

Option B: 20th Century topic**WHY DID THE AMERICANS INTRODUCE THE MARSHALL PLAN?**

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

Background Information

After the Second World War the USA became worried about the growth of Soviet power in Europe. In 1947 General George Marshall suggested a European Recovery Plan, usually known as the Marshall Plan. The American Congress was reluctant to agree to it because of the enormous sums of money involved, and its debates about the Plan dragged on for months. It was not until April 1948, shortly after Communists took power in Czechoslovakia, that Congress agreed to spend billions of dollars to fund the Plan.

Stalin regarded the Marshall Plan as an attempt by America to control Europe. However, when a meeting was held in Paris in July 1947 to consider the Plan, Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, attended. When a second conference was planned for later in the month, Stalin instructed the Soviet satellite countries not to attend. In response to Marshall Aid he formed Cominform.

Was the Marshall Plan a genuine attempt to help Europe and protect it from Communism or was it to strengthen American power and the American economy?

SOURCE A

The so-called Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan are particularly glaring examples of the manner in which the principles of the United Nations are violated, of the way in which the organization is ignored.

The Marshall Plan conflicts sharply with the principles expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution of 11 December 1946, which declares that relief supplies to other countries 'should at no time be used as a political weapon'. It is becoming more and more evident to everyone that the implementation of the Marshall Plan will mean placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States.

As is now clear, the Marshall Plan is really a version of the Truman Doctrine adapted to the conditions of postwar Europe. In bringing forward this plan, the United States government apparently counted on the cooperation of the governments of the United Kingdom and France to pressure the European countries in need of relief into giving up their right to plan their national economies in their own way. The United States also counted on making all these countries directly dependent on the interests of American businesses, which are striving to avoid the approaching depression by increasing exports to Europe.

It is becoming more and more evident to everyone that the implementation of the Marshall Plan will mean placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States and direct interference by the latter in the internal affairs of those countries. An important feature of this Plan is the attempt to confront the countries of Eastern Europe with a bloc of Western European states including Western Germany. The intention is to make use of Western Germany and its heavy industry as one of the most important economic bases for American expansion in Europe, in disregard of the national interests of the countries which suffered from German aggression.

Andrei Vyshinsky, the Soviet Union spokesman at the United Nations, speaking at the United Nations in September 1947.

SOURCE B

We propose a plan of European recovery, open to all nations which co-operate in such a plan, based upon a strong production effort, the expansion of foreign trade, the creation of internal financial stability, and the development of economic co-operation.

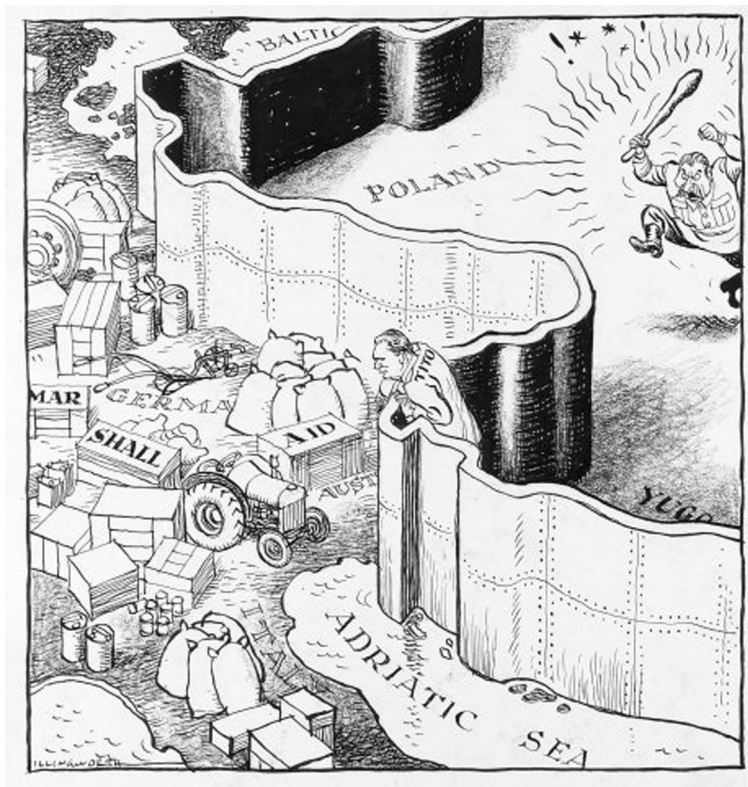
Our policy is not directed against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Governments, political parties or groups which seek to perpetuate human misery in order to profit politically will encounter the opposition of the United States.

From a speech by General Marshall in 1947, announcing the Marshall Plan.

SOURCE C

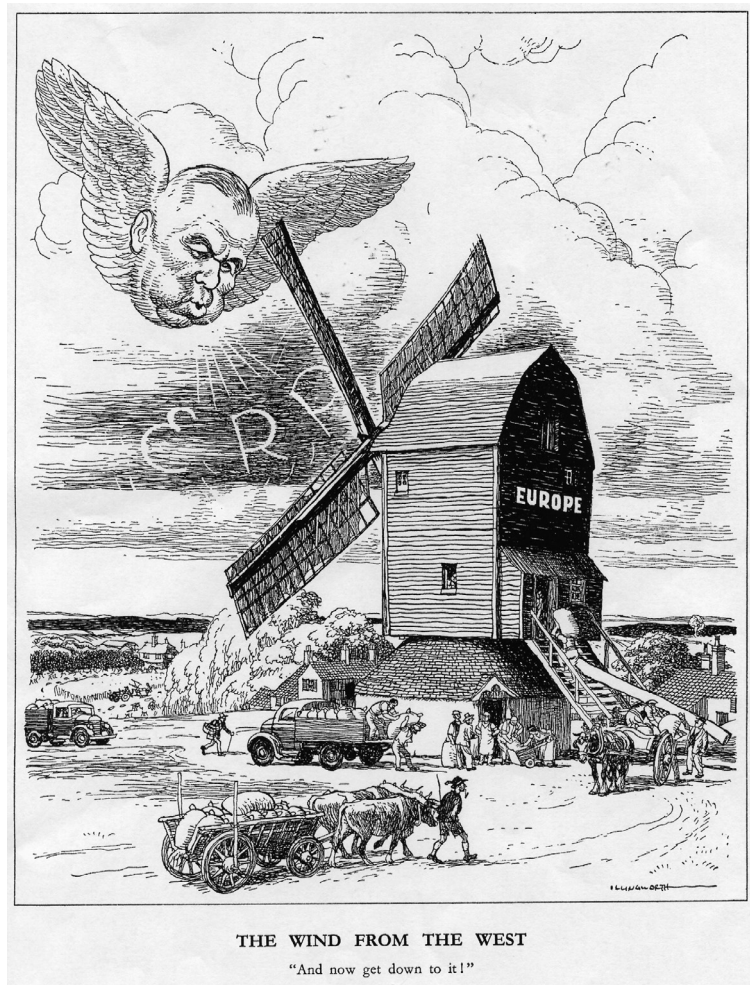
The Soviet Union and its agents have destroyed the independence and democratic character of a whole series of nations in Eastern and Central Europe. It is this ruthless course of action, and the clear design to extend it to the remaining free nations of Europe, that have brought about the critical situation in Europe today. The tragic death of the Republic of Czechoslovakia has sent a shock wave through the civilised world. There are times in world history when it is far wiser to act than to hesitate. There is some risk involved in action – there always is. But there is far more risk in failure to act.

*From a speech by President Truman to the US Congress, March 1948.
He was asking Congress to approve the Marshall Plan.*

SOURCE D

A cartoon published in a British newspaper in June 1948.

SOURCE E



A cartoon about the Marshall Plan published in a British magazine in July 1948.

SOURCE F



A cartoon published in Czechoslovakia in 1949. The title of the cartoon is 'General Marshall's Plan in practice.' The harnesses Marshall holds are labelled 'for the French' and 'for the Germans'.

SOURCE G

Of course it was taken very seriously. I should say there were conflicting feelings. Molotov was willing to agree to discuss the question. He understood the Soviet Union needed help. In his reply he noted that reconstruction was everyone's main aim, and the United States' offer of help should be welcomed.

Stalin, with his suspicious nature, didn't like it. 'This is a ploy by Truman. They don't want to help us. What they want is to infiltrate European countries,' he said. But Molotov insisted on his view and went to the Paris conference in 1947. Stalin, meanwhile, received information that the Americans did not want us to take part. Stalin became even more suspicious and moved to stop the countries friendly to us taking part. The Czechs planned to go to the conference, so Stalin summoned their leaders to Moscow. Very severe pressure was put on them. The Soviet Union and the socialist-orientated countries stayed away from Paris. The US never really wanted the Soviet Union and its satellites to benefit from Marshall Aid.

Vladimir Yerofeyev, being interviewed in the late 1990s. Yerofeyev was a senior official in the Soviet Foreign Ministry at the time of the Marshall Plan.

Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

How useful is this source to a historian studying the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer using details of the source. [6]

2 Study Sources B and C.

How far does Source B suggest that Truman was lying in Source C? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [9]

3 Study Sources D and E.

How similar are the messages of these two cartoonists? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

4 Study Source F.

Why was this cartoon published in 1949? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

5 Study Source G.

How reliable is Source G? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

6 Study **all the sources.**

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that the Marshall Plan was designed to increase American power and help the American economy? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

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