

Containing the Red Menace: The Cold War Begins

- I. The Eagle vs. the Bear: Anticommunism and the “Cold War”
 - a. Soviet Union → US Enemy #1
- II. The Rise of Containment
 - a. 1945 - What to do about the Soviets, Eastern Europe?
 - b. The “Containment” doctrine
 - i. Made official by Truman with the Truman Doctrine
 - ii. Articulated by George Kennan in *Foreign Affairs*, 1946
 - iii. Greece, 1947
 1. British slipping money to Greece to support and protect them from communism, but they don’t have enough money so they ask the US to help
 2. US gives \$400 million to Greece and defeats communism threats
 - iv. “Monolithic Communism”
 1. Definition = “all communists, anywhere in the world, are under the control of the Soviet Union”
 2. Reality = not true; lots of rivalries, divisions, etc.
 - c. Non-violent Containment
 - i. The Marshall Plan (1947)
 1. US sends \$16 billion in aid to western Europe to rebuild its economy (and to also eliminate the threat of communism) – a “New Deal” for Europe (After the

war, Europe in ruins, food scarce,
poverty everywhere)

2. Offered to Soviet Union as well, but they
declined

ii. CIA covert sponsorship of music(Louis
Armstrong), art(Jackson Pollack), films, etc to
advertise against communism in Europe

d. Potentially-Violent Containment

i. The Berlin Airlift, 1948 → Stalin cuts west Berlin
off from west Germany; US airlifts fly over
Berlin and drop supplies; ends peacefully

V. 1949-50: China goes Communist, and the Soviets get
The Bomb

a. "Who lost China?"

b. Communists take over and non communists move
to Taiwan

VI. Publication of NSC-68 (1950)

a. Briefing written to President Truman about the
Soviet Union; supposed to help him decide what to
do

b. Said "Soviets are on a march for world domination
and they want to destroy the US" and "we need a
big military, just in case" ... in a nutshell

c. Adds a militaristic edge to containment policy

VII. Containment gets Violent - the Korean War (1950-53)

a. US sends in troops to help, but by late 1950, they
had been pushed to the Pusan perimeter

b. American troops push North Korea back

c. The Chinese invasion and stalemate

d. 3 years of stalemate ends the war

people begin to get very paranoid