communism into Korea?
4. Who was this country's leader?
5. How did General MacArthur want to respond to China's aggression?
6. Why was MacArthur relieved of command?
7. How did the Korean War end, and what was the result?

Adapted for High School from the book:

## ***U.S. History Online Textbook***

source: ushistory.org

### ***The Korean War***

Containment did not work very well in Asia. When the Soviet Union entered the war against Japan, they sent troops into Japanese-occupied Korea. As American troops established a presence in the southern part of the Korean peninsula, the Soviets began cutting roads and communications at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. Two separate governments were emerging as Korea began to resemble the divided Germany.

Upon the recommendation of the UN, elections were scheduled, but the North refused to participate. The South elected Syngman Rhee as president, but the Soviet-backed North was ruled by Kim Il-sung. When the United States withdrew its forces from the peninsula, trouble began.

Northern Korean armed forces crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel on June 25, 1950. It took only two days for President Truman to commit the United States military to the defense of southern Korea. Truman hoped to build a broad coalition against the aggressors from the North by enlisting support from the United Nations.

Of course, the Soviet Union could veto any proposed action by the Security Council, but this time, the Americans were in luck. The Soviets were boycotting the Security Council for refusing to admit Red China into the United Nations. As a result of their absence, the Council voted unanimously to “repel the armed attack” of North Korea. Many countries sent troops to defend the South, but forces beyond those

of the United States and South Korea were nominal.

The commander of the UN forces was none other than Douglas MacArthur. He had an uphill battle to fight, as the North had overrun the entire peninsula with the exception of the small Pusan Perimeter in the South. In a brilliant maneuver, MacArthur ordered an amphibious assault at Inchon on the western side of the peninsula on September 15.

Caught by surprise, the Communist-backed northern forces reeled in retreat. American led-forces from Inchon and the Pusan Perimeter quickly pushed the northern troops to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel—and kept going. The United States saw an opportunity to create a complete indivisible democratic Korea and pushed the northern army up to the Yalu River, which borders China.



The USS Missouri fires on Chongjin, North Korea, in October 1950. The mission of this particular engagement was to disable enemy communications systems.



Clockwise from top: U.S. Marines retreating during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir; U.N. landing at Incheon harbor, starting point of the Battle of Inchon; Korean refugees in front of an American M26 Pershing tank; U.S. Marines, led by First Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez, landing at Incheon; F-86 Sabre fighter aircraft.

With opposition to communism on the rise at home, Truman relished the idea of reuniting Korea. His hopes were dashed on November 27, when over 400,000 Chinese soldiers flooded across the Yalu River. In 1949, Mao Zedong had established a Communist dictatorship in China, the

world's most populous nation. The Chinese now came to the aid of the Communists in northern Korea.

In no time, American troops were once again forced below the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. General MacArthur wanted to escalate the war. He sought to bomb the Chinese mainland and blockade their coast.

Truman disagreed. He feared escalation of the conflict could lead to World War III, especially if the now nuclear-armed Soviet Union lent assistance to China. Disgruntled, MacArthur took his case directly to the American people by openly criticizing Truman's approach. Truman promptly relieved him of command.

Meanwhile, the war evolved into a stalemate, with the front line corresponding more or less to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. Ceasefire negotiations dragged on for two more years, beyond Truman's presidency. Finally, on July 27, 1953, an armistice was signed at Panmunjom. North Korea remained a Communist dictatorship, and South Korea remained under the control of Syngman Rhee, a military strong man.

Over 33,000 Americans were killed in the conflict, which left the boundary essentially where it had been before the war. However, the U.S. was successful in preventing the expansion of communism into South Korea, thus establishing a foothold for democracy on the edge of the Communist empire

## Lesson Six

### History Overview and Assignments Domestic Challenges

President Truman faced many challenges after World War II. The entire economy needed to shift from a wartime economy back to a consumer economy. As soldiers returned home, they wanted their old jobs back, creating a huge labor surplus. Truman, distracted by the new threats overseas, was faced with additional crises at home.



The 1948 presidential election pitted Democrat Truman against Republican Dewey. The Chicago Daily Tribune was so confident Truman was headed for defeat that they printed this headline—held here by President Truman—before all of the votes had been counted.

#### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion then read the article: *Domestic Challenges*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Do your own research on the election between Truman and Dewey. What was significant about the media coverage of that election?
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

#### Key People, Places, and Events

Senator Joe McCarthy  
Taft-Hartley Act  
Atomic Energy Act

The National Security Council  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944/ GI Bill of Rights

President Harry Truman  
Atomic Energy Commission

#### Discussion Questions

1. How did the government respond to the needs of returning soldiers after World War II?
2. How did President Truman weaken the strength of organized labor?
3. For what is Senator Joe McCarthy known?
4. How did the United States deal with the concern over the control of nuclear power?
5. Why was the National Security Council created?
6. What is the purpose of the Central Intelligence Agency?
7. What did Truman hope to accomplish through his "Fair Deal?"
8. On your own, find out what sign Truman had on his desk in the Oval Office?

## ***U.S. History Online Textbook***

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### ***Domestic Challenges***

The end of World War II had brought a series of challenges to Harry Truman. The entire economy had to be converted back from a wartime economy to a consumer economy. Strikes that had been delayed during the war erupted with a frenzy across America. Inflation threatened as millions of Americans planned to spend wealth they had not enjoyed since 1929. As the soldiers returned home, they wanted their old jobs back, creating a huge labor surplus. Truman, distracted by the new threats overseas, was faced with additional crises at home.

To provide relief for the veterans of World War II and diminish the labor surplus, Congress passed the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944. Known as the GI Bill of Rights, this law granted government loans to veterans who wished to start a new business or build a home. It also provided money for veterans to attend school or college. Thousands took advantage, and Americans enjoyed the double bonus of relieving unemployment and investing in a more educated workforce.

Although Truman maintained wartime price controls for over a year after the war, he was pressured to end them by the Republican Congress in 1947. Inflation skyrocketed and workers immediately demanded pay increases. Strikes soon spread across America, involving millions of American workers.

Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act, which allowed the president to declare a "cooling-off" period if a strike were to erupt

and permitted states to pass "right-to-work" laws banning union membership as a hiring requirement. Union leaders became liable for damages in lawsuits and, responding to the threat of Soviet infiltration exposed by several espionage cases, were required to sign noncommunist oaths. The ability of unions to contribute to political campaigns was limited. Truman vetoed this measure, but it was passed by Congress nonetheless.

Serious issues remained. Now that nuclear power was a reality, who would control the fissionable materials? In August 1946, Truman signed the Atomic Energy Act, which gave control of atomic energy to civilian rather than military authorities. Five civilians would head the Atomic Energy Commission. They directed the peaceful uses of the atom. The president was vested with exclusive authority to launch a nuclear strike. The military was also reorganized.

The War Department was eliminated, and a new Defense Department was created. The Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force were subordinate to the new Secretary of Defense. The National Security Council was created to coordinate the Departments of State and Defense. Finally, a Central Intelligence Agency was established to monitor espionage activities around the globe.

In 1948, Harry Truman faced reelection against the popular Republican governor of New York, Thomas Dewey, while his own Democratic Party was divided three ways. Former Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace, whom Truman had fired due to his

pro-Soviet views, split off with his supporters to the Progressive Party. Strom Thurmond ran on a States' Rights Party ticket as a "Dixiecrat" southern candidate who thought Truman too liberal on civil rights.



Harry Truman was elected in 1948, a feat that few political experts had thought possible. To bolster his chances, Truman took to the rails and ran a "whistle stop" campaign, speaking in over 200 towns in the weeks leading up to the election.

Truman ran a whistle-stop train campaign across the land, hoping to win by holding onto the solid South and retaining the support of organized labor. He also became the first candidate to campaign openly for the African American vote. Against everyone's predictions but his own, Truman prevailed on Election Day. He had hoped to enact a socially expansive Fair Deal, which would have enlarged the government's role even further than the New Deal in economic development and social welfare through such measures as allocating federal spending to ensure full employment, but conservative Democrats and Republicans in Congress blocked most of his initiatives.



Harry Truman kept this sign on his desk to make it known that he would not be "passing the buck" on to anyone else.

Of the presidency Truman wrote, "The president—whoever he is—has to decide. He can't pass the buck to anybody. No one else can do the deciding for him. That's his job."