**Chapter 26, Section 2: The Early Cold War Years**

**I. Containing Communism** *(pages 783–785)*

**A.** As Americans became increasingly impatient with the Soviets, the State Department asked the American Embassy in Moscow to explain Soviet behavior. On February 22, 1946, diplomat **George Kennan** responded with the **Long Telegram,** a 5,540-word cable message explaining his views of Soviet goals. In the telegram, Kennan discussed Russian insecurity and fear of the West and why it was impossible to reach an agreement. He proposed a long-term containment of Russian expansion. This led to Truman’s policy of **containment**—keeping communism within its present territory through diplomatic, economic, and military actions.

**B.** After World War II, Soviet troops remained in northern Iran, demanding access to Iran’s oil supplies. Soviet troops helped Communists in northern Iran set up a separate government. The United States demanded their withdrawal and sent a U.S. battleship into the eastern Mediterranean. The Soviets withdrew from Iran.

**C.** On March 12, 1947, Truman went before Congress to request $400 million to fight Soviet aggression in Greece and Turkey. The policy became known as the **Truman** **Doctrine.** Its purpose was to stabilize the Greek government and ease Soviet demands in Turkey. It became the United States’s pledge to stop communism in the world.

**D.** Postwar Western Europe faced economic ruin and starving people. In June 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall proposed the European Recovery Program called the **Marshall Plan.** The plan would give European nations American aid to rebuild. The plan was an effort to fight hunger, poverty, and chaos. The Soviet Union and its satellite nations in Eastern Europe rejected the offer and developed their own economic program. The Marshall Plan gave billions of dollars worth of supplies, machinery, and food to Western Europe, lessening the appeal of communism and opening new trade markets.

**Discussion Question**

Why did George Kennan think containment would beat communism? *(Kennan felt the Soviet system had major economic and political weaknesses. If the United States could stop the Soviets from expanding, Kennan felt the Soviet system would crumble without going to war.)*

**II. The Berlin Crisis** *(pages 785–786)*

**A.** By early 1948, in response to the Soviet attempt to harm Germany’s economy, the United States, Great Britain, and France merged their zones in Germany and in Berlin, which became West Berlin, allowing Germans to have their own government. The new nation became West Germany with a separate economy from the Soviet zone, which eventually became known as East Germany.

**B.** In June 1948, Soviet troops stopped all road and rail traffic to West Berlin, hoping to force Americans to renegotiate Germany’s status or give up Berlin. In response, Truman sent long-range bombers with atomic weapons to bases in Britain. Truman then ordered the **Berlin airlift.** For eleven months, cargo planes supplied Berliners with food, medicine, and coal. Stalin finally lifted the blockade on May 12.

**C.** With the threat of war still present, the American public supported a military alliance with Western Europe. By April 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**), a mutual defense alliance, was created with initially twelve countries joining. The members agreed to come to the aid of any member who was attacked.

**D.** Six years later, NATO allowed West Germany to rearm and join its organization. Soviet leaders responded with the organization of a military alliance in Eastern Europe known as the **Warsaw Pact.**

**E.** The U.S. also formed other regional alliances.

**Discussion Question**

Why was NATO created? *(It was created by 12 countries, including the United States, Canada, and several Western European countries, as a mutual defense alliance in order to help maintain peace in Europe.)*

**III. The Cold War Spreads to East Asia** *(pages 786–787)*

**A.** The Cold War spread to Asia.

**B.** In China, Communist forces and Nationalist forces had been battling since the late 1920s. The two had stopped their war during World War II in an effort to resist Japanese occupation. With the end of World War II, civil war broke out again. The Nationalists were defeated after poor leadership caused the United States to stop sending aid. In October 1949, Communists set up the People’s Republic of China.

**C.** In early 1950, the People’s Republic of China and the Soviet Union signed a treaty of friendship and alliance.

**D.** The United States was able to keep Communist China out of the United Nations while allowing Nationalists from Taiwan to retain their seats.

**E.** When the United States lost China as its main ally in Asia, it adopted policies to encourage the quick recovery of Japan’s industrial economy. The U.S. saw Japan as its key in defending Asia.

**Discussion Question**

Why did the United States change its policies toward Japan? *(With the establishment of Communist China, the United States lost China as its ally in Asia. So the U.S. changed its policies toward Japan and encouraged the rapid recovery of Japan’s industrial economy because it saw Japan as the key to defending Asia.)*

**IV. The Korean War** *(pages 787–789)*

**A.** At the end of World War II, American and Soviet forces entered Korea to disarm Japanese troops stationed there. The Allies divided Korea at the 38th parallel of latitude. Soviet troops controlled the north and set up a Communist government. American troops controlled the south with an American-backed government. The Soviets gave military aid to the north, resulting in an expansive military. On June 25, 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea.

**B.** Truman asked the UN to act against the Communist invasion of South Korea. American, UN, and South Korean troops pushed back advancing North Korean troops.

**C.** The Communist Chinese government saw the UN troops as a threat and demanded that they stop advancing. After being ignored, China began a massive attack with hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops heading across the border, driving UN forces back.

**D.** General MacArthur demanded approval to expand the war against China. Truman refused MacArthur’s demands. MacArthur was fired after publicly criticizing the president. Truman was committed to **limited war,** a war fought to achieve a limited objective such as containing communism.

**E.** By 1951 UN forces had pushed Chinese and North Koreans back across the 38th parallel. An armistice was signed July 1953.

**F.** The Korean War was an important turning point in the Cold War. Instead of just using political pressure and economic aid to contain communism, the United States began a major military buildup. The Korean War expanded the Cold War beyond Europe and into Asia.

**Discussion Question**

Why did Truman refuse MacArthur’s demands to expand the war into China? *(Truman did not want to expand the war into China or use the atomic bomb. Truman remained committed to a limited war to contain communism.)*