

Summary of Early Cold War Events

The London Protocol (September 12, 1944)

The London Protocol outlined the Allied powers' plan to divide Germany into occupation zones after the Second World War, marking an important step toward managing post-war Europe. **More details:**

- [English](#)
 - [Français](#)
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Yalta Conference (February 11, 1945)

The Yalta Conference brought together Winston Churchill, Theodore Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin to discuss the end of the Second World War and the future of Europe. Their agreements on borders and power-sharing also planted the seeds for Cold War tensions. **More details:**

- [English](#) | [Context](#)
 - [Français](#) | [Contexte](#)
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Churchill's "Iron Curtain" Speech (March 5, 1946)

Speaking at Westminster College in Missouri, Winston Churchill delivered a speech warning of the growing divide between Western democracies and Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe. He described this divide as an "Iron Curtain." **More details:**

- [English](#)
 - [Français](#)
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Truman Doctrine (March 12, 1947)

President Harry Truman promised that the United States would support countries resisting communism by providing economic and military aid. This marked the start of active U.S. involvement in the Cold War. **More details:**

- [English](#)
- [Français](#)

Marshall Plan (June 1947)

U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall proposed an economic aid program to rebuild Western Europe and stop the spread of communism. **More details:**

- [English](#) | [Context](#)
 - [Français](#)
-

Zhdanov Doctrine and the Cominform (September-October 1947)

Soviet leader Andrei Zhdanov articulated the Soviet view of a world divided into two camps: the “imperialist” West and the “democratic” communist East. The creation of the Cominform followed, establishing a network to coordinate communist parties under Soviet leadership. These developments were in response to the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan. **More details:**

- [English](#)
 - [Français](#) | [Contexte](#)
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Czechoslovak Coup d'état (February 1948)

Communist forces, supported by the Soviet Union, seized power in Czechoslovakia, forcing the resignation of the democratic government. This event, known as the “Prague Coup,” eliminated one of Eastern Europe’s last democracies and intensified Western fears of communist expansion. **More details:**

- [English](#)
 - [Français](#)
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Berlin Blockade and Airlift (June 1948 - May 1949)

The Berlin Blockade was one of the first major crises of the Cold War. The Soviet Union blocked all ground access to West Berlin, attempting to force the Western allies out of the city. In response, the United States and Britain organized a massive airlift to supply the city with essential goods for 11 months. **More details:**

- [English](#)
- [Français](#)

Creation of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA or COMECON) (January 1949)

Established by the Soviet Union as a response to the Marshall Plan, COMECON coordinated economic cooperation between Soviet-bloc countries. This organization aimed to integrate the economies of Eastern European nations under Soviet leadership and provide an alternative to Western economic cooperation. More details:

- [English](#)
 - [Français](#)
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Signing of the NATO Treaty (April 4, 1949)

Twelve nations signed the North Atlantic Treaty, creating NATO as a collective defense organization against Soviet expansion. This military alliance formalized the Western bloc and established the principle that an attack on one member would be considered an attack on all. More details:

- [English](#)
 - [Français](#)
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Creation of the FRG (May 1949)

The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) was established as a democratic state in the American, British, and French occupation zones of western Germany. With its capital in Bonn, the FRG adopted a democratic constitution, embraced parliamentary democracy, and aligned with Western powers. More details:

- [English](#)
 - [Français](#)
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Creation of the GDR (October 1949)

The German Democratic Republic (GDR) was established in the Soviet-controlled zone as a response to the FRG's creation. Based in East Berlin, the GDR was formed as a socialist state and maintained close political, economic, and military ties with the Soviet Union. More details:

- [English](#)
- [Français](#)

USSR Tests the Atomic Bomb (August 29, 1949)

The Soviet Union successfully tested its first atomic bomb, breaking the U.S. monopoly on nuclear weapons and escalating the arms race. **More details:**

- [English](#)
- [Français](#)