



**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.

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