

Recognizing Cause and Effect

History is more than a list of events; it is a study of relationships among events. Recognizing cause and effect means examining how one event or action brings about others. If you can understand how events or ideas relate to and affect each other, you can begin to formulate workable solutions to problems.

Follow the steps below to practice recognizing cause and effect.

1. Identify the two parts of a cause-effect relationship. A cause is an event or action that brings about an effect. As you read, look for key words that signal a cause-effect relationship. Words such as *because*, *due to*, and *on account of* signal causes. Words such as *so*, *thus*, *therefore*, and *as a result* signal effects. Read statements A through C at right, and answer the following questions. (a) Which statements contain both a cause and an effect? (b) Which is the cause and which is the effect in each statement? (c) What words, if any, signal the cause-effect relationship?

2. Remember that an event can have more than one cause and more than one effect. Several causes can lead to one event. So, too, can a single cause have several effects. Read statement D at right, and respond to the following. (a) Find an example of a cause that has more than one effect. (b) Find an example of an effect that has more than one cause.

3. Understand that an event can be both a cause and an effect. A cause can lead to an effect, which in turn can be the cause of another event. In this way, causes and effects can form a chain of related events. You can diagram the following statements to show such a chain: The United States feared Soviet expansion in Europe. →The United States began a military buildup. →The Soviet Union began a military buildup. →An arms race

between the two countries began. Now read statement D below. Draw a diagram showing the chain of related events.

TEST FOR SUCCESS

Use the information in the preceding section under the heading "The Soviet View" to write a statement in one or two sentences that shows cause and effect.

Statements

- A** Because President Roosevelt believed that postwar cooperation with the Soviet Union was necessary, he viewed Stalin as a partner—if not an ally—in formulating a peace.
- B** Unlike Roosevelt, President Truman was persuaded by advisers that the Soviet Union would become a "world bully" after the war. As a result, he adopted a "get tough" policy whose aim was to block any possibility of Soviet expansion.
- C** The Soviets, for their part, believed that the United States was intent on global domination and meant to encircle the Soviet Union with anti-Communist states.
- D** Due to mounting distrust between the United States and the Soviet Union, each power came to view the postwar peace negotiations as an opportunity to test the other's global objectives. Thus, negotiating the status of Poland became the first such test. Other tests included the plans for former German satellite states and the policies for the occupation of Germany. Each power regarded its own positions in these negotiations as essentially defensive, but each viewed the other's stances as aggressive and expansionist. Together these tests and stances produced the cold war, an armed and dangerous truce that lasted for 45 years.

1947
Hollywood
Ten hearings

1948
Marshall
Plan
enacted

1948
Berlin
airlift begins

1948
HUAC probes
Hiss spy case

1949
Communists take
China; Soviets test atom
bomb; NATO created

1953
Rosenbergs executed
for spying

1955
Warsaw Pact
created

1947

1951

1955

2 The Cold War Abroad and at Home

SECTION PREVIEW

Objectives

- 1 Explain how the Marshall Plan, the Berlin airlift, and the creation of NATO helped achieve American goals in postwar Europe.
- 2 Assess the impact of two Communist advances on American foreign policy.
- 3 Summarize the effects of the cold war on American life.
- 4 **Key Terms** Define: Marshall Plan; Berlin airlift; North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); collective security; Warsaw Pact; HUAC; Hollywood Ten; blacklist; McCarran-Walter Act.

Main Idea

As the cold war intensified, American policy focused on rebuilding and unifying Western Europe. At home, emotionally charged spy cases raised fears of Communist infiltration into American society and government.

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read, list major challenges the United States faced in its efforts to oppose communism. Then describe the solutions carried out.

Truman's decision to send aid to Turkey and Greece was only a down payment on rebuilding Europe. World War II had devastated the continent to a degree never before seen. About 21 million people had been made homeless. In Poland, some 20 percent of the population had died. Nearly 1 of every 5 houses in France and Belgium had been damaged or destroyed. Across Europe, industries and transportation were in ruins. Agriculture suffered from the loss of livestock and equipment. In France alone, damage equaled three times the nation's annual income.

Turning Point: The Marshall Plan

American policymakers were determined not to repeat the mistakes of the post-World War I era. This time the United States would help restore the war-torn nations so that they might create stable democracies and achieve economic recovery. The Truman Doctrine was one of two fundamental shifts in postwar

foreign policy intended to fulfill these goals. The other was the **Marshall Plan**, which called for the nations of Europe to draw up a program for economic recovery from the war. The United States would then support the program with financial aid.

The plan was unveiled by Secretary of State George C. Marshall in 1947. The Marshall Plan responded to the concern of American policymakers that Communist parties were growing stronger across Europe, and the Soviet Union might intervene to support more of these movements. The plan also reflected the belief that United States aid for European economic recovery would create strong democracies and open new markets for American goods.

Marshall described his plan in a speech at Harvard University in June 1947:

KEY DOCUMENTS

“It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be

no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.”

—Marshall Plan speech at Harvard University
by Secretary of State George C. Marshall,
June 5, 1947

The Soviet Union was invited to participate in the Marshall Plan, but it refused the help and pressured its satellite nations to do so as well. Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov called the Marshall Plan a vicious American scheme for using dollars to “buy its way” into European affairs. In fact, Soviet leaders did not want outside scrutiny of their country’s economy. Seventeen Western European nations joined the plan: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland,

Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and West Germany.

In 1948 Congress approved the Marshall Plan, which was formally known as the European Recovery Program. Over the next four years, the United States sent some \$13 billion in grants and loans to Western Europe. The region’s economies were quickly restored, and the United States gained strong trading partners in the region.

Main Idea CONNECTIONS

What was the purpose of the Marshall Plan?

The Berlin Airlift

One of the nations that benefited from the Marshall Plan was West Germany. By 1948 American, British, and French leaders had become convinced that Stalin was not going to allow the reunification of Germany. Therefore the Western Allies prepared to merge their three occupation zones to create the Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany.



TURNING POINT: The Marshall Plan

Since the announcement of the Marshall Plan, the United States has sent economic help to countries facing a variety of challenges.



1948

The Marshall Plan provides aid to Western Europe.

1961

President Kennedy creates the Peace Corps, a program of volunteers to help developing nations.



1997

The United States sends food shipments to North Korea to help ease a severe famine.

1940

1960

1980

2000

1973

United States sends famine relief to Bangladesh after its bloody war for independence.



1992

The United States begins helping Russia's transition to a market economy.





The western part of Berlin, which lay in the Soviet zone, was to become part of West Germany. The Soviets responded in 1949 by forming the German Democratic Republic, or East Germany.

Capitalist West Berlin and Communist East Berlin became visible symbols of the developing cold war struggle between the Soviet Union and the Western powers. Hundreds of thousands of Eastern Europeans left their homes in Communist-dominated nations, fled to East Berlin, and then crossed into West Berlin. From there they booked passage to freedom in the United States, Canada, or Western Europe.

Stalin decided to close this escape route by forcing the Western powers to abandon West Berlin. In June 1948, when a dispute developed over using West German money in that city, the Soviets used it as an excuse to block Allied access to West Berlin. All shipments to the city through East Germany were banned. The blockade threatened to create severe shortages of food and other supplies needed by the 2.5 million people in West Berlin.

Truman did not want to risk starting a war by using military force to open the transportation routes. Nor did he want to give up West Berlin to the Soviets. Instead Truman began the **Berlin airlift**, moving supplies into West Berlin by plane. During the next 15 months, British and American military aircraft made

Partitioning of Berlin, 1949



After the partitioning of Berlin (above), the Soviet Union blockaded West Berlin. Rather than risk a military engagement, Truman responded by ordering an airlift (top) to bring supplies to the city. **Movement** Why did Stalin blockade West Berlin?

more than 200,000 flights to deliver food, fuel, and other supplies. At the height of the Berlin airlift, nearly 13,000 tons of goods arrived in West Berlin daily.[†]

The Soviets finally gave up the blockade in May 1949, and the airlift ended the following September. By this time the Marshall Plan had

[†] In May 1998, a reunified Germany celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Berlin airlift. President Bill Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl participated in the ceremonies. They honored the courage of the pilots, who had showered the city with food, medicine, and even chocolate, and the city's residents, who endured a frightening year at the center of superpower conflict.

helped achieve economic stability in the capitalist nations of Western Europe, including West Germany. Berlin, however, remained a focal point of East-West conflict.

NATO

In the early postwar period, the international community pinned its hopes on the United Nations to protect nations and maintain world peace. However, the Soviet Union's frequent use of its veto power in the Security Council prevented the UN from effectively dealing with a number of postwar problems.

This development soon made it clear that Western Europe would have to look beyond the UN in protecting itself from Soviet aggression. In 1946 Canadian Foreign Minister Louis St. Laurent proposed creating an "association of democratic peace-loving states" to defend Western Europe against attack by the Soviet Union.

American officials expressed great interest in St. Laurent's idea. Truman was determined that the United States not return to pre-World War II isolationism. The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan soon demonstrated his commitment to making America a leader in postwar world affairs.

Yet Truman did not want the United States to be the only nation in the Western Hemisphere pledged to defend Western Europe from the Communists. For this reason, Canada's role in any proposed organization became vital to American support.

In April 1949, Canada and the United States joined Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and Portugal to form the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**. Member nations agreed that "an armed attack against one or more of them . . . shall be considered an attack against them all."[†]

[†]NATO provided the model for similar alliances with nations in other parts of the world. In 1954, the United States joined Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand in creating the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). Five years later, the United States joined an existing alliance of Britain, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey to form the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO). These regional alliances and other collective security arrangements became key elements of America's policy of containment.

COMPARING PRIMARY SOURCES

JOINING NATO

In the late 1940s, debates took place in Congress and in the press over whether the United States should join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

For Joining NATO

"From now on, no one will misread our motives or underestimate our determination to stand in defense of our freedom. . . . The greatest obstacle that stands in the way of complete recovery [from World War II] is the pervading and paralyzing sense of insecurity. The treaty is a powerful antidote to this poison. . . . With this protection afforded by the Atlantic Pact, Western Europe can breathe easier again."

—Texas Senator Tom Connally,
chairman of the Foreign
Relations Committee, 1949

Against Joining NATO

"This whole program in my opinion is not a peace program; it is a war program. . . . We are committing ourselves to a policy of war, not a policy of peace. We are building up armaments. We are undertaking to arm half the world against the other half. We are inevitably starting an armament race. . . . The general history of armament races in the world is that they have led to war, not to peace."

—Ohio Senator Robert A. Taft,
1949

ANALYZING VIEWPOINTS Compare the main arguments made by the two senators.

This principle of mutual military assistance is called **collective security**. Having dropped its opposition to military treaties with Europe for the first time since the Monroe Doctrine, the United States became actively involved in European affairs.

In 1955, the Soviet Union responded to the formation of NATO. It created the **Warsaw Pact**, a military alliance with its satellite nations in Eastern Europe.

Communist Advances

In 1949, two events heightened American concerns about the cold war. The first was President Truman's terrifying announcement that the Soviet Union had successfully tested an atomic bomb. Then, just a few weeks later, Communist forces took control of China.

The Soviet Atomic Threat "We have evidence that within recent weeks an atomic explosion occurred in the USSR," Truman told

NATO and Warsaw Pact Members, 1955

NATO

| | | |
|---------|-------------|----------------|
| Belgium | Italy | United Kingdom |
| Canada | Luxembourg | United States |
| Denmark | Netherlands | Greece |
| France | Norway | Turkey |
| Iceland | Portugal | West Germany |

Warsaw Pact

| | | |
|----------|----------------|---------|
| USSR | Czechoslovakia | Poland |
| Albania | East Germany | Romania |
| Bulgaria | Hungary | |

Interpreting Tables After World War II, the world began squaring off again. Alliances formed between non-Communist nations and between Communist nations. **Foreign Relations** Why did Western Europe feel that the United Nations was inadequate to protect against Soviet aggression?

reporters in September 1949. The news jolted Americans. New York, Los Angeles, and other American cities now risked the horrible fate of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Truman's response to the Soviet atomic threat was to forge ahead with a new weapon to maintain America's nuclear superiority. In early 1950, he gave approval for development of a hydrogen, or thermonuclear, bomb, which was many times more destructive than the atomic bomb. The first successful thermonuclear test occurred in 1952, reestablishing the United States as the world's leading nuclear power.

At about the same time, Truman organized the Federal Civil Defense Administration. The new agency flooded the nation with posters and other information about how to survive a nuclear attack. These included plans for building bomb shelters and instructions for holding air raid drills in schools. Privately, however, experts ridiculed these programs as almost totally ineffective. Not until the late 1950s did civil defense truly become a federal government priority.

China Falls to the Communists The struggle between China's government and Communist revolutionaries had been a long one. It began in the 1920s, after the Chinese government under Jiang Jieshi began to imprison and kill

Communists. Mao Zedong and a handful of other Communist leaders escaped to southern China. From there they organized poor, discontented rural peasants and started a civil war.

During World War II, Mao and Jiang grudgingly cooperated to resist the invading Japanese. The war enabled Mao to strengthen his forces, and by its end his army had grown to about 700,000. Mao also launched popular political, social, and economic reforms in the regions he controlled.

As World War II drew to a close, the fighting between the Communists and government forces resumed in China. The Truman administration at first provided economic and military assistance to Jiang. Despite this aid, by 1947 Mao's forces had occupied much of China's countryside, and its northern cities had begun to come under their control.

When Jiang asked for more American help, Truman and his advisers concluded that Mao's takeover of China probably could not be prevented. Instead they decided to focus on saving Western Europe from Soviet domination.

In early 1949 China's capital of Peking (now Beijing) fell to the Communists. A few months later, Mao proclaimed the creation of the People's Republic of China. The defeated Jiang and his followers withdrew to the island of Taiwan, off the Chinese mainland. There they continued as the Republic of China, claiming to be the legitimate government of the entire Chinese nation. With American support, the Republic of China also held on to China's seats in the UN's General Assembly and Security Council.

Many Americans viewed the "loss of China" as a stain on the record of the Truman administration. It led to calls from members of Congress and others for greater efforts to protect the rest of Asia from communism. It also caused some Americans to suspect the loyalties of those involved in making military and foreign policy.

The Cold War at Home

Throughout the Great Depression, tens of thousands of Americans had joined the Communist party, which was a legal organization. Many were desperate people who had developed serious doubts about the American capitalist system, partly because of the economic collapse of the 1930s. Others were intellectuals who were attracted to Communist ideals. After World War II, however, improved eco-

conomic times, as well as the increasing distrust of Stalin, caused many people to become disappointed with communism.

Most American Communists quit the party, but some of these citizens remained members, whether active or not. Now, as a new red scare began to grip America, their pasts came back to haunt them.

During the presidencies of Truman and his successor, Dwight D. Eisenhower, concern about the growth of world communism raised fears of a conspiracy to overthrow the government. These fears launched a widespread anti-Communist crusade that violated the civil liberties of many Americans. Anyone who had ever had Communist party ties and many who had never even been Communists were swept up in the wave of persecutions.

The Loyalty Program As the Truman administration pursued its containment policy abroad, government officials launched programs to root out any element of communism that might have infiltrated the United States. Exposure of a number of wartime spy rings in 1946 increased Americans' anxiety. (In recent years, evidence of Soviet infiltration has come to light. It is known, for instance, that Soviet spies gathered information on the United States nuclear program that helped the USSR advance its own atomic development.)

When Republicans made big gains in the 1946 congressional elections, Truman worried that his rivals would take political advantage of the loyalty issue. To head off this possibility, he began his own investigation, establishing a federal employee loyalty program in 1947.

Under this program, all new employees hired by the federal government were to be investigated. In addition, the FBI checked its files for evidence of existing government employees who might be engaged in suspicious activities. Those accused of disloyalty were brought before a Loyalty Review Board, where their case was reviewed in a hearing.

While civil rights were supposed to be safeguarded, in fact those accused of disloyalty to their country often had little chance to defend themselves. Rather than being innocent until proven guilty, they found that the accusation alone made it difficult to clear their names.

The Truman program examined several million government employees, yet only a few hundred were actually removed from their jobs. Still, the loyalty program added to a climate of suspicion taking hold in the nation.



Early Cold War Crises, 1944–1950

| Year | Crisis | Significance |
|-----------|--|--|
| 1944–1948 | Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and East Germany become Soviet satellite nations. | Communist power grows with the Soviet Union's domination of Eastern Europe. |
| 1948–1949 | Soviet Union blockades West Berlin. Truman initiates Berlin airlift to supply the city with food, fuel, and other necessities. | Tensions increase between the United States and the Soviet Union, with Berlin a focal point of East-West conflict. |
| 1949 | Soviet Union develops nuclear weapon technology. | The United States no longer has the upper hand in weapons technology. |
| 1950 | China falls to Communist dictator Mao Zedong. | China is no longer the "anchor" of democracy in Asia. |

Interpreting Tables A series of early cold war crises stepped up demands on the government to deal effectively with the spread of communism. **Foreign Relations** Why was the fall of China to communism seen as a crisis?

HUAC As the Loyalty Review Board carried out its work, Congress pursued its own loyalty program. The House Un-American Activities Committee, referred to as **HUAC**, had been established in 1938 to investigate disloyalty on the eve of World War II. Now it began a postwar probe of Communist infiltration of government agencies and, more spectacularly, a probe of the Hollywood movie industry.

Claiming that movies had tremendous power to influence the public, in 1947 HUAC charged that numerous Hollywood figures had Communist leanings that affected their filmmaking. In fact, some Hollywood personalities were or had been members of the Communist party. Others in the industry had openly supported various causes and movements with philosophical similarities to communism.

With government encouragement, Hollywood had also produced some movies

Main Idea CONNECTIONS

Why did Truman create a loyalty program?

favorable to the Soviet Union and its people. This had been during the war, when the United States and the Soviet Union had been allies.

Many stars protested HUAC's attitude and procedures. Actor Frederic March asked Americans to consider where it all could lead:



“Who's next? . . . Is it you, who will have to look around nervously before you can say what's on your mind? . . . This reaches into every American city and town.”

—Actor Frederic March, 1947

The Hollywood Ten In September and October 1947, HUAC called a number of Hollywood writers, directors, actors, and producers to testify. They were a distinguished lot, responsible for some of Hollywood's best films of the previous decade.

Facing the committee, celebrities who were accused of having radical political associations had little chance to defend themselves. The committee chairman, Republican representative J. Parnell Thomas of New Jersey first called witnesses who were allowed to make accusations based on rumors and other flimsy evidence. Then the accused were called.

Over and over the committee asked, “Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist party?” When some attempted to make statements, they were denied permission.

Invoking their Fifth Amendment rights, 10 of the accused declined to answer the committee's questions. The **Hollywood Ten** were cited for contempt of Congress and served jail terms ranging from six months to a year.

The HUAC investigations had a powerful impact on filmmaking. Nervous motion picture executives denounced the Hollywood Ten for having done a disservice to their industry. The studios compiled a Hollywood **blacklist**, a list of people who employers agree not to hire. Many other entertainment figures were added to the blacklist simply because they seemed subversive or they opposed the idea of a blacklist. The list included actors, screenwriters, directors, and broadcasters.

In the past, Hollywood had been willing to make movies on controversial subjects such as racism and anti-Semitism. Now studios resisted all films dealing with social problems and concentrated on pure entertainment.

The McCarran-Walter Act While HUAC carried out its work, Democrat Pat McCarran headed a Senate hunt for Communists in the movie industry, labor unions, the State Department, and the UN. Senator McCarran became convinced that the most disloyal Americans were immigrants from Communist-dominated parts of the world.

At his urging, in 1952 Congress passed the **McCarran-Walter Act**. This law established a quota system for each country, discriminating against potential immigrants from Asia and Southern and Central Europe. President Truman vetoed McCarran's bill, calling it “one of the most un-American acts I have ever witnessed in my public career.” Congress, however, passed the bill over the President's veto.

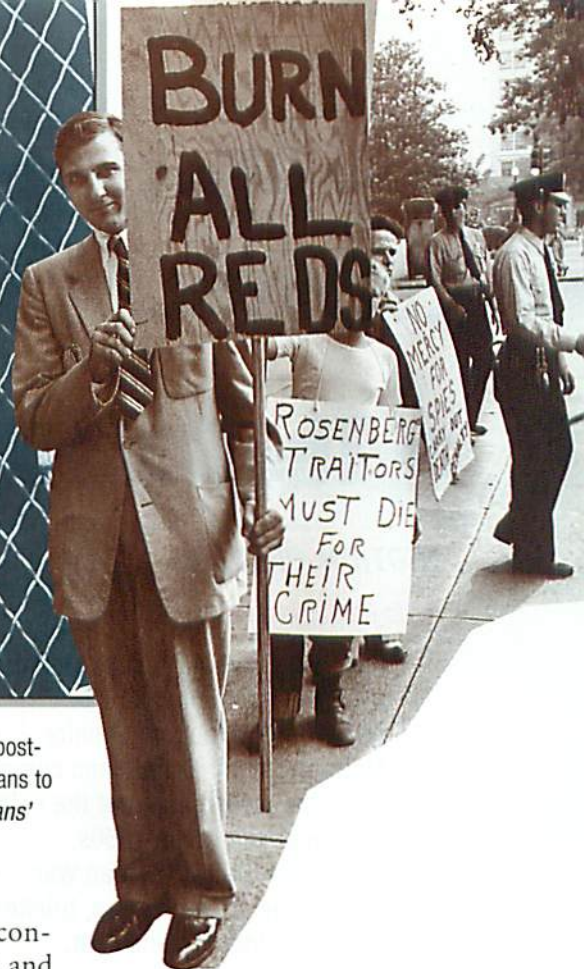
Spy Cases Inflamm the Nation Two famous spy cases helped fuel the suspicion that a conspiracy within the United States was aiding the Communists overseas in their military and political successes. In 1948, HUAC investigated Alger Hiss, who had been a high-ranking State Department official before he left government service. Whittaker Chambers, a former Communist who had become a successful *Time* magazine editor, accused Hiss of having been a Communist in the 1930s. Hiss denied the charge and sued Chambers for slander. Chambers then went one step further and declared that Hiss had been a Soviet spy.

Too much time had passed for the spying charge to be pressed. After two trials, Hiss was



Actor Humphrey Bogart (right), who protested HUAC's actions against other actors, ended up having to clear his own name. *Red Channels* (above) was an index of blacklisted actors published in 1950.





Demonstrators (right) show the depth of anti-Communist feeling in the post-war period. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, (above) were the first U.S. civilians to be executed for espionage. **Culture** How did spy cases affect Americans' perception of a Communist threat in society?

convicted of perjury for lying in the slander case. In 1950 he went to prison for four years.

Not all Americans were convinced he was guilty, and for many years thereafter the Hiss case was hotly debated. For most people, however, the case seemed to prove that there was a real Communist threat in the United States.

Several months after Hiss's conviction, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, a married couple who held radical views, were accused of passing atomic secrets to the Soviets during World War II. After a highly controversial trial, the

Rosenbergs were convicted of espionage and executed in 1953. The case was another event that inflamed anti-Communist passions and focused attention on a possible internal threat to the nation's security.

Like the Hiss case, the Rosenbergs' convictions and executions were debated for years afterward. The controversy was revived in 1991 with the release of secret Soviet records that seemed to indicate that both Alger Hiss and Julius Rosenberg were indeed guilty.

SECTION 2 REVIEW

Comprehension

- 1. Key Terms** Define: (a) Marshall Plan; (b) Berlin airlift; (c) NATO; (d) collective security; (e) Warsaw Pact; (f) HUAC; (g) Hollywood Ten; (h) blacklist; (i) McCarran-Walter Act.
- 2. Summarizing the Main Idea** What events abroad and at home in the late 1940s and early 1950s helped raise Americans' fears of communism?
- 3. Organizing Information** Construct a cause-and-effect chart showing the origins and impact of the Truman Doctrine.

Critical Thinking

- 4. Analyzing Time Lines** Refer to the time line at the start of the section. How was 1949 a key year in the development of the cold war?
- 5. Determining Relevance** How does America's pre-World War II isolationism relate to a discussion of the Marshall Plan, the Berlin airlift, and NATO?

Writing Activity

- 6. Writing a Persuasive Essay** Did Americans have reason for concern about Communist infiltration of government and society? Consider the events going on in the world.

1950
Korean War
begins

1950
McCarthy launches anti-
Communist campaign

1953
Soviet Union tests
hydrogen device

1956
Suez crisis

1957
Eisenhower
Doctrine

1957
Soviet Union
launches Sputnik
satellite

1960
U-2
incident

1950

1955

1960

3 The Cold War Expands

SECTION PREVIEW

Objectives

- 1 Describe General Douglas MacArthur and his role in the Korean War.
- 2 Analyze the effects of Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communist campaign.
- 3 Trace the development of the cold war and the arms race in the 1950s.
- 4 **Key Terms** Define: Korean War; 38th parallel; domino theory; arms race; brinkmanship; ICBM; *Sputnik*; U-2 incident.

Main Idea

During the 1950s, the cold war spread to new locations around the world. At home, a senator's anti-Communist crusade ruined many people's careers but ultimately failed.

Reading Strategy

Outlining Information Copy the headings in this section on a sheet of paper. As you read, add two or three key facts under each heading to create an outline.

Koreans hoped their nation would be restored after Japan withdrew. However, in 1945 the Allies agreed to divide the nation temporarily into a Soviet-occupied northern zone and an American-occupied southern zone. Soon a pro-American government formed in South Korea and a Communist regime in North Korea. Occupying forces withdrew from both zones in 1948 and 1949.

In June 1950, the **Korean War** broke out when North Korean troops streamed across the **38th parallel**, the latitude line dividing the two nations, aiming to reunite Korea by force. Because the USSR was boycotting the Security Council at the time to protest the exclusion of Communist China, the UN was able to act. It called on its members to defend South Korea.

Douglas MacArthur



A hero of two world wars and a strong



General Douglas MacArthur
(1880–1964)

anti-Communist, General Douglas MacArthur was Truman's choice to lead the UN forces in Korea. For MacArthur, the command capped a long, distinguished, and controversial career.

The son of an army officer, MacArthur graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1903 at the top of his class. He was cited seven times for bravery in World War I and by 1918, at age 38, had attained the rank of general. After serving in the Philippines during the 1920s, he returned to the United States in 1930 to become Army Chief of Staff.

At the start of World War II President Roosevelt appointed MacArthur to be commander of American forces in Asia. From this post he organized the defense of the Philippines and, later, the three-year island-hopping campaign against the Japanese in the Pacific.

As virtual dictator of Japan during the postwar occupation period, MacArthur was responsible for establishing Western democracy