Worksheet

Why was the Soviet response to the Truman Doctrine significant?

SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE

'DOLLAR IMPERIALISM'

Truman saw his doctrine and the Marshall Plan as a way to defend against the spread of Communism by containing it behind the 'Iron Curtain'.

However, Stalin called Marshall Aid **'dollar imperialism'.** He said that the US was using its economic strength to gain influence in Europe. He said Truman was trying to make an economic **empire** in Europe which would divide Europe in two. In protest, Stalin did not allow satellite states under its control to apply for Marshall Aid.

Stalin's response to the Truman Doctrine helped to increase tension in the Cold War as his actions, including creating his own version of the Marshall Plan, was one of the reasons that the US and other Western European countries formed a new military alliance.

COMINFORM - 1947

Cominform was a response to the Marshall Plan, which satellite states rejected under Stalin's influence. Cominform was the centralized organisation of the international Communist movement between 1947 and 1956. Its aim was to closely control the ideological and political development of its members. Since 1945, the USSR had sought to expand its political power. Stalin wanted to make sure that satellite states followed orders from Moscow as well as believing in Communist ideology. Cominform gave the Soviets influence over the internal and external policies of member countries because they were supposed to obey strictly the orders of Moscow. The organisation connected European Communist parties with Moscow. Cominform reinforced Soviet influence over Communist countries and Communist parties in non-Communist countries such as Italy and France.

Through Cominform, Stalin aimed to increase his control of Eastern Europe. It published a newspaper to spread Communist ideology and organised conferences in Eastern Europe. Cominform had nine members - the Soviet Union and the Communist parties of the satellite states Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia, as well as the Communist parties in France and Italy. Stalin wanted more than for satellite states to be Communist. He wanted to be able to control these countries and direct their activities. Satellite states were discouraged from any interaction with non-Communist countries and were encouraged to trade with Cominform members. Cominform rejected the Marshall Plan at its first meeting and began to produce anti-US **propaganda.**

COMECON - 1949

Comecon is the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. It was created by Stalin in 1949 in response to the Marshall Plan created in 1947. He did not allow satellite states to accept the Marshall Plan because he did not want the US getting influence in Eastern Europe. The aim of Comecon was to offer an alternative to the Marshall Plan in line with Communist ideology which would increase Soviet control in Eastern Europe.

Comecon meant that the economies of Eastern European satellite countries became more aligned with the Soviet Union, which increased the dominance of the Soviets Union in Eastern Europe. Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania all joined the Soviet Union in this group and were joined by Albania and East Germany shortly after.

All members of Comecon followed Communist economic principles. This meant that they had state-ownership of business and industry and state-planning of the economy. It was a direct response to the Marshall Plan as it aimed to support the economies of its members. Its main activities were arranging trade and credit agreements between members. From 1953, the Soviet Union tried to organise the industries of Comecon members so that industries were **nationalised** and farming was **collectivised**.

Members were encouraged to trade with each other and the Soviet Union rather than the US and Western Europe.

Although focused on the economy, Comecon was also politically important for the Soviets. It meant that they had a lot of influence in the internal politics of satellite states because they could offer subsidies, loans or workers to help these countries rebuild after the war. Comecon administered the **Molotov Plan**. This was the Soviet version of the aid provided by the Marshall Plan and was to support Eastern European countries financially.

Glossary

Dollar imperialism - using economic power to establish political influence and power over other countries

Empire - a group of countries ruled by one other country or leader

Propaganda - information, especially of a misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

Nationalised - industries such as coal mining and steel production are owned by the government

Collectivised - farms are owned by the government and produce is shared out to the people

Molotov Plan - the Soviet plan to support the economic recovery of Eastern Europe.; their version of the Marshall Plan

Comprehension Questions

1. What was 'dollar imperialism'?
2. What was Cominform and why was it set up?
3. What was Comecon and why was it set up?

4. Copy and complete the gap fill task on the next slide.

5. **Challenge question:** Why was the Soviet response to the Truman Doctrine significant?

Copy and complete this paragraph into your work using the words below.

The response to the Truman Doctrine was significant because it showed how concerned _____ was by _____ actions. When Truman announced the Truman Doctrine, Communists saw this as a _____ of the Cold War. Stalin was worried that the US was trying to _____ its influence in Europe through the Marshall Plan and therefore responded with his own version, Comecon, which administered the _____in 1949. This was significant because it _____ the relationship between the Soviets and the US. The Soviet response to the Truman Doctrine was significant because it showed that Stalin would react to actions by the US which _____ tension in the Cold War.

Molotov Plan   **Truman**   **declaration**   **increased**

Stalin   **worsened**   **extend**