

**KEY QUESTION/S:** Why did Truman decide to follow a policy of Containment?**FACTOR 1:** The 'impact' of WWII on the USSR + the USSR's need for **SECURITY (The price of Victory)**

The USSR suffered severe losses during the Second World War (27 million deaths, c 18 million being civilians)

The war was the second time Russia had been invaded by Germany in the early-20th century. Stalin needed a 'BUFFER ZONE'

**FACTOR 2:** The USA detonate an Atomic Bomb

On 6th and 9th August 1945, the USA exploded atom bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed 120,000 Japanese civilians.

America was the only country with nuclear weapons and they had shown how powerful these were. This made Stalin feel threatened and more determined to ensure the security (protection) of the USSR. Especially as Truman would not share the technology with the USSR.

**FACTOR 3:** Impact of George Kennan's Long Telegram on Truman

George Kennan was America's ambassador in Moscow. Kennan sent a telegram to President Truman in February 1946 giving his views about Soviet actions. He reported that: Stalin wanted to destroy capitalism. This made Truman adopt a tougher stance with the Soviet Union – Stalin was more convinced of the need for a 'buffer zone'.

**FACTOR 4:** Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech, March 1946

Churchill visited the USA and gave a speech in Fulton, Missouri. In response to the expansion of communism in Eastern Europe, he accused Stalin of threatening world peace and freedom and causing Europe to be divided. Stalin felt this was tantamount to a declaration of 'war' against the USSR and that Churchill did not understand the sacrifice the USSR made during WWII.

**FACTOR 5:** Impact of Novikov telegram on Stalin's perception of the West

Nikolai Novikov was a Soviet politician working in Washington. In September 1946, he sent a telegram to Stalin saying that: The USA wanted to use their military power to control the world. Americans no longer wanted to cooperate with the Soviet Union

**FACTOR 6:** Differing 'visions' over post war Germany

Stalin and Truman became more suspicious of one another over Germany. It was clear that both the USA and the USSR had different aims for Germany / Europe after the war. Neither side trusted what the other was aiming to do. The West wanted a united and democratic Germany, but Stalin feared the revival of Germany so wanted it to be divided and 'neutral'.

**OUTCOMES**

1. Truman and the USA adopt the Policy of CONTAINMENT
2. Announces \$400 million of support for non-communists in the Greek Civil War.
3. March 1947 – Announces the TRUMAN DOCTRINE.
4. Follows up with MARSHALL AID to Europe.

**KEY TERMS**

Atomic Diplomacy  
Buffer Zone  
Containment  
Sphere of Influence

**DISCUSSION:** How could you use the information on this page to 'defend OR criticise' Stalin's creation of a 'sphere of influence'?

**METHOD****Military FACT:**

In 1944 and 1945, the Soviet Red Army freed many countries in Eastern Europe from the Nazis, as it advanced towards Germany. Stalin was therefore in a position to keep control of these countries after the war e.g East Germany

**Political 'fixing'**

As a result, the Eastern European countries freed from the Nazis by the Soviets were turned into satellite states which had communist governments and were controlled by Stalin and the USSR. The methods used to do so were undemocratic. By 1948 all countries in Eastern Europe, except Greece, were communist and in the Soviet 'sphere of influence'

**Bulgaria:** Communists won the 1945 elections. They then executed leaders of the other parties, turning Bulgaria into a completely communist state.

**Poland:** After WWII a coalition was created but in 1947 rigged elections took place and , non-communist politicians were arrested, forced to flee Poland or face imprisonment.

**Czechoslovakia:** In February 1948, non-communists were removed from power and a communist government was set up that was loyal to the USSR. Other political parties were banned.

