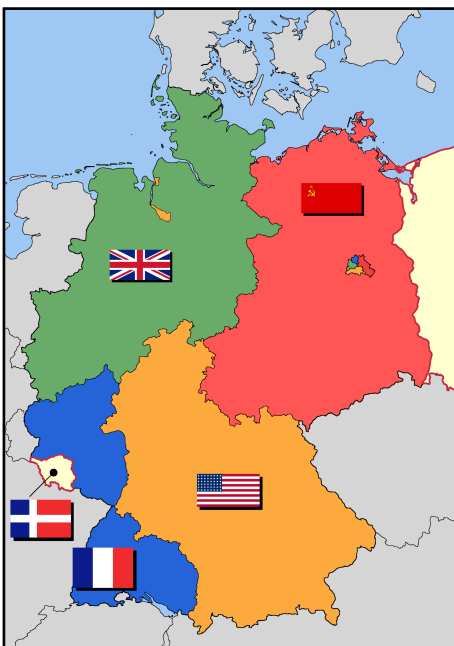


G. The Pledge

1. Although the United Nations had been created in 1945, and this time the United States had joined the new internationalist organization, there was still no real, practical way to stop aggressor nations from waging war on others.
2. Therefore, the first component of America's transformation into the world police power came in the wake of World War II, when, because of the threat of communist expansion into Europe, president Harry Truman announced the "Truman Doctrine" in **1947**.
3. Truman stated, *"I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures...I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way."*

H. The Test

1. With United States taking on the role of protecting Europe, Russia wanted to know if America was serious, and just how far it would go.
2. Germany had been divided by its conquerors into multiple zones. Russia had been assigned one of those zones, surrounding the capital city of Berlin, which had also been divided between the four major powers that defeated Germany.
3. Since the Russian zone completely surrounded Berlin, the Russians believed they might be able to force their allies out by blockading the city.



The occupation zones of Germany (map left) included an eastern zone under Russian control, and the city of Berlin inside of that zone, divided between the major allies. When Russia blockaded Berlin by land, the United States conducted the almost unimaginable feat of keeping the city alive by supplying it exclusively by air. The Berlin Airlift proved how far America was willing to go, to protect Europe from Russia.

4. They shut down all road and rail traffic into the city, to see whether or not they could get their allies turned rivals to leave the city. They shut down all road and rail traffic into the city, to see whether or not they could get their allies turned rivals to leave the city.
5. The United States responded by enacting the *Berlin Airlift* in **1948**, which was a massive air campaign using cargo planes to fly food and supplies into the city. This kept the city of Berlin alive, and proved how far America was willing to go to protect Europe from Russia.

I. The Treaty

1. Russia was forced to back down, and suffered a major blow to its prestige. America, on the other hand, had become Europe's heroic savior.
2. To cement this protective role, the United States agreed to the *North Atlantic Treaty Organization* in **1949**.
3. NATO is a defensive alliance between the United States and Canada on one side of the Atlantic ocean, and western Europe on the other side.
4. Unfortunately, Russian spies stole plans for the atomic bomb from the United States and its allies, and with the help of captured German scientists, Russia was also able to develop an atomic bomb in **1949**. This meant that a new, dangerous "balance of power" had developed. What followed is known as the "Cold War."