

# The soviet and american cold war policies - the strong anti-communist stance of t...

[History](#)



The paper "The Soviet and American Cold War Policies" is an excellent example of a term paper on history. At the end of World War II, The Soviet Union and the United States became divided allies. Their partnership during the war against a common enemy came to an end because of the different world ideologies that each of the country's leaders believed the world should follow. In particular, both sides wished to have Germany, which was a vast country in need of repair at the time, following in their own footsteps. The day that Germany was divided between the east and the west, the cold war policies of both nations began to take shape with the United States advocating democracy and the curtailment of communism while Russia continued to advocate communism and its spread across the world. This cold war mindset of America began during the presidency of Truman in the 1940s and continued on well into the 1950s. Although the Truman administration already had a strong anti-communist stance, his death allowed his vice president to implement even more stringent cold war policies against the perceived enemy, Russia. The reason that these cold war policies between the two nations became such a serious matter for the international community is that both countries, armed with their nuclear weapons, were constantly threatening each other with the total destruction of their rival nation should they meet in actual combat.

The Russian (collective name for the Soviet Union) policy under Stalin was clear as daylight. Russia would dominate and create subservient countries in Eastern Europe in order to prevent the spread of democracy and American policies in their region. Russia fully utilized its occupation of certain

European countries in order to actively recruit and assist in the spread of

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their ideology. By 1948, at least seven European countries had been established as communist governments with Russia implementing unequal trade agreements with other Eastern European countries, creating what then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill termed as the “ Iron Curtain”.

On the other hand, the United States and its allies did their best to implement their cold war policy of containment. This meant that the Russian communist ideologies would not be allowed to spread outside of Eastern Europe. This was to be achieved by preventing Russia from using the power and position it achieved during the world war in its quest to reshape the post-war international order.

It is important to note that during the time that the U. S. cold war policy was being implemented, there was a certain politician in America who actually opposed the policy that was beginning to take shape. One of the more notable opponents of the cold war policy was was the former vice president to Franklin Delano Roosevelt named Henry Wallace. He took a stand against the U. S. policy of containment and was a very vocal advocate of the cause.

According to Wallace, appearing before the Senate Armed Service Committee he took the opportunity to “ criticize Truman's call for universal military training” which would force all young American men of a certain age into military service. This was the beginning of the military draft era in American history. Wallace believed that Truman was instead trying to deliberately start a crisis by implementing a program that would lead to “ death and taxes for the many and very handsome profits for the few.” Rather, he advocated that the U. S. implement a foreign policy based upon the need for peaceful foreign policy among nations.

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One can imagine that due to the cold war policies existing between the two so-called Super-Power countries of the time, the world was gripped with a very real fear that some sort of disagreement or misunderstanding could plunge the world into a 3rd world war or even worse, a nuclear war of catastrophic results. But thankfully, the threat of the cold war came to pass without a single shot or nuclear missile being fired by either party.

Historically though, it is important for us to study the cold war policies of Russia and America in order to understand the events that are unfolding in Europe during our present time.