



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.9.3**

The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan

Specific Objective: Understand the importance of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, which established the pattern for America’s postwar policy of supplying economic and military aid to prevent the spread of Communism and the resulting economic and political competition in arenas such as Southeast Asia (i.e., the Korean War, Vietnam War), Cuba, and Africa.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

Before World War II, the United States mostly followed a policy of **isolationism**—avoiding political or economic ties to other countries. But the Cold War brought a new U.S. foreign policy known as **containment**—acting to contain the spread of communism.

- Under the **Truman Doctrine** (1947), a policy named for then president Harry Truman, the United States offered foreign aid to any country threatened by communist expansion.
- The **Marshall Plan** (1948) provided foreign aid to 16 democratic European nations that struggled to recover from World War II. The United States believed that recovery would help these nations avoid communist influence.

The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan were proof that the United States considered communism a grave threat. They became a foundation of U.S. foreign policy.

1946–1949 Chinese Civil War U.S. economic aid helps nationalists fight communists.

1950–1953 Korean War U.S. troops help South Korea fight communist North Korea.

1957–1973 Vietnam War U.S. troops and economic aid help South Vietnam fight communist North Vietnam.

The United States also supported a number of non-communist leaders in Latin America and Africa—even if those leaders were cruel and unjust, such as the following dictators:

1952–1959 Cuba, Fulgencio Batista

1965–1991 Zaire (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Mobutu Sese Seko

1973–1990 Chile, Augusto Pinochet

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan developed in response to**
 - A the Cold War.
 - B World War II.
 - C a worldwide economic depression.
 - D the McCarthy era.

- 2 Under the Truman Doctrine, the United States offered aid to any country that was**
 - A devastated by World War II.
 - B a member of NATO.
 - C a member of the United Nations.
 - D threatened by communist expansion.

- 3 The Truman Doctrine is a part of what policy?**
 - A brinkmanship
 - B containment
 - C détente
 - D isolationism

- 4 Which statement *best* expresses the relationship between the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan?**
 - A The Truman Doctrine was developed to implement the Marshall Plan.
 - B The Truman Doctrine was developed to limit the Marshall Plan.
 - C The Marshall Plan was an example of the Truman Doctrine.
 - D The Marshall Plan influenced the development of the Truman Doctrine.

- 5 Which statement about the Marshall Plan reflects bias or personal opinion?**
 - A It was named for U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall.
 - B It blocked the spread of communism in postwar Europe.
 - C It distributed about \$12.5 billion in aid from 1948 to 1951.
 - D It provided more aid to Great Britain than to any other nation.

- 6 Why did the United States support Chilean president Augusto Pinochet?**
 - A He was not a communist.
 - B He was a leader in the fight against communism.
 - C He was Chile's first democratically elected leader.
 - D He brought social justice to a formerly communist country.