

## Development of NATO

- The Marshall plan was a great success and by 1950 the output of West European countries had increased by 25%.
- The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan were clear signs that America had no intention of returning to the isolationism of 1919.
- American action in defeating the Berlin Blockade reinforced this view and led to the formation of a military alliance in the West.
- In 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was formed.
- All members agreed to go to war if any one of them was attacked.

### Source A: Extracts from the NATO charter

*Article 3:* To achieve the aims of this treaty the parties will keep up their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.

*Article 5:* The parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.

### Source B: Extract from the Russian government's press statement reacting to the foundation of NATO.

The North Atlantic Treaty has nothing in common with the aims of self-defence of the states, who are threatened by no one and whom no one intends to attack. On the contrary, the Treaty has an aggressive character and is aimed against the USSR.

**Table 1**

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)			
1949	1952	1955	1982
Belgium	Greece	West Germany	Spain
Britain	Turkey		
Canada			
Denmark			
France			
Iceland			
Italy			
Luxembourg			
Netherlands			
Norway			
Portugal			
USA			

## Reaction of the USSR

- Stalin responded to the Truman Doctrine by strengthening his hold on Eastern Europe and driving non-communists from office.
- Cominform was set up in September 1947 to help all European communist parties (including France and Italy) to work and plan together.
- When Czechoslovakia showed an interest in Marshall Aid Stalin refused to allow them to apply for it.
- After NATO was formed, Stalin set up a trading union of communist countries under the USSR called Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Aid).
- Stalin died 1953 there was a 'thaw' in the Cold War.
- When West Germany joined NATO in 1955 Soviet fears of a recovered Germany was revived. With Germany as part of a military alliance again, the Soviets and East Europeans signed the Warsaw Pact to form a defensive alliance controlled by the Soviet Union.

Table 2

Warsaw Pact 1955
Albania (Expelled 1968)
Bulgaria
Czechoslovakia
East Germany
Hungary
Poland
Romania
USSR

**Source C:** Extract from the communiqué (press release) announcing the formation of the Warsaw Pact (May 1955)

In accordance with the pact of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance between the People's Republic of Albania, the Hungarian People's Republic, the USSR and the Czechoslovak Republic, the states have decided to set up a unified command of armed forces.

## Activities:

- 1) Use the information in Table 1 and Table 2 to shade in the map with the countries of the NATO alliance and the Warsaw Pact. Briefly explain what each alliance was and why it was set up.
- 2) Use all the information to create a timeline of key events in the early Cold War.

## Source analysis

- 3) Find two examples from Source A to illustrate that the founders of NATO believed the organisation to be a defensive alliance.
- 4) Look carefully at Source B. What was the attitude of the USSR towards NATO?
- 5) Do you think the reasons for the formation of the Warsaw Pact were different from those applying to NATO? Explain your answer with reference to Source A and Source C.

Shade the map in two colours to show the countries in NATO and those in the Warsaw Pact



### Teaching notes

Before looking at this resource in detail it would be useful to recap the key points of the following with your students:

- Churchill's Iron Curtain speech
- the Truman Doctrine
- the Marshall Plan
- the Berlin Blockade.

### Starter suggestion

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Discuss what you can learn from this cartoon from 2 March 1948:

<http://www.cartoons.ac.uk/record/DL2845> commenting on the spread of communism in Europe.

### Interactives

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An interactive sorting exercise accompanies this resource (for subscribers only: quick search '23089'). Students drag the countries into the correct columns of the table to show which countries made up NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

A further interactive is also available to subscribers - quick search '23090' for a timeline of the key events. Students choose three events of the early Cold War, drag them onto the timeline (correctly!) and explain the links between their selected events.