

CONTAINMENT 1945-1975

President	Strategy	Means/Implementation	Comments
Harry Truman	Containment	Used economic and military aid Send troops where necessary Program: Truman Doctrine Marshall Plan North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Sent troops to Korea	Communist threat in Greece and Turkey required U.S. aid Sent aid to Europe 1948-1953 NATO first entangling alliance for U.S. Korean conflict—first limited war
Dwight Eisenhower	"New Look" to contain communism	Massive retaliation Rollback of communism Brinkmanship Used CIA to spy on, and topple communist regimes Eisenhower Doctrine in Middle East	Relied on air power, nuclear weapons Made empty pleas for freeing communist-controlled areas in Europe Take USSR to brink of nuclear war if necessary Used CIA to keep Iran, Guatemala friendly to U.S.; U-2 spy planes
John Kennedy	"Flexible response" to contain communist aggression Stand firm in Europe	Combated wars of national liberation in the Third World Used counterinsurgency forces Strong stand in Berlin Blocked communism in Cuba, Vietnam	Berlin wall erected Used guerrilla as well as conventional forces Tried to topple Castro, but resulted in Bay of Pigs Cuban Missile Crisis brought world to brink of nuclear war Sent 16,000 troops to Vietnam
Lyndon Johnson	Containment in Asia Stand firm in Europe by maintaining NATO	Sent 500,000+ troops to Vietnam; tried for political settlement with military forces Bombed North Vietnam	Widened Vietnam War Tried to negotiate with Soviets in Europe
Richard Nixon	Vietnamization Détente Nixon Doctrine Opened China	Reduced U.S. troops in Vietnam Maintained NATO Negotiated with USSR Diplomatic agreements with China	Withdrew U.S. troops from Vietnam Kept commitments in other parts of world Used China to contain the Soviet Union Peace settlement in Vietnam