



The Early Cold War:

THE START OF THE COLD WAR

A. Background

Distrust of the Americans and Soviets goes back to founding of communism in Russia(1917), seen as a threat to western democratic capitalism

(note US aided the anti-Bolshevik forces, the Whites during the civil war)

POLITICAL DIFFERENCES

At the heart of the tension was a fundamental difference in political systems

America is a democracy that has a capitalist economic system, free elections and competing political parties

In the U.S.S.R., the sole political party – the Communists – established a totalitarian regime with little or no rights for the citizens



Soviets viewed Marx, Engels and Lenin as founders of Communism



Distrusts builds. Before WW II Stalin feared that west was trying to push Hitler eastward. During war, delay in opening western front (June 1944), makes Stalin suspicious.



SUSPICIONS DEVELOPED DURING THE WAR



ISSUES



Even during the war, the two nations disagreed on many issues

The U.S. was furious that Soviet leader Joseph Stalin had been an ally of Hitler for a time

Stalin was upset that the U.S. had kept its development of the atomic bomb a secret



"spheres of influence" (an area that a "superpower" has dominant influence) agreed to in Oct. 1944, Soviets to be dominant in eastern Europe.

- this refers to an area that a superpower will have dominance over or hegemony

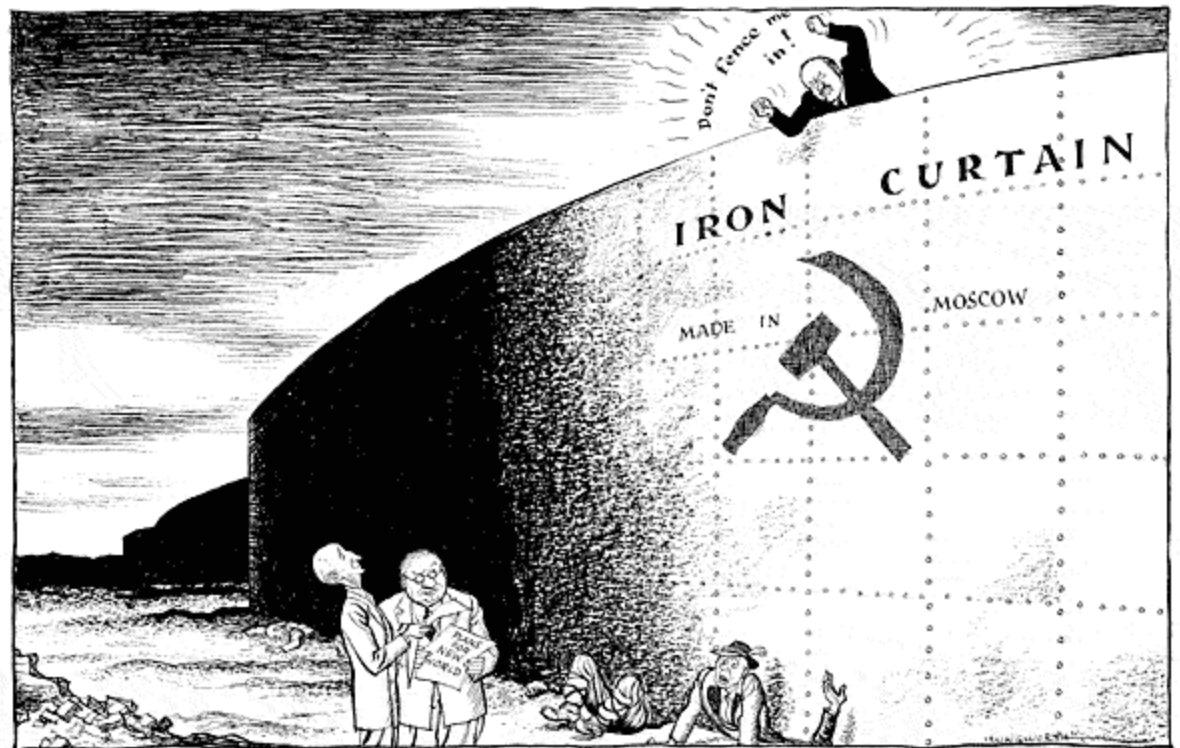


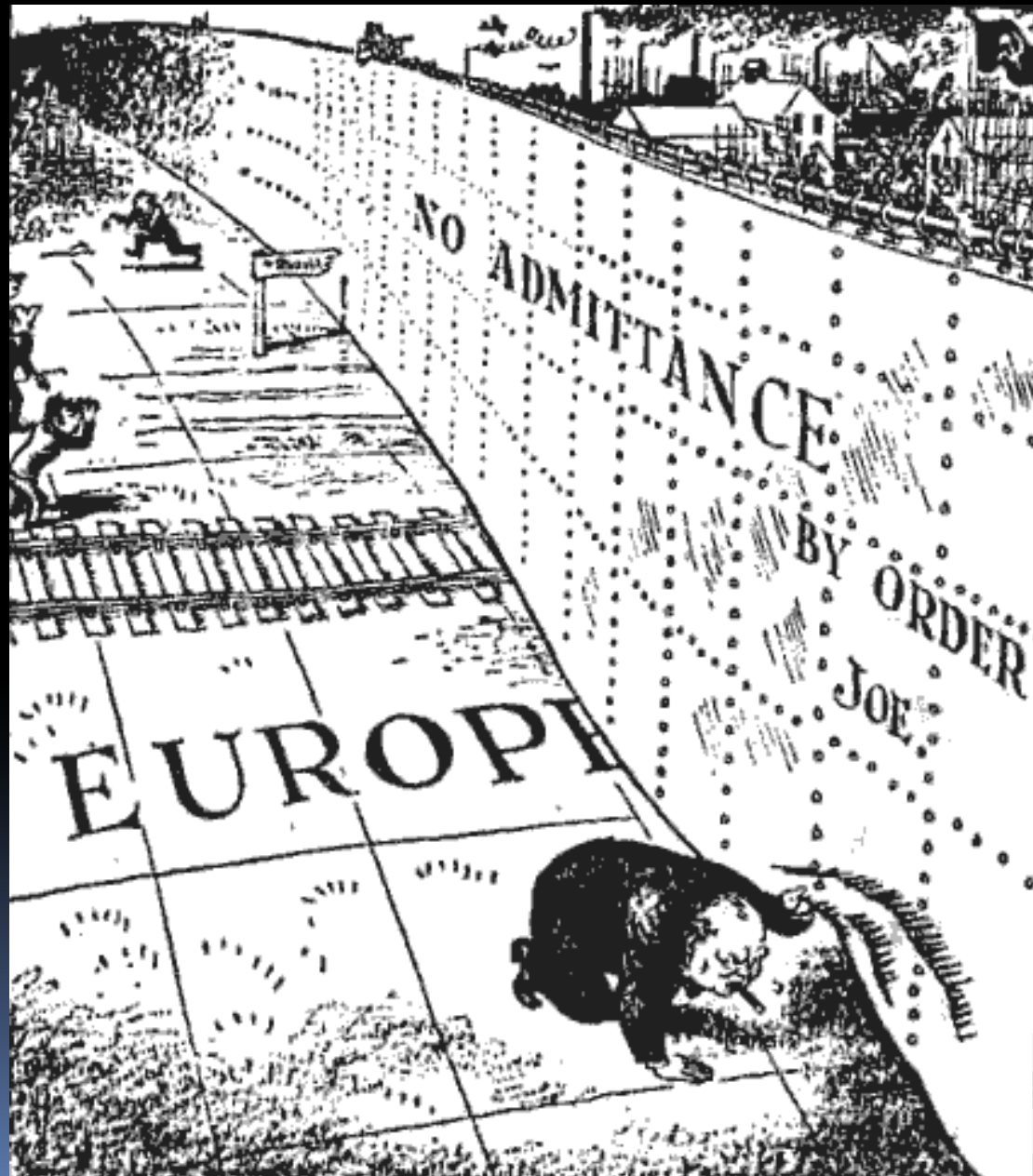
The division of Europe after the Second World War 1945-9

- western limit of Soviet occupation or influence mid 1945
- occupied by western forces or pro-western in sympathy
- Soviet occupied or control
- Soviet zones of Germany and Austria
- original members of NATO 4 April 1949
- colonial territories
- neutral



positions harden - Churchill makes "Iron Curtain" speech, March, 1946
- (read De Marco, p. 156)





**Iron Curtain
cartoon, 1946**

SOVIETS DOMINATE EASTERN EUROPE

The Soviet Union suffered an estimated 20 million WWII deaths, half of whom were civilian

As a result they felt justified in their claim to Eastern Europe

Furthermore, they felt they needed Eastern Europe as a buffer against future German aggression



STALIN INSTALLS PUPPET GOVERNMENTS

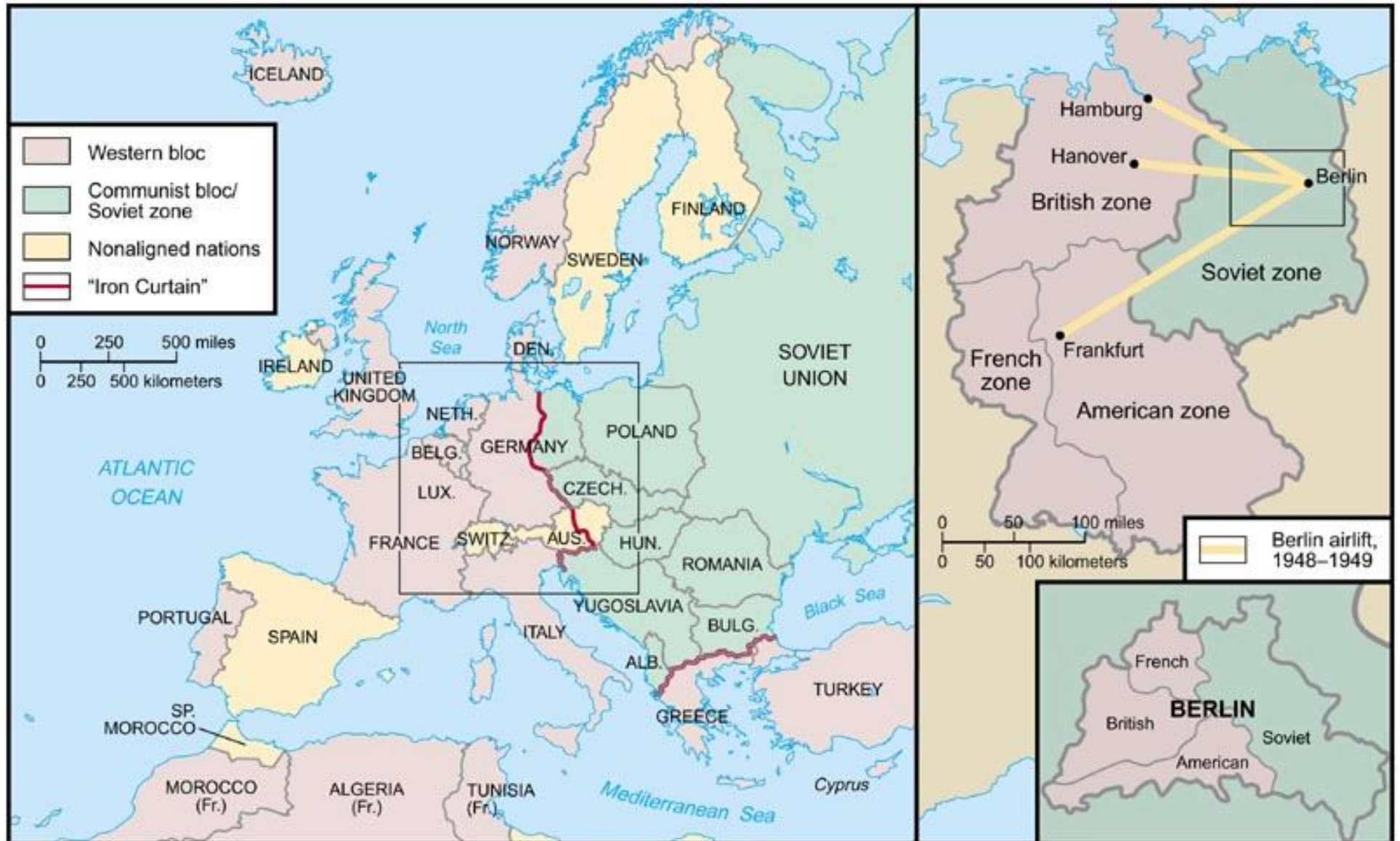


In a 1946 speech, Stalin said communism and capitalism were incompatible – and another war was inevitable

Stalin installed “satellite” communist governments in the Eastern European countries of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and East Germany

- in reality, their independence was a farce and they had to answer to Moscow

This was after promising “free elections” for Eastern Europe at the Yalta Conference



EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR II

B. The Truman Doctrine - **March 1947**

opposes the spread of communism. Pledges to support peoples resisting "totalitarian" (ie. dictatorships) by all means.

By 1950, the U.S. had given \$400 million in aid to Greece and Turkey

(read De Marco p. 158 - 159) Partnered with Marshall Aid, American aid money to Europe with strings attached.

U.S. ESTABLISHES A POLICY OF CONTAINMENT

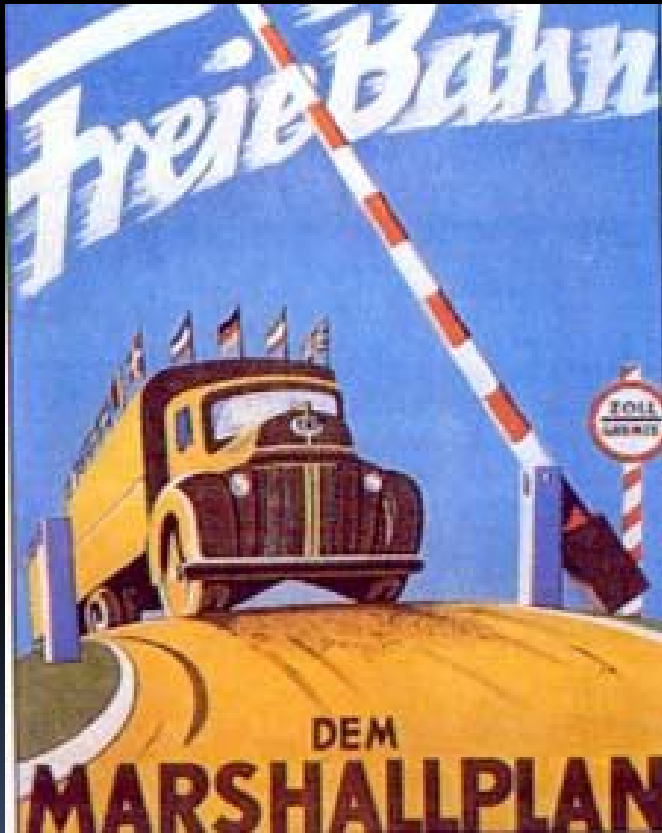
Faced with the Soviet threat, Truman decided it was time to “stop babying the Soviets”

In February 1946, George Kennan, an American diplomat in Moscow, proposed a policy of containment

Containment meant the U.S. would prevent any further extension of communist rule



THE MARSHALL PLAN



The Marshall Plan helped Western Europe recover economically

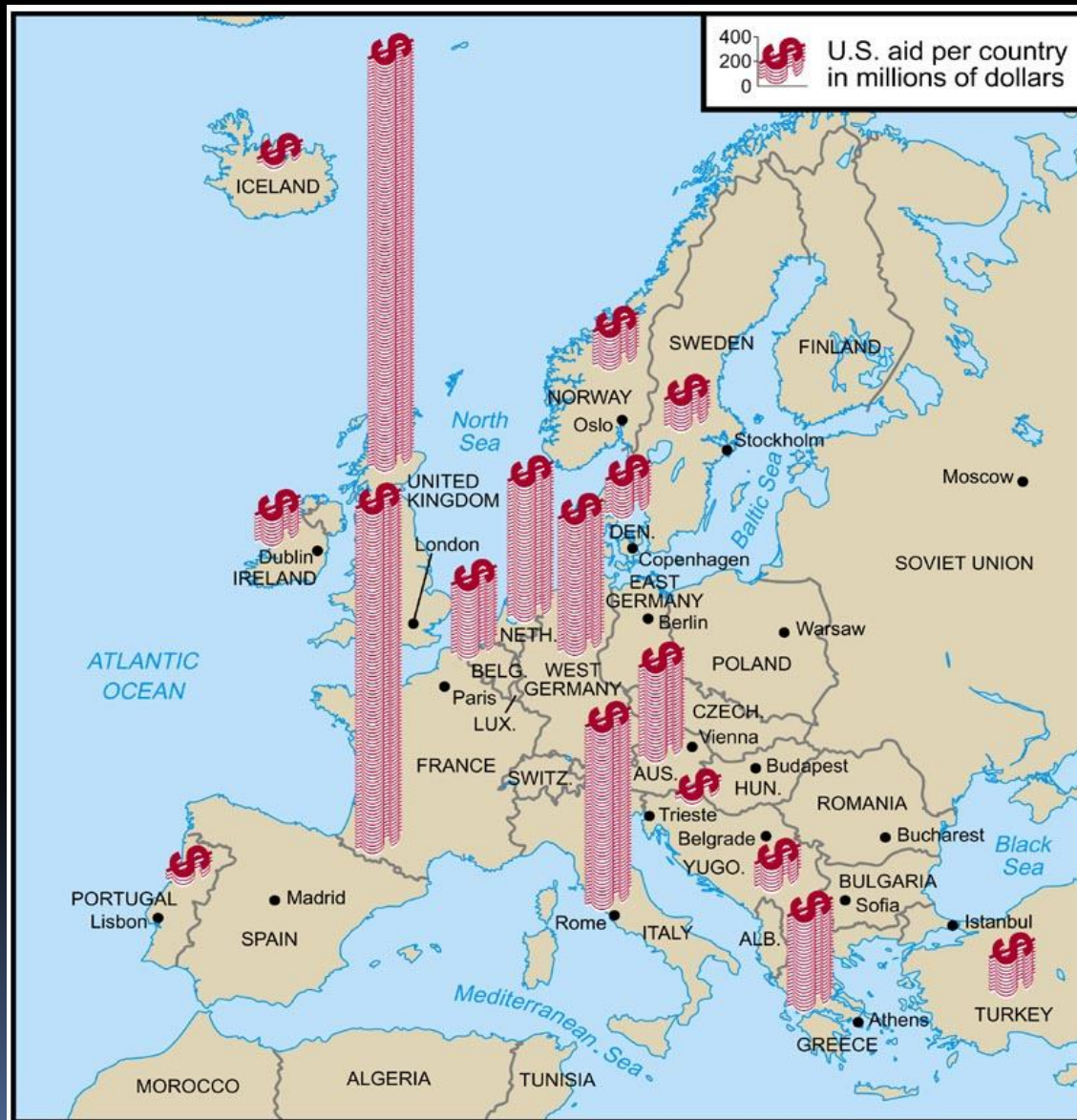
Post-war Europe was devastated economically

In June 1947, Secretary of State George Marshall proposed a U.S. aid package to European nations

Western Europe accepted the help, while Eastern Europe (read Stalin) rejected the aid

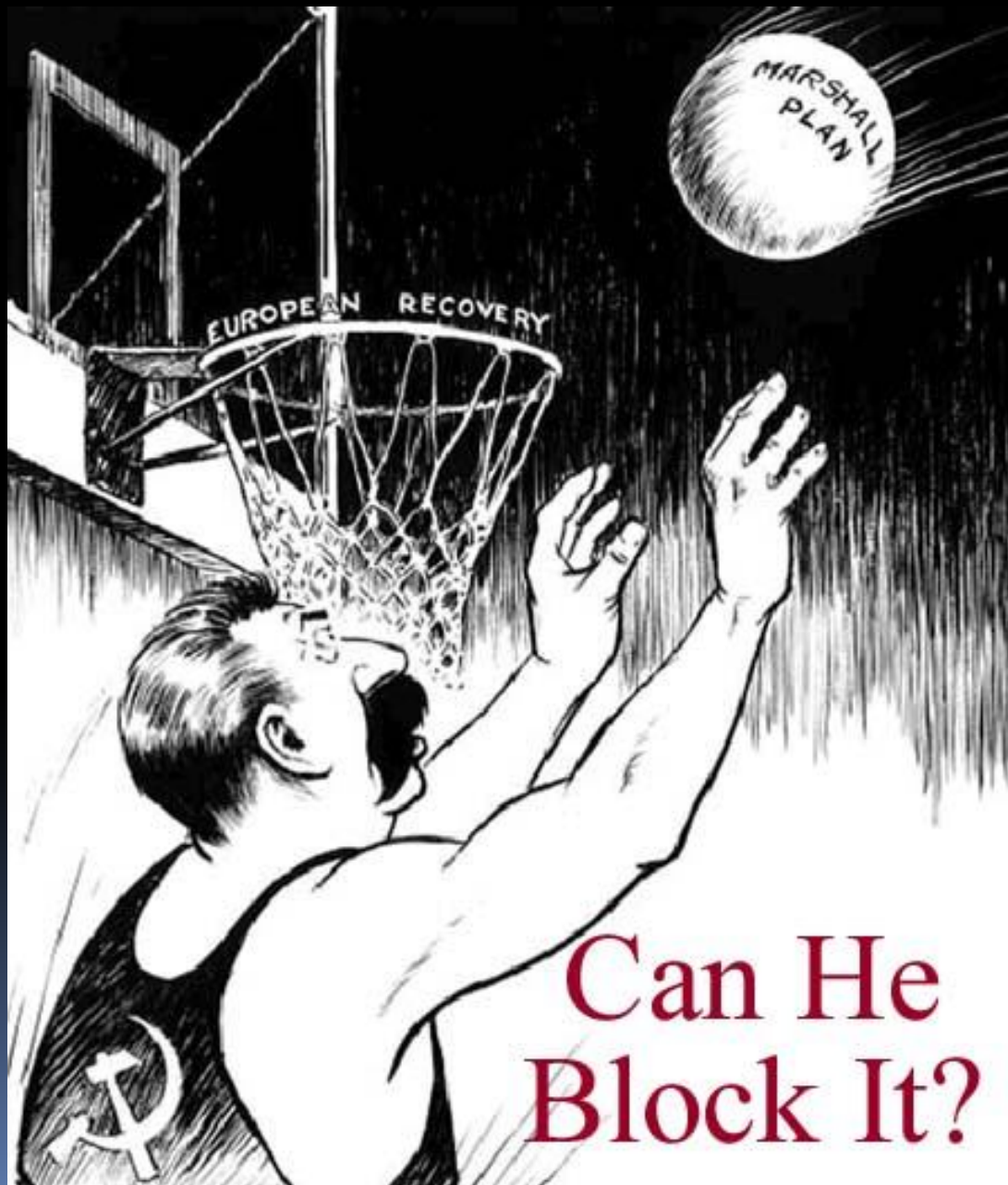
Over the next four years 16 European countries received \$13 billion in U.S. aid

By 1952 Western Europe's economy was flourishing



MARSHALL PLAN AID TO EUROPE, 1948-1952

**Marshall
Plan aid sent
to European
countries**



**Marshall
Aid
cartoon,
1947**

**Can He
Block It?**



Truman Doctrine - the noble ideal, becomes Containment in practice together with the Marshall Plan. The US commits itself to prevent the spread of communism beyond its 1948 "sphere of influence". Extensive use of propaganda, spy networks, and nuclear and conventional arms development by both sides.

ironically, under containment, US will often support dictators if they state they are fighting against communism.



For peoples who live where the Soviet and American spheres of influence abut, the Cold War can turn into a hot war, eg. Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan.





Both sides deeply suspicious of the other and this fear shapes policy.

The Soviets fear encirclement by USA. Try to "break out" eg. alliance with Cuba

The Americans regard communism like a disease which will spread unless contained, gives rise to American Domino Theory.

(ie. if one state becomes communist, the neighboring states could be infected).



The American see all communists states as linked. Don't exploit differences between USSR and Communist China until Nixon in early 1970's.