



**ODUMUNC 2015**  
**Issue Brief for the**  
**Historical Crisis Committee**



***The Rise of the Cold War: 1949***

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## **Introduction**

This body is a meeting between western-oriented governments struggling to cope with a rapid series of events that made the early rise of the Cold War among the most frightening geopolitical experiences ever. It begins in the late summer of 1949, covering events of the early Cold War period. The major goal of this simulation is to find solutions to the enormous momentum behind rising Soviet influence across the globe, without causing World War III.

## **Background**

By the end of summer 1945, Allied forces led by Britain, China, the Soviet Union (USSR) and United States, had defeated Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. The close of the war reached a crescendo on 6 and 9 August 1945 when the United States demonstrated the destructive power of atomic weaponry, killing a combined 140,000 people in a flash. With occupation forces invading from east and west, Europe was divided into rival spheres of influence. The Soviet Union controlled most of Central and Eastern Europe, which included Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and the eastern third of Germany (including half the divided city of Berlin). By 1947 sympathetic Communist Party governments were in control of all these countries. The countries of western and northern Europe remained largely democratic and aligned with the United States, as were non-democratic Greece, Iran, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.



Stalin, Truman and Churchill meet in Potsdam, Germany, July 1945

*Truman Doctrine*

To prevent the continued spread of Communism, the United States implemented the Truman Doctrine. In 1947 this initiative promised military assistance to any anti-communist governments across the globe facing Soviet pressure, initially meaning Greece, Iran and Turkey. With the new military support, these military-ruled or dictatorial governments were able to defeat communist forces or balance Soviet regional pressure.

Another threat posed by communism was in the war destroyed countries of Europe. As history has shown, radical ideas and movements take hold in nations that are extremely impoverished and when people have nothing more to lose. Once the Second World War ended, many European countries fit this description. To help these countries recover and become prosperous, the United States began the Marshall Plan and over the next 3 years will be giving economic aid to many countries in Europe to help them rebuild and prevent their fall into communism.

*Berlin Airlift*

While Eastern Germany remained under Soviet control, the capital of Berlin, located in the newly created East Germany (The German Democratic Republic, GDR), was divided in two. The western two-thirds (The Federal Republic of Germany, FRG) was dominated by the western allies of World War Two: Britain, France and the United States. In 1948--last year--the Soviets began a blockade of West Berlin, stopping all road and rail traffic from West Germany. The goal of this blockade was to prevent the Western nations from providing the city with food and supplies, giving control to the Soviets.

To counter the Soviet blockade, American, Australian, British, Canadian, and other air forces began a twenty-four hour, seven day a week airlift of food, fuel and medical supplies to the western half of the city. The Soviets made little effort to stop this aerial convoy, either fearing attacks on the transport fleet would ignite another European war, or believing the airlift would prove unsuccessful. By May of the 1949, the Soviets ended the blockade around Berlin. Very soon after the end of blockade, Western and Eastern Germany formed as independent countries, and Berlin remained divided.

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Not a simulation: negotiating the NATO Treaty in Washington, 1949

#### *NATO*

Earlier this year (1949), the governments of 12 countries (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States) formed a collective defensive alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or NATO. The purpose of this alliance is to deter Soviet attack against these nations. According to Article 5 of the NATO Treaty (the Washington Treaty), an act on any individual member of the alliance is considered to be an attack on all members, and all members will respond with force or assistance. If the alliance wants to pursue any actions outside of defensive efforts all decisions must be unanimous.

The first NATO Secretary General, Lord Ismay, joked that the purpose of NATO is to “Keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down.” Although, some military experts believe that the inclusion of the new West German state is a military necessity, many allies remain keenly suspicious of German militarism, the cause of two world wars. Others note that any war with the Soviet Union almost certainly will be fought on German soil, and without German manpower and future industry, NATO will lack sufficient resources to defend against the Soviets. There has been talk of expanding the alliance to include other states in an effort to contain communism.

#### *Marshal Plan*

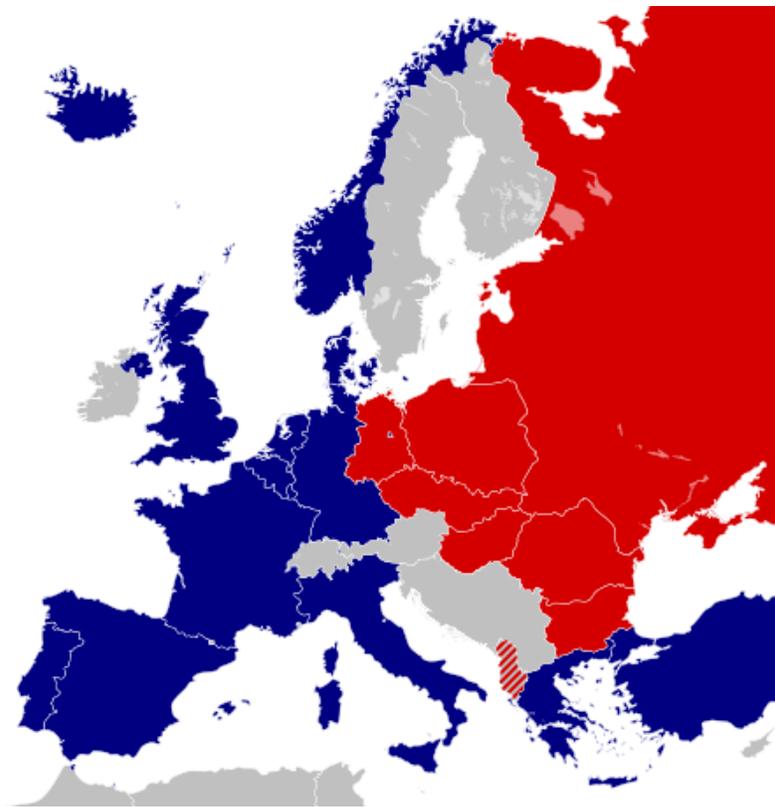
After the War many countries were in ruin. Much of the major industry and agriculture had been destroyed making unemployment and hunger common throughout the continent. Areas like this are breeding grounds for communism. As said by the former US military governor of Germany "There is no choice between being a communist on 1,500 calories a day and a believer in democracy on a thousand".

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To counter this the US Congress approved an aid program requested by Secretary of State George Marshall, designed by Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson, for several billion US dollars to flow to the war-torn countries of Europe Communist Party control and to repair and re-start industry and economies. Widely known as the Marshall Plan, this program is America's first major foreign aid program. It is very controversial in the United States, widely suspected as a foolish give-away by many prominent critics.

In addition humanitarian food aid is starting to flow to Asia and other parts of the world for similar reasons, and it seems to be doing just that, staving off starvation though out the world. The US Congress has approved millions of dollars for the effort but added the condition that no changes to the program are allowed without its approval.



Europe divided: NATO, Neutrals and the Warsaw Pact

### Rest of the World

Outside of Europe, Communism is making major gains, particularly in Asia. For the first time in Korean history, the Korean Peninsula is split into two countries. The northern half is controlled by the Korean Communists Party under the leadership of Kim Il Sung. It is recognized by the Soviet Union as the legitimate government of all of Korea. The southern half is under the hard anti-communist President Sigmund Rhee, but lacks popular support or the industry and manpower of the northern half of the peninsula.

The ongoing civil war in China between the nationalist and communists is another major

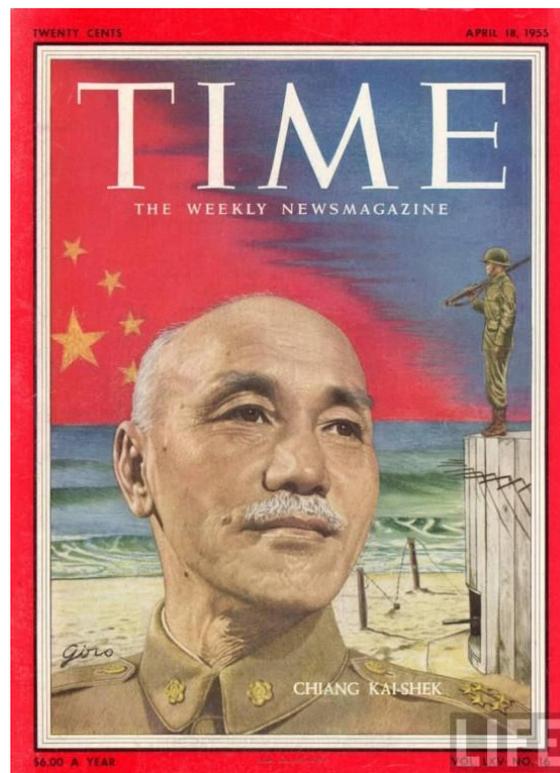
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concern. China contains a major percentage of the global population and if it falls to communism, much of Asia could follow. Although the Chinese Nationalists under General Chiang Kai Shek cooperated with the Chinese Communist Part under Chairman Mao Tse Tung to defeat Japan, the two sides are locked in a bitter war for control of China.

After the devastation of the Second World War many of the European empires in Africa and Asia have come into jeopardy. The British Empire released India and Pakistan in 1947. At the moment Communist/nationalist rebel movements are fighting for independence in Malaysia. French Indo-China is also in a hard struggle with the communist Viet Minh trying to make Vietnam (the biggest part of French Indo-China) an independent nation.

In Java, the Netherlands is fighting to preserve it's archipelago empire against Indonesian Nationalist Rebels, who do not seem to have communist connections; these rebels through guerilla tactics control parts of the country side while the Dutch forcercs are in the cities. There are current negotiations between the two sides on possible independence of Java and the other islands, with the rebels aspiring to create a new nation they call Indonesia. Africa still remains largely colonized, but the independence movements are gaining momentum though out.



Chinese Nationalist leader general Chiang Kai Shek

**Major Issues***Soviet Nuclear Bomb:*

Western intelligence agencies know that the Soviet Union is developing their own atomic bomb. Opinions differ on when they will complete it, but most agree that they will not be able to test until somewhere between 1953 and 1954. Prominent experts, like Major General Leslie Groves, commander of the U.S. Manhattan Project that created the first nuclear weapons, believe the Soviet Union is too backward to complete a nuclear weapon in less than 25 years, or before 1970.

All governments of this body recognize the threat of a Soviets nuclear weapon, which would equalize the biggest American advantage, and must take action to delay the Soviets from testing. It is known that the Soviets have an effective network of spies, and all nations must act to prevent material or information, especially that relating to atomic weaponry, from falling into the hands of the Soviets or their allies.

Once the Soviets are able to produce nuclear weapons, the balance of power between communist and anti-communist governments will change drastically. The Soviets will be able to defend their interests with nuclear weapons, and the potential cost of a conflict between the nations and the Soviets increases drastically and our ability to counter their influence will significantly decrease.

*Chinese Civil War:*

The current military situation of the Chinese civil war is heavily favoring the communist Chinese forces (CPC). The CPC has captured many of the major cities of China, including the capital of anti-communist Nationalist forces, Nanjing. Soviet advice and assistance is helping the CPC. The CPC also enjoys the support of much of the rural population, promising them an end to corruption and brutal taxation, and promising land reform. The corruption and inefficiency of the Chinese Nationalists is a major problem for the United States, wasting much of Washington's aid, which ends up in foreign banks, and undermining the willingness of Nationalist sympathizers to commit themselves.

To prevent a communist takeover of China, quick drastic action needs to be taken, but whether it can be effective is hard to say. Efforts to prevent corruption among Nationalist commanders, and to insure proper use of military aid, and strategies to win over the rural population, need to be implemented as soon as possible. This issue is very time sensitive. Many experts believe Nationalist forces could be defeated as soon as the end of the year. If China joins the Soviet Union with a successful Communist revolution, the two biggest powers in Asia and the world will be able to cooperate on matters of grand strategy, undermining anti-communist governments throughout Asia.

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#### *Tensions in Korea:*

With the Korean peninsula divided, the future of Northeast Asia is in doubt also. The northern, communist, half is in a much better military position than the southern half. Some American military advisors and the staff of American occupation forces in neighboring Japan believe that the northern Korea is planning a military invasion of the south.

Kim Il Sung, the leader of the northern half of Korea, is strongly supported by Moscow. If the Soviet government perceives that the member nations of this body do not strongly support the southern Korean government, Moscow might sense a potential power vacuum and allow Kim Il Sung to attack his southern enemy. The Soviet Union already recognizes Kim Il Sung as the ruler of the entire Korean Peninsula..

It also is important to note that Korea shares most of its northern border with China, and small northern border directly with the Soviet Union. Any change in the balance of power in China is likely to greatly affect the opinions and beliefs of the leaders in the Communist northern Korea. What to do in Korea is a difficult problem. The country is poor, remote and difficult to defend against attack.

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### *Greek Civil War*

The Truman Doctrine was seen in action for the first time in the Greek Civil War in 1947. Fighting there between Nationalist and the Communists started before the Germans withdrew in 1944. The British formally joined the fight in 1945, supporting the Nationalists. The Communists were heavily supported by neighboring Yugoslavia, where Marshal Jozef Broz Tito has established an independent-minded Communist government.

Stalin withdrew his support just as the US began to supply the Nationalists, turning the war in their favor. As 1949 comes around the Greek Nationalist are nearing victory and Stalin has official broken ties with the Yugoslav government. Some observers fear a Nationalist victory could lead to massive atrocities against Communist supporters and sympathizers across Greece.

### *Beyond the next year:*

It's important for members of this committee to remember that the future is unknowable and other unpredicted events will happen, and it is up to this body to respond to them.



Still part of France: French Indo-China (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam—as three provinces)

**Country Positions**

- *Australia:* Has been an independent sovereignty state since independence from Great Britain in 1931. Fought throughout the War in both Europe and Asia, and while it was threatened with invasion ended the war very much intact. Its troops occupied parts of Indonesia after the Japanese surrender, and avoided fighting with any of the rebel groups. They have had a very close relationship with the US ever since war broke out and are one of the most prosperous former colonies in the former British Empire.
- *Belgium:* A long history of alliance that have kept Belgium from disappearing off the map twice in 30 years; proving ample reasons for Belgium to fully support NATO's creation and it explains the country's eagerness to expand the alliance to provide a more in depth defense. At the same time Belgium still controls the vast colonies called the Belgium Congo. This vast territory is rich in natural resources, but is covered in almost impenetrable jungle; with a population that is very difficult to govern and is impoverished. This could be the site of an independent communist revolt if not handled.
- *Britain:* Being one of the big three that defeated the Nazis in the War, Britain has a prestigious position in the world; it is one of the occupying powers in Germany and a permanent member on the UN Security Council. They were the least damaged of all the European combatants, but still severely hurt, and also have received the most US reconstruction aid so far to rebuild; placing it on a fast track to recovery. The War has none the less permanently damaged the Britain and her empire; India gained independence in 1947, and nationalist movements are starting to pop up though out the Empire. Britain would be a valuable asset in international fights against communism and against any action by the Communist Navy.
- *Canada:* Geography gave it two advantages, first it was not devastated after the War, and second it is not directly threatened by the Soviet land forces. The nearest contact Canada has with the communists is in the Arctic Circle over the ice caps, and while the communists don't have nuclear capabilities now if they develop them in the future they could threaten North America by sending bombers over the pole. Due to this Canada may be the front line in an areal war in any nuclear exchange.
- *France:* France was hurt by the fighting that occurred in its colonies and in its borders. Since then it had received the second most Marshal aid behind Britain to rebuild. Like before the War France yet again has one of the largest land armies among the western powers in Europe. France right now has the challenge of re-establishing authority in all of its former colonies. This trouble has been especially present in French Indo-China (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) ever since the Japanese withdrawal.
- *Greece:* The Civil War and German invasion has left Greece heavily damaged. The Civil War turned as large amounts of aid came from the US and Great Britain and Communist support dried out. With the last remain Communist rebels on the verge of defeat a staunch

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anticommunist government has taken power; this government does not follow the same republican principals as some of the other states in the West, and is willing to fight communism. This is already seen in its crack down on former leaders and sympathizers with the rebels in government controlled areas.

- *Iceland*: One of the newest states in Europe Iceland only got its independence from Denmark in 1944, and was occupied by the allies in the War. The country constitutionally cannot have a military, therefore has needed a protector since its independence. Allied troops ended their occupation in 1946, and Iceland is a founding member of NATO. The country is located at an important strategic point in any conflict with the Soviet Union. It lies on what is called the “GIUK gap” which all Soviet submarines and air forces would have to cross in order to attack any convoys across the Atlantic.
- *Iran*: During the War the Imperial State of Iran was occupied by the Soviets and Great Britain until 1946; installing an anti-German government in with Shah Pahlavi. When the occupation was scheduled to pull out Stalin refused to in an attempt to organize Iran as a communist satellite. He also set up the communist Tudeh party, and created 2 separate republics inside Iran: Azerbaijan and Kurdistan. These republics were reincorporated into Iran in 1946 when the USSR withdrew, but showed the Iranian Shah, who had almost total control, that the USSR was a threat.
- *Italy*: Voted to become a full Republic in 1946 for the first time in its history. Very soon the new republic was under threat of communist conversion from the inside. In the 1948 election the Soviet supported Italian Communists and socialists were threatening to win the election and bring Italy in to the Soviet sphere of influence. Due to suspected covert actions by other western powers the Christian Democrats won a sweeping majority. Soon after which Italy joined NATO and began a rapid economic recovery. The government’s decision on to join the alliance has not had large popular support. This is because of the sizable minority of socialists and communist sympathizers, and the fact that the defense of Italy has never been seen as a high priority among the alliance.
- *Japan*: After being defeated by the allies Japan was in ruin and occupied by US and Commonwealth troops. Economic hardship and food shortages in Japan forced the occupying powers to divert funds to help rebuild the country and to ship in food to prevent a total breakdown. As the country began to rebuild the threat of communist revolt was very much diminished. Though the new Japanese constitution forbids any military force, recent events in China and an eventual US withdrawal are making some leaders think that it would be better if there was at least a defense force loyal to Japan, something other powers have hinted as a bulwark against communism.
- *Netherlands*: Is a founding member of NATO, and has had a historical large merchant marine to trade around the world. Due to periods of famine called the “Hunger Winter” when almost 30,000 civilians died during the occupation in the War; there is still antagonism between the Dutch and the Germans, which causes sour relations. The colonies of the Dutch East Indies have been in revolt since the end of the Japanese

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occupation. The rebels do not seem to have communist connections, but this has drained Dutch resources, leading the government to try to reach a negotiated settlement there. These negotiations have made progress and look like they will allow for Indonesian independence.

- *Norway*: Was cautious of declaring neutrality after declaring it in War and still being invasion by the Germans. It was because of this that they were some of the strongest supporters of NATO alliance. Being one of the few places where NATO actually borders the USSR heavy preparations have been taken to protect northern Norway from attack, and preparations have been made to monitor and possibly counter attack the Russian fleet in there.
- *Republic of China*: The Nationalist ROC has been fighting to unify China for years now under the leadership of Chiang Kai-Shek with the support of the United States. The Shek government is notoriously corrupt; massive amounts of supplies and aid never reach the front. Ever since the end of the War the Communists have been rapidly gaining ground, and are supported by the USSR. The recent offensives of the Communists have decimated ROC forces around Beijing and Nanjing and are quickly moving south. There have been rumors of moving the government to the Chinese-controlled island of Taiwan in the face of such odds, but Shek still wants to fight on.
- *South Korea*: Both American and Soviet troops have moved out of Korea, and the universal expectation of Korean unification is on hold for the moment. This will one day be a reality instead of a dream, but the North is much better organized and equipped. The communist North has active Soviet support and the leadership of anti-Japanese Communist/nationalist guerilla leader Kim Il Sung. In the South, President Rhee, is best known for harsh treatment of political opponents and suspected communist sympathizers. Afraid of a Northern supported revolt; he seems likely to cause one.
- *Sweden*: Being close to the USSR has convinced the Swedish government to maintain an official public policy of neutrality. The Swedish government fears a Soviet attack in the event of any war between the West and the USSR in order to control the North Atlantic. Therefore Sweden maintains the 4<sup>th</sup> largest air force in the world and has extensive coastal defenses to discourage any aggression, and Sweden is self-sufficient in most of its military equipment. There have also been super-secret negotiations with NATO to share information and possible mutual support in the event of any conflict or communist expansion.
- *Turkey*: Neutral though out the war, Turkish leaders attempted to maintain a neutral policy even after, but as pressure rose on their Soviet border, they sought military aid from the US which began to flow under the Truman Doctrine in 1947. Things look like they may be changing though: there are strong forces in the country that want to align with the West to protect against the Soviets, and there are fears the army may be interfering with the elections that are scheduled for next year.

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- *USA*: Coming out of the war as a superpower, the US has the world's largest economy, navy, and is the sole nuclear power and with the rise of tensions in 1946-47 began to see communism and the USSR as its enemy. If the event of any conflict in Europe almost all battle plans require convoys of US suppliers and troops to come across the Atlantic in addition to the occupation forces in Germany and Japan. Vast amounts of aid are being sent out to the world to guard against communist revolution and to create markets for US goods.
- *West Germany*: The Germany Federal Republic (FRG) government became official this year; formally dividing the nation between the communist backed German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the capitalist Federal Republic of Germany. The massive food crisis in Germany in 1946-47 was averted by humanitarian aid from the United States, and under the US Marshall Plan the rebuilding of the country has started and could show promise of a sufficient capitalist economy. Germany, while still demilitarized, is seen as the front line against the communist threat, and if hostilities were to start they would be the first to feel impact of the WW III. This is why many of NATO's forward bases are placed in West Germany facing thousands of Soviet troops just across the border.

#### Goals of the body:

The goal of this committee is to counter or contain Communists influence without causing World War III. This body will author *directives* instead of resolutions. If unsure of the difference, consult the ODUMUN delegate's guide. Specifically look under the Crisis Simulation section. At the beginning of the deliberations, the chair will distinguish between the two, and help delegates with directive writing.

Because the people in this body are ambassadors from their respective nations, they do not have the final say in major decisions. That being said, the vast majority of your decisions will be allowed by your respective nations. The only time they will be vetoed is if the actions of this committee could directly lead to an armed conflict with the Soviet Union and its satellite allies.

This committee will pass directives with a majority vote (51 percent of governments' present members voting in affirmation of the directive). Since all of the actions of this committee require the support of the majority of members, this will prevent the strongest power from dominating the debate, and allow smaller members to ensure their input is included any directive passed.

Some members may receive information about events happening in their individual nation. These ambassadors can choose to share the information to the committee if they wish. Often times, this information will require some individual action on the ambassadors part. Depending on the ambassador's response, these internal issues may increase or decrease. If the problem becomes large enough, it may be brought to the attention of the committee at large or cause a major issue or change in the ambassador's nation.

All the member nations of NATO are represented in this body. If they wish to expand NATO membership, they can write a separate document that requires the support of the majority of NATO nations. Their recommendation will be sent to NATO and acted on accordingly. It is important to keep in mind that any new member of NATO must meet the requirements to be a member of NATO.

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There is no substitute for spending quality time with a classic, such as:

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*It goes without saying that Internet resources on the early Cold War period are virtually endless.*