

US History

The Cold War - A

Learning Target:

I can analyze how America's position on containment influenced the implementation of the Berlin Airlift.

5. The Berlin Airlift

Background:

- US, France, and Great Britain –
 - Decided to form a West Germany with their four zones with a common currency
 - Enrages the USSR

- USSR –
 - Warned that they would institute their own currency system in East Germany, including all of Berlin
 - Enraged the west and setup a huge confrontation

Berlin Conflict:

- Soviets cut all access roads to Berlin from the west
- No supplies can make it to West Berlin
- Truman has to decide how to handle the situation

- Truman's options:
 1. Give up West Berlin to the USSR
 2. Send in troops to save West Berlin
 3. Airlift in supplies to West Berlin

- Truman's choice:
 - Airlift in supplies to West Berlin
 - Airlifted 2.5 million tons of supplies to 2.1 million people in West Berlin
 - 277,000 flights over 327 days

Conclusions:

1. Successful and creative application of Containment
2. No loss of American life to keep West Berlin free
3. Increased US prestige around the world and hurt USSR's reputation