

US History

The Cold War - A

Learning Target:

I can identify and analyze the development of America's strategy for dealing with the Soviet Union during the Cold War, containment.

3. The Containment Theory / Truman Doctrine (1947)

A. Containment – The restriction or containment of Communism to its current borders.

Background Information –

-Joseph Stalin delivers a speech in which he declares that capitalism was a danger to world peace. He said capitalism and communism would eventually clash. He vowed to stop trade with the west and build up weaponry no matter the cost.

What does this information mean to the U.S.?

-Stalin and the Soviet Union do not trust the US and are believe that our two types of government cannot coexist.

Solution to spread of communism –

-The Containment Theory

The Containment Theory –

-Developed by George Keenan - US diplomat in Moscow

-Published in the magazine *Foreign Affairs*

-Text from *Foreign Affairs*:

-“The main element of any U.S. policy towards Soviet Russia must be a long-term patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansionist tendencies.”

-Keenan predictions: The Soviet Union would . . .

1. Collapse under the pressure of own internal weakness or
2. Gradually mellow as a regime

Conclusion –

-Containment seems to work best when applied creatively and diplomatically

B. The Truman Doctrine –

-President Truman's official adoption of the containment theory

First Application of the Truman Doctrine –

-USSR trying to expand into Greece and Turkey

-March 1947 – Greece and Turkey requested military and economic aid from the U.S. to stop a communist attempt to overthrow their governments

-Why did USSR want Greece and Turkey?

1. Spread Communism
2. Warm water ports

-Truman's response –

-A creative application of containment

-Asked Congress to give \$400 million in aid

-Eventually \$660 million is spent

-Truman's speech –

-“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 outside pressures.”

Conclusion –

1. The first successful application of containment
2. Greece and Turkey remained free