The Iron Curtain
Chapter 15 Section 1

Roots of the Cold War

• **The Cold War**: An era of high tension and bitter rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States.
• Americans and Soviets were allies, not friends during WWII.
• A few issues surfaced during WWII
• **Stalin was furious** that the Americans delayed their invasion of Europe.
• **The atomic bomb**: The Americans developed it, but soon Soviet spies brought it to the Soviet Union.

The Iron Curtain

• Stalin had no intention of giving up control of Eastern Europe after WWII
• He wanted to create countries loyal to the Soviet Union to prevent future attacks against them.
• Stalin managed to create communist governments in Eastern Europe through rigged elections and jailing and killing opponents.
• Soon all Eastern European countries were Communists and under Stalin’s control.
Winston Churchill’s Speech

- Americans and claimed British that Stalin would try to extend his control beyond Eastern Europe
- Truman urged that the United States get tough on Russia
- Iron Curtain Speech: Churchill made a famous speech in America where he attacked the Soviet Union for creating a division in Europe.
- Stalin used this speech to convince his people that the Americans and British were against the Soviets and that he needed to rebuild the military.

Essential Questions

1. What was the Cold War?
2. What major issues developed during WWII that made the Soviets suspicious of the United States
3. What was the Iron Curtain? Who coined that term in a Speech?
4. How did the Soviets react to the “Iron Curtain Speech”?

Containment

- Containment: George F. Kennan came up with the idea: It said that America should militarily and economically resists the Soviets attempt to expand its power.
- Truman Doctrine: To aid free peoples economically and militarily in order to resists forced control.
- The U.S. used this doctrine to aid Greece and Turkey and this helped them to fight off Soviet control.
The Marshall Plan

• Hunger, poverty, destruction raged in Europe after the war.
• Americans feared that if this continued Europeans could turn to communism.
• Marshall Plan: Between 1948 and 1951 American spent 13 billion dollars to help rebuild western Europe.
• Marshal was Secretary of State and ex-general in the war
• Soviets refused the money
• This helped rebuild Western Europe and create strong ties with America
• American factories sold to Europe and this helped our economy too.

Essential Questions
1. What was containment? Who came up with the idea?
2. What did the Truman Doctrine call for?
3. Why was the Marshall Plan started?
4. What was the real purpose of the Marshall Plan?

Berlin and Germany

• Berlin was split into four regions
• Americans and British began to plan democratic elections in their zone
• The Soviet Union was set on keeping their portion of Berlin under communist control.
• The same would occur for rest of Germany.
• American, British, and French part of German became West Germany
• Soviet part would become East Germany.
Soviets block Berlin

- Soviets did not like democracy in Western Berlin.
- Soon the Soviets blocked all roads, rail, and bridges into Western Berlin.
- The Allies decided to support West Berlin by an airlift. **April 1949**
- **Berlin Airlift**: 7,000 tons of supplies were airlifted into West Berlin every day.
- By May 1949, the Soviets lifted the blockade.

NATO

- **NATO**: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- United States, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway, and Portugal were the original members.
- Any attack by the Soviet Union against one, was an **attack against all**.
- Today 26 countries are a part of it.

Essential Questions

1. How was the Soviet and American plan for Germany different?
2. Who controlled West Germany, who controlled East Germany?
3. Why did the Allies begin the Berlin Airlift?
4. What was NATO and how did they pledge to help each other?