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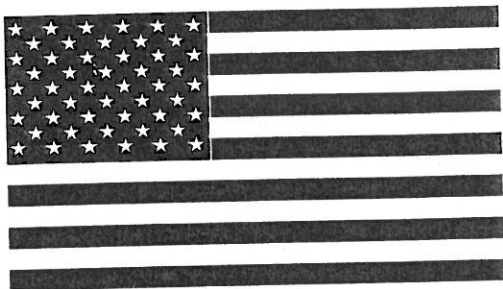
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Foreign Policy and the Cold War

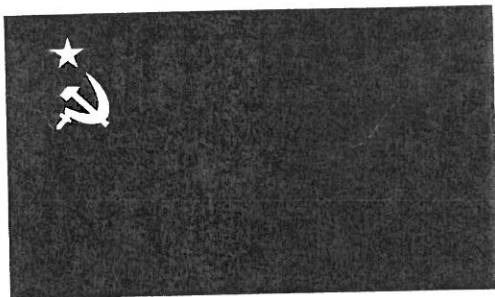
The Cold War Begins

When World War II ended, the United States and the U.S.S.R. had become the world's most powerful nations.

The United States wanted countries around the world to become or remain democratic.



The Soviet Union wanted the world's nations to become communist.



The two superpowers confronted each other in trouble spots around the world. But they didn't get into a direct military fight with each other. For this reason, their struggle against each other was called the **Cold War**. From the 1950s into the early 1990s, the Cold War dominated global politics.

The problem began as World War II came to a close. Germany had invaded the Soviet Union twice within 20 years. Stalin, the Soviet

dictator didn't want this to happen again. He decided to create a buffer zone between the U.S.S.R. and Germany. The buffer zone would be filled with

Soviet-dominated countries. So the U.S.S.R. made the nations of Eastern Europe into Soviet **satellites**. That is, they were still separate nations. But their leaders said and did whatever the Soviet Union wanted them to say and do. Winston Churchill, Britain's prime minister,

said an iron curtain had fallen across Europe. The "curtain" separated East from West.



Joseph Stalin

U.S. and Allied leaders were alarmed at the way Stalin had taken control of Eastern Europe. They thought the Soviets would try to do the same thing in other parts of the world. The Soviets were suspicious of Western intentions. Tensions grew. In 1947, Communists tried to take over the Greek government. President Truman responded with a new policy that came to be known as the Truman Doctrine. It said that the United States would help any countries that faced a threat by Communists. Truman sent military aid to Greece, and the Communist rebellion ended.

The Truman Doctrine was an expression of the U.S. policy of containment. The aim of Truman's foreign policy was to contain the spread of Communism wherever in the world it threatened. Containment took several forms in Europe.

(continued)

Focus on U.S. History: The Era of
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