**IRON CURTAIN**

Use the description of the Iron Curtain Speech and the excerpt from Churchill’s speech to answer the following questions.

1.  Provide a basic textbook identification of the Iron Curtain.

2.  How would the US and its allies react to the speech by Churchill?

3.  How would the USSR react to the speech by Churchill?

4. How was the division between the US (and its allies) and USSR widened because of the speech by Churchill?

Iron Curtain Speech (historyplace.com)

Less than a year after the end of the World War II, the great wartime leader of Britain, Winston Churchill, delivered this speech coining the term "iron curtain" to describe the line in Europe between self-governing nations of the West and those in Eastern Europe under Soviet Communist control.

Churchill gave the speech at Westminster College, in Fulton, Missouri, after receiving an honorary degree and was introduced by Missourian, President Harry Truman.

Iron Curtain Speech Excerpt (Excerpt from historyplace.com)

Quote #1:

It is my duty, however, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe.

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe.

Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia; all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow.

The safety of the world, ladies and gentlemen, requires a unity in Europe, from which no nation should be permanently outcast. It is from the quarrels of the strong parent races in Europe that the world wars we have witnessed, or which occurred in former times, have sprung.

Quote #2:

In a great number of countries, far from the Russian frontiers and throughout the world, Communist fifth columns are established and work in complete unity and absolute obedience to the directions they receive from the Communist center. Except in the British Commonwealth and in the United States where Communism is in its infancy, the Communist parties or fifth columns constitute a growing challenge and peril to Christian civilization.

Quote #3:

I do not believe that Soviet Russia desires war. What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power and doctrines.

But what we have to consider here today while time remains, is the permanent prevention of war and the establishment of conditions of freedom and democracy as rapidly as possible in all countries. Our difficulties and dangers will not be removed by closing our eyes to them. They will not be removed by mere waiting to see what happens; nor will they be removed by a policy of appeasement.

What is needed is a settlement, and the longer this is delayed, the more difficult it will be and the greater our dangers will become.

**MARSHALL PLAN**

Use the description of the Marshall Plan and the excerpt from Marshall’s speech to answer the following questions.

1.  Provide a basic textbook identification of the Marshall Plan.

2.  How would the US and its allies benefit from the Marshall Plan?

3.  How would the USSR react to the speech by Marshall?

4. How was the division between the US and USSR widened because of the Marshall Plan?

*Marshall Plan* *(Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia - EBSCOhost)*

U.S. program of financial assistance that helped to rebuild West European nations devastated by World War II, known as the Marshall Plan, for U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall.

During the winter of 1946–47, Europe’s agricultural and coal production had nearly stopped, and its people were threatened with starvation. The U.S. responded for four reasons. First, Europe had been a great market for American goods; without a prosperous Europe, the U.S. might have suffered a severe economic depression. Second, without American aid, Western Europe might have used socialist or Communist methods to rebuild, and U.S. leaders considered that undesirable. Third, Western Europe appeared open to influence by the USSR, which the U.S. was beginning to see as its principal rival. Fourth, West Germany, historically the continent’s industrial hub, had to be rebuilt as a buffer against further Soviet expansion; European fears of the World War II foe would lessen only if the Germans were integrated into a larger Europe.

After careful planning, Marshall announced in June 1947 that if Europe devised a cooperative, long-term rebuilding program, the U.S. would provide funds. England and France called other Europeans, including the Soviets, together at Paris. When Russian delegates learned that the U.S. insisted on their cooperation with the capitalist societies of Western Europe and required an open accounting of how funds were used, they left Paris and established their own plan to integrate Communist states in Eastern Europe. An economic curtain was thereby created, dividing the continent.

Western Europe asked for $29 billion; the U.S. Congress finally appropriated $13.1 billion. Seventy percent was spent for goods in the U.S. The Economic Cooperation Administration distributed the money, and the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) spent it. The largest amounts went to Great Britain, France, Italy, and West Germany, in that order. As cold war tensions heightened in 1949, the funds increasingly went into military expenditures rather than industrial rebuilding.

The program achieved its immediate aims: By 1952 West European industrial production stood 35 percent above prewar levels, and West Germany was independent, rearming, and economically booming. Ironically, in 1957 the OEEC helped to create the European Common Market, which quickly became an economic competitor of the U.S.

*Marshall Plan Speech (Excerpt from* www.oecd.org/)

In considering the requirements for the rehabilitation of Europe, the physical loss of life, the visible destruction of cities, factories, mines and railroads was correctly estimated but it has become obvious during recent months that this visible destruction was probably less serious than the dislocation of the entire fabric of European economy. For the past 10 years conditions have been highly abnormal. The feverish preparation for war and the more feverish maintenance of the war effort engulfed all aspects of national economies. Machinery has fallen into disrepair or is entirely obsolete. Under the arbitrary and destructive Nazi rule, virtually every possible enterprise was geared into the German war machine. Long-standing commercial ties, private institutions, banks, insurance companies, and shipping companies disappeared, through loss of capital, absorption through nationalization, or by simple destruction. In many countries, confidence in the local currency has been severely shaken. The breakdown of the business structure of Europe during the war was complete. Recovery has been seriously retarded by the fact that two years after the close of hostilities a peace settlement with Germany and Austria has not been agreed upon. But even given a more prompt solution of these difficult problems the rehabilitation of the economic structure of Europe quite evidently will require a much longer time and greater effort than had been foreseen.

The truth of the matter is that Europe's requirements for the next three or four years of foreign food and other essential products - principally from America - are so much greater than her present ability to pay that she must have substantial additional help or face economic, social, and political deterioration of a very grave character.

Aside from the demoralizing effect on the world at large and the possibilities of disturbances arising as a result of the desperation of the people concerned, the consequences to the economy of the United States should be apparent to all. It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist. Such assistance, I am convinced, must not be on a piecemeal basis as various crises develop. Any assistance that this Government may render in the future should provide a cure rather than a mere palliative. Any government that is willing to assist in the task of recovery will find full co-operation I am sure, on the part of the United States Government. Any government which maneuvers to block the recovery of other countries cannot expect help from us. Furthermore, governments, political parties, or groups which seek to perpetuate human misery in order to profit therefrom politically or otherwise will encounter the opposition of the United States.

**TRUMAN DOCTRINE**

Use the description of the Truman Doctrine and the excerpt from Truman’s speech to answer the following questions.

1.  Provide a basic textbook identification of the Truman Doctrine.

2.  How would the US and its allies benefit from the Truman Doctrine?

3.  How would the USSR react to the speech by Truman?

4. How was the division between the US and USSR widened because of the Truman Doctrine?

**Truman Doctrine** *(Entry from Wikipedia)*

The Truman Doctrine is a set of principles of U.S. foreign policy declared by President Harry S. Truman in an address to Congress to request $400 million in aid to Greece and Turkey, as well as authorization to send American economic and military advisers to the two countries. Truman argued that the U.S. should support Greece and Turkey economically and militarily to prevent their falling under Soviet control.

**Truman Doctrine Speech** *(Excerpt from americanrhetoric.com)*

The United States has received from the Greek Government an urgent appeal for financial and economic assistance. Preliminary reports from the American Economic Mission now in Greece and reports from the American Ambassador in Greece corroborate the statement of the Greek Government that assistance is imperative if Greece is to survive as a free nation.

The very existence of the Greek state is today threatened by the terrorist activities of several thousand armed men, led by Communists, who defy the government's authority at a number of points, particularly along the northern boundaries.

Greece must have assistance if it is to become a self-supporting and self-respecting democracy. The United States must supply this assistance.

One of the primary objectives of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which we and other nations will be able to work out a way of life free from coercion.

We shall not realize our objectives, however, unless we are willing to help free peoples to maintain their free institutions and their national integrity against aggressive movements that seek to impose upon them totalitarian regimes. This is no more than a frank recognition that totalitarian regimes imposed upon free peoples, by direct or indirect aggression, undermine the foundations of international peace, and hence the security of the United States.

At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one. One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression. The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

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.

the disappearance of Greece as an independent state would have a profound effect upon those countries in Europe whose peoples are struggling against great difficulties to maintain their freedoms and their independence while they repair the damages of war.

It would be an unspeakable tragedy if these countries, which have struggled so long against overwhelming odds, should lose that victory for which they sacrificed so much. Collapse of free institutions and loss of independence would be disastrous not only for them but for the world.

Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West as well as to the East.

The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. They spread and grow in the evil soil of poverty and strife. They reach their full growth when the hope of a people for a better life has died.

We must keep that hope alive.

The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world. And we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation.

**NATO CHARTER**

Use the description of NATO and the excerpt from the NATO Charter to answer the following questions.

1.  Provide a basic textbook identification of NATO.

2.  How would the US and its allies benefit from NATO?

3.  How would the USSR react to the creation of NATO?

4.  How was the division between the US and USSR widened because of the creation of NATO?

NATO *(Entry from World Book On-Line Student)*

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance consisting of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and more than 20 other countries. NATO seeks to protect the freedom and security of its member countries through political and military efforts. The organization also participates in a variety of international peacekeeping and crisis management efforts.

NATO was established in 1949, after the start of the Cold War. The Cold War was a period of intense rivalry between Communist countries, led by the Soviet Union, and non-Communist countries, led by the United States. Originally, the central purpose of NATO was to discourage an attack by the Soviet Union on the non-Communist nations of Western Europe. By joining NATO, each member country agreed to treat an attack on any other member as an attack on itself. NATO's collective defense policy was known as deterrence because it was designed to deter (discourage) a Soviet attack. In 1955, the Soviet Union and its allies formed their own military alliance, called the Warsaw Pact, to oppose NATO.

NATO was created by the North Atlantic Treaty, signed by 12 countries in 1949. The countries were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The organization established its central office in Paris.

NATO Charter *(Excerpts from - http://www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/treaty.htm)*

The North Atlantic Treaty

Washington D.C. - 4 April 1949

The Parties to this Treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments.

They are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. They seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.

They are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security. They therefore agree to this North Atlantic Treaty :

Article 2

The Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them.

Article 5

The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.