



The Red Army had advanced to within 50 miles of Berlin, by January 1945

The Cold War & Containment



Yalta Conference themes: status of post-war Germany & Poland, reparations, United Nations
JCS 1067 implemented until 1947: Allies found that this policy required food and other support for Germany; Germans couldn't become self-sufficient, and certainly could not buy Allied exports; a weak Germany would not be able to counter communist expansion.

<p>US adopts harsher anticommunist policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marshall Plan, Truman Doctrine (1947) Berlin Airlift (1948-49) NATO, West Germany established (1949) 	<p>Soviet Union adopts more hardline policies in eastern Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> suppressing anticommunist parties coups in Poland and Czechoslovakia
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Containment (definition) involved two main policies: resistance to communist expansion, and military and economic aid to prop up anticommunist governments.

Containment of the USSR was so important to us, that it determined our relationships with the rest of the world. We saw Latin America, Africa, and Asia (and certainly the Middle East) through the eyes of its impact on our relationship with the USSR.

Criticisms of Containment Policy (Walter Lippmann)

- (1) It allows the Russians to determine when and where the conflicts will take place--the "strategic initiative." (Korea, Vietnam).
- (2) American military power is built for lightning strikes that destroy its targets, not for long occupation of territories, which containment would require (Vietnam).
- (3) In the process of combatting communism, we would seek out "dubious and unnatural allies on the perimeter of the Soviet Union"--a liability, and alienate our natural allies in western Europe, where a Soviet attack was most likely to take place (Vietnam).

Two Basic Alternatives to Cold War: (1) rollback, & (2) national interest, spheres of influence, or accommodation. Both had problems the US wasn't willing to deal with. One final alternative might have been "containment light"—providing weapons to countries that were willing to fight communism, but not deploying US soldiers (except in western Europe).