

CHAPTER
26

The Cold War (1945–1960)

SECTION 1

ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR

TEXT SUMMARY

Different goals for a postwar world caused conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States envisioned a Europe of free, democratic nations. However, the Soviet Union was determined to create satellite nations in Eastern Europe. **Satellite nations** are countries dominated by a more powerful neighbor. Both nations did agree, however, on the formation of the United Nations (UN) as an international peacekeeping organization.

THE BIG IDEA

At the end of World War II, tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union grew into a conflict known as the Cold War.

The Soviet Union tightened its hold on nations in Middle and Eastern Europe. Stalin installed a repressive government in the eastern part of Germany and declared that communism would triumph over capitalism.

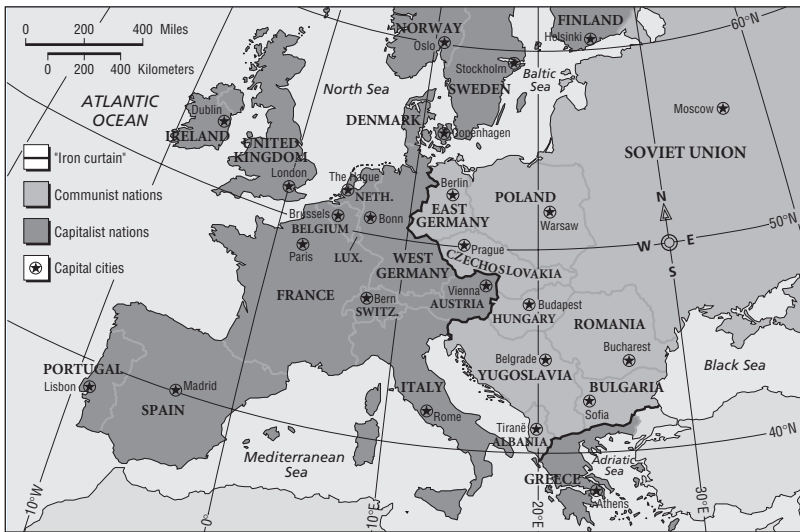
In response, Britain's former prime minister Winston Churchill declared that an **iron curtain** of Communist domination had fallen over Europe and called upon the United States to prevent any more Soviet takeovers.

These speeches set the tone for the **Cold War**, the competition for world power and influence between the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States adopted a policy of **containment**. It called for the United States to resist Soviet attempts to form new Communist governments. President Harry Truman applied this policy when he gave aid to Greece and Turkey to keep them from becoming Soviet satellite nations.

In the **Truman Doctrine**, the President called on the United States to take a leading role in supporting free people around the world. The Truman Doctrine and the policy of containment would become the basis of U.S. foreign policy for the next 40 years.

In a 1946 speech, former British prime minister Winston Churchill stated that "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent."

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: The Cold War in Europe



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was containment?
2. **Map Skills** Which country was divided into two parts by the iron curtain?